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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
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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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UP on begging spree?

Amb. Boakai **Sen. Koung**

-for Boakai's inauguration

P11

Retirement or gameplay?

Pres. Weah

-President Weah's early retirement from politics raises questions

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Continental News

Angolan billionaire rejects fresh criminal charges

Fresh criminal charges against Angolan billionaire Isabel dos Santos are politically motivated, a lawyer for the businesswoman has said.



Isabel dos Santos has in the past been described as Africa's richest woman

Angola's public prosecutor has charged Ms Dos Santos with 12 crimes, including embezzlement and fraud, reports said. The charges relate to Ms Dos Santos' time as chair of a state-owned oil firm. Described as Africa's richest woman, Ms Dos Santos ran Sonangol from 2016 to 2017. She is also the daughter of former Angolan president José Eduardo dos Santos, who led the south-west African country for 38 years until he stepped down in 2017. Critics of Ms Dos Santos

have long claimed she used her position of influence in Angola to enrich herself at the expense of the state - allegations she has

strongly refuted. In response to last week's indictment, Dan Morrison, a lawyer for Ms Dos Santos, told the BBC: "Isabel dos Santos rejects these trumped-up charges by the Angolan government which have been launched as part of a sustained campaign of political persecution against her by President [João] Lourenço."

Under the presidency of Mr Lourenço, several of José Eduardo Dos Santos' relatives have been prosecuted on various charges, which they deny. In 2020, Angolan prosecutors charged Ms Dos Santos with embezzlement and money

laundering.

Global police agency Interpol issued a "red notice" for the billionaire in 2022, asking global law enforcement authorities to locate and provisionally arrest her.

Ms Dos Santos has not been arrested since investigations against her began but she is subject to a number of asset freezes around the world.

"Isabel is presently engaged in court proceedings in various jurisdictions to clear her name," her lawyer Mr Morrison continued in his statement.

"The aim of the Angolan authorities is to intimidate her from returning to Angola so she is unable to run for political office."

The most recent indictment against Ms Dos Santos was filed on 11 December, Portuguese news agency Lusa reports, but the Angolan attorney general's office told the BBC it could not comment on the matter as it was "under judicial secrecy".

Ms Dos Santos has mooted running for Angola's presidency in various media interviews over the past few years. She has previously been described as Africa's richest woman, with an estimated fortune of \$2bn. She is no longer included on Forbes' rankings of the world's wealthiest people because her assets are under dispute in various territories. BBC

Somali, Palestinian Delegations Push Demands Ahead of Non-Aligned Summit in Uganda

The summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) got underway this week in Uganda's capital, Kampala, where delegations from Somalia and the Palestinian people are lobbying members for support. While the Palestinians are calling on members to find a way to end the conflict in Gaza, Somalia says it needs support to maintain its territorial integrity.

Ninety-three out of 120 NAM nations are represented in Kampala for the 19th summit of the movement. For the plenary session that began Monday, Arab nations made clear that Gaza must be the focus of the meeting. Delegates said the NAM summit must find the right language to address what

facing a massive calamity. I don't think it's an exaggeration from us to expect support from our brothers and sisters from the movement."

Uganda recently took over chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement from Azerbaijan.

Vincent Bagiire, the permanent secretary at the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, says the agenda for the plenary session will be decided by consensus.

"We have not subjected the matter of Palestine and Gaza to whether it should be the major topic that we discuss," he said. "So, Uganda will focus on creating cohesion within the movement to ensure that we can work together as a movement for the good of humanity."

Delegates from Somalia are calling for the 120-state movement to support its territorial integrity and



Uganda's permanent representative to the United Nations Adonia Ayebare speaks during the opening of the 19th

Kenya cult leader faces terror charges over deaths

A suspected Kenyan cult leader is to be charged with murder and terrorism over the deaths of more than 400 people found in mass graves, prosecutors say. Paul Mackenzie was arrested in April after the discovery of hundreds of bodies, some of whom were said to have starved themselves to death. Kenyan prosecutors say that he and 94 others will be charged in court in Malindi on Wednesday. The self-proclaimed pastor has denied responsibility for the deaths. The bodies of 429 people, including children, have been dug up from grave sites in Shakahola, a remote forest about two hours' drive west of Malindi. Most showed signs of starvation, but some - children among them - may have been assaulted.

Mr Mackenzie is alleged to have encouraged members of his Good News International Church to move there and prepare for the end of the world. One witness told the BBC that people

were given instructions in January last year to begin fasting so that they could "get to heaven".

But Mr Mackenzie has said the deaths could not be down to him as he closed his church in 2019. Investigators had asked for his time in custody to be extended several times as they continued their investigation.

They said their inquiries had now gathered enough evidence to charge him and the others with offences including murder, assault and "facilitating the commission of

a terrorist act".

They are also facing a charge of "subjecting a child to torture", according to a statement from the director of public prosecutions. The charges were listed a week after the court gave the prosecutors a fortnight's deadline to make them public or face the possibility that the suspects could be released. Out of the 95 suspects, 64 had been found in Shakahola and were initially treated as victims and moved to a rescue centre.



Self-proclaimed pastor Paul Mackenzie has been in custody since April

they called "the violent and savage aggression by the state of Israel in perpetuating a genocide" in Gaza.

A delegate from Mauritius said the summit must make a political declaration on the war, which broke out October 7 after the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 240 hostage, 105 of whom were released in November. Israel's military response reportedly has killed more than 24,000 Palestinians.

Riyadh Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations, said he does not expect any country to disagree with calling for a cease-fire and humanitarian assistance for the 2.3 million Palestinians displaced from their homes.

"We are not asking for anything other than standing with us against this aggression," he said. "We are

sovereignty.

Early this month, Ethiopia signed an agreement with Somaliland, a breakaway region from Somalia, giving Ethiopia access to the sea. In return, Ethiopia would consider recognizing Somaliland as an independent country.

Hamza Adan Haadow, permanent secretary in the Somali Ministry of Foreign Affairs, says the agreement "violates our rights, our integrity and our unity." "So, that's why we are pushing, and we believe that the peace that we had will continue if the Non-Alignment Movement stands with us," he added.

Both the Somali and Palestinian representatives have five days to convince delegates to prioritize their concerns and come up with resolutions before heads of state fly to Uganda for the summit at the end of this week. VOA

EDITORIAL

VP Taylor's cry over spilled milk

OUTGOING VICE President Jewel Howard-Taylor's recent disclosure of treatments received in the Coalition government of President George Manneh Weah that she serves for six years is nothing but crying over spilled milk. How could a woman of her status allow herself to have suffered such psychological humiliation without speaking out!

YET, SHE WAS bold enough to come in public defending the CDC and repeatedly criticizing the opposition, including former Vice President now President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, for performing dismally under Madam Sireaf. Such political decent boomeranged.

Madam Taylor took the National Patriotic Party (NPP) to President Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) in a coalition that offered her the Vice Presidential slot during the 2017 election, but received cold shoulders after the CDC came to power.

In the entire first year or so of the administration, she did not report for work in the Senate where she presided as President, because the Executive Mansion withdrew her official aids and motorcade amid claims and fears in the ruling party that she wanted to out shine President Weah. It took public pressure to have her amenities restored.

