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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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VOL. 13 NO. 234

TUESDAY, JANUARY 09, 2024

PRICE LD\$40.00



Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

Cllr. Scott faces sentencing today!



Late Charloe

Pro-CDC group unhappy with Chambers



Speaker Bhofal Chambers



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



Continental News

Nigeria minister suspended over personal bank account

Nigeria's president has suspended a minister over the alleged diversion of more than 585 million naira (\$640,000; £500,000) of public money into a personal bank account.

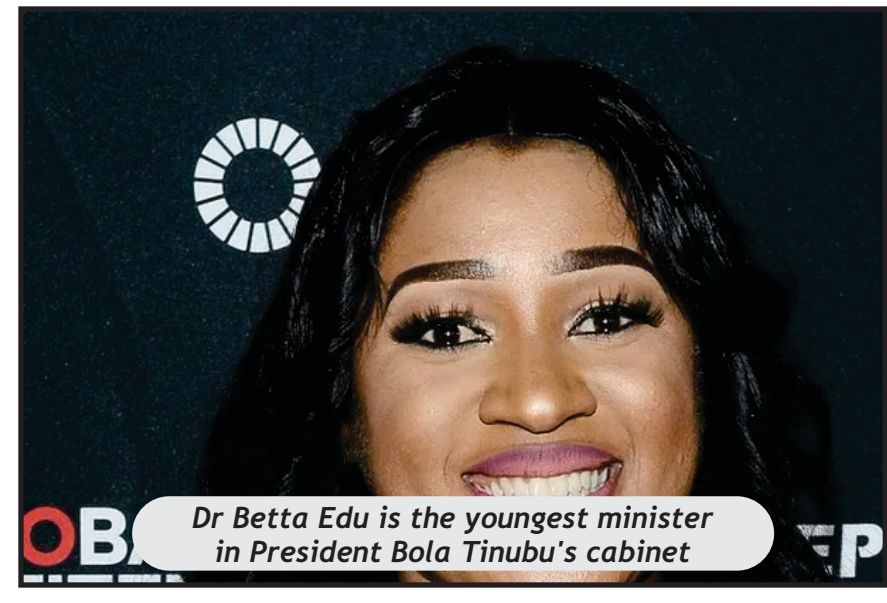
approved the transfer into a personal account, which was not in her name, but said it was for the "implementation of grants to vulnerable groups". Dr Edu, 37, is the youngest minister in President Tinubu's cabinet and is

reported on a leaked document that allegedly showed Dr Edu instructing a senior treasury official to transfer the money to the personal account of Bridget Oniyelu, the accountant for the government's Grants for Vulnerable Groups initiative.

Reports that Dr Edu had asked for the funds be moved to a personal account, rather than a government one, caused outrage. Mr Tinubu called for an investigation into the transfer on Sunday.

He asked the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for a "thorough investigation into all aspects of the financial transactions involving the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation," said a statement released on Monday.

Mr Tinubu asked Dr Edu to comply with the investigation. The president also called for the reform of government institutions tasked with social development, stressing a need to "win back lost public confidence in the initiative". BBC



Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation Minister Betta Edu was suspended on Monday following public outrage over the scandal. A statement from President Bola Tinubu's office said he had ordered an investigation into Dr Edu's ministry. Dr Edu has denied any wrongdoing. Her office said she had

seen as a close ally of the president.

The suspension of a minister is a rare occurrence in Nigeria - Dr Edu is the first to lose their job since President Tinubu took office in May last year.

His predecessor, Muhammadu Buhari, sacked only two ministers during his eight-year tenure. Last week, local media

Gambia ex-minister faces Swiss trial for murder

Gambian former interior minister has gone on trial in Switzerland, charged with crimes against humanity. Ousman Sonko fled there in 2016, shortly before Gambian President Yahya Jammeh, accused of heading a repressive regime, lost power. Mr Sonko, 54, was arrested after non-governmental organisations presented evidence of his alleged involvement in killings, rape and torture. But his lawyer said that he was not responsible for what happened.

be a warning to repressive governments everywhere that the arm of the law can be very long indeed. Switzerland's charge sheet against Mr Sonko is extensive. It includes the participation in, or ordering of, killings, torture and rape - all targeting political opponents. These could constitute crimes against humanity under Swiss law. Swiss investigators travelled to The Gambia and interviewed dozens of alleged victims and witnesses - nine will be in court to testify. From 1996 until 2016, The Gambia was ruled by President Yahya Jammeh, whose time in office, according to Human Rights Watch, was characterised by "widespread abuses, including

forced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings".

Mr Sonko was Mr Jammeh's right-hand man, his role as interior minister putting him in charge of the security services, including, allegedly, a sinister paramilitary group known as "the Junglers".

But in 2016, shortly before Mr Jammeh himself lost power, Mr Sonko fled to Switzerland, where he claimed asylum. Within months he was arrested, after an NGO, Trial International, gave the Swiss authorities details of abuses he was allegedly involved in.

After six trips to The Gambia and 40 interviews with complainants, the Swiss attorney general drew up the charge sheet. BBC

Philippe Currat is quoted by the AFP news agency as saying that The Gambia's National Intelligence Agency, which was "never... under [his] authority" was behind the alleged crimes.

Switzerland is trying the case under the principle of universal jurisdiction, which allows countries to prosecute people on their territory, even though the events may have taken place elsewhere.

Mr Sonko is the highest-ranking government official ever to be prosecuted under this principle in Europe. Human rights groups believe the trial, taking place in the southern Swiss city of Bellinzona, could



Church leader abused and raped disciples, BBC finds

Evidence of widespread abuse and torture by the founder of one of the world's biggest Christian evangelical churches has been uncovered by the BBC.

Dozens of ex-Synagogue Church of all Nations members - five British - allege atrocities, including rape and forced abortions, by Nigeria's late TB Joshua. The allegations of abuse in a secretive Lagos compound span almost 20 years.

The Synagogue Church of All Nations did not respond to the allegations but said previous claims have been unfounded. TB Joshua, who died in 2021, was a charismatic and hugely successful preacher and televangelist who had an immense global following. The BBC's findings over a two-year investigation include:

Dozens of eyewitness accounts of physical violence or

UK) "We all thought we were in heaven, but we were in hell, and in hell terrible things happen," she told the BBC. Rae says she was sexually assaulted by Joshua and subjected to a form of solitary confinement for two years. The abuse was so severe, she says she attempted suicide multiple times inside the compound. The Synagogue Church of All Nations [Scoon] has a global following, operating a Christian TV channel called Emmanuel TV and social media networks with millions of viewers. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, tens of thousands of pilgrims from Europe, the Americas, South East Asia and Africa travelled to the church in Nigeria to witness Joshua performing "healing miracles". At least 150 visitors lived with him as disciples inside his compound in Lagos, sometimes for decades. More than 25 former "disciples" spoke to the BBC - from



torture carried out by Joshua, including instances of child abuse and people being whipped and chained. Numerous women who say they were sexually assaulted by Joshua, with a number claiming they were repeatedly raped for years inside the compound.

Multiple allegations of forced abortions inside the church following the alleged rapes by Joshua, including one woman who says she had five terminations. Multiple first-hand accounts detailing how Joshua faked his "miracle healings", which were broadcast to millions of people around the world. One of the victims, a British woman, called Rae, was 21 years old when she abandoned her degree at Brighton University in 2002 and was recruited into the church. She spent the next 12 years as one of Joshua's so-called "disciples" inside his maze-like concrete compound in Lagos. Disciples: The Cult of TB Joshua. A shocking journey into a maze of manipulation and terrifying abuse perpetrated by one of the most powerful religious figures of the 21st Century. Watch now on BBC iPlayer (UK only) or on the BBC Africa YouTube channel (outside

the UK, Nigeria, US, South Africa, Ghana, Namibia and Germany - giving powerful corroborating testimony about their experiences within the church, with the most recent experiences in 2019. Many victims were in their teens when they first joined. In some of the British cases, their transport to Lagos was paid for by Joshua, in co-ordination with other UK churches. Rae and multiple other interviewees compared their experiences to being in a cult.

