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

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Pre-Elet Amb Boakai

Boakai-Koffa meeting:

What really happened



Deputy Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa



Vice President, Jewel Howard-Taylor

My value was not highly considered



-VP Taylor reflects on marriage with CDC

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Continental News

Nigerian army arrests soldiers after viral torture video

The Nigerian army has arrested two soldiers after a viral video allegedly showed them torturing a civilian.

that the soldiers involved in that unprofessional conduct have been clearly identified and arrested," the army added in a statement on Wednesday.

those involved". International human rights groups have previously criticised Nigeria's army for alleged rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings.



Rights groups have in the past criticised Nigeria's army for alleged rights abuses

In the footage, a man in military fatigues and another in civilian clothing repeatedly kick and whip a third shirtless man, as he repeatedly pleads for mercy.

The army has expressed "utmost dismay" at the "unprofessional conduct" allegedly displayed by the officers.

Nigerian soldiers used to have a reputation for acting with impunity - for many years it was rare for soldiers to face disciplinary action if they attacked civilians.

Somalia conflict: Seized UN helicopter hit by object - source

A UN helicopter crash-landed in an area controlled by armed Islamists in Somalia after its main rotor blade was hit by an object, a UN source has said.

who managed to escape. Their fate is unclear. All nine, including the four-member crew, were third-party contractors, and not UN staff.

Al-Shabab controls large parts of southern and central Somalia. The group is affiliated to al-Qaeda and has waged a brutal insurgency for nearly 20 years.

The UN mission in Somalia confirmed an "aviation incident" on Wednesday involving a UN-contracted helicopter.

Somali military official Major Hassan Ali told Reuters news agency on Wednesday that the aircraft was "carrying medical supplies and it was supposed to transport injured soldiers from

Al-Shabab controls much territory in southern and central Somalia



WHO: Life-Saving Aid Not Reaching Millions of People Caught in Health Emergencies

The World Health Organization is warning that millions of people caught in conflict-driven health emergencies risk dying from traumatic wounds and infectious diseases because life-saving humanitarian aid is not reaching those in need.

...So, the situation is likely to be worse. "If the situation is not improved, we can expect more outbreaks and deaths," he warned. Gaza's Hamas-run Ministry of Health says at least 23,357 Palestinians have been killed and 59,410 injured since Hamas terrorists invaded Israel October 7, killing 1,200 people, and taking some 220 hostages.



Palestinians line up for free food during the ongoing Israeli air and ground offensive on the Gaza Strip, in Rafah

"Delivering humanitarian aid in Gaza continues to face nearly insurmountable challenges. Intense bombardment, restrictions on movement, fuel shortages, and interrupted communications make it impossible for WHO and our partners to reach those in need," he said.

infrastructure, if you continue to destroy services at this rate, and then you blame the people who come in and support and provide life-saving assistance—who is to blame here?" he said.

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 Mohamed A. El-Erian

Don't Extrapolate Last Year's Trends for the Global Economy

CAMBRIDGE - Behavioral economists have popularized the term "recency bias" to describe our tendency to be disproportionately influenced by the latest events compared to earlier ones. Could this cognitive phenomenon explain why numerous analysts have a rather optimistic tilt for the world economy in 2024? Or are there really positive trends counterbalancing the obvious and mounting challenges to global growth?

A recent Financial Times editorial reflected the prevailing optimism, proclaiming that "after this year's resilient showing, there is every chance that the reality next year will also be better than expected." The trends that supported the global economy's unexpected resilience in 2023 "also offer plenty of reasons to be optimistic for 2024."

This upbeat mood has spread to financial markets. A growing number of commentators have predicted that stock markets will finish the year above the already elevated levels of 2023, which were buoyed by a remarkable year-end rally.

Today's optimistic sentiment stands in stark contrast to the grim predictions that dominated the run-up to 2023, when Bloomberg Economics asserted that there was a 100% probability that the United States would fall into a recession. It is also at odds with a range of economic, financial, geopolitical, and political developments. Notably, it appears to be predominantly driven by a single factor: central banks aggressively cutting interest rates amid the softest of all soft landings for the US economy.

To be sure, central banks have enormous sway over financial-market sentiment.

Since the 2008 global financial crisis, central bankers have acted as the world's leading policymakers - flooring interest rates, flooding economies with liquidity, fueling huge gains across virtually all asset classes, and facilitating a notable shift in wealth distribution that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest. But this trend reversed in 2022 when central banks, led by the US Federal Reserve, belatedly responded to rising inflation by embarking on one of the most aggressive cycles of interest-rate hikes ever.

The subsequent losses in both high-risk and low-risk assets seemed poised to continue into 2023 until the consensus forecast shifted toward significant rate cuts and renewed talk of a "Fed put."

While central banks have had a significant effect on market confidence, their impact on actual economic outcomes has been limited. Their ultra-dovish policies during the 2010s helped keep the global economy afloat, yet overall growth remained disappointingly low, unequal, and still detached from climate realities.

The 2022 shift to tighter monetary policies was expected to lead to higher unemployment and sluggish growth; instead, the US unemployment rate ended 2023 at a remarkably low 3.7%, and third-quarter annualized growth accelerated to 4.9%.

Moreover, the extent to which aggressive interest-rate hikes contributed to reducing

inflation has become the subject of debate among economists.

These developments suggest that central-bank policies alone - investors currently expect the Fed to cut interest rates by around 1.5 percentage points - may not be enough to generate the necessary growth momentum to withstand the headwinds facing the global economy.

In fact, one would be hard-pressed to find a systemically significant economy poised for breakout growth in 2024. As China remains saddled with an economic model that yields diminishing returns, the authorities have acknowledged that its growth rate is constrained by domestic inefficiencies, pockets of excessive debt, increased global fragmentation, and the West's weaponization of trade and investment. Europe, for its part, is unlikely to replicate last year's unexpectedly strong performance, given especially the sluggishness of global manufacturing and Germany's economic stagnation.

Once again, commentators seem to be placing their hopes on US economic exceptionalism. But things have evolved over the past year. Lower pandemic-era household savings and higher debt act as headwinds to America's remarkably agile and resilient economy. Moreover, recent interest rate increases are likely to continue to constrain new household mortgages, companies navigating the mountain of corporate debt expected to mature in 2025, and highly leveraged non-bank institutions dealing with their losses.

The current geopolitical climate also is not conducive to robust growth.

The devastating aftermath of Hamas's brutal October 7 attack against Israel, in which Israel has destroyed much of Gaza and is reported to have killed more than 23,000 Palestinians - mostly civilians, including thousands of women and children - has challenged hopes of containing the crisis. Israel and the Iran-backed Lebanese militia Hezbollah appear headed toward greater hostilities, and attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea by the Yemeni Houthis are already disrupting global trade in a manner that renews stagflationary pressures on the global economy.

Beyond the Middle East, Western democracies and many developing countries face important elections in 2024.

Given these circumstances, the chances of robust global growth in 2024 appear tenuous. Nevertheless, there are two ways to mitigate the threats posed by an increasingly fragile economic and geopolitical environment.

First, policymakers need to launch major economic-policy overhauls, focusing on structural reforms aimed at cultivating the growth and productivity engines of tomorrow.

Second, the international community needs to do better to end the atrocities in the Middle East before that conflict spreads even further across the region and fuels geopolitical turmoil beyond it. Without these interventions, today's optimists will be sorely disappointed by year's end.