Appearing as guest on a live online talk show recently, the Vice President lamented that she never had access to the inner cycle of the Weah administration despite being the second in command, while her value in terms of education and experience was downplayed in the government. How does this gain attention of the public when she is already on her way out to give way to a new administration?

The Coalition for Democratic Change lost the 14th November 2023 Presidential Runoff Election to the Unity Party, clearly thwarting President Weah's bid for second term in office.

But for the woman, who once served as First Lady of the Republic of Liberia before her election as Vice President to have endured such humiliation for six long years in total silence, is not only a serious disappointment to herself, but disappointment to Liberian women aspiring for public office.

By her revelation, Madam Taylor clearly indicates that she was completely sidelined. No wonder why cries for jobs from within the NPP faction that headed went unheeded because she had no influence on President Weah or key officials to push her interest, and could not say so publicly.

"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 roundtable to talk and he (President Weah) will asked me at the end of everybody's conversation to talk, 'Deputy S.B., what you say' and I always had the chance to speak my mind."

But she observed that subsequently, all this changed, and she was increasingly ostracized in the Coalition, lamenting "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."

Coming out now at the eleventh hour is, as it is often said in a Liberian parlance, "water under the bridge" that makes no significant relevance at the moment. All that is before her now is to move on with her life after January 22nd.

COMMENTARY

By Gordon Brown

Britain Is Turning Its Back on International Law

EDINBURGH - Last month, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak made an astonishing admission: the United Kingdom would have all but abandoned the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) were it not for the intervention of the Rwandan government. I cannot imagine any previous Conservative leader - from Winston Churchill, an early advocate of the ECHR, to John Major - ever suggesting that Rwanda, a country with one of the world's worst human-rights records, should serve as Britain's moral compass.

Most UK media coverage has focused on far-right politicians' claims that the legislation to send illegal immigrants and asylum seekers to Rwanda does not go far enough. But the bigger danger, which few Conservatives have acknowledged, is that it would seriously undermine Britain's long-term commitment to the rule of law.

It is no exaggeration to say that, as the Rwanda bill enters the crucial committee stage in the House of Commons this week, the United Kingdom, long viewed as the home of liberty and famed for exporting these values to the rest of the world, is about to cross the Rubicon. As the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law explains in a recent report, "the central purpose of the Bill, to conclusively deem Rwanda to be a safe country in light of the recently concluded Rwanda Treaty, is contrary to the Rule of Law." By banning the courts from considering that question in the future, its adoption "would amount to a legislative usurpation of the judicial function."

The proposed bill would limit the right to challenge removal from Britain to asylum seekers who can prove that they risk ill-treatment in Rwanda (as opposed to onward refoulement) and thus prevent important sections of the ECHR and the Human Rights Act from being applied in the UK. It is likely to breach the right not to be returned to a country where one would face torture or persecution, as well as the right to an effective remedy (ECHR Article 13).

Already, Conservative ministers have advanced legislation to prevent people who arrive irregularly from claiming asylum. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has condemned this measure as effectively extinguishing "the right of refugees to be recognized and protected in the UK."

But the so-called "notwithstanding clauses" in the current Rwanda bill are of a different order of magnitude. They assert that the bill's provisions override "any interpretation of international law" by a court or tribunal and any domestic law. With no apparent sense of irony, a treaty whose primary purpose is "to ensure that the United Kingdom's international human rights obligations are met" is being given effect by legislation expressly overriding those obligations because the government does not trust the courts to apply the law as it wants.

Sunak contends that these laws are necessary to prevent time-consuming judicial reviews - deemed an abuse of human-rights legislation - and appears confident that they would deter British courts from agreeing to hear any further cases about Rwanda's safety. Moreover, he has added a clause to the Rwanda bill stating that only a "Minister of the Crown" may decide whether to comply with an interim injunction from the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) regarding the removal of a person to Rwanda, while domestic courts must disregard any such injunction. Not only is this a clear breach of the ECHR, but it also disregards the ECtHR's recent changes to its procedure for interim measures, which address the UK's concerns.

When Sunak became prime minister, he had an opportunity to reaffirm core British values; Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, his predecessors, had played fast and loose with them for years. But while stopping short of formally leaving the ECHR - which the Conservative ultra-right wants - he appears to have renounced its core elements, including the quintessentially British right to go to court to defend or protect yourself, a product of the UK's common-law heritage.

Still, Sunak could go even further. According to a recent statement from 10 Downing Street, the prime minister is considering "whether being part of the ECHR is in the UK's long-term interests." Sunak's administration has also systematically undermined international law - not just the ECHR, but also the UN's 1951 Refugee Convention and human-rights and humanitarian law more generally. The golden thread that connects the Magna Carta of 1215 and the Bill of Rights of 1689 to the ECHR of 1950 and the Human Rights Act of 1998 is being severed.

Ministers have been on this slippery slope for some time. Stripping asylum seekers of the right to have their claims decided in the UK follows from government decisions to house them in inferior accommodation and to deport them before completing the necessary checks to identify victims of modern slavery. (The legal requirement to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of such offenses has also been ignored.) Moreover, the ministerial code was revised in 2015 to remove the obligation to comply with international law, while unprecedented new guidance requires government lawyers not to advise that a proposed policy is unlawful even if there is a high risk of a successful legal challenge.

Conservatives have targeted the ECHR for at least a decade. In 2013, then-Prime Minister David Cameron said that he would not rule out abandoning the ECHR if he won the next election, while his successors - Theresa May, Johnson, and Truss - and two of their home secretaries, Priti Patel and Suella Braverman, have explicitly called for the UK's withdrawal. Braverman even asserted, with scant evidence, that "there are 100 million people around the world who could qualify for protection under our current laws," and that she had to act because "they are coming here."

More recently, former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick said that the government should leave the ECHR to stop small-boat crossings.

The Conservatives' wholesale attack on the ECHR is born of their conviction that even a post-Brexit Britain does not enjoy enough "independence." They believe that UK sovereignty must be unlimited, unrestricted, and accountable to no one, especially not a European court. Such an insular and xenophobic worldview undermines any modern concept of human rights and is unfit for an interconnected world in which as many as 280 million people live outside their country of birth.

With its efforts to undermine the ECHR, Britain is setting in motion a chain of events that will chip away at the rule of law and human rights around the world. Countries like Hungary and Turkey will inevitably cite the UK's actions when they refuse to comply with the ECHR and similar instruments. The South African government recently proposed that it will choose which Refugee Convention obligations it should comply with. It will not be the last.

OP-ED

By Richard Haass

A Year of War and Little Peace

NEW YORK - The advantage historians have over journalists is that the passage of time offers them a perspective not available to those with immediate deadlines. But the year is about to end, which constitutes a firm deadline if the goal is to put 2023 into perspective. "Instant history" may well be an oxymoron, but it is worth the effort, especially in a year that will be remembered as one defined by war.

Two wars in particular stand out. The first is Russia's continuing aggression in Ukraine. While Ukraine continued to hold its own against Russian forces and remains a viable, independent country that controls roughly 80% of its territory, the much-anticipated Ukrainian counter-offensive accomplished little. All told, the second year of this costly war will be known less for what changed on the field of battle than for what did not; the map does not look all that different in December than it did in January. Meanwhile, some cracks appeared in support for Ukraine in both Europe and the United States.