Jessica Kaimu, from Namibia, says her ordeal lasted more than five years. She says she was 17 when Joshua first raped her, and that subsequent instances of rape by TB Joshua led to her having five forced abortions while there. "These were backdoor type... medical treatments that we were going through... it could have killed us," she told the BBC. Other interviewees say they were stripped and beaten with electrical cables and horse whips, and routinely denied sleep. On his death in June 2021, TB Joshua was hailed as one of the most influential pastors in African history. Rising from poverty, he built an evangelical empire that counted dozens of political leaders, celebrities and international footballers among his associates.

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.

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COMMENTARY

By Peter Singer

Killing Innocents in Israel and Gaza

MELBOURNE - Last month, I was invited to join other Princeton University academics in viewing a compilation of raw footage from GoPro cameras carried by Hamas gunmen killing civilians in Israel on October 7. Additional video and audio material came from dashboard cameras, traffic cameras, phone intercepts, and victims' phones.

The invitation carried a warning that the footage would show horrific violence and murder. I avoid violent movies, so my instinctive response was to decline the invitation. But as someone who often points to the progress that we have made, over millennia, in expanding the circle of moral concern, I decided that I should be willing to see something that would challenge my optimism.

Evil is a word I rarely use, but what I saw was evil in its purest form: men armed with assault rifles going house to house to shoot defenseless and terrified families in their simple kibbutz homes, recording their murders and shouting "God is Great." They kill a father in front of his two young children. They cut off the head of one of their victims, saying they will give it to the crowd to play with. We see panicked young people at a music festival shot dead as they try to hide or flee. I was seeing only a fraction of the 1,200 murders Hamas forces committed on that day, according to official Israeli figures.

Be'eri, a kibbutz near Gaza, was built on socialist principles and, despite Israel's marked swing to the right, retained its left-wing values. Members were opposed to Israel's current right-wing government and believed that peace with the Palestinians was still possible. Kibbutz members had helped transport people from Gaza to and from medical treatment in Israel. But to Hamas, that made no difference. At Be'eri, the gunmen murdered 97 people.

When the Israeli military first showed this footage to journalists, Admiral Daniel Hagari, the chief military spokesperson, said: "We want to understand ourselves why we are in a war and what we are fighting for." At that time, October 23, the death toll in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run health ministry, had just surpassed 5,000.

Seeing the video did help me to understand why Israel is prepared to accept the deaths of so many Palestinians. Watching such callous killings, I found it impossible to resist the feeling that the killers themselves should be killed. To feel this is not in itself wrong: to choose to act on it, however, usually is, for it makes a bad situation worse. By the time I saw the footage, Hamas was saying that Israel's attacks had killed more than 20,000 Gazans, including more than 8,000 children and 6,200 women. No desire for revenge can justify that.

International rules governing the ethical conduct of war prohibit the direct

targeting of civilians, but permit striking military targets even when it is known that the strikes will kill some civilians.

The rules derive from what is known as the doctrine of double effect, a line of ethical thought that goes back to the thirteenth-century Catholic theologian Thomas Aquinas. According to this view, an act that would otherwise be wrong (such as killing an innocent person) may be permissible if it is an unintended side effect of a permissible act (such as striking a military target, when waging a just war), provided that the benefit gained outweighs the harm.

The vagueness of this last provision - known as the proportionality requirement - makes it possible for Israel to claim that it is acting within the rules of war. But more detailed investigations of specific military actions that Israel has undertaken make it clear that its attacks are going beyond any reasonable belief that the military benefits outweigh the harms to civilians.

The New York Times investigated one such military operation, an airstrike carried out on October 31 on a residential neighborhood in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza. The target, Israel said, was Ibrahim Biari, a senior Hamas commander who it said was "central" to the October 7 massacre.

Israel claimed that Biari was killed. A British conflict monitor said that 126 civilians were also killed, and other estimates were higher still. The Times quoted Larry Lewis, a former US State Department senior adviser on civilian harm, as saying: "The willingness to accept this level of harm to civilians is far beyond what I have seen in operations in the past."

If Biari was central to the scenes I witnessed in the video, he was capable of extraordinary evil and ought to be brought to justice. But that does not justify killing 126 civilians.

Alongside Israel's willingness to kill many civilians in order to achieve non-essential military goals, we must put its restriction of food, water, and fuel in Gaza. Human Rights Watch has accused Israel of using starvation as a weapon of war, which is a war crime.

That makes plausible the startling claim made last month by Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, that Israel is engaged in "a systematic effort to empty Gaza of its people," which he said would fall "within the legal definition of genocide."

That is a shocking allegation, especially for a nation-state founded in the aftermath of genocide. Israel's government could refute it by pausing hostilities and allowing into Gaza the essential supplies that its people need.

OP-ED

By Eric Posner

The AI Octopus

CHICAGO - With long-gestating antitrust cases against Google, Apple, and Amazon coming to fruition, many observers think that 2024 could be a turning point for Big Tech. Yet even as authorities press ahead with this litigation, they risk being blindsided by the rise of artificial intelligence, which is likely to reinforce Big Tech's dominance of the economy.

The recent firing and rehiring of OpenAI CEO Sam Altman was interpreted as a conflict between cautious board members who worried about the risks of AI and enthusiasts like Altman. But the real significance of this episode was what it revealed about OpenAI's relationship with Microsoft, the largest investor in OpenAI's commercial operations. While OpenAI's nonprofit structure nominally means that only its board controls it, the board was forced to rehire Altman after Microsoft expressed misgivings that helped instigate an employee revolt.

Microsoft is not just an investor in OpenAI; it is also a competitor. Both companies develop and sell AI products, and Microsoft had stopped short of acquiring OpenAI to avoid antitrust problems. But if Microsoft controls or partly controls OpenAI, the two companies may have an illegal collusive relationship. That is why the US Federal Trade Commission and the United Kingdom's competition authority are both investigating the matter.

The OpenAI-Microsoft relationship is only a small part of a rapidly growing AI oligopoly. As a recent paper by the law professors Tejas Narechania of the University of California, Berkeley, and Ganesh Sitaraman of Vanderbilt University documents, market power is rife all along the AI supply chain. The monopolist Nvidia manufactures most of the chips needed for AI development. Amazon, Google, and Microsoft dominate cloud computing, which is essential for storing the data on which AI models are trained.

Since these companies and Meta (Facebook/Instagram's parent company) are among the only ones that can collect and store such data, they are also the ones developing - and profiting from - the most important AI models and applications. While Microsoft has a lock on ChatGPT, along with its own proprietary AI apps, Google has Bard and, alongside Amazon, is investing billions in Anthropic (the developer of Claude).

Virtually all the major tech companies and their executives are connected through institutions and professional networks. These include the start-up incubator Y Combinator (where Altman served as president before moving to OpenAI); joint research projects (such as an AI-related partnership that includes Google, Facebook, Amazon, and Microsoft); corporate boards; and social relationships. OpenAI's own nonprofit board includes, or has included, people with connections to other companies that are also developing AI products. One of its founding members, for example, was Elon Musk, who quit several years ago.

This web of close connections creates significant opportunities for collusion (which is illegal) or coordination (which is legal but still bad for consumers). But with public attention focused largely on individual Big Tech firms' abuses of monopoly power, people have overlooked the many ways that tech companies can collude with each other to extend their market power.

These behemoths have a long history of such behavior. In 2010, several of them settled a case, brought by the Department of Justice, in which they were accused of agreeing not to hire away one another's software engineers. In emails, Apple's Steve Jobs scolded Google's Eric Schmidt for allowing recruiters to hire Apple employees, and Schmidt ordered a subordinate to fire a recruiter "verbally" so as to "avoid a paper trail."

In an ongoing case challenging Google's dominance of search, the court heard evidence that Google paid Apple for default status on the iPhone, with the possible goal of keeping Apple out of the search market that Google monopolizes. In another case against Google for monopolizing digital advertising, the DOJ alleges that Google paid off Facebook to avoid a challenge to its stranglehold on that market.

Years ago, Apple was caught orchestrating a collusive scheme among book publishers. And when OpenAI's employees threatened to leave for Microsoft after Altman's ouster, they were effectively trying to sell OpenAI to Microsoft. It was a kind of collusion among employees to accomplish a merger that would have violated the spirit, and possibly the letter, of antitrust law.