Lord, it look leh the chicken has come home to roast

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father,
 Hmm, I say it na easy. They say the Papy na start flexing him muscle small, small. But they say da na smal chakala he press oo.

They say the Papy look at the short lawyer the orlor day and told the man, I want you to forget about being Paramount Chief at the Traditional Council because that place for my son.
 You say whatin?

Oh, da fire! You na hear nothing yet. You think the Papy coming be playing around here? He told the man, to find something else to do, but he mon consider him request.

My son, you want tell me the Papy na sit down good, good yea, he na start fighting already?

Oh, yor think becus yor see the man walking slow, slow like da he na geh heart ehn. But newsflash: That Papy geh heart, you na here easy water run deep? Go ask my brother "Man Can't Talk All" and him father.
 SO, what the short lawyer told him na?

Aah, Father, da it you asking slow leh da. The man told him plain no!
 You say whatin?

Father, I say, the man said plain no. At least da wah the chey, chey poly them told me. Bor you, yor self ya, you na know we the short people our temper right to our figure tip ehn.

Bor, who will do that kina thing self. You na spend all yor money and time practicing whole month, time for the game then somebody from yor opposite camp say, you mon na play becus he wan him son to take the glory-awa.

The Papy will balance, he jus starting. He na even know who him playing with sef.

Anyway, leh talk so and talk so too na, what the short man too go to the Papy him play. He na know if the Papy na talk this one here, him people will say him be betrayer?

Ehn han, da somer the thing there too my son.
 The man suppose to wait when he fini winning na then he go speak to the Papy. Bor, him too, him na do so that him also cause him own problem.

Hmm, bor the way that short lawyer too leh power and know how to play, the Papy mon fight hard oo, becus the way him na throw the first punch in that brabee eye, he mon jus know say the man will soon start fighting back.

Bor, the Papy too ya. If you na wan see the man, you couldn't jus tell him for him na to waste him time, aye mehn.

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OP-ED

By Jayati Ghosh

India's Great Jobs Challenge

NEW DELHI - India seems to be everyone's favorite growth story nowadays. Despite valid concerns about the accuracy of official statistics, the Indian economy is projected to expand by 6.3% in 2024 - an undeniably remarkable feat given that its GDP exceeds \$4.1 trillion. While it remains a lower-middle-income country with a per capita income under \$3,000 (at market exchange rates), India's rapid growth suggests that its economic potential may be greater than expected.

But any optimism about India's economic prospects must be tempered by its inability to address two related challenges. The first is the unequal distribution of the benefits of rapid economic growth, which have accrued predominantly to the top 10-20% of income earners.

India's failure to release any consumption figures since 2011-12 has made it difficult to produce reliable estimates of potential increases in inequality and poverty. Such estimates rely heavily on consumer expenditure surveys, typically conducted every five years. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government scrapped the 2017-18 survey because the findings did not align with its preferred narrative. The government has refused to conduct subsequent surveys, even though up-to-date data are vital for informed policymaking.

Moreover, the decennial census, which was meant to be completed in 2021, has been postponed indefinitely. Consequently, neither the government nor citizens know how many people there are in India, where they live, or their living conditions and employment status. Nevertheless, various indicators suggest that the incomes of top earners have increased sharply while the wages of most workers, especially those in the bottom half of the distribution, have stagnated or declined.

The second major challenge facing India is that rapid GDP growth has not created enough jobs to accommodate its youthful population. With tens of millions of highly educated young people joining the workforce every year, unmet expectations and growing social unrest threaten to turn the country's much-anticipated "demographic dividend" into a disaster.

India has long struggled with low job creation, especially over the past decade. According to the government's own labor force surveys, the country's worker-to-population ratio has declined from 38.6% in 2011-12 to 37.3% in 2022-23. Official statistics also show that the female workforce participation rate has fallen to just 20.8%. But even this figure is inflated, as the government includes "unpaid helpers in family enterprises" in its definition of workers.

This approach to labor data is unique to India. Categorizing unpaid helpers as "self-employed," even though they earn no income, runs counter to international best practices, which clearly define employment as work that is remunerated, either in the form of wages and salaries or earnings from self-employment. Moreover, other forms of unpaid labor in India, such as housework and caregiving, are not classified as employment. Notably, women who continue to perform the vast majority of household labor are not considered part of the workforce.

Excluding unpaid workers reveals a far lower workforce participation rate than official figures suggest. In 2022-23, 48% of men in India were engaged in paid employment, compared to just 13% of Indian women, resulting in one of the world's lowest female workforce participation rates.

This underscores the biggest shortcoming of India's much-vaunted growth model: its inability to generate employment opportunities, even relatively low-paid and poor-quality jobs, despite rapid increases in aggregate GDP. It should come as little surprise, then, that real wages have remained largely stagnant over the past decade.

Notably, even among agricultural workers, who experienced the highest real wage growth (albeit at a modest average annual rate of 0.9%), real wages actually declined between 2014-15 and 2021-22 in major states like Haryana, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, about half of India's workforce remains employed in low-productivity sectors that account for just one-fifth of national income.

Consequently, mass consumption has remained constrained, which may explain the government's unwillingness to conduct consumer-spending surveys. This contributed to a sharp decline in domestic investment, which fell from a peak of 42% of GDP in 2006-07 to roughly 31% in 2022-23. Moreover, basic human-development indicators, particularly those related to nutrition, have remained poor and even worsened in recent years, related to low public spending on health, education, and social protection. Regrettably, creating more high-quality jobs does not appear to be one of the Modi government's top priorities. Instead, the government's economic strategy has focused on "incentivizing" a select group of corporate investors through taxpayer-funded subsidies and regulatory changes. The needs of the vast majority of micro, small, and medium-size enterprises, which employ most of India's workforce, are often overlooked. Moreover, these companies have been adversely affected by policy mistakes such as the demonetization project that abruptly nullified 86% of India's currency in 2016 and the poorly designed and hurriedly implemented Goods and Services Tax of 2017.

Without far-reaching reforms aimed at boosting employment and guaranteeing living wages, India will struggle to achieve genuine economic success. The general election due in April and May offers Indian voters a chance to reorient the economy toward a more sustainable, equitable path. They must not squander it.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
PRESIDENTIAL CENTER FOR
WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

RFP No. EISC-005

Request for Proposal (RFP)

External Audit Services for Fiscal Year 2023

Background of the EJS Presidential Center

The EJS Center is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2018 to be a catalyst for political and social change across Africa by helping unleash its most abundant latent power — its women. The Center aims to amplify the voices of women and girls in all spheres of life by increasing the representation of women in public service leadership roles in Africa. Through a unique blend of programming, advocacy, archival research, and museum exhibitions, the EJS Center seeks to become a premier institution dedicated to advancing and sustaining women's political and social development on the continent. As a result of its work, the EJS Center envisions more voices heard, talents unleashed, and leaders launched that prioritize the aspirations of women. Its mission is to champion women's ascension to the highest levels of leadership and challenge systemic barriers to girls and women's advancement. More information can be found on the EJS Center website: <https://www.ejscenter.org/>.

Invitation

Through this request for proposals ("RFP"), the Board of Directors of The Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center is seeking to contract a qualified, reputable, and experienced Firm registered within the Republic of Liberia to provide External Audit Services for the fiscal year 2023. The objective of the external audit is to express a professional audit opinion on the Center's financial statements for the year ending 2023 in accordance with recognized international standards.