The second war was initiated by Hamas against Israel on October 7. Surprising Israeli intelligence and defense forces, Hamas's savage terrorist attacks killed more than 1,200 people, with another 240 taken hostage. Most of the victims were civilians.

Israel declared as its goal the elimination of Hamas and has attacked Gaza heavily ever since, first by air and then on the ground, killing nearly 20,000 people so far and displacing almost two million. In its third month, the war shows no sign of ending. When it does, Israeli occupation of Gaza is likely to follow, but what will follow that is unknown. Prospects for peace and a Palestinian state appear more remote than ever.

Not surprisingly, the most important bilateral relationship of this era, between the US and China, also dominated headlines in 2023. The year began with a Chinese spy balloon traversing the US, prompting the US to shoot it down. Relations entered something of a deep freeze until high-level contacts resumed over the summer, culminating in a meeting between President Joe Biden and President Xi Jinping in San Francisco in November.

Both leaders want a calmer relationship, albeit for very different reasons. China is hoping for improved economic ties, while the US wants to prevent China from adding to global turbulence by undertaking aggression in the Taiwan Strait or the South China Sea or by providing military assistance to Russia. Without a shared approach to the major issues of the day, any floor under the relationship will be shaky at best.

That said, it is important to note two things that did not happen in 2023. There was no Taiwan crisis or incident that threatened to provoke a conflict between China and the US. China ended the year focusing mostly on its economy and on beginning a necessary transition toward domestic-demand-led growth. Given the reluctance of Chinese households to spend rather than save, it will be a difficult transition.

Nor was there a crisis involving North Korea. A widely-predicted seventh nuclear test never materialized. Just why Kim Jong-un refrained is unclear, but what is clear is that North Korea continued to increase the quantity and quality of its nuclear and missile forces, and even enshrined their further development in a constitutional amendment.

What also did not happen is any concerted response to these developments on the part of South Korea, Japan, or the US, although America attempted to allay growing concerns in South Korea about the reliability of extended deterrence.

The year will also be remembered for being the hottest on record. World leaders, CEOs, lobbyists, and activists gathered in Dubai for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). But the mismatch between their efforts and the urgency of the problem raised more troubling questions about the world's willingness to come together to address what could prove to be the defining challenge of the century.

Artificial intelligence had a breakthrough year in 2023, gaining broad public recognition as a transformative technology. Some hesitant steps at regulation were taken, but AI is evolving faster than governments can grasp the implications, and policymakers are wary of closing off potentially beneficial applications. As a result, the world is more likely to be affected by AI than affect its development.

Populism remained the year's dominant political trait. Outsiders, or insiders who acted like outsiders, had a good year. This would apply to existing leadership in India and new leadership in Argentina, the Netherlands, and Slovakia. Regardless of their objective circumstances, more people are frustrated and pessimistic than content and optimistic.

We can end on an upbeat note, however. The US economy was a rare bright spot in 2023, with inflation declining alongside steady economic growth. Indeed, the year ended with stock markets near all-time highs, owing to investors' belief that inflation could be reduced without triggering a recession. Prospects for a so-called soft landing appeared bright.

The most surprising development of the year might well have been the rapprochement between Japan and South Korea. Helped by some creative American diplomacy and made possible by the willingness of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to take some political risk, the bilateral relationship has become closer than at any time since the end of World War II. In a world in which we have been reminded of the reality of war, it was reassuring to see these two former foes enter a new era. It is a welcome reminder that positive outcomes are still possible.

OPINION

By Mahmoud Mohieldin,
Abdulqafar Abdullahi

Somalia Has Turned a Corner

CAIRO - On December 13, 2023, Somalia reached the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), becoming the 37th country to benefit from the program. With the goal of ensuring manageable debt burdens for poor countries, the HIPC, established by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, offers debt relief to countries that will use the saved funds for programs to benefit the poor and drive progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Somalia has been in arrears to bilateral and multilateral creditors since the collapse of the Somali Democratic Republic in 1991. But following the HIPC completion point, its external debt has declined from \$5.2 billion at the end of 2018 to less than \$600 million. The journey to this milestone has been difficult, marked by severe and prolonged drought, the COVID-19 pandemic, chronically limited fiscal capacity, weak institutions, and other significant challenges.

Somalia owes its achievement to extensive reforms aimed at enhancing domestic revenue, strengthening public-finance management, addressing governance weaknesses, and bolstering the central bank's institutional and regulatory capabilities. Since 2013, successive governments, supported by IMF and World Bank programs, as well as by the African Development Bank, the European Union, and many other development partners, not only took ownership of the process, but also mobilized the public and key leaders in its favor.

But Somalia still faces humanitarian challenges. The drought - which lasted from 2015 to 2023 - claimed many lives, devastated crop production and livestock, and exacerbated already severe food insecurity. In the past few months, heavy El Niño rains exacerbated already-dire conditions, causing widespread flooding in many parts of the country. According to a 2023 poverty report from the Somali National Bureau of Statistics, 54.4% of the population lives below the national poverty line (\$2.06 per day).

Moreover, the current rate of economic growth is not adequate to reduce Somalia's high poverty or create sufficient employment opportunities for young people. A 2022 government report indicates that at least 80% of children face multidimensional poverty (meaning they are deprived in at least two poverty dimensions). Despite considerable work toward some SDGs in recent years, Somalia's first Voluntary National Review Report, in 2022, concluded that substantial financial and technical resources are needed to make meaningful progress by the SDGs' 2030 deadline.

Still, our own impression is that Somalia's enthusiastic young people (75% of the population is under 35 years old) have enormous potential to drive growth and development. Strategically located along critical maritime trade routes in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, Somalia is blessed with a vibrant private sector and a thriving diaspora. With a coastline exceeding 2,000 miles - the second longest in Africa - it has abundant and diverse fish stocks, potential oil and gas reserves, vast arable land with two rivers, and a substantial livestock population.

Following its recent admission to the East African Community, Somalia also has an opportunity to deepen its economic integration in a region with more than 300 million people, potentially positioning itself as a regional trading hub. In the meantime, a newly approved IMF successor program will aim to assist the government in sustaining reform momentum, promoting inclusive growth, boosting domestic revenue, and strengthening public finances, among other objectives. If enacted in a timely fashion, these policies will also help build resilience against climate-related shocks. Given that Somalia has maintained a steadfast commitment to reforms despite its arduous recent past, there is good reason to expect its progress to continue.

Of course, recent political developments in the region raise concerns. Somalia has objected strongly to Ethiopia's memorandum of understanding to lease a strip of coastal land from the breakaway region of Somaliland. It should go without saying that both peace within Somalia and good relations with its neighbors are prerequisites for achieving robust economic growth and advancing the SDG agenda. Given its strategic location, a united, prosperous, and peaceful Somalia is key to economic development across the Horn of Africa. As the African Union has stressed, mutual respect must prevail between Somalia and Ethiopia, or regional prosperity and stability will suffer.