The cozy relationships among tech executives are reminiscent of the Gilded Age "money trust" of key banks and financial institutions that both supplied capital to the era's industrial giants and colluded with them and one another. The money trust's extraordinary power led to antitrust legislation (in 1890 and 1914), regulation (including the establishment of the US Federal Reserve in 1913), and eventually laws that broke up banks, restricted their involvement in owning companies, and limited their operations (in the 1930s). Unlike an oil company or a railroad, banks are uniquely positioned to drive consolidation across the economy, because they can use their financial leverage over virtually every company in diverse economic sectors to control their behavior, including by pushing for mergers.

Big Tech firms now resemble banks in their influence across the economy - but at a supercharged level. Through their access to data, they know more about consumer and business behavior, and exert more control over it, than banks ever did. They supply vital inputs to businesses across the economy, as well as products and services to almost all consumers. No bank has ever had such reach.

It is little wonder that tech companies are also displacing financial institutions at the economy's commanding heights. As a rueful financier commented in the Financial Times, Big Tech has consistently shouldered aside financial institutions in the race to buy AI companies.

Not only are the six largest US-based companies (by market capitalization) tech firms, but the smallest among them (Meta) is almost twice the size of JPMorgan. The top seven tech companies now account for 30% of the entire S&P 500; even in its 1920s heyday of market domination, the banking system accounted for only 16-19%.

Cartoonists from the early era of antitrust depicted the financial connections among the banks and real-economy monopolists as octopus tentacles, which encircled and squeezed politicians and consumers alike. If AI lives up to its promise and becomes the lifeblood of every sector of the economy - as an input in every industry from law to manufacturing - we can expect a future of economic concentration and corporate political power that dwarfs anything that came before.

Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author of *How Antitrust Failed Workers* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

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OPINION

By Imme Scholz

The Sustainability Transformation Needs a New Narrative

BERLIN - In 2015, all 193 members of the United Nations agreed to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - a broad policy agenda aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and promoting well-being for all - by 2030. Now, eight years on, the UN's Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 (GSDR) warns that the world is far from meeting these targets. Poverty and hunger are increasing, greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions have continued to rise, and, at the current rate of progress, it will take 300 years to achieve gender equality.

The COVID-19 pandemic's devastating social and economic impact certainly pushed us off track, as did the war in Ukraine. But the transformative action required to meet the SDGs has also been lacking. As the GSDR shows, incremental steps and targeted interventions will not suffice. Instead, we need sweeping reforms that pursue several SDGs at once.

According to the GSDR, the sustainability transformation is a process in which new technologies, infrastructure, and decision-making approaches replace old ones, addressing the negative effects of the existing versions and producing better results. This change is usually met with resistance and can lead to conflict, because it has a cost: companies need to find new business models and markets, and workers are forced to retrain and then find new jobs. Policymakers should anticipate and plan for these outcomes.

One such innovation is renewable energy. But in most countries, renewables are a complement rather than replacement for fossil fuels. Making a full switch, however, is necessary to reach net-zero GHG emissions, which the European Union aims to achieve by 2050. In addition to the large-scale deployment of renewables and clean technologies such as electric vehicles, it will be crucial to scale up investment in energy infrastructure, especially in Africa, and improve energy efficiency. Social innovations that emphasize the collective provision and use of space and mobility services can also help reduce energy use.

Sweeping changes are also needed to end hunger and halt biodiversity loss. People in wealthy countries should drastically reduce their meat consumption, adopt plant-based diets, and halve food waste. Globally, agriculture must adopt low-input and multifunctional production systems that preserve land, water, and biodiversity, and the use of persistent pollutants such as heavy metals and plastics must be cut significantly to ensure a healthy environment.

To promote human well-being and inclusion, policymakers must relentlessly pursue gender-equality objectives, which requires strengthening women's legal status and economic autonomy. Moreover, putting a price on carbon in high-emitting countries could generate revenue for a global fund for social protection that low-income countries can use to improve education and health services. This would go a long way toward reducing poverty.

Transformation on this scale will not be easy to achieve. That is where the power of narrative comes in: people must be convinced that these changes are the best way to build a livable future, and that our current trajectory leads only to catastrophic outcomes that threaten human existence.

To shift the narrative, policymakers will have to learn how to shore up and maintain broad-based political and societal support for wholesale change. That means focusing more on common purpose than partisan conflict, developing long-term strategies that can achieve a just green transformation, and being proactive about identifying and resolving conflicts over the distribution of costs. It also means working with civil society, the private sector, and trade unions to identify implementation problems and adjust policies accordingly. Developing partnerships that enable mutual learning and exchange within and across regions can help build this capacity.

Democratic processes are fundamental to designing policies that fairly distribute the costs of transformation. The magnitude of the change required, however, is so enormous that anyone whose business or livelihood is affected will resist reform. Especially in societies with high levels of income and wealth inequality, people are more likely to believe that they will be worse off during such a paradigm shift.

That is why policymakers must put equity and justice at the center of this transformation and commit to transparency and accountability in determining how costs should be shared across different income groups and generations. Monitoring progress against agreed targets, in particular, would enable the public to hold government accountable, strengthening the rule of law and building trust in institutions.

As much as achieving the SDGs depends on democratic consensus, pursuing these radical but necessary reforms could in turn strengthen democracy.

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Africa is building vaccine manufacturing capacity

With a surge in funding, R&D and private sector investment, Africa is primed for a transformative leap towards vaccine autonomy. A recently announced US\$1.8 billion shot in the arm puts vaccine self-sufficiency within reach.

Bonface Orucho, bird story agency

Recent approval by the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) of a US\$1.8 billion African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA), a financing instrument that will support sustainable vaccine manufacturing in Africa is being hailed as a game changer for the continent.

“The targeted US\$1 billion from Gavi to African manufacturers is a game changer for the continent and advances our efforts towards vaccine self-reliance,” said Jean Kaseya, Africa CDC Director General in a press statement from the Africa CDC.

The statement from Gavi on December 7 outlines the allocation: US \$1 billion for vaccine manufacturing, US \$500 million for the First Response Fund, ensuring swift pandemic financing, US \$22 billion to fortify pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and US \$290 million to aid countries in catching up on routine vaccinations and reaching children who missed out.

Gavi’s board will “consult widely on the final operational framework for AVMA” which is expected to be operationalized by June 2024, according to a statement.

The announcement follows a recent US\$40 million initiative by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to bolster mRNA vaccine production and access across Africa.



Fierce Pharma, a pharmaceutical news platform, reported that the Gates Foundation would spread the funding “between a Belgian biotech and a pair of African vaccine manufacturers as well as other, yet-to-be-named immunization production specialists.”

Speaking to bird story agency, Patrick Olilo, a genetic engineer at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, said “high capital costs required to set up infrastructure for large-scale production” limits local vaccine production.

Despite being the largest consumer of vaccines globally, Africa imports 99% of its vaccines and is heavily reliant on global producers, according to the WHO.

However, with increasing financial support, R&D focus, and heightened private sector engagement, this narrative is swiftly evolving.

Crucial initiatives targeting R&D improvements, described by Olilo as the “cornerstone of vaccine manufacturing,” are fast taking shape.

The African Union’s Center for Disease Control has revamped regional programs such as the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative (PAVMI) to fulfil 60% of the continent’s vaccine demand by 2040.

PAVMI was established in 2021 to boost the vaccine manufacturing ecosystem in Africa, targeting local production of 1.5 billion vaccine doses by 2040.

In March, PAVMI partnered with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to train African vaccine manufacturing

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Article Article Article

2024 New Year Message To The People of Liberia


By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

This New Year Message is about the avoidance of making the same mistakes. This Message is important because when we repeat the same mistakes, we run the risk of continuing the prevailing violence that is destroying the Nation. The longstanding and widespread poverty in Liberia has become the pretext for violence that has taken on the forms of coup d'etat and civil war in Liberia and elsewhere. In Liberia, these forms of violence have taken the lives of at least 300,000 people and injured many more people.

In the face of the foregoing reality, people are hoping that the same mistakes would not be made. The history of Liberia and other countries shows that ruling and non-ruling political leaders make a lot of promises which are not carried out. At election times, these leaders make plenty promises about getting on the ground running to correct the mistakes and make conditions better but these promises are not implemented and conditions get worse, leading to the continuation of violence.