Scope of the Audit

1. Perform statutory financial statements audit in accordance with the laws of Liberia and International Standards in Auditing (ISA)
2. Plan and organize the audit based on risk assessment to provide satisfactory assurance that financial statements and accompanying notes have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP and are free of material misstatement due to errors and fraud.
3. Ascertain that donor funds received by the Center have been utilized for the intended purpose and have been accounted for in accordance with the grant agreement.
4. Verify that funds received by the Center have been clearly reported in financial statements and narrative reports submitted to the users/ donors.
5. Review and report on the effectiveness of the Center's internal control systems in accordance with International Standards in Auditing (ISA).
6. Review and report on the effectiveness of the Center's Financial management system, Procurement system, program management system, human resources management system, as well as its fundraising and resource mobilization structure.
7. Review and report on the Center's compliance with Liberia Revenue Authority as well as Non-Governmental Organizations' regulations in Liberia for the year under audit.

Responsibility for the preparation of Financial Statements

The Center's Management has the responsibility for the preparation of financial statements. The responsibility includes the selection of the appropriate framework and the selection and application of accounting policies.

Expected Output from the Assignment

The auditor is expected to present two sets of reports. An opinion on the Financial Statements and a Management letter addressing the adequacy of the accounting and internal control systems of the Center, risk assessed and efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of its resources, among other matters that are considered critical in the audit.

Corrupt, Fraudulent, Coercive, Collusive, and Other Prohibited Practices.

The Board requires that all EJS Center staff, proposers/bidders, suppliers, service providers, and any other person or entity involved in doing business with the EJS Center observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of all contracts in straight adherence to the Center's finance and procurement policies. The Board may reject any proposal put forward by proposers or, where applicable, terminate their contract if it is determined that they have engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, coercive, collusive, or other prohibited practices.

Timetable

The audit time shall last no longer than 80 calendar days.

Required Documents

1. Current tax clearance and business registration
2. Two (references)

Basis for Award of Contact

The proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Fee/cost- 25pts
- Qualification of personnel in the required area 35pts
- Experience in providing similar services with verifiable evidence – 40pts

How to Submit

- Please submit proposals electronically to akajunju@ejscenter.org by 16:00 hrs GMT by **January 31, 2024**. Proposals received after this date will not be considered.
- The subject line for submissions should be: "EJS Center External Audit 2023."
- Kindly note that incomplete submissions will not be considered, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further assessment.

Caveat!!

All invoices for professional services will be subject to a 10% tax deduction in accordance with the Liberia tax code.

FEATURE ARTICLE

By S.Karweaye

A guide to liberia's presidency and the traditions of transition

For the second time in over 70 years in succession in Liberia, a presidential transition from one democratically elected leader to another is expected to happen on January 22, 2024, with the inauguration of Joseph Nyumah Boakai as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Liberia.

And with it comes several rites of passage — including a very literal passing of the baton. But there are several other protocols to be complied with. And while some appear more ceremonial than others, they all offer a sense of political stability in Liberia. Below are some of the major activities that make up the traditions of presidential transition.

Joint Presidential Transition Team (JPTT)

Arguably the most significant first step of the entire transition process is the constitution of a Joint Presidential Transition Team (JPTT), usually, the incumbent President and the President-elect Co-chair the JPTT. The objective of the JPTT is to facilitate and manage the presidential transition program to ensure a seamless transition of power to the incoming government. This also entails developing the guidelines for the preparation of the handover notes, addressing any questions the incoming administration might have, and coordinating the swearing-in event.

On November 22, 2023, four days after President Weah conceded defeat to former Vice President Joseph Boakai in the 2023 presidential election, outgoing President Weah issued Executive Order 123, establishing a Joint Presidential Transitional Team (JPTT) to facilitate the smooth transition of power from the current Coalition for Democratic Change government to the newly elected administration. President-elect Boakai, by the Executive Order, designated 20 others as additional members of the JPTT.

In a similar vein, Weah's predecessor, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, in December 2017, constituted a 40-member transition committee. The transition committee made up of 20 members from the present government and 20 from the incoming administration, was co-chaired by President Sirleaf and President-elect. Weah, then an opposition member, also set up another 20-member committee to develop a clear framework for liaison with the outgoing administration to itemize the most important or most urgent issues confronting the incoming government.

Receipt Of Handover Notes

After a series of deliberations by the JPTT members, handover documents are generated which the outgoing president presents to his or her successor. Before the inauguration, the outgoing President Weah will hand over his administration's transition document to Boakai at the Executive in Monrovia. The files will contain key documents comprising briefing notes on each priority area covering key sectors. A compendium capturing the priority programs and projects implemented by his administration as well as policy status updates will also be handed to the then-president-elect.

Dissolving The Cabinet

One other expectation of the outgoing president is that he would dissolve the cabinet as they exit office. The cabinet comprises the entirety of ministers and ministers of state, but what is lacking is who are they mandated to hand power to since we in Liberia don't have permanent secretaries of their respective ministries.

In the case of President Weah in 2018, he directed the Minister of Information, Education Minister, Minister of Internal Affairs, Inspector General of the Liberia National Police, and the Director of General Services Agency to hold on until further notice while further directed that all other Ministries and Public Corporations be supervised by the Director of Human Resource within those entities until further notice.

Tour of the Executive Mansion

The incoming president's tour of the Presidential Mansion is at the invitation of the incumbent. The purpose of such is to show him the various facilities, including the President's office, meeting rooms, the Cabinet Chambers, the Press Auditorium, and the residence, etc.

Farewell Address

One of the final activities the outgoing president will embark on is a farewell address to the nation

This is an avenue for the president to give his final thoughts on his journey and highlight issues of note. Most farewell presidential speeches are done in a special broadcast as in the case of Gyude Bryant and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The Inauguration

Ahead of the new president's inauguration, a series of events are organized to commemorate the occasion. In the case of President-elect Boakai, the events include a prayer service scheduled at the Benson Street Mosque on Friday, January 19th, a Youth Concert will be held on January 20th, and on Sunday, January 21, an intercessory service at the Effort Baptist at 10:00 am

The aforementioned events dovetail into the D-Day — the inauguration. In many respects, the January 22nd swearing-in is the final step of the presidential transition process, often necessitating the declaration of a public holiday in advance.

Held on the Capitol Building grounds in Monrovia with all the pomp and ceremony it deserves, the event is typically graced by a who's who of Liberians and world leaders. The order of events will begin with the arrival of invited dignitaries, followed by the president-elect and vice president-elect, the outgoing vice president, and then the president. After the last two take their last salutes, separately, the outgoing aide-de-camp will hand over the old military colors to the outgoing president.

The Chief Justice of Liberia (CJL) swears in the President. The outgoing president then hands over the new colors to the new president and instrument of office. Next, the inaugural presidential address is delivered, and soon after, they are driven to the Executive Mansion in the official presidential vehicle bearing the presidential seal, closing out the ceremony.

The new president hosts VIP guests, including visiting presidents and heads of state, heads of delegations, ambassadors, development partners, former ministers, and members of the National Legislature, among others. In the evening, a state banquet is held where a toast will be made to the new president.

New Portraits And Digital Face

An update of the official portraits of the president and vice president, particularly at Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), brings a sense of finality to the transition. With the retirement of all portraits bearing the image of the last president and his vice president, a new administration becomes that much more tangible for the governed. Further crystallizing the acceptance of a new administration, particularly for the masses, is the official takeover of social media accounts serving the new president, vice president, and their offices.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

US\$35k bridge project abandoned in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Residents of Wartehken and Gbolobo Nimeken towns in Pleebo Statutory Soloken District, Maryland County have expressed frustrations over delay in

said as it stands, they cannot tell what has delayed the completion of the bridge, despite funds identified to get it done.