Somalia's completion of the HIPC indicates the country's determination to realize its massive economic potential. But that will require enhanced security, comprehensive structural reforms, and substantial investment in both physical and social infrastructure to boost economic growth. With domestic revenue currently accounting for only 2.7% of GDP, adopting a prudent fiscal policy that can mobilize revenues and ensure debt sustainability will be essential.

The international community must continue supporting Somalia in its post-HIPC development. The country's recent success is a testament to the power of multilateralism. There is much to be lost from complacency, and much to be gained from sustained international partnerships to support Somalia's ambitious reforms.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Boakai's first burns -As USD5000 or USD25,000 bribery claim spreads

From all accounts, it appears incoming President Joseph N. Boakai has suffered his first severe burns from the ongoing claims involving US\$5000 or US\$25,000 offered to lawmakers during a meeting at his private residence in the Rehab Community in Paynesville, a few days ago.

Mr. Boakai recently met with 31 Representatives from the incoming 55th Legislature at his home just ahead of the highly contested Speakership election between Deputy Speaker Fonati Koffa of the outgoing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Government and Rep. Richard Nagbe Koon of Boakai's Unity Party.

News coming from the said meeting has been depressing, especially where it has been alleged that the incoming President offered bribe to lawmakers to enable them to vote for his choice at the Speakership election.

Even though, reports from that meeting are still conflicted, Mr. Boakai was said to have offered some amount to the lawmakers the actual amount now subject of debates (between US\$5000 and US\$25000), some say to be used in their various districts to fund parties for his inaugural celebration on January 22, 2024, while others say for development purposes.

Funding inaugural parties at district levels: The idea which is the first of its kind in the country, according to people on the Joint Inaugural Committee is to afford citizens residing in Liberia's 73 districts who are unable to come to the main event center to host their own parties in their respective communities.

However, the mere idea that this amount was made public on the heels of a Speakership election, in which the stakes are high for the incoming Boakai administration has given it a different interpretation for all the wrong reasons.-And why so?

Representative Nathaniel Bahway of Grand Kru County District #1, one of 31 lawmakers of the incoming 55th Legislature who attended the meeting with Mr. Boakai was the one who lighted the fire when he told journalists that Mr. Boakai had promised US\$25, 000 to each lawmaker for district development purposes.

Rep. Bahway claimed during a press conference on Thursday, January 11, that though Mr. Boakai made the offer in the wake of the Speakership election, he did not see the promised US 25,000 as a bribe, but rather as a development fund.

"I was there when the old man (Joseph Boakai) made it clear that he would be giving US\$25,000 to each individual (Lawmaker) so that they will see reason and support their district... I have not received it yet, but I'll receive it," Rep. Bahway said.

Meanwhile, there are arguments from the Boakai camp that the actual amount promised was US5000 to fund inaugural parties at the district levels and not to be used as a development fund as Rep. Bahway has stated. The UP folks maintained that Bahway did not pick up on the actual amount that was being promised by Mr. Boakai and accused him of inflating the figure.

But let's assume that the argument from the camp of the Unity Party is correct and that the actual amount promised by Mr. Boakai is US5000 to each lawmaker amounting to US\$365,000, more than half of the US\$650,000 earmarked for the inauguration. Such commitment being made to potential voters ahead of a crucial election speaks volumes.

Boakai may have had a good intention, but the timing of his pronouncement on such a promise gave it an entirely different interpretation and as such has stained his incoming administration.

Boakai could have waited for the outcome of the Speakership election which is due Monday, January 15, at which time the leadership of the 55th Legislature has been made known before hosting such gathering and making such a commitment.

No number of countless defenses can right the wrong. Mr. Boakai has been burned, and he should learn from this error and move on.

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OBITUARY

A Tribute To My Friend, Thomas Nah Doe

By Ruth Jappah-Samukai

"As is a tale, so is a life: Not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters." - Seneca

It was with great sadness and pain that I learned of your passing, my dear brother, friend and colleague. One of those moments when one can only reflect with question of why did he leave so soon. Our paths crossed with work and the values you strongly believed in. It was with pride and honor to know you and work with you. Some may be surprised that our paths ever crossed, but they did, when you headed CENTAL and I, at the Governance Commission serving as a consultant, where we forged a bond and collaborated with public and private integrity institutions and civil society



organizations in a holistic fight against corruption. Your love for country, a nationalist at heart, mind and spirit; and passion for pressing government to be the best it could be was unmatched. When there was not enough donor funding to draft integrity and anti-corruption reforms, you led us for days and nights at CENTAL, drafting the Code of Conduct for Public Officials and Employees of Government and the Whistle Blower Protection Acts, eating "dry rice and fried fish" as meals most days. It was a difficult time but you never for one moment doubted we could do it without donor money. The stoic nature of your resolve in the fight against corruption shone best. You led the creation of the National integrity Forum, a space where integrity institutions would meet and discuss the challenges facing their respective institutions and ways to overcome those challenges.

Through our work, donor funds eventually came and we accomplished a lot as a forum, among which were an asset declaration regime for officials of government and politically exposed persons and an Assessment of The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) for Years 2006-2008, which was oriented towards developing capacity and programs to promote good governance with the realization that corruption was widespread and deeply entrenched in all aspects of the Liberian economy and society, particularly in the public sector. Which assessment, I will add, now sits gathering dust. When you went to Harvard and returned home, we, your friends, were excited that you would continue in the work we started as integrity institutions.

We spent much time after tennis workouts to talk about your plans for the LRA. Thomas, your life was brief but well lived. As Nelson Henderson wrote, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." Your trail as a civil society giant will live on forever, and I know you would want us all to look forward with hope, and keep striving to create a corruption free Liberia. You leave behind a legacy of excellence and hard work. To Jimmy, your big sister, Amelia, your wife and children, may God show each of you the power of his love and comfort.

Assessment of the NACS, 2006-2008, Harvey, John E.

Rest well my brother. May heaven's gate stand open for you, giving you a new home in heaven.

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JFK wants Boakai to prioritize health practitioners' development

By Lincoln G Peters

John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr. Jerry Brown has urged President-elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai to prioritize and invest in the human resource capacity of health

He urged the incoming government to build the infrastructure and bring in all of the sophisticated equipment. Brown stated that when you don't have the right human resource capacity, the country still has not done anything. He also commented on some improvements at the JFK under the six-

year administration of outgoing President George Manneh Weah. Dr. Brown said there are lots of significant developments that came about in the health sector under the leadership of President Weah that can't go unnoticed.

According to him, in the past five years,

particularly the JFK where he presides, they put into place for the first time, an intensive care unit.

"Before taking over, there were no intensive care units at the JFK. Today, we can boast of a functional intensive care unit which has saved many lives," he said.

"Many Liberians are alive because of the existence of that intensive care unit. We also just brought a pathologist unit, modern trauma unit, among others," he stated.

According to him, they have also brought in several foreign consultants to care for Liberians in different specialties which prevent Liberians from leaving the country to seek medical attention outside.



practitioners across the country. Speaking in an interview with journalists recently, Dr. Brown urged the incoming Unity Party-led government through President-elect Boakai to pay attention to the development of specialization in the health sector. According to him, Liberia will have a robust and improved health sector if the incoming government can focus on the development of the human resource development of health practitioners across the country. "With the incoming government, one of the things I will say is, pay keen attention to human resource for health," he said. "Developing our human resource, and manpower capacity with specialties will help us have a vibrant and improved health sector," he stated.