In Liberia, the continuation of the same mistakes is the experience because the powers that be do not accept criticism. In fact, the powers that be consider the critic to be the “devil in human form”, meaning that criticism is not appreciated. Ironically, the leadership of the non-ruling political party to become the ruling party shortly insists that it is prepared to sleep with the devil to gain State power. What a contradiction! What should one expect from the non-ruling political party that is about to become the ruling political party on January 22, 2024?

It is impossible to correct mistakes without accepting criticism! The people who love Liberia are informed about these ironies and inconsistencies and remain motivated to work together raise awareness among the people of Liberia, It is due to this awareness raising that people witnessed locally and globally the minimization of the unfair practices of the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia, the minimization of the violence and the maximization of voting on the basis of the good records of candidates during the voting at the election of October 10th. It is on account of this awareness raising that that the election results were accepted and the powers that be received commendations from local and global sources.


 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
 MONTSERRADO COUNTY) COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS DECEMBER TERM, A.D. 2023.
 BEFORE HER HONOUR: **GOLDA A. BONAH ELLIOTT, ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE**

IN RE: Alex C. Johnson, represented by and thru His Attorney In-Fact, Emmanuel Johnson of the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
 Bondah K. Juah, Sianneh L. Juan, Yama Juan, Grantor And all Grantees of Bondah K. Juah, Sianneh L. Juan, Yama Juan, Emmanuel D. Togba and all Occupants of the property to be identified, of the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....DEFENDANTS

ACTION OF EJECTMENT

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT


TO: THE SHERIFF, MO. CO, R.L. OR TO HIS DEPUTY, GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO CITE THE ABOVE NAMED PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSELS, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. COUNTY, RL ON **FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024, AT THE HOUR OF 9:00 A.M., FOR HEARING.**

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 Randolph B. Sneh
 ASSISTANT CLERK OF COURT

BEYOND LAW CHAMBERS
 CLLR. MARK MARVEY/ Sylvestre M. Karim [JAN 8, 2024]
 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF LEGAL OFFICE ADM. @ 4:21 PM

DEFENDANTS FOR THEMSELVES
COUNSEL/DEFENDANTS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lawyers debate Dean's S/Court nomination

By Lincoln G. Peters

Lawyers representing the Unity Party (UP) which won the 14 November presidential runoff, and lawyers representing the outgoing Coalition for

stirred controversies across Liberia with less than a month for Mr. Weah's administration to expire. According to the Executive Mansion, President Weah granted Associate Justice Nagbe's early retirement request, a move also criticized by some members of the public. Associate Justice Nagbe was nominated by President Weah and confirmed by the Liberia Senate in August 2018, replacing retired Associate Justice Philip A.Z. Banks.

Through its National Chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh, the National Secretary General, Amos Tweh, and all other officials, the Unity Party filed a petition for the writ of prohibition against the confirmation of Minister Dean.

Following the Unity Party's petition, the court ordered the leadership of the Senate, Cllr. Dean and all those under his authority ... to appear and file their returns and brief before the full bench of the court before 8 January 2024. The court ordered them to show cause why UP's petition should not be granted. The court instructed the Senate to stay all further procedures or actions pending the determination of the matter.

Democratic Change (CDC)-led government. There are questions if there is any vacancy on the Supreme Court bench to warrant Cllr. Dean's nomination by incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

Dean is supposed to replace ailing Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe, but the latter's request for an early retirement is being debated by those who say he has not served the required time to be granted this request.

Cllr. Dean's nomination has

MAMAL ends post-electoral campaign on peace & stability in three counties

By Lincoln G. Peters

Migrant As Messenger Association of Liberia (MAMAL) has concluded a post-electoral peace, stability and reconciliation awareness campaign in three of Liberia's fifteen political subdivisions.

MAMMAL is a not-for-profit institution that strives to raise awareness of the risk of irregular migration and the prevention of human trafficking - also providing accurate information to the public on other pressing issues. The awareness was conducted under the project titled: Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security in Liberia. The initiative seeks to create awareness of reconciliation and post-electoral violence in three of the fifteen counties. A statement following the conclusion of the awareness quotes MAMAL as saying, the awareness was implemented in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba Counties from 26 November to 2 December 2023,

including Zorzor, Lofa County, and Karnplay, Nimba County.

He said residents of these areas believed to be from various political parties were seen having fun in unity. Last year, Liberians participated in a heated election that was heavily contested by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and the opposition Unity Party. The electoral process witnessed violence among supporters of the parties.

One of the incidents led to the death of a man in electoral District #4 Nimba County in which it was alleged that the Chairperson of the Good Governance Commission was involved. Despite the election result in which incumbent President George Manneh Weah conceded defeat to his major rival, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, some supporters of the CDC did not immediately accept the result.

Also Speaking, Liberia Immigration Officer Moses Fallah registered that there were several political tensions or riots before the 2023 elections that saw many



Musa Dean's nomination to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court bench today, 9 January 2024.

President Weah nominated Cllr. Dean for the top job, but the opposition Unity Party challenged a planned Senate confirmation hearing for Cllr. Dean.

The Court halted the planned Senate hearing pending the outcome of the matter brought before the nation's highest court. The Court is expected to entertain arguments from

Nimba caucus in disarray

-over Deputy Speaker post

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County

Nimba County lawmakers are divided on who to support in the election for Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. The lawmakers' disarray is as a result of two members of the county caucus vying for the position. Representative Samuel Kogar of electoral district #5 and newly-elected district #7 Representative Musa Hassan Bility, are at each other's throats for the post.

Representative Bility is said to be favorite of many of the caucus members, as many of them are currently sponsoring his dream to become the second powerful man in the House, while Representative Samuel Kogar, who just reelected for third term, is not receiving much support from his colleagues. Few days ago, kingmaker Senator Prince Johnson, who is allegedly received money from Bility, asked lawmakers who got elected on tickets of his MDR party and the Unity Party to vote Bility.

He referred to the incoming lawmaker as the best and well equipped candidate for the position, rather than his nephew, Samuel Kogar that hails from the same town within in district #5.

The rest of the few lawmakers from the Liberty Party are also rallying behind Bility.

Speaking on a community radio station in Ganta, Nimba County, Bility said his initial dream was to become Speaker, not Deputy Speaker. However, he explained that executives of the elected Unity Party, including Vice President-elect, Senator Jeremiah Koung

prevailed on him to go for the Deputy Speaker position instead.

He said the high-level engagement with the Unity Party led him to drop his ambition for the third highest position in the government and to contest for Deputy Speaker.

"Most of them are in support of my dream of becoming leader for them. I'm not a small boy in politics, been involved into Liberia politics for a long period of time", Bility added.

He revealed that 19 of his colleagues who are fully supporting him were turned over to the UP to support its candidate for the Speaker



with four days spent in each of the counties. Speaking with several citizens from the three counties, MAMAL Project Officer Richard D. Shasha said the project was intended to curb post-electoral violence. According to him, the project was triggered by the level of claims and counter-claims from supporters of the ruling CDC and opposition Unity Party over elections victory.

"During the engagement, the team met with several stakeholders, including elders, town chiefs, clan chiefs, and youth leaders," Shasha noted.

"We visited schools and had an interactive session where the students discussed the effect and prevention of post-electoral conflict and the importance of uniting after the electoral process," the statement noted.

According to Shasha, the team visited and mapped communities interacting with community dwellers on the negative effects of electoral violence, and the benefit of post-election peace and reconciliation. As part of their project implementation, he said they organized successful tournaments in various areas

supporters of both the ruling CDC and opposition Unity Party accusing the Joint Security of being partisan securities, something he denied. "Our role is to mitigate situations that border on security threats to the country, but it has been unfortunate for us here during the election. Once we made our presence felt at a particular crime or rioting scene, the supporters will label us as supporters of either of the contending parties," Officer Fallah lamented.

According to Officer Fallah, since the election, the people of Foyah and Lofa County at large have been enjoying peace, because everyone accepted the result. "I am also grateful to you people for the peace initiative you people are undertaking because we are sure of sustaining the peace," Moses Fallah stated.

For his part, Tamba Momo of the Liberia National Police thanked MAMAL for the post-election peace initiative, describing the initiative as timely and seeking to mitigate violence.