They said although during the groundbreaking, they had argued that the place wasn't suitable, but local authority

both towns, thereby leaving them with no option but to travel long distances to attend school," he said.

According to him, residents of Wartehken lament that they face difficulty during rainy season to access health care delivery services, as the only health facility is in Nimeken.

Chief Dennis expressed serious concern whether the bridge construction will be completed because the Cavalla River banks sometimes overflow causing erosion that affects walls of the bridge.

He noted that residents of Wartehken and Gbolobo Nimeken thought the bridge construction would've brought a great relief but, as it stands now, they wonder whether it will be completed.

"We are suffering because our children are not in school and we cannot go to the clinic for health services during rainy season", Saturday Dennis lamented.

Mark Cooper of Gbolobo Nimeken called on the local authority to fast-track the bridge completion.

He said anything outside of completing the project estimated at US\$35,000 will not be accepted because it is alleged that the county authorities have constructed a culvert, instead of a proper bridge.



construction of a US\$35,000 bridge linking the two towns near the Cavalla River belt.

According to the aggrieved residents, construction work on the bridge started in 2021, when the statutory superintendent of the District, Aloysius Williams, broke grounds for the facility.

Since then, there has been no sign of completing the bridge project. The residents

pointed out that the decision was adopted in resolution during a county council sitting in December 2019.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, January 9, 2024, Mr. Saturday Dennis, general town chief of Wartehken Town, said the delay in completing the bridge has created a serious setback for the population.

"This has created a serious setback for school-going kids of

RLJ Kendeja Hotel Manager dragged to court

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Operation Manager of the RLJ Kendeja Beach Resort and Villas Hotel, located in ELWA, Rehab Community, Paynesville, Madam Roberta Torkornoo has been dragged to the Paynesville Magisterial Court for Simple Assault and Disorderly Conduct, resulting to severe pain inflicted on one of its former workers.

Daniel Fallah Flomo, a former contractor of the hotel, who had alleged he was illegally dismissed by the hotel management in December 2023, without pay is now, officially suing the hotel's Operations, Policies and Program Manager, Madam Roberta Torkornoo, for physical assault she allegedly carried out by hitting him in his chest" while in the service of the entity as a contractor.

The lawsuit comes at the time when the RLJ Kendeja Beach Resort & Villas management is under fire for alleged bad labor, illegal redundancies, malpractices and ill-treatments of some of its workers and former

staffers. It also comes at a time the Hotel have threatened to drag this paper to court for damages because it had interviewed and reported on the alleged plights on former employees.

But the Hotel has since publicly denied despite more complaints fluttering in.

In a writ of summons and statement of claims dated 18th December 2023, signed and issued by Court Clerk, Hector M. Dolo, Complainant Daniel Fallah Flomo, alleged that his former Boss defendant Roberta Torkornoo was in a constant habit of assaulting him whenever he is at work.

The Plaintiff whose service with the RLJ Kendeja Hotel ended on December 2, 2023, narrates in the Writ of Summon that "On the 1st day of December 2023 at the Kendeja Community the defendant, with criminal intent, intentionally and illegally hit him in the chest for which he is going through severe pain as a result of the

hit," thereby committing the crime of Simple Assault in violation of Section 14.21 of the law.

Meanwhile, Defendant Roberta Torkornoo, who appeared before the court on Thursday, January 4, 2024, but had the case postponed on appeal from her lawyer because of irregularities, and misinterpretation of the Writ of Summons, refused to comment, stating that the case is in court.

The parties are expected to appear before the Paynesville Magisterial Court Tuesday, 16th January 2024. Editing by Jonathan Browne



RLJ Kendeja Hotel Operation Manager Roberta Torkonoo

Yekeh faces backlash

--Following anti-Boakai comments

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Controversial Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah has been warned to apologize for attempting to use the Totota tanker explosion to gain fame, or he would face the wrath of the people.

Bong County District #6 Representative Moima Briggs-Mensah issued the warning on Thursday, 11 January 2024 in response to Rep. Kolubah's "inflammatory statements" against President-elect Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's response to the Totota, Bong County tragedy.

Mr. Boakai visited the incident site, laid a wreath, and gave LD\$ 10 m plus 200 bags of 25kg rice to the victims.

But Kolubah has demanded Amb. Boakai to disclose the

failed," said Rep. Briggs-Mensah.

She said Kolubah's press conference in which he questioned the source of Boakai funding to sympathize with those who lost their lives and save others' lives is merely seeking relevance.

"This must be your last stop. You can not use the Totota crisis to gain your mere usual attention and keep bringing sadness to the people. This must be your stop," Rep. Briggs-Mensah warned.

She questioned the decency of the controversial lawmaker, urging him to go back and openly apologize to the people or face their wrath.

"Gone are those days people sit and others gain fame at our expense. Hon. Kolubah must go back and apologize to the people of Totota. If he can not, we will take action on you," Rep. Briggs-Mensah added.



Representative Yekeh Kolubah

source of the money and rice he has provided because the former Liberian vice president has long informed Liberians that he had no money and that he was living on loan.

Mr. Kolubah is said to have issued an ultimatum for Boakai to reveal the source of the income or he would publicly expose him. Kolubah supported Boakai presidential bid.

In response to his recent utterances, Rep. Briggs-Mensah has warned the Montserrado lawmaker not to use the Totota crisis to gain media and public attention or he will meet resistance from the people of Bong County.

"Yekeh went to Totota and his personal security flogged and injured one of my prominent citizens for no cause. I calmed the situation, he promised to take the responsibility but has yet

She expressed disappointment and dissatisfaction with Yekeh for using the Totota tanker explosion situation as a business as usual, making inflammatory comments to gain public attention.

Meanwhile, Rep. Briggs-Mensah has commended President-elect Boakai for the kind gesture, emphasizing that the initiative demonstrated love for the people of Bong County.

She said it was one of the few reasons the people overwhelmingly elected Boakai during the recent presidential run-off election.

The Bong County lawmaker also hailed Boakai for being the first person to lay flowers on the mass grave of those who died in the Totota tanker explosion, something she said exemplified his true leadership skills.

She also thanked contributors and others coming to the aid of the largest tanker blast here.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Cllr. Scott's sentence is fair and transparent Justice

--Says Atty. Woiwar

By Lincoln G. Peters

The lifetime imprisonment of former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott and three other family members has sparked mixed views among

extent of justice and are a sign to other Liberians.

"To get eleven out of twelve saying that the former Chief and others are guilty, it speaks volumes," he stated.

The legal practitioner indicated that Cllr. Scott and her family members were

happened, there was no justice for those people. Should we allow this to pass because there has been no justice for others?" Atty. Woiwar continued.

Atty. Woiwar explained that the death of Charloe Musu was not mysterious, saying she was murdered gruesomely in the house of Cllr. Scott and others could not state how she died.

He believes that justice has been dispensed without fear or favor, noting that the jurors did the honorable thing to hand down a guilty verdict based on the evidence and circumstances surrounding the death of Charloe.

However, Atty. Woiwar noted that co-defendant Scott had confidence in the legal system of Liberia which was why she was adequately represented by her team of lawyers at every stage of the trial.

He stressed that the former Chief Justice at one time presided over a similar case and handed down a guilty verdict.

He argued that if the defense lawyers believed that there was jury tampering, they should have requested for the jurors to be disbanded and demanded new ones.