Starts from back page

Nimba County District#4 is tense

They expressed disappointment and frustrations about the dangerous path in which the district is being taken.

According to them, because of the increase of electoral cases in the district, including the latest, the area did not participate in Monday's elections at the Capitol in Monrovia for Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives that led to the first sitting of the 55th Legislature and constitution of various committees.

However, they have told rival supporters of the disputed contestants to stay in their respective zones to avoid violence

and allow the NEC to carry out the recount of votes as mandated by the Supreme Court.

This paper gathered that District #4 recorded most of electoral violence than the other 8 eight districts in Nimba during the October 10, 2023, Presidential and Legislative Elections in Liberia.

The NEC has not yet announced a date for the recount in Sanniquellie but rival supporters of the two candidates appear to be restless in the district.

But Mr. Zor denied, dismissing the allegation as far from the truth.

"I don't want to listen to that brother; I just

returned from work and I don't have over 300 men with me that they told you about. Let people come to my home and search; if I have 300 men", Mr. Allen Zor responded.

Several supporters of Representative Gunpue L. Kargon denied their involvement in the discharge of firearms and instead, accused supporters of Representative-elect Ernest Manseah of committing the act.

The claims and counter-claims may continue endlessly until Police round up suspects to establish the truth. Editing by Jonathan Browne

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an Oil Palm Company that has an exciting opportunity to join our Team as:

- Position** : Plantation Heavy Equipment Mechanical Senior Trainer
- Number Needed** : Three (3)
- Duty Station** : Sinoe & Grand Kru
- Category** : Local
- Application Deadline** : January 25, 2024

Duties and Responsibilities-

1. Responsible for the development of heavy equipment trainee operator competence;
2. Ensure the implementation of training and evaluation of training results running continuously;
3. Provide an assessment and evaluation of heavy equipment operators;
4. Deliver product training (machine familiarization, operation, and maintenance, including engine, hydraulic & electrical systems) by following the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Responsible to do regular and incidental repairs of the Heavy Equipment;
6. Ensure the preparation of daily reports for monitoring and administration;
7. Carry out any other task Management gives from time to time.
8. Understand the use of SAP and train other junior staff

Education

Minimum bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering

Experience/Competencies/Skills:

1. 10+ years' work experience in a fast-paced multinational/cross-border plantation heavy equipment workshop with proven certificate etc.
2. Hands-on experience with international plantation workshop management and knowledge of heavy equipment repairs and services (proven by official certification or reference letter, etc.)
3. Experience in training a new, growing team;
4. Ability to work in remote areas, under high pressure, and over long hours if necessary

How to Apply

Interested Candidates should address a cover letter with a CV & (2) two passport-size photos to:

The Human Resources Department - Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.
Butaw Main Office - Sinoe County

Kindly note the following:

- the information & application shall optionally be dropped at the GVL Butaw Main Office (HR Department)
- applicants shall also email the application letter, cover letter & credentials to: alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com or daniel.cephas@veroleum.com
- Only selected candidates will be notified for the interview.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an Oil Palm Company that has an exciting opportunity to join our Team as:

- Position** : Plantation Senior Heavy Duty Mechanic
- Number Needed** : Two (2)
- Duty Station** : Sinoe & Grand Kru
- Category** : Local
- Application Deadline** : January 25, 2024

Duties and Responsibilities-

1. Responsible for the development of heavy equipment trainee operator competence;
2. Ensure the implementation of training and evaluation of training results running continuously;
3. Ensure daily inspection implementation of the equipment is carried out properly;
4. Responsible to do regular and incidental repairs of the Heavy Equipment;
5. recommend the maintenance of spare parts of the Heavy Equipment;
6. Ensure the preparation of daily reports for monitoring and administration;
7. Carry out any other task Management gives from time to time.
8. Understand the use of SAP and train junior staff

Education

Minimum bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering

Experience/Competencies/Skills:

1. 10+ years' work experience fast-paced multinational/cross-border plantation heavy equipment workshop;
2. Hands-on experience with international plantation workshop management and knowledge of heavy equipment repairs and services;
3. Proactive, team player, loyal, honest, helpful, recognized good character.
4. Ability to work in remote areas, under high pressure, and over long hours if necessary

How to Apply

Interested Candidates should address a cover letter with a CV & (2) two passport-size photos to:

The Human Resources Department - Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.
Butaw Main Office - Sinoe County

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House re-elects Chief Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature has overwhelmingly re-elected its Chief Clerk Mildred Siryon for the 3rd term.

The House has also re-elected its Sergeant-at-Arms Martin Johnson for the 5th term, and also elected C. Cormicks Chea, replacing G. Sayfurh Geplay who died in October 2023.

The elections of the officials were held on Tuesday, 16 January 2024 during the 2nd sitting of the first quarter of the 55th Legislature.

The election for the Chief Clerk, Deputy Chief Clerk, and Sergeant-at-Arms came

Junior Stenographer from 1997 to 2006 and also served as Deputy Chief Clerk from 2006 to 2010 in the 52nd Legislature.

Following the death of Chief Clerk Atty. James Kaba in 2010, Mildred Siryon was elected Chief Clerk to end the term of her predecessor.

In 2012, 2018, and 2024 respectively, the Chief Clerk went unopposed and will be considered the longest-serving Chief Clerk in post-war Liberia.

Sergeant-at-Arms Johnson on Tuesday was elected for the 5th term unopposed following the withdrawal of Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Morris Gibson, who maintained his position.

General Johnson has been Sergeant-at-Arms during the era

PAMA CO Movement inspires young people

By Lewis S. Teh

A local group, PAMA CO Live Authentically Movement, has encouraged young people in Liberia to cultivate self-confidence and self-love that will pave their

areas but one of its key focuses is the wellness summit that is meant to bring people together to discuss different issues surrounding growth, change of mind, career path drive, among others.

She said this year's focus is

and shed light and discuss things that affect them and find a solution to them."She pointed out that failure to tackle issues that affects people in the society often leads to mental issues including stress depression among others, saying so the message we sending out this year is that you are enough she adds.

Speaking to the participants at the start of the summit, Madam Ne-Suah Beyan Livingstone charged young people to do away with fear and doubt, and instead, have conviction that they can become whatever they desire or aspire for.

"As you become a new confident, your associate matters a lot, what you need around are group of people who will clap when you fail", she said.

Speaking on the topic "Becoming the New Confident You", she encouraged young people to surround themselves with group of people that will motivate and push them in whatever way.

She said if someone motivates an individual, it pushes said person to do more and become what he or she desire, adding you have to trust and believe in yourself; there will come a time where no one wants to believe you, that's exactly when you trust in your abilities and capabilities.

"You need a sense of control in your life if you must become the new confident you, your space should be so valuable, allowing people who should be people of your character.



way in identifying career paths.

Ms. Parnneh Mallobe, lead of the Movement says they work with everyone including youth and young adults in helping them to have confidence in themselves, saying "Our goal is to create a world where people can be themselves and truly for who they are."