"The police along with other national security institutions have ensured that the peace of Liberia is protected," Momo stated.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gbowee calls on Liberian women to rise for themselves

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan

Liberia's renowned Peace Activist, Laymah Gbowee has called on women across the

country to rise and embrace every opportunity available to them in order to make a significant impact on society. Gbowee who had won the Nobel Peace Prize for her remarkable efforts in ending Liberia's civil war, emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and active participation in decision making processes. Speaking at the General Assembly of the Women NGOs Secretariat Network (WONGOSOL) in Gbarnga, she

women to pursue education, acquire skills, and actively engage in various spheres of society, including politics, business and community development. She urged them to be proactive, resilient, and fearless in pursuing their dreams, adding that their contributions are vital for achieving sustainable peace, social justice and economic growth in Liberia.

The Peace Activist also emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration among women; encouraging them to support and uplift one another.

According to her, true progress can only be achieved when women come together, share their experiences, and work collectively to address the challenges they face.

As Liberia continues its journey towards progress and stability, the call from Laymah Gbowee serves as a powerful reminder that women's empowerment and active participation are essential components for a brighter future.

By embracing opportunities, breaking barriers, and working together, Liberian women can play a pivotal role in shaping a more prosperous and inclusive nation.

comes their way. "If you cannot do it for yourselves, nobody will. Stand up and fight for yourselves, build yourself and help your community" she said.

Madam Gbowee highlighted the pivotal role women have played throughout history in effecting positive change and stressed that their involvement is crucial for the nation's development and prosperity. The Liberia Nobel Peace Prize Winner emphasized the need for



Gov't urged to introduce career program in schools

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

The Government of Liberia has been urged to introduce career program in the nation's educational system.

An executive of United Bank for Africa (UBA) made the call during the weekend at the 38th Graduation Convocation of the Ganta United Methodist High School in Ganta City, Nimba County.

Serving as Keynote Speaker, Mr. Emmet M. Sanoe said such decision will enable young people graduating from secondary schools to have a fair knowledge of what to aspire for in pursuing college education.

He said career program will greatly impact lives of many young people graduating from various high schools across the country.

He notes that most youth leaving secondary school don't

institutions are helping government to educate future leaders of Liberia, so they should not be seen as enemy of progress but rather a great help to government.

The event was witnessed by local authorities, including district education officers (DEOs) parents and educators, amongst others.

Nimba County district#7 Representative and Pastor, Roger S.W.Y. Domah, urges the graduates to move ahead in their educational sojourn rather than get involved substance abuse that is destroying many young people in Liberia.

Rep. Domah, also a former principal of the Ganta United Methodist High School, calls on the graduates to be productive in achieving their education goals.

Also speaking, Rev. James Y. Korlorblee, Sr., joined previous speakers in expressing

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Africa is building vaccine

professionals at the Texas A&M National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing in College, USA.

PAVMI seeks to facilitate the establishment of five vaccine research and manufacturing hubs on the continent over the next 10-15 years, according to the AU CDC website.

Collaborations and partnerships are also taking place in the research and development (R&D) arena. The Research Preparedness Program West Africa (RPPWA) is a collaboration between the Gambia, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the Korea-based International Vaccine Institute.

"The Programme's first priority is to assist regional stakeholders in preparing clinical trial sites to conduct the first-ever Phase 2b and Phase 3 clinical trials of a Lassa fever vaccine in the region," a press statement by CEPI explains.

Lassa fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic illness, endemic to parts of West Africa, including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Nigeria.

Beyond regional initiatives, recent moves have led to a surge in private sector investments, from major pharmaceutical firms to smaller players, on the continent.

In Egypt, for instance, the government in July 2023 granted a 'golden license' special pass for the establishment of the largest scientific and regional R&D centre to locally manufacture all kinds of vaccines and export them across the African continent from Egypt, according to the Gennecs Group.

A relatively similar project is on course in the Ivory Coast, targeting the manufacture of anti-malaria drugs and antibacterial medicines. According to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Fosun Pharma will have the capacity to produce 5 billion

tablets annually.

As new players warm up to join the vaccine manufacturing space in Africa, initiatives rolled out by big pharma companies during and after the COVID-19 pandemic are also seeing the light of day.

In Rwanda, for instance, a BioNTech mRNA vaccine manufacturing plant launched in 2021 is complete and set for official launch "before the end of this year," according to Sabin Nsanzimana, the Minister of Health quoted by The New Times.

Institut Pasteur in Dakar has also recently forged partnerships with significant players such as the Mastercard Foundation, the European Investment Bank, and others. This collaboration aims to bolster its vaccine manufacturing capabilities.

Concurrently, BioNTech from Germany is establishing an mRNA vaccine plant in Dakar, complementing ongoing developments at the Institut Pasteur de Dakar.



Some of the graduates

know what profession or discipline to pursue in university, so such program will enable them to better plan for university studies.

He urges parents to continue to be involved with their children's education because children are expected to impact their parents' lives when they're educated.

At the occasion, a total of 144 candidates graduated after completion of their academic studies.

The Director of the Department of General Education of the Liberia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church, Rev. Christopher G. Marshall, expresses disappointment and frustrations in the Weah administration for not providing subsidy to private and mission schools in the country.

"We are helping government to educate the future leaders of this country, but government is looking at us to be their enemy", he says.

He notes that private

disappointment and frustrations in the government.

"As we anxiously look forward to a new day in Liberia, it's our ardent hope and aspiration that there will be a new Liberia that will prioritize the education of her citizens despite their enrollment in private, mission, community and public schools. We hope that there will be a thorough review of government policies on education, where all schools in Liberia will be treated holistically to avoid segregation in any form between private and public schools, as government is the father for all", Rev. Korlorblee expresses.

For his part, the Valedictory for the graduating class, Student Nyan Zeantoe, calls on his colleagues to move ahead and combat any bad behavior that want to stop their educational sojourn.

He says they should become agents of change to help their families and parents alongside the country for a better future.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Acteurs et moteurs de 2023

Le Liberia a pris un tournant spectaculaire à la fin de l'année, captivant le monde, en particulier l'Afrique de l'Ouest et

Dans le cas du Liberia, 2023 a été une période mémorable inscrite dans l'histoire, à laquelle la région et l'ensemble de l'Afrique se réfèrent chaque fois que des questions

rôles héroïques et distincts dans l'avancement démocratique du pays.

M. Weah avait déjà promis à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, en octobre dernier, d'organiser des élections libres, justes et transparentes en 2023, ce qu'il a fait, rendant fiers non seulement les Libériens mais aussi la région. En outre, la femme qui a présidé aux élections au milieu d'une avalanche de défis, notamment financiers, logistiques et humains, mais qui a accompli un travail miraculeux, est Mme Browne Lansanah. Ces deux personnalités méritent notre choix car elles se sont élevées pour s'assurer que le Liberia ne succombe pas à des intérêts égoïstes. Malgré les pressions immenses exercées par diverses sources, la CEN, sous sa direction, s'est concentrée sur la tenue d'élections libres, justes et transparentes promises par l'administration.

Elle l'a fait pour les élections présidentielles et législatives du 10 octobre 2023 et pour le second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre 2023, remporté par l'opposition Unity Party sans aucune contestation, le camp perdant ayant gracieusement concédé la victoire.

Si le Liberia est aujourd'hui un pays pacifique, stable et plein d'espoir, qui regarde vers

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l'ensemble du continent, avec la tenue d'élections démocratiques pacifiques, sans ingérence extérieure, pour la première fois depuis 27 ans (1997-2023).

Le progrès ou la destruction d'une nation est souvent orchestré par un groupe de personnes, parfois guidées par un individu ou par la contribution collective de tous.

d'élections sont discutées, et où les acteurs clés reçoivent la reconnaissance qu'ils méritent.

L'équipe éditoriale du NEW DAWN s'est plongée dans les hauts et les bas de l'année écoulée et a choisi deux citoyens patriotes du pays, le Président George Manneh Weah et la Présidente de la Commission électorale nationale Davidetta Browne Lansanah, comme acteurs et moteurs de 2023, pour leurs

16 policiers déshabillés pour avoir prétendument facilité la fuite de Queen Johnson

Les autorités de la police libérienne ont désarmé 16 officiers supérieurs et subalternes, les accusant d'avoir aidé et encouragé la prétendue fuite de Queen Johnson, une partisane du principal parti d'opposition, l'Unity Party (UP).