"Another thing they said, because others had died similarly that means they should continue. Once you have people in an area and there is a dead and intruder had not been established those in should account," she concluded.

Motorecyclist rapes passenger in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Police in Maryland County have a commercial motorcyclist for allegedly raping a 30-year-old female passenger on the highway to town from a local beach.

The police in Harper, Maryland County have sent 41-year-old suspect Mark William to court on charges of rape and theft of property following his arrest on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

Police said the victim, a resident of Easy Town Community, in Harper City, had informed the Women and Children Protection Section of the incident after her encounter with suspect Williams.

According to the survival, the incident occurred on New

fell two times and he told the other three guys to wait for him [while he brought] me to Harper, [promising to] later go for them," she explained to the police.

She alleged that while she and Mark were returning to her destination, the suspect told her he would waive the L\$300 he had charged her in exchange for sexual intercourse.

"So when he said that I just thought it was a joke, but not knowing he was looking for a good place to stop his bike," the victim explained.

"So when we got around a rubber bush, Mark came in the middle of the road and stopped the bike and said he wanted to have sex with me and threatened to kill me if I refused or resisted him," she lamented.

"So I pretended that I wanted to toilet, and [I] entered into the bush and started running, but the



former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott

legal practitioners in Liberia. Many legal pundits believe that Cllr. Scott and her family members are wrongly sentenced to lifetime imprisonment, alleging that they are not the real perpetrators of the crime of murder.

Days after the sentencing, Atty. G. Alphonso W. Woiwar of the Supuwood and Associates Law Offices has described it as "fair and transparent justice."

According to Atty. Woiwar, the sentencing of Cllr. Scott and others have served the

sentenced to lifetime imprisonment based on the facts and evidence that were provided to the jurors from both parties before the Judge in open court.

He explained that the jurors handed their verdict based on the evidence that was given to them.

After carefully looking at all of the evidence, he said the jurors concluded that there was a concrete reason for Cllr. Scott is to be convicted of murder.

"We have seen a lot of deaths in this place, some are horrible ..., but nothing has

didn't get the right results.

The protesters said if their money is not paid, the Speakership election might not go on as planned.

This means that if they are not paid, the presence of state securities will be high on the grounds of the Capitol to control the protesters on Monday, 15 January 2024, a day set for the election of leaders for the 55th Legislature.

Speaker Chambers wants Executive to pay legislative staff

Starts from back page

government pay them for the last two months of work as their bosses are being paid for the extra sitting called by the President of Liberia.

Some lawmakers who accessed the building had to park their vehicles at some other places and walk to the House of Representatives wing of the Legislature.

Speaking to the protesters, Nimba County Electoral

District 9 Representative Johnson Gwaikolo said their money has already been allotted and the process of getting it out is ongoing.

He assured them that all would be done in their power to ensure that both the Senate and House of Representatives staffers get their payment done by Friday.

Rep. Gwaikolo had earlier made efforts for the workers not to protest but his efforts



Year's Day at about 9:00 pm.

She said earlier in the morning hours on New Year's Day, she collected her Susu money to the tune of LRD20,500 after which she decided to swim on the beach.

After swimming on the beach, the survivor said she ended up riding with suspect William because she could not find the first motorcyclist who took her to Harper Fish Town.

She said she met suspect Williams and other three boys yet to be identified, heading to Harper.

According to the victim, William agreed to transport her for L\$300.

"So while coming, the bike

suspect flashed light on me and had sex with her," she continued.

The survivor detailed that she was taken to the James Jenkins Dossen Referral Hospital in Harper, and medical reports have shown that she was penetrated.

The Chief Inspector of the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police Leona M. Gaye Kangar accorded the suspect his legal right to a lawyer or to remain silent.

But when questioned, the suspect admitted to the allegation levied against him during the police investigation.

He was subsequently charged with rape and theft of property and was forwarded to the Harper City Court for trial.

My value was not highly considered

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the Prime Minister of the Country, because he could decide who's to be in and out of the government.

"But, when we came together in 2017, everyone formed a part of that team. Mind you, there were only two political parties until the second round in 2017,

when others came. And we worked, keeping in touch, listening to the voices and advices of others. But, by the time we got into the Presidency, some voices were most important than the others. Like I said, I was not at the highest seat, but I think if we have kept united and consulted more, we probably couldn't have been where we are today" she concludes.

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Français

Sanction de Nuquay par les États-Unis : le sénateur Chea fait de fausses révélations, selon le New Dawn

Une enquête de New Dawn a révélé que l'affirmation du sénateur Augustine Chea du comté de Sinoe, indiquant

Weah et à certains membres de la 54e Assemblée législative, a déclaré sur OK FM le mardi 9 janvier 2024 que les Américains avaient imposé des restrictions

concrétise", a expliqué le sénateur Chea en suggérant que c'était la raison derrière la sanction de Nuquay par le gouvernement américain.

Cependant, l'enquête de New Dawn a établi que la parcelle de plus de 130 acres sur laquelle est située l'usine de caoutchouc de Jeety était initialement la propriété de M. Lloyd Wishmant, qui l'a vendue à Marilyn Teta Logan en 2020.

Le contrat de bail, dont une copie est en possession de ce journal et peut également être trouvée en annexe IV dans l'accord d'incitation à l'investissement signé entre le gouvernement libérien et Jeety Rubber LLC et ratifié par le sénateur Chea et ses collègues, montre que M. Sachdeva a loué le terrain à Mme Logan.

Ce journal a également constaté que l'affirmation du sénateur Chea insinuant que le sénateur Nuquay et d'autres qui, selon lui, ont aidé M. Sachdeva à mettre en place l'usine de caoutchouc, pourraient être des copropriétaires de l'usine de caoutchouc de Jeety, est fautive.

Selon l'annexe 1 de l'accord d'incitation à l'investissement de la Jeety Rubber Factory LLC sur la structure d'entreprise, approuvé le 27 décembre 2021 et publié le 10 janvier 2022, l'usine de caoutchouc de Jeety est entièrement détenue à 100 % par M. Upjit Singh Sachdeva.

Quant aux autres allégations

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Sen. Nuquay

Sen. Chea

que la restriction de visa imposée par le gouvernement américain au sénateur du comté de Margibi, J. Emmanuel Nuquay, était due au fait qu'il avait fourni un terrain pour l'usine de caoutchouc de Jeety, est trompeuse.

Le sénateur Chea, qui prétend avoir rédigé des articles soutenant les sanctions américaines imposées aux fonctionnaires du régime sortant de George

de visa à M. Nuquay parce qu'il avait activement aidé l'homme d'affaires indien Upjit Singh Sachdeva, communément appelé Jeety, pour mettre en place son usine de caoutchouc en mettant en sa disposition un terrain et des bâtiments.

"C'est Nuquay et d'autres personnes qui ont dû travailler avec Jeety pour établir l'usine. (Et) parce qu'il (Nuquay) a fourni le terrain, il a fourni le bâtiment et il travaille avec Jeety pour s'assurer que le projet se

GVL blâme des pertes de 20 millions de dollars sur de mauvaises routes

La société de palmiers à huile Golden Veroleum Liberia affirme avoir subi des pertes totalisant d'environ 20 millions de dollars en 2023 en raison de mauvaises routes dans le sud-est du Liberia.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse le mercredi 10 janvier à Monrovia, le vice-président de la stratégie et des parties prenantes, Elvis G. Morris, a déclaré que les travaux de réhabilitation de 272 kilomètres de routes dans la région se poursuivent depuis trois ans. Il a déclaré que le projet a été entièrement financé par le gouvernement du Liberia par le biais des impôts payés par GVL, et que la société a également achevé les travaux de construction sur un tronçon de 13 kilomètres de route reliant la communauté de Plouh à la

plage dans le district de Butaw, comté de Sinoe.