Ms Mallobe spoke recently at Icampus on Carey Street in central Monrovia when the organization held the second edition of its wellness summit for dozens of youth and young adults.

According to her, the Movement works alongside different groups in different

on discovering oneself - a journey that leads to finding self-confidence."This wellness summit is intended to nourish the minds of the youth and adults to make them learn new things in order to have self-confidence."

She noted that the decision to establish PAMA CO Live Authentically Movement derived from bullying from friends during her high school days and up to present so it was necessary to bring people with similar experiences to come together and discuss ways to finding solutions.

"There came a time where I sat by myself and thought it was prudent for people who are victims of this to come together

Sen. Kpehe wants robust action on Health, Education, and Road Infrastructure

By Ethel A. Tweh

Bong County Senator Johnny K. Kpehe wants robust action to be taken on healthcare, education, and road infrastructure in his county.

Speaking in the chambers of the Liberian Senate on Tuesday, 16 January 2024, Kpehe said there is a need for improved road infrastructure, quality education, and a good healthcare system in Bong County and the country at large. According to him, good road infrastructure leads to economic growth, and social development, among others. He cautioned that inadequate road networks hinder trade, transportation, and access to essential services in many areas.

The Bong County Senator has also urged his colleagues to prioritize allocating resources towards

infrastructure development, ensuring that all parts of the country have access to reliable road networks. He also said that there is a need for accessible and quality healthcare services for all Liberians, regardless of their location or socio-economic background.

Additionally, Kpehe recommended an increased investment in healthcare infrastructure, medical personnel, and equipment to ensure that every citizen has access to the care they need.

Kpehe also spoke about teachers' salaries in the various districts, saying that they have not been paid on time.

The Bong County lawmaker lamented that this has led to a decline in the quality of the education sector. According to him, timely payment of teachers is crucial in creating a conducive learning environment for Liberian

youth. He called for immediate action to rectify this situation, ensuring that teachers are fairly compensated for their dedication and hard work.

Another development, Senator Kpehe said reliable network connectivity is vital for communication, access to information, and economic opportunities. He urged the government to invest in improving network infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all citizens have equal access to the benefits of technology.



Tuesday, barely 24 hours after the House of Representatives elected its leadership on Monday, 15 January 2024.

Mildred hailed from Harper City, Maryland County. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration (BBA) and Master Degree in Public Administration (MPA) respectively from the University of Liberia.

Chief Clerk Siryon served as

of the Liberia National Transitional Government (LNTG). He is also the longest in his role.

Speaking to the media, Madam Siryon thanked members of the House of Representatives for imposing their trust in her.

She said it is difficult to trust someone who you don't know from anywhere, but members of the House of Representatives put their trust in her and for that, she's very thankful to them.

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Français

L'alliance du Parti de l'Unité prend le contrôle du Sénat

Le Sénat libérien a récemment été le théâtre d'un tournant significatif avec l'élection de la Sénatrice

président élu du Liberia, l'Ambassadeur Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Son engagement politique et son soutien actif à la candidature présidentielle de

Commission Exécutive, et le Sénateur Abraham Dillon du comté de Montserrado en tant que Président de la Commission des Affaires Étrangères. Ces nominations reflètent une composition diversifiée visant à apporter une représentation équilibrée et à aborder les différentes préoccupations des citoyens libériens.

Albert T. Chie, l'ancien Président Pro Tempore du Sénat, a été élu Président de la Commission des Travaux Publics, montrant ainsi un transfert de responsabilités au sein du Sénat. Les autres postes clés, tels que la présidence de la Commission de la Justice, sont attribués au Sénateur Augustine Chea du comté de Sinoe, et la présidence de la Commission des Voies et Moyens, des Finances et du Budget est confiée au Sénateur Prince Moye du comté de Bong.

En outre, la composition de la Commission de la Défense et de la Sécurité est confiée au Sénateur Momo Cyrus du comté de Lofa, tandis que la Commission des Règles, de l'Ordre et de l'Administration est présidée par le Sénateur Gbleh-bo Brown du comté de Maryland. La Commission de l'Éducation est sous la direction du Sénateur Nathaniel McGill du comté de Margibi, reflétant l'importance accordée à l'éducation au sein du Sénat libérien.

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Speaker J. Fonati Koffa

Deputy Speaker Thomas P. Fallah

Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence en tant que nouvelle Présidente Pro Tempore. Cette élection a eu lieu au début de la 55e Assemblée Législative le lundi 15 janvier 2024, marquant ainsi le début d'une nouvelle ère pour la direction de la chambre haute.

Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, représentante du comté de Grand Bassa, a été élue à la tête du Sénat avec le soutien solide du

Boakai en 2023 ont renforcé sa position au sein de la nouvelle alliance du Parti de l'Unité (UP). Même après ne pas avoir été choisie comme colistière du leader de l'UP, elle a continué à soutenir Boakai, montrant ainsi son dévouement envers le parti et ses idéaux.

Le nouveau leadership du Sénat, formé à la suite de cette élection historique, comprend également le Sénateur James Biney du comté de Maryland en tant que Président de la

La Représentante Moima Briggs Mensah se dit trahie

La représentante du district électoral de Bong, Moima Briggs Mensah, a récemment partagé ses sentiments de trahison après l'élection législative interne sur Capitol Hill le 15 janvier 2023. Elle affirme avoir été "trahie" par le président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa, malgré son soutien présumé à sa candidature à la présidence de la Chambre.

Mensah a exprimé son chagrin lors d'une rencontre avec des journalistes, expliquant qu'elle avait soutenu activement la candidature de Koffa à la présidence de la Chambre et qu'elle avait reçu des assurances de son soutien pour le poste de vice-président de la Chambre. Cependant, elle a été déçue lorsque son nom n'a pas été retenu pour la nomination au poste de vice-président de la Chambre, et elle a déclaré publiquement avoir été trahie par ses collègues.

Selon Mensah, elle n'a pas

retiré sa candidature au poste de vice-président de la Chambre, mais les personnes en qui elle avait confiance ne l'ont pas nommée. Elle a expliqué qu'elle ne pouvait pas se nommer elle-même et a exprimé sa déception face à cette apparente trahison.

Durant la période de campagne pour les élections du président de la Chambre et du vice-président de la Chambre, Mensah a affirmé qu'elle avait apporté un soutien inconditionnel à la candidature de Cllr. Koffa et qu'elle avait reçu des

assurances d'être nommée pour le poste de vice-président de la Chambre. Cependant, lors du processus de nomination, son nom n'a pas été proposé, provoquant ainsi sa réaction de trahison.

Elle a partagé les circonstances entourant la pause de 20 minutes demandée par le président élu après l'élection du président de la Chambre. Pendant cette

▶ CONT'D page 9



Éditorial

Les lamentations de la vice-présidente Taylor sur du lait versé

Les récentes révélations de la vice-présidente sortante Jewel Howard-Taylor sur les traitements qu'elle aurait subis au sein du gouvernement de la coalition du président George Manneh Weah, qu'elle a servi pendant six ans, ne sont rien d'autre que des lamentations sur du lait versé.