En décembre, la Police nationale du Liberia (LNP) a déclaré Mme Johnson et d'autres personnes recherchées pour la mort de Joshua Solomon, partisan du parti au pouvoir, la Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

La police a déclaré que des agents subalternes l'avaient arrêtée dans un centre de loisirs au cours du week-end sur Broad Street.

Mais ils affirment qu'elle a été emmenée par l'inspecteur en chef de la police pour les services techniques, M. Ithamar Harding (Unité 187), assurant qu'il l'aurait remise

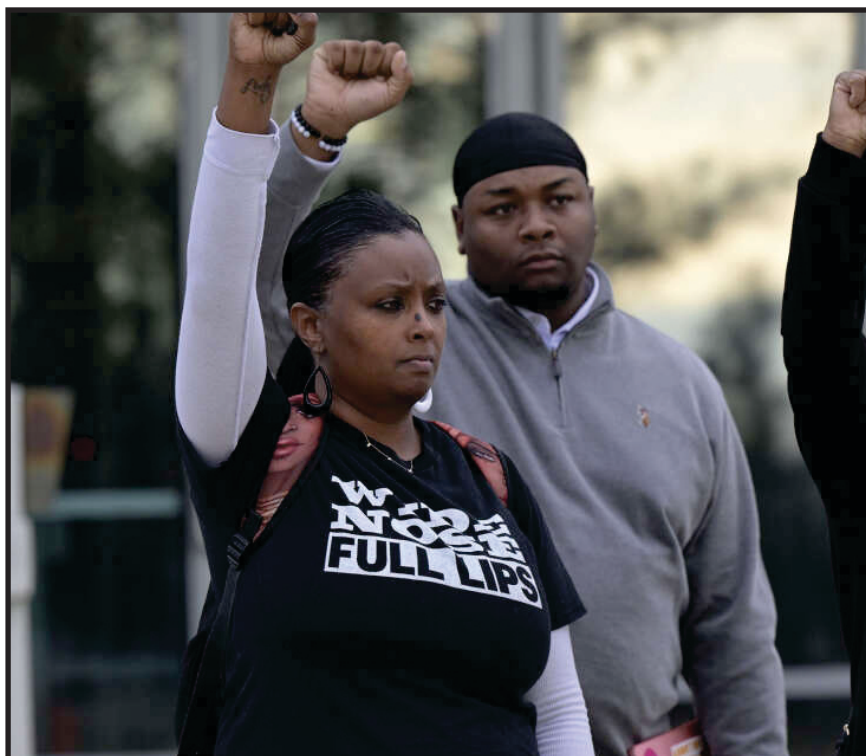
au siège de la police.

Le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse que M. Harding et plusieurs autres agents subalternes étaient accusés d'avoir facilité la fuite de Mme Johnson.

"L'agent Harding a été

déshabillé avec effet immédiat et envoyé à la Division des normes professionnelles ... avec le reste des autres agents pour interrogatoire sur la façon dont Mme Johnson a pu

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Éditorial

Élire un président centré sur le peuple

Les législateurs de Capitol Hill se préparent à élire un président qui dirigera la prochaine 55e Assemblée législative. La course à la présidence se joue entre le vice-président sortant, Me J. Fonati Koffa, et le représentant Richard Nagbe Koon du district n° 11 du comté de Montserrado.

L'élection vise à remplacer le président sortant Bhofal Chambers, qui a perdu son district dans le comté de Maryland lors des élections du 10 octobre 2023.

Alors que les législateurs se préparent à voter le 15 janvier 2024, nous les exhortons à élire le bon candidat qui servira l'intérêt public. Ceci est important pour maintenir la doctrine de la séparation des pouvoirs et promouvoir le bien-être des citoyens.

Cela ne signifie pas pour autant que quiconque sortira vainqueur de l'élection de président devra être hostile ou combatif envers l'exécutif. Il doit y avoir une forte coordination avec les deux autres branches du gouvernement pour que la nation aille de l'avant en douceur.

Le président doit d'abord promouvoir l'intérêt du peuple avant d'exercer la loyauté envers son parti afin de garder la tête froide. Ce faisant, il se concentrera sur le tableau d'ensemble qu'est le Liberia.

Les législateurs qui voteront devraient rechercher ces qualités et plus encore chez les candidats avant de prendre une décision sur qui élire. Une personne ne doit pas être élue simplement sur la base de l'amitié.

Un président qui défendra les intérêts du Liberia s'en sortira mieux. Il devrait être capable de naviguer dans les cycles diplomatiques pour gagner la confiance et attirer des investissements étrangers dans le pays qui créeront des emplois pour les Libériens.

Il devrait connaître les besoins du peuple en dehors de sa circonscription immédiate et être capable d'influencer ses collègues pour qu'ils agissent.

Le président détient un tel pouvoir, mais il ne doit pas se laisser griser par celui-ci, ce qui pourrait le mener à sa perte. En d'autres termes, le pouvoir doit être exercé avec discernement.

Enfin, le président doit être quelqu'un qui défend la transparence et la responsabilité dans ses relations publiques et privées afin de commander le respect. Que ce soit Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa ou le représentant Richard Nagbe Koon, ces caractéristiques devraient être celles de tout candidat qui émergera en tant que président de la 55e législature pour présider aux affaires du peuple libérien.

J'espère que cette traduction est fidèle au texte original. N'hésitez pas à me faire savoir si vous avez d'autres questions.

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Français

Acteurs et moteurs

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l'avenir avec des rêves de prospérité économique, de développement, de sécurité, de bonne gouvernance et d'un meilleur niveau de vie, c'est d'abord grâce à l'engagement de ces deux dirigeants, et plus généralement, de l'ensemble de la population qui désire une nation progressiste.

La Présidente Mme Davidetta Browne Lansanah et son équipe dévouée à la CEN ont démontré leur amour pour leur pays et leur intégrité, ce qui leur a valu l'admiration sur le continent et au-delà, symbolisant une rupture avec le passé laid qui a plongé le Liberia dans une guerre civile dévastatrice le 25 décembre 1989.

Ils ont choisi d'organiser des élections différemment, pour le bien de la patrie et de son peuple, ignorant les tendances récentes en Afrique de l'Ouest où les contentieux électoraux ou les insatisfactions vis-à-vis du processus démocratique ont conduit à la méfiance et à des coups d'État militaires ou tentatives de coups d'État. La Guinée et la Sierra Leone voisines en sont des exemples

classiques. Le Liberia est stable aujourd'hui grâce à la concession magnanime faite par le Président Weah avant même les résultats finaux du second tour, une action inédite parmi ses contemporains de la C E D E A O. C'est une démonstration de leadership inégalée.

Cette décision singulière de M. Weah a irrité les membres de son parti au pouvoir, le Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), qui pensent encore que le porteur d'étendard a concédé la victoire trop hâtivement, estimant qu'un second mandat au pouvoir est un droit, plutôt qu'un privilège accordé par les électeurs. Cependant, le Président Weah a fait preuve d'un véritable leadership malgré les protestations internes, déclarant aux membres du CDC que le jeu est terminé et qu'il est temps de se garer et de partir, pour laisser la place au Président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai et au Vice-président Jeremiah Kpan Koung de l'Unity Party, car le peuple libérien s'est exprimé clairement et fortement par ses votes. Ce fut le moment décisif

Les 3,5 millions alloués aux sessions spéciales sont légitimes, selon Conmany Wesseh



Le sénateur sortant du comté de Rive Gee, Conmany B. Wesseh, a défendu le montant de 3,5 millions de dollars US alloué à la 54e législature nationale pour les frais de session spéciale.

Selon le sénateur Wesseh, les 3,5 millions de dollars accordés à la législature pour la session spéciale sont légaux et constitutionnels, et constituent une pratique normale au sein de la législature.

S'exprimant sur la Spoon Conversation durant le week-end, il a déclaré qu'il y a toujours des controverses à leur sujet lorsqu'il s'agit d'argent légitime qui leur est dû.