Il a ajouté qu'en plus de GVL, plusieurs entreprises minières et forestières opèrent dans les comtés de Sinoe et Grand Kru, et que la route reliant les deux comtés est un accès très stratégique, surtout pendant la saison des pluies.

"Nous supplions le gouvernement du Liberia de donner une plus grande attention à l'autoroute du Sud-Est, car elle

stimulera automatiquement les économies locales.

M. Morris a dit que le programme de soutien éducatif de Golden Veroleum bénéficie aux personnes à charge des employés et aux enfants des communautés environnantes, ajoutant que le programme a débuté en 2019 et se poursuit toujours.

Il a révélé que la société a dépensé plus de 200 000 dollars pour réhabiliter et reconstruire des écoles,

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GVL GOLDEN VEROLEUM LIBERIA

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

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éclectiques du sénateur Chea indiquant que la création de l'usine de caoutchouc de Jeety va à l'encontre des intérêts de Firestone et que les Américains ont donc vu cela comme une atteinte aux intérêts d'investissement de Firestone, le journal a également découvert que cela est faux et trompeur.

Des sources à la plantation de caoutchouc Firestone ont déclaré à ce journal mercredi

que M. Sachdeva et la direction de Firestone entretiennent des relations cordiales.

Une source a déclaré à ce journal qu'il y a quelques mois, M. Sachdeva a rendu visite à la direction actuelle de Firestone. Selon notre source, certains responsables de la plantation de caoutchouc Firestone ont fait autant, ce qui signifie que les relations entre les deux entités sont harmonieuses

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fournir du matériel d'enseignement, payer des indemnités aux enseignants bénévoles du gouvernement libérien dans ses zones opérationnelles.

"Nous avons achevé les phases 1, 2 et 3 et avons lancé la phase IV pour l'année académique 2023/2024. Au total, 56 écoles bénéficient actuellement du programme dans les comtés de Sinoe et Grand Kru", a-t-il noté.

Selon lui, GVL fournit également des soins de santé gratuits à ses employés et aux personnes à charge, y compris les communautés environnantes, avec des installations de santé construites dans ses sites de concession, fournissant des infirmières professionnelles et des médicaments.

"Chaque année, nos cliniques traitent plus de 31 000 patients, y compris des employés, des personnes à charge, des entrepreneurs et des habitants de la communauté, pour un coût de plus de 165 000 dollars. GVL paie également l'indemnité de 10 employés à la clinique d'unification à Tarjuwon."

Il a indiqué que depuis le début des opérations, GVL

verse 100 000 dollars pour les étudiants libériens méritants étudiant des cours liés à l'agriculture et aux sciences, tels que l'ingénierie, dans diverses universités du pays.

Il a précisé que plus de 400 étudiants ont bénéficié du programme de bourses d'études de GVL et que la plupart d'entre eux sont actuellement employés par la société, occupant des postes de superviseurs, d'assistants gestionnaires et de gestionnaires.

M. Morris a aussi révélé que GVL verse dans les comptes de développement communautaire 5,00 dollars par hectare de terrain conformément à l'accord de concession.

L'opération de GVL dépend fortement de l'approvisionnement en carburant, mais le mauvais état des transports intérieurs perturbe l'approvisionnement en carburant, entraînant des coûts logistiques plus élevés et empêchant la société de fonctionner à une capacité efficace en raison des coûts fixes élevés pendant la saison des pluies, associés à une infrastructure médiocre aux ports de Greenville et Harper.

CORSAL mobilise les Libériens contre l'ordonnance exécutive du Président Weah



CORSAL President Mr. Lafia C. Kaba

Le Consortium des Acteurs du Secteur du Caoutchouc du Libéria (CORSAL) mobilise les Libériens contre l'ordonnance exécutive du Président George Manneh Weah interdisant l'exportation de caoutchouc non transformé. S'exprimant lors d'une importante conférence de presse le mercredi 10 janvier 2024, le président de CORSAL, M. Lafia C. Kaba, a déclaré que l'ordonnance exécutive est une politique sans cœur destinée à réprimer les masses souffrantes.

"En tant que producteurs de caoutchouc en difficulté, sans soutien du gouvernement, nous avons travaillé si dur pour améliorer nos vies et nous ne permettrons pas à un gouvernement déjà sous assistance vitale de mutiler sans précaution notre source économique", a déclaré M. Kaba.

"Nous voulons profiter de cette occasion pour appeler tous les Libériens de bonne volonté à se joindre à nous dans la lutte contre le président Weah et l'ordonnance exécutive malveillante de son gouvernement, qui cherche à réprimer les masses déjà souffrantes", a-t-il exhorté.

Il a affirmé que l'ordonnance exécutive porte gravement atteinte aux droits fondamentaux à la survie et à un gagne-pain décent des acteurs de

l'industrie du caoutchouc du Libéria en particulier et des Libériens en général. Il a indiqué que CORSAL ne reculera devant rien pour s'assurer que les producteurs de caoutchouc, dont beaucoup sont des habitants locaux et ruraux, obtiennent une juste part de leur dur labeur.

Selon lui, la Section 9 de l'ordonnance exécutive est totalement sans cœur et extrêmement redoutable car elle viole grossièrement le Chapitre 2, Article 8 de la Constitution de 1986.

Il a argumenté que la Constitution prévoit que "La République orientera sa politique vers la garantie pour tous les citoyens, sans discrimination, des opportunités d'emploi et de gagne-pain dans des conditions justes et humaines, et vers la promotion des installations de sécurité, de santé et de bien-être dans

l'emploi".

M. Kaba a soutenu que le secteur du caoutchouc du Libéria doit être laissé seul pour fonctionner sur la base du "VENDEUR VOLONTAIRE et ACHETEUR VOLONTAIRE", ce qui, selon lui, contribuera grandement à améliorer la vie des acteurs du secteur du caoutchouc et de leurs familles, ainsi que des Libériens en général.

"Que le Président Weah institue une action à travers la malveillante ordonnance exécutive pour priver et refuser aux Libériens économiquement en difficulté les opportunités d'une vie meilleure et améliorée est en effet inimaginable", a-t-il poursuivi.

"Un autre point important qui vaut la peine d'être mentionné est le fait que l'ordonnance exécutive n° 124 ouvre la voie à une diminution des recettes de l'État", a-t-il déclaré.

Il a dit que les chauffeurs de camion qui transportent du caoutchouc entre les acteurs achètent de grandes quantités de carburant pour faciliter le mouvement de leurs camions.