Comment une femme de son statut a-t-elle pu permettre de subir une telle humiliation psychologique sans réagir ?

Pourtant, elle a été assez courageuse pour défendre publiquement le CDC et critiquer à plusieurs reprises l'ancien vice-président, maintenant président élu, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, pour sa performance médiocre sous Madame Sirleaf. La même chose qu'elle disait de l'autre s'est retournée contre elle.

Madame Taylor a conduit le Parti patriotique national (NPP) au sein du Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) du président Weah dans le cadre d'une coalition qui a fait d'elle vice-présidente à l'issue des élections de 2017. Mais elle a été négligée après l'accession au pouvoir du CDC.

Au cours de la première année de l'administration, elle n'a pas repris son travail au Sénat qu'elle préside, car le palais présidentiel a retiré ses collaborateurs officiels et son cortège officiel, invoquant des allégations et des craintes au sein du parti au pouvoir selon lesquelles elle voulait éclipser le président Weah. La pression publique a été nécessaire pour que ses avantages soient rétablis.

Lors d'une émission en direct sur Internet récemment, la vice-présidente a déploré qu'elle n'ait jamais eu accès au cercle intérieur de l'administration Weah malgré son statut de deuxième commandant, tandis que sa valeur en termes d'éducation et d'expérience était minimisée dans le gouvernement. Comment cela peut-il attirer l'attention du public alors qu'elle est déjà sur le départ pour laisser place à une nouvelle administration ? La Coalition for Democratic Change a perdu le second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre 2023 au profit de l'Unity Party, contrecarrant clairement la tentative du président Weah de briguer un second mandat.

Mais le fait qu'une femme qui a déjà été première dame de la République du Liberia avant d'être élue vice-présidente endure une telle humiliation pendant six longues années dans un silence total, est non seulement une déception sérieuse pour elle-même, mais aussi pour les femmes libériennes aspirant à des fonctions publiques.

Par ses révélations, Madame Taylor indique clairement qu'elle a été complètement mise à l'écart. Ce n'est donc pas étonnant que les appels à l'emploi au sein de la faction NPP soient restés sans réponse, car elle n'avait aucune influence sur le président Weah ou les principaux responsables pour faire valoir ses intérêts, et elle ne pouvait pas le dire publiquement.

"À un certain moment, j'ai été bloquée ; je ne faisais plus partie de l'équipe. En 2016-2017, j'ai fait partie de l'équipe ; nous nous sommes assis autour de la table pour discuter, et il (le président Weah) me demandait à la fin de chaque conversation de parler, 'Deputy SB, qu'en dis-tu,' et j'avais toujours la chance de dire ce que je pensais."

Mais elle a observé que tout cela a changé par la suite, et elle a été de plus en plus ostracisée au sein de la Coalition, regrettant "Ce manque de communication et de consultation a réellement atteint ma personne. Si je pouvais revenir en arrière, je dirais que c'était la partie la plus difficile pour moi. En tant que femme, vous savez, nous aimons parler. Et donc, j'ai toujours voulu avoir l'opportunité de parler de certaines des choses qui se passaient. Et j'ai toujours voulu dire que le président Weah et moi n'avions jamais eu d'échanges en face à face ; jamais."

Le fait de s'exprimer maintenant à la onzième heure est, comme on le dit souvent en parlant libérien, "de l'eau sous le pont" qui n'a pas une grande pertinence pour le moment. Tout ce qui lui reste maintenant, c'est de continuer sa vie après le 22 janvier.

Français

Starts from page 8 **L'alliance du Parti de l'Unité**

D'autres nominations importantes incluent les Sénateurs Edwin Snowe et Alex Tyler du comté de Bomi en tant que nouveaux Représentants du Sénat à la CEDEAO, soulignant l'engagement continu du Liberia dans la coopération régionale. Les Sénateurs Francis Dopoe du comté de River Gee et Crayton Duncan du comté de Sinoe ont été désignés comme les représentants à l'Union Parlementaire Internationale, renforçant ainsi les liens internationaux du Liberia.

Dans une déclaration poignante après son élection, la Présidente Pro Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence a exprimé son honneur et sa profonde gratitude pour la confiance placée en elle pour diriger la 55e Assemblée Législative de la République du Liberia. Elle a souligné que cette réalisation historique n'aurait pas été possible sans le soutien constant et indéfectible de ses collègues du Sénat, supervisés par le Sénateur Jeremiah Kounq, le Vice-Président élu du Liberia, et le Sénateur James Biney, le nouveau Président de la Commission Exécutive.

La Présidente Pro Tempore a également rendu hommage aux Sénateurs indépendants et au personnel de soutien, reconnaissant l'importance de cette réalisation pour elle-même et pour les femmes du Liberia en général. Elle a souligné que la position qu'elle occupe porte une obligation solennelle de respecter les principes de la séparation des pouvoirs, de maintenir l'indépendance, la crédibilité et l'intégrité du Sénat libérien.

En ce qui concerne son plan de leadership, la Présidente Pro Tempore Karnga-Lawrence a indiqué qu'elle se concentrera sur le renforcement du processus législatif, la promotion de délibérations ouvertes et transparentes, l'amélioration de la surveillance législative et l'optimisation de l'environnement de travail législatif, y compris le bien-être du personnel.

Elle a promis de travailler en étroite collaboration avec la direction du Sénat pour élaborer une feuille de route

détaillée définissant les priorités et initiatives clés visant à guider ses actions au cours de son mandat. En signe de transparence et de responsabilité, la Présidente Pro Tempore a annoncé qu'elle déclarera ses avoirs et passifs, et publiera ces informations au cours de la semaine.

La Présidente Pro Tempore Karnga-Lawrence a exprimé sa conviction ferme en faveur du dialogue constructif, de la recherche de terrains d'entente et de la recherche de solutions bipartites. Elle a souligné que cette approche permettra au Sénat de progresser régulièrement grâce à une surveillance législative efficace et à l'adoption de lois ayant un impact positif sur le pays et sa population.

De plus, elle a exprimé sa confiance inébranlable dans l'expertise et l'expérience de ses collègues sénateurs, soulignant que leur contribution ajoutera certainement une valeur significative au Sénat libérien. Elle a souligné l'importance de travailler ensemble pour atteindre les objectifs de l'agenda visant à rendre le Sénat plus dynamique, indépendant et réformé.

En conclusion, la Présidente Pro Tempore Karnga-Lawrence a dédié ce moment historique à la mémoire de son collègue, ami et défunt mari, le Représentant du comté de Montserrado, Adolph A. Lawrence. Cette dédicace souligne l'importance de l'héritage politique et de l'amitié dans le parcours personnel et professionnel de la Présidente Pro Tempore.

En résumé, l'élection de Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence en tant que Présidente Pro Tempore du Sénat libérien marque un chapitre important dans l'histoire politique du pays. Son leadership promet de renforcer le processus législatif, de promouvoir la transparence et la responsabilité, et de faire progresser le pays vers un avenir plus dynamique et indépendant. La diversité du nouveau leadership reflète l'engagement envers une représentation équilibrée, et les priorités annoncées soulignent l'importance accordée à la gouvernance transparente et à l'amélioration des conditions de travail législatif.