Selon lui, lorsque l'exécutif convoque la législature en session spéciale pour discuter de questions urgentes, il est normal qu'il prenne en charge leurs frais. Mais si la législature elle-même a signé une résolution pour revenir, il n'y a pas de rémunération pour cela.

"Lorsque quelqu'un se trouve dans un endroit éloigné et que vous lui dites de venir, vous devez payer ses billets et ses frais, et c'est de là que vient cet argent. Mais aucune de ces choses n'a été payée. Vous nous dites de faire une fleur au peuple libérien. Je veux voir le jour où, lorsque vous êtes sur le point de toucher votre salaire en Amérique, vous le donnez aux pauvres en Amérique", a noté le sénateur Wesseh.

"Vous avez eu une partie de ces 3,5 millions ? Il y a une

tendance, en particulier de la part de l'exécutif, à donner une impression au public qu'ils paient quelque chose qui est légitimement dû. Au cours des six derniers mois, nous avons droit à du carburant ou de l'essence, mais pendant les six derniers mois, nous n'en avons pas reçu. C'est légitime et budgétisé", a-t-il noté.

Il a ajouté que la session spéciale convoquée par le président était destinée à débattre du budget, ce qui a été fait, ainsi que d'autres questions nationales.

En attendant, le législateur du comté de Rive Gee a indiqué que si le président George M. Weah l'avait écouté, il aurait pu éviter certaines des difficultés qu'il a rencontrées.

Selon lui, les personnes qu'il a conseillées et avec lesquelles il a travaillé qui l'ont écouté ont réussi dans leur service au Liberia, notamment l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et le Dr Amos C. Sawyer.

Il a ajouté que même les membres du cabinet du président Weah n'avaient pas accès à lui, car il y avait un énorme protocole autour de lui qui rendait difficile de le conseiller.

"Les problèmes que le président Weah a aujourd'hui, il les a cherchés et les a trouvés lui-même. Son recrutement était basé sur l'ignorance, l'arrogance et la corruption. Ces trois choses ont endommagé l'administration du président Weah. La clé de ses nominations, il cherchait ces trois choses et donc, il ne les a pas combattues et ne pouvait pas les combattre", a-t-il déclaré.

"Le président Weah m'a demandé quand nous avons parlé pour la dernière fois. Une fois, nous sommes rencontrés dans un hôtel local, la seule chose qu'il ait pu me dire était comment il s'organisait pour me faire sortir du Sénat, qu'il allait mettre un jeune homme contre moi, et le jeune homme était assis là. C'est le genre de conversation que nous avons eue", a-t-il noté.

16 policiers déshabillés

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s'échapper de la scène de manière controversée", a déclaré Carter.

Carter a déclaré que les agents désarmés ont été soumis à la Division des normes professionnelles de la LNP pour rendre compte de leur faute professionnelle concernant la fuite de Mme Johnson.

Selon lui, le 5 janvier 2024, Mme Johnson a été arrêtée dans un centre de divertissement local du centre de Monrovia connu sous le nom de Red Lion alors qu'elle s'amusait.

Il a expliqué que l'arrestation a été effectuée par quelques agents subalternes de la LNP qui ont été informés de sa présence et ont répondu sur les lieux.

M. Carter a déclaré que la situation (l'arrestation) était très tendue parce que l'endroit était surpeuplé et que Mme Johnson aurait eu des personnes la protégeant. Avec professionnalisme et éthique, il a dit que les agents ont réussi à arrêter Mme Johnson et à calmer la situation.

"Après avoir été extraite, Mme Johnson a été demandée par l'officier supérieur Ithamar Harding qui a promis de s'assurer qu'elle était amenée au siège

de la LNP pour interrogatoire et enquête en relation avec la mort du défunt Joshua Solomon", a-t-il déclaré.

M. Carter a déclaré que le véhicule de l'Unité d'appui de la police (PSU) se déplaçait lentement derrière l'officier supérieur Harding et Mme Johnson.

"Membres de la presse, malheureusement, alors qu'elle était en route vers le siège de la LNP, Mme Johnson aurait été emmenée hors du siège de la LNP par l'officier supérieur Harding. En conséquence, elle s'est enfuie", a-t-il souligné.

Carter a précisé que tous les agents concernés avaient été soumis à une enquête devant la Division des normes professionnelles de la LNP concernant la fuite de Mme Johnson.

Il a déclaré que les agents subalternes avaient accusé les agents supérieurs d'avoir aidé et encouragé la fuite de Mme Johnson.

"Nous faisons cela pour nous assurer qu'elle fait face à une enquête et que cela n'a rien à voir avec une chasse aux sorcières", a noté Carter.

J'espère que cette traduction est fidèle au texte original. N'hésitez pas à me faire savoir si vous avez d'autres questions.

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.

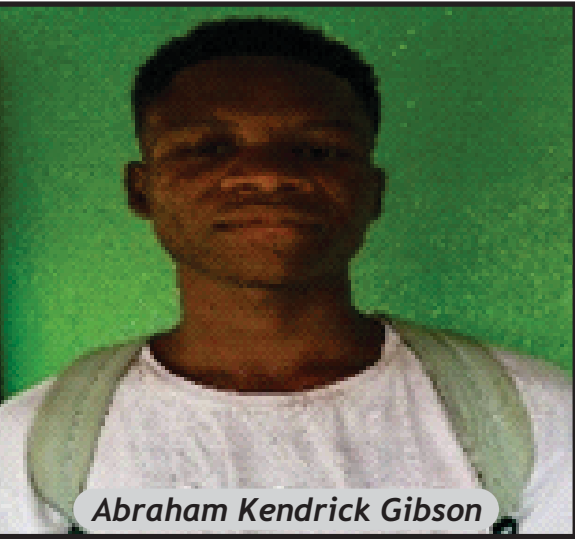
« Personne ne décide de naître pauvre » « Humainement parlant, ce n'est pas possible. Même un animal, quand on veut le déplacer, entretenir son enclos, il faut trouver un point de chute d'abord. Nous sommes des humains, nous avons des droits, nous sommes des Ivoiriens, nous sommes nés ici, personne ne 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.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Samora Wolokolie's nomination

By Naneka Hoffman

Outgoing President George Manneh Weah recently nominated Dr. Samora Wolokolie as Commissioner General for the Liberia Revenue Authority, pending Senate confirmation. But the nomination has faced serious public criticism with many saying it is inexpedient. Read some of their comments, as compiled below.



Abraham Kendrick Gibson

and it doesn't take long when we heard about this nomination. It just didn't bring out the best in President Weah, taking into consideration that the late Thomas D. Nah, who held the post, just passed off and the country needed time to mourn the death. Coming in a quick to nominate Samora is an insult to the deceased and even his family. So, I don't think that Samora Wolokolie will better work in the interest of Liberians nor Joseph Boakai. The Senate shouldn't confirm him because he is from the ruling establishment and doesn't have that moral standing and he is highly corrupt."

"Firstly, the very much bad, decision of in the sense President Weah wherein we to nominate Dr. witnessed the S a m o r a demise of the Wolokolie as LRA Boss Thomas next LRA Boss is D. Nah, recently

"The issue is that no one knows the heart of a person except they sit on the job. Samora Wolokolie, is a professional man that will not want to kill his profession with Boakai who will be very strong in fighting corruption or criminal behavior. If Samora will be confirm, I don't think he will want to be involved in criminality. I think he will serve in the interest of Liberia and Liberians at large. He will not come to serve President Weah, because he knows very well that President Weah



Razzak Kanneh

is no longer in all those power. It is he qualifications he (Samora) that will has. I think he will there sitting on his want to serve the own reputation as interest of LRA Boss. So he President Boakai must do everything and Liberia at possible to sustain large."



Sando Kollie

"In the first place, I don't want to buy the idea or the saying that government officials should serve a political party or the President. We should be serving the nation, which is

Liberia. As it relates to Samora, perfectly, President Weah has the constitutional right to make appointment until 22 January when there is a vacancy

but my problem I have with this is the timing. I might be wrong but in my mind, a senior government official died and has not been laid to rest, and the President or Chief Executive has already replaced the LRA Boss. His body has just come in the country and the President has already nominated somebody. I think that was a serious disrespect to the dead, in my mind because of the hasty appointment. There is some motives behind it and I don't think he will serve the position in the interest of Boakai or interest of the country."