"Plus ils déplacent le caoutchouc non transformé et consomment du carburant, plus ils contribuent au fonds routier et augmentent

La Banque mondiale alloue 450 000 \$ aux victimes du camion-citerne de gaz



La Banque mondiale a alloué 450 000 \$ en réponse au plan d'urgence du gouvernement libérien visant à répondre à la situation des Libériens touchés par la récente explosion d'un camion-citerne de gazoline dans la ville de Totota, comté de Bong. Cette somme contribuera à pallier les capacités techniques et financières limitées pour traiter le traumatisme et répondre à d'autres urgences. Elle facilitera également le déploiement d'une équipe médicale spécialisée en provenance de Sierra Leone pour renforcer la réponse d'urgence. "La Banque mondiale est attristée par les blessures dévastatrices et la perte de vies résultant de l'explosion récente d'un camion-citerne de gazoline au Liberia. Nous présentons nos condoléances les plus sincères aux familles et aux amis de ceux qui ont péri et espérons le rétablissement complet de tous les blessés. Nous sommes impatients de soutenir les autorités sanitaires qui travaillent sans relâche

pour répondre à cette urgence, en suivant l'objectif à long terme de renforcer de manière durable le système de santé national", a déclaré Robert Taliario O'Brien, directeur de pays de la Banque mondiale pour le Ghana, le Liberia et la Sierra Leone.

Le financement a été rendu disponible dans le cadre du projet existant Foundations to Improve Services for Health (IFESH), visant à améliorer la prestation de services de santé aux femmes, aux enfants et aux adolescents au Liberia. Le soutien de la Banque garantira la fourniture ininterrompue d'oxygène médical aux patients en soins intensifs, la livraison de fournitures médicales nécessaires à la phase d'urgence, entre autres besoins urgents. De plus, les fonds contribueront à fournir un soutien nutritionnel spécialisé pour les patients présentant des brûlures graves, des traumatismes graves et des séjours en unité de soins intensifs ; un soutien social et psychologique pour les personnes à charge (principalement des enfants, des personnes handicapées et des femmes) des personnes touchées/décédées dans l'accident ; et d'autres traitements pour les victimes de l'explosion.

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International Cooperation:

Fulcrum for Sustainable Development

By

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B. Key words:

Development cooperation; international cooperation; multilateralism; global governance; global cooperation; multilateral cooperation; bilateral cooperation; global partnership; globalism.

C. Abstract:

This essay has argued that international cooperation is the fulcrum for sustainable development. First, it has determined that international cooperation impacts sustainable development because it is through cooperation that states can attain mutually beneficial outcomes to address both national and global challenges and problems. Without international cooperation, states will not achieve their national interests singularly. Simply put, all states are interdependent. Second, the essay argued that international cooperation has evolved over time moving beyond the traditional practice of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to now include global governance that involves trans governmental networks; transnational private governance; and transnational public-private partnership processes. These global networks are complex, but help states and non-state actors to cooperate in attaining national and global development outcomes bordered on the security of states and the welling of their people. Third, the essay argued that official development assistance has been one of the functions of international cooperation, and that aid has helped developing countries to attain some development benefits. The essay concludes that there is a need to enhance international cooperation by ensuring that states and non-state actors further commit and fulfill the principles of global partnership as enshrined in goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the developed world must assist developing countries to achieve economic growth and build strong institutions for sustainable development on the one hand, while developing countries themselves must take concrete steps to end extreme poverty and pursue the path of sustainable development on the other.

D. Introduction

This essay critically examines international cooperation as a fulcrum of sustainable development. It defines international cooperation and discusses how national and international actors engage in international cooperation processes to ensure that mutually agreed outcomes are obtained. It also analyzes how the practice of international cooperation either stalls or enhances the attainment of national and global public goods. Finally, it looks at Official Development Assistance (ODA) processes as one of the key components of international cooperation that remains a key pillar to the achievement of the sustainable development in the mutual interest of stronger and weaker states.

E. Research Method

According to Patricia Leavy (2017), “qualitative research is characterized by inductive approaches to knowledge building aimed at generating meaning” (p.10). Researchers “use this approach to examine, explore; robustly investigate and learn about social phenomenon to unpack the meanings people ascribe to activities, situations and events” (Ibid). Qualitative research gives researchers “a depth of understanding about some dimension of social life, and the values underlying qualitative research include the importance of people’s subjective experiences and meaning-making processes and acquiring” (ibid). “A Qualitative research is generally appropriate when your primary purpose is to explore, describe, or explain” (Creswell, 2018, pp. 75-76). In view of the foregoing, the qualitative research method was used to undertake this research using secondary sources, mainly books, journals, etc.

The key research questions addressed in this essay are a). how has international cooperation impacted sustainable development globally? b). Are there areas in which international cooperation has been effective than others? And c). What improvements could be made to make international cooperation more effective and efficient? This essay has attempted to provide answers to these three key questions.

F. Definition of International Cooperation

Axelrod and Koehane (1985) argued that “cooperation occurs when actors adjust their behavior to the actual or anticipated preferences of others” (p. 226). Hence, “international cooperation describes interactions to achieve common objectives when actors’ preferences are neither identical due to lack of harmony nor irreconcilable due to the presence of conflict of interest” (Paulo, 2014, p.3). As Sabastian Paulo (2014) rightfully puts it, “the framework of international cooperation refers here to the structures and processes of policymaking beyond the nation-state and is used synonymously with global governance” (ibid).

International cooperation is used in economic theory as a collaborative initiative to analyze how states jointly partner in teams to achieve common goals and objectives and resolve common challenges that might impede collaboration. International cooperation occurs due to the provision or lack of public goods at national or international levels. This brings in the concerns of collective action that places international cooperation above national boundaries to joint international partnership for the production and provision of Global Public Goods (GPG). Additionally, development agencies, academia, and international organizations “have used and developed the concept to grasp deeper insights into trans-boundary or global challenges for development” (Paulo, 2014, p,3).

G. International Cooperation for Public Goods Provision

According to Paulo (2014) “public and private goods are distinguishable based on the properties of the benefits they provide; and those benefits accruing from public goods are non-excludable and non-rival in consumption” (p.3). A good is non-excludable if no person can be prevented from enjoying its benefits (or at least not at reasonable cost). Accordingly, “a good is non-rival if consumption by one person does not reduce the amount available for another; and goods that fulfil both



Boakai-Koffa meeting: My value was not highly considered

Details emerging from the Sunday, January 7, 2024, meeting between President-elect, Joseph N. Boakai and Deputy House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa revealed Amb. Boakai's failed attempt to arm-twist Koffa to back off the Speakership race, just days before newly elected and retained lawmakers can go to the polls, the New Dawn has gathered.

Cllr. Koffa, who is currently the UP's leading candidate. Though Deputy Speaker Koffa confirmed that he did meet with Amb. Boakai on Sunday but declined to comment on details of their meeting. President-elect Boakai's meeting with Deputy Speaker Koffa came days ahead of his (Boakai) meeting with 31 others - newly and re-elected lawmakers on Wednesday, January 10, at which time he promised to dish out US\$5000.00

rival Rep. Koon. While the CDC can boast of over 27 lawmakers going into this election, the incoming Unity Party (UP) Government was able to secure only 11 seats in the October 10, 2023, Legislative polls. More besides, Koffa is being viewed as a lawmaker who can move both sides of the isles and can find his way through both camps and therefore, is best suited to take over from Chambers as compared to his rival Rep. Koon who lacks the ability to maneuver his way through the House to get his colleagues in line.

However, UP still believes that it can secure both the Senate Pro-Tempore position and the Speakership, arguing that CDC was able to take control of both houses during the Weah regime.

But political pundits have debunked such argument, saying the CDC grabbing both houses did not work to its advantage, and that looking at President George Weah, Speaker Chambers, and Pro-Temp Albert Chie, only Chie was able to retain his seat.

In addition, pundits say politics is about numbers and the UP does not have such numbers to enable Koon to pull the trigger, suggesting that Boakai should just start preparing himself for a Koffa speakership.

Why short memory? Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf faced with similar challenge in 2006, against Rep. Edwin Snowe of Montserrado District #6, now Senator for Bomi County had to focus on winning the seat rather than attempting to arm-twist Snowe or force him to abandon his speakership dream.

President-elect Boakai could have gone back to learn from his former boss who enjoyed a stable Legislature before some corrupt leaders came to the scene.

Mrs. Sirleaf was able to work around opposition lawmakers. She had desired few good Senators to head the Senate but was taken off guard by a curved ball that was served her. She did not see Armah Jallah coming in along with the late Geraldine Doe Sheriff.

Thus, it begs the question as to who are those acting as Legislative Consultants to the President-elect and the UP folks.

The names Clearance Massaquoi, Hassan Kiazulo, and Francis Doupo ring bells but as to whether they command the political weight to give CDC Koffa the run for his money is another story. -Writes Othello B. Garblah

By Lincoln G. Peters
 Outgoing Liberian Vice President, Jewel Howard-Taylor is disappointed in the governance style of the Coalition for Democratic Change that brought her to the Presidency for the second time, saying that she was blocked in many ways from having access that she thought she could had, and her value that she brought was never considered.

Ms. Taylor served as First Lady of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, when her husband jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor resigned and went in exile in Nigeria, as combined rebel forces besieged his administration.

Speaking on a live online talk show "Closing Argument", here on Wednesday, January 10, 2023, VP Howard-Taylor alleged that she was blocked in many ways from speaking and accessing the Presidency.

"I was blocked in many ways, not having that kind of access that I thought I could have. But, I don't think that the value that I brought to table was a value that was highly considered, and I think that is my disappointment", she expresses.

According to the first female Vice President of Liberia, she tried her very best in getting involved and engaged in some of the things she wanted to do to move on.

She explains that when they got closer to the electoral process, they had agreed to come together to work and they went on the campaign trail with President George M. Weah, and she had the opportunity to say what she thought.

"Certain point in time I was blocked; I was no longer part of the team. In 2016-2017, I was part of the team; we sat at the round table to talk and he (President Weah) will asked me at the end of everybody's conversations to talk, 'Deputy SB, what you say' and I always had the chance to speak my mind."

The outgoing VP said she believes that if people still look across the table of political parties, in the CDC that they set up, she still remained the most experienced person, coming from 1997 to where they were.

"That disunity of not communicating and consulting actually ate into the fabric of me. If I could look back, I will say that was the hardest part for me. As a woman, you know, we like to talk. And so, I always wanted the opportunity to talk about some of the things that were happening. And I always wanted to say that President Weah and I had never had an argument, a

face-to-face argument; never." Responding to a question what she could change, if given the opportunity as President, she notes that her father always used to say if you had never walked a mile in someone's shoes, you can never criticize.

Jewel says that she doesn't want to criticize decisions that were made because she may have had just a glance into some of the deep issues that were obtaining under the Presidency.

"Maybe the question could have been what I wanted to see. And it's close collaboration. Because I think there is much more you get from everyone working together in a sink than in the side-look that we found ourselves. And early on, side looks came into place that brought a lot of the inner wrangling that attended our government."

According to her, those inner wranglings went into the electoral process and at that point, it was little over to stop, because some people could say let move forward, while others held onto it.

VP Howard-Taylor further explains that if she was asked what she thinks caused them to lose the



the Deputy Speaker of the 54th Legislature is seeking to replace his boss, outgoing Speaker Bhofal Chambers.

However, a meeting between Boakai and Koffa did not go well on Sunday, as the President-elect asked that Deputy Speaker Koffa back off from the speakership race to pave the way for Unity Party's candidate Representative Richard N. Koon, who is also contesting the speakership.

According to sources within the proximity of the President-elect, Boakai, it is alleged told Cllr. Koffa that he was being pressured by members of his Unity Party to prevail on Koffa to leave the speakership election, which is due next Monday, January 15.

Our sources said Koffa, in return, told Boakai that he would not back down because to do so would mean killing his political ambition and also him resigning from the incoming 55th Legislature, as he would have betrayed the trust of his colleagues, who have reposed confidence in him for the 3rd most powerful job in the country.

Another source informed this paper that Amb. Boakai's request for Koffa to back off the speakership election was like throwing Koffa under the bus, because the President-elect, while visiting the United States in December 2023, met with Koffa and assured him that he had his blessing to run because he barely knew Rep. Koon who has now emerged as

to each of the 73 lawmakers as funding for his inaugural celebration in the country's 73 electoral districts.

"I was part of 31 lawmakers that met the president and vice president-elect yesterday, not necessarily to pledge support to his candidate for the SPEAKERSHIP but rather an opportunity or privilege to meet, congratulate and explain to him and team what we stand for as a district and county," Jacob C Debee, one of the newly elected lawmakers from Sinoe County wrote on his social media page following his meeting with Amb. Boakai.

"The president-elect reaffirmed his desire to grade all roads to standard in his 1st 100 days. He also promised to decentralize the distribution of medical supplies like building a regional hub of storage in one central county that will distribute assorted medical supplies. He also promised to give 5000.00 USD to each electoral district to celebrate his inauguration because he didn't want everyone coming to Monrovia for celebration. He revealed that the CDC government has made available 650k for the inauguration program." Incoming Representative Debee said.

Meanwhile, intense lobbying for the Speakership continues unabated as Deputy Speaker Koffa who is a Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) candidate has a numerical advantage over his



Vice President, Jewel Howard-Taylor

election, she would say it's because people didn't see the Unity that they had in 2017.

She notes that in 2017, they moved as an opposition with one voice, where President Weah could sit for hours, listening to everyone and most importantly, they didn't vote on any issue without a consensus.

"For me, that was my belief that when we went into it consulting, everyone could have helped. That was one thing that was missing in the governance process. There were side looks around the President. People had their own reasons; the Minister of State, US-sanctioned Nathaniel McGill, he is my friend and brother, and we have gone beyond that, but we speak of it as lesson learned, because a whole different story. People were dealt with by the decision he (McGill) took", she notes.

At some point, VP Howard-Taylor discloses, McGill became

Speaker Chambers wants Executive to pay legislative staff

By Bridgett Milton

Outgoing House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has called on the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to pay staffers and other government institutions.

on fairness and justice, and the wellbeing of the people and we hope what is supposed to be the norm be done to the fullest," said Chambers.

His call on the Executive follows days of protest at the Legislature by legislative

thinkers there is a need for no further discussion but for the executive through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to do what is just and right.

Chambers stated that they have spoken to people from all sides and have passed it on to President Weah.

According to him, President Weah has informed a delegation that was formed that he has done his part to approve and everyone would get their just benefit.

Recently, some staffers at the House of Representatives have protested for their salaries owed them and have even threatened to hold the Speaker election for the 55th Legislature hostage if their two months' benefits are not settled.

On Tuesday, 9 January 2023, the staffers at the House of Representatives placed roadblocks preventing members of that august body from accessing the building with their vehicles.

They demanded that the



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

reporters Thursday, 11 January 2024, Chambers said as the turn of this government is expected very soon, he doesn't want to see an ugly turnover.

He said the fact that people have worked, they must be paid their just benefits owed them by the Government of Liberia.

"The issue at the Capitol has to do with the issue of governance, the wellbeing of the people based

staffers who were demanding the payment of money the government owed them.

Speaker Chambers added that what is happening up Capitol Hill is the issue of governance and the issue of social order because government comes to being to protect everyone's rights.

He argued that the fact that people have worked, he

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