"No, over the past time when Samora Wolokollie was appointed at the Ministry of Finance, he has been in some corruption attitude - he and Samuel Tweah, so at the end of the day when Boakai becomes President of the Republic of Liberia, Samora Wolokolie will not work in the interest of Boakai because he will be undermining the government. It's so sad that former LRA Boss died without sympathy from President George Weah, but he has nominated Samora Wolokollie as LRA Boss, so Samora



Jefferson Slanger

going there, he is going to work in the interest of President Weah."



Mohammed A. Dukuly

"In our Executive politics and electoral politics, appointment and loyalty depend on those who appoint you. In the context of Samora Wolokolie, I think he will have more loyalty to the

outgoing President Weah, as compared to incoming President Boakai, because everything Samora Wolokolie has achieved when it comes to work, political power and political prominence is because of President Weah; it is not because of President Boakai so, in that context with the loyalty he has currently, he will be more loyal to President Weah, as compared to Boakai. But we are hopeful that the future of LRA will not be served by Samora Wolokolie. We are calling on the Legislature to do the proper thing."

"With the observation and character surrounding the nomination of Samora, I think he will not be a good Boss for LRA because he's been around lot of issues that need investigation, and has been making lots of statements against the incoming government. I feel that he will not be a good Boss for the LRA especially, that institution is the revenue arm that government depends on be successful. I think he will not be good to President Boakai."



Sekou Madagbeh Bility

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Cllr. Scott faces sentencing today!

Pro-CDC group unhappy with Chambers

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and three of her family members are due to face a court sentencing today, Tuesday, 9 January 2024 weeks after jurors found them guilty of murder. Eleven out of twelve jurors on the panel concurred through a verdict handed Thursday, 21

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

The Liberia National Police (LN) charged them with murder, criminal conspiracy, and [providing] false information to law enforcement officers about Charloe's brutal murder. Their charges followed months of police investigation into Charloe's murder.

Receiving the jury's verdict, Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie said the accused were found guilty by the jury panel.

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

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

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

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

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

"You were here when the Solicitor General of Liberia was accused of tampering with the jurors and he admitted visiting their quarter, but said he did not interact with the jurors," Toes explained. "Have you asked why the chief prosecutor was asked to leave the proceeding?" he noted.

According to him, the officers who disclosed the visitation of the Solicitor General were replaced with new officers. He said they would not compromise because the defendants are innocent. "I am not disappointed, but I know that the process was characterized by fraud and [criminality]. I know that instead of justice, we got injustice. We are going to go to the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court decision is not satisfactory to us, we will go to the ECOWAS Court."

accused were guilty of Charloe's murder. Their trial came after sanctioned Monrovia Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general Jefferson Kojjee denied ordering the brutal attack in which Charloe was murdered. Liberia's former Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) boss Cllr.

Jerome Verdier accused Kojjee of allegedly ordering Monrovia City Police official Varlee Telleh to carry out the attack. Both Kojjee and Telleh have denied the allegation that they were responsible for the attack at Cllr. Scott's Brewerville residence. Cllr. Scott said she had reported to police authorities two incidents of attacks at her home, but no action was taken before the third incident led to Charloe's murder.

However, Cllr. Scott and her three family members were instead indicted by Liberian prosecutors for Charloe's murder. Following a trial that began in August this year, the jury deliberation lasted for less than thirty minutes for 11 members of the panel to find the accused guilty. One of the jurors voted that Cllr. Scott and her co-defendants were not guilty.

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

According to them, the evidence suggested that there was no break-in into the home or compound of Cllr. Scott. "After careful consideration of the evidence presented during the trial, the jurors do hereby unanimously agree that the defendants are hereby adjointed guilty of the crime murders, criminal conspiracy, and making falsehood to law enforcement officers on this 21st Day of December 2023," the verdict said. Following multiple police charges regarding her



Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

Late Charloe

December 2023 that Cllr. Scott and Gertrude Newton, Alice Johnson, and Rebecca Youdeh Wisner were responsible for Charloe Musu's murder.

Throughout the trial, the accused maintained their innocence and pleaded not guilty to the indictment. The late Charloe is a daughter of Cllr. Scott.

The Presiding Judge of Criminal Court "A" Roosevelt Z. Willie is expected to sentence the defendants following their trial. Following the jury's verdict last month, the defense announced an appeal before the Supreme Court, and it is reported that there is a fifty-count petition to the Supreme Court to challenge the decision. The court is expected to sentence the accused after a report from the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation on fact-finding of their behaviors to make a determination.

Liberian laws consider murder a capital offense that goes with life-time imprisonment or twenty-five years imprisonment based on the circumstance surrounding the case. In the course of the trial, the defense lawyer's pathologist Dr. Matthias I. Okoye testified that the stabbings that killed Charloe were caused/done by a muscular male. He also noted that none of the defendants could cause these wounds.

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

By Lewis S. Teh

A pro-government group supporting the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is unhappy with outgoing House Speaker Bhofal Chambers' attacks against Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa.

Deputy House Speaker Koffa, a Grand Kru County Representative and stalwart of the CDC is seeking to replace his boss Mr. Chambers in the speakership election due later this month.

The group under the banner CDCians Deserve Better Revolution has frowned against Speaker Chambers' recent allegations against Cllr. Koffa. The group says its quest is to uphold the good tenants of democracy and to promote the image of all CDCians in and outside of Liberia, especially senior partisans of the ruling party.

The group through its national chairman Tuss Kezeli said the recent attack carried out against Koffa by house speaker Chambers is an alleged plan to distract the Grand Kru County Electoral District #1 Representative from his speakership ambition.

provide our position on a recent attack made by Speaker Chambers that Rep. J. Fonati Koffa [is] undermining his Speakership and his re-election bid in Maryland, Electoral District #2," said Kezeli.

Kezeli said Speaker Chambers' statement should be condemned by all well-meaning Liberians and stalwarts of the CDC. It can be recalled that on 17 December 2023, Speaker Chambers conducted an elaborate press conference, throwing tantrums at his deputy.

Chambers accused Koffa of undermining the workings and functions of the 54th Legislature and the hope of Liberians. He accused Koffa of having a series of legal interests in concession companies here. However, the mass-based CDC Revolution Movement revealed that Chambers' utterances were intended to instigate distractions. "CDBR emphatically states that the Deputy Speaker of the 54th National Legislature in Cllr.



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

Kezeli explained more about the group's dismay at Speaker Chambers during a news conference held in the borough of Kru Town on Bushord Island on Monday, 8 January 2024.

"We assemble here today ... to

Koffa has contributed too much to the growth and transformation of our party and Liberians outside the party unlike Speaker Chambers," the group noted.

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position, Representative Richard Nagbe Koon of Montserrado County district #11. He narrated that after the engagement with the Unity Party, he consented to run for the deputy post, as many engaged also Kogar, but he is not willing to back off.

Most Nimbaian have been in support of the county getting the Deputy Speaker position, including former Sanniouellie Mehn district commissioner Gbariel Dunbar, Gatah Gbanlon and others. Former Commissioner Dunbar maintained that winning such position will boost the county's image. But Representative Samuel G. Kogar,

who refers to himself as an old man in the business that knows his left and right when it comes to lawmaking, is more suitable for the job than someone like Bility that is just entering the Capitol.

He terms Bility's engagement with him as a disgrace to mankind, accusing the incoming lawmaker of using cash violence to persuade him (Kogar) to forgo his dream.

But the district #5 says he remains resolute and will not give off to anyone, vowing to continue with his campaign activities for the Deputy Speaker bid. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Weah signs book of condolence

-for Late LRA Boss Thomas Doe Nah

President George Weah, accompanied by a corps of government officials, including Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, took here on Monday, January 8, in officially signing the book of condolence in memory of the late Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, Thomas Doe Nah.



The passing of Commissioner General Nah in India on December 23rd, 2023, after a period of illness, has left a profound impact on all who knew and worked commendable achievement of elevating domestic revenue from a perennial low to an impressive record of over seven hundred and fifty million United States dollars in a fiscal year. The late Commissioner General will be laid to rest on January 18th in a ceremony that will honor his exceptional contributions and lasting legacy. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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