Starts from page 8 **La Représentante Moima**

pause, Mensah a été contactée par ses collègues qui lui ont suggéré de se retirer pour permettre à Rep. Thomas Fallah de concourir. Elle a résisté à cette pression et a insisté sur le maintien de sa candidature.

Cependant, lors du processus de nomination pour

le vice-président de la Chambre, Rep. Samuel Enders du comté de Montserrado n'a pas proposé sa candidature, et les représentantes féminines n'ont pas non plus soumis son nom. Cette série d'événements a conduit Mensah à se sentir trahie, soulignant le manque de soutien qu'elle pensait avoir.

Rencontre Boakai-Koffa : Ce qui s'est réellement passé



Pre-Elet Amb Boakai

Les détails émergents de la réunion du dimanche 7 janvier 2024 entre le président élu, Joseph N. Boakai, et le vice-président de la Chambre, Me Fonati Koffa, font état d'une tentative infructueuse de Boakai de faire pression sur Koffa pour qu'il se retire de la course à la présidence de la Chambre des Représentants, à seulement quelques jours des élections à la chambre basse, a appris le New Dawn. Me Koffa, actuel vice-président de la 54e Assemblée législative, cherche à remplacer son supérieur, le président sortant Bhofal Chambers. Cependant, la réunion entre Boakai et Koffa ne s'est pas bien déroulée le dimanche. Le président élu aurait demandé au vice-président Koffa de se retirer de la course à la présidence de la Chambre des Représentants pour ouvrir la voie au candidat du Parti de l'Unité, le représentant Richard N. Koon, qui se présente également à la présidence de la Chambre, mais celui-ci aurait refusé.

Selon des sources proches du président élu Boakai, Boakai aurait confié à Me Koffa qu'il était sous pression de la part des membres de son Parti de l'Unité. Ils veulent qu'il le convainque de jeter l'éponge.

Nos sources ont indiqué que Koffa aurait répondu à Boakai qu'il ne reculerait pas, car le faire serait tuer son ambition politique. C'est trahir la confiance de ses collègues qui ont placé en lui leur confiance pour le 3e poste le plus puissant du pays.

Bien que le vice-président Koffa ait confirmé qu'il avait rencontré le président élu Boakai le dimanche, il a refusé de commenter les détails de leur rencontre.

La réunion entre le président élu Boakai et le vice-président Koffa a eu lieu quelques jours avant sa rencontre avec 31 autres législateurs le mercredi 10 janvier, où il a promis de verser 5000,00 USD à chacun des 73 législateurs dans le cadre de son investiture dans les 73 districts électoraux du pays.

"J'ai fait partie des 31 législateurs qui ont rencontré le président et le vice-président élus hier. Ce n'était pas nécessairement pour promettre notre soutien à son candidat à la présidence de la Chambre basse, mais c'était plutôt une opportunité ou un privilège de le rencontrer, de le féliciter et de lui expliquer et à son équipe ce que nous représentons en tant que districts et comtés", a écrit Jacob C Debee, l'un des législateurs nouvellement élus du comté de Sinoe, sur sa page de médias sociaux après sa rencontre avec Boakai.

"Le président élu a réaffirmé son désir de remettre toutes les routes en état dans ses 100 premiers jours. Il a également promis de décentraliser la distribution des fournitures médicales, comme la construction d'un hub régional de stockage dans un comté central qui distribuera des fournitures médicales diverses. Il a

également promis de donner 5000,00 USD à chaque district électoral pour célébrer son investiture car il ne voulait pas que tout le monde vienne à Monrovia pour la célébration. Il a révélé que le gouvernement du CDC a mis à disposition 650 000 USD pour le programme d'investiture." a déclaré le représentant Debee.

Pendant ce temps, le lobbying intense pour la présidence de la Chambre des Représentants se poursuit sans relâche, car le vice-président Koffa, candidat de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), a un avantage numérique sur son rival Koon.

Alors que le CDC peut se vanter de plus de 27 législateurs avant cette élection, le gouvernement entrant du Parti de l'Unité (UP) a pu sécuriser seulement 11 sièges aux élections législatives du 10

octobre 2023.

De plus, Koffa est considéré comme un législateur capable de naviguer des deux côtés de l'allée et de se frayer un chemin à travers les deux camps, et est donc le mieux placé pour succéder à Chambers par rapport à son rival Koon qui manque la capacité de manœuvrer pour obtenir le soutien de ses collègues.

Cependant, le Parti de l'Unité croit toujours qu'il peut sécuriser à la fois le poste de président pro tempore du Sénat et la présidence de la Chambre, arguant que le CDC a pu prendre le contrôle des deux chambres pendant le régime Weah.

Mais les analystes politiques ont réfuté un tel argument, affirmant que le CDC ne tirait aucun avantage du contrôle des deux chambres, et que en examinant le président George Weah, le président de la Chambre Chambers et le président pro tempore Albert Chie, seul Chie a pu conserver son siège.

De plus, les experts disent que la politique est une question de nombres et que le Parti de l'Unité n'a pas le nombre pour permettre à Koon de réussir, suggérant que Boakai devrait simplement se préparer à une présidence de Koffa.

Pourquoi une mémoire courte ?

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a été confrontée à un défi similaire en 2006, contre le représentant Edwin Snowe du district de Montserrado. Il est maintenant sénateur pour le comté de Bomi. Il a dû se concentrer sur la conquête du siège plutôt que de tenter de faire pression sur Snowe ou de le forcer à abandonner son rêve de présidence de la Chambre.

Le président élu Boakai aurait pu retourner apprendre de son ancien patron qui a bénéficié d'une législature stable avant que des leaders corrompus n'entrent en scène.

Mme Sirleaf a réussi à travailler avec des législateurs de l'opposition. Elle avait souhaité que quelques bons sénateurs dirigent le Sénat mais a été prise au dépourvu par une balle courbe servie par Armah Jallah et feu Geraldine Doe Sheriff. Ainsi, la question qui se pose est de savoir qui sont ceux qui agissent en tant que consultants législatifs pour le président élu et les gens du Parti de l'Unité.

Les noms de Clearance Massaquoi, Hassan Kiazulo et Francis Doupo sont évoqués, mais quant à savoir s'ils ont le poids politique nécessaire pour donner du fil à retordre à Koffa du CDC est une autre histoire.

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Boakai's Nightmare

Reflection Part 8: By Hun-Bu Tulay

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“Lure of corruption is so DANGEROUS that we must be EXTREMELY VIGILANT” - Pope Francis

The above quote is from the current Pope of the Catholic Church address on December 11, 2023, in Rome. The Pope went further to say, “invite all at the Vatican to help those responsible for the administration of the Holy See's Assets to create safeguards that can prevent, upstream the insidiousness of corruption from materializing.” When the Pope served as a Priest in Argentina, long before being elected as Pope, he wrote many pamphlets on Corruption, and he was aware of the corruption at the Vatican. For many years he advocated against corruption, and he took the advocacy to the Vatican. But as can be observed from his December 11, 2023, write-out, corruption still exists in the Vatican. In fact, corruption has existed in the Roman Catholic Church for over 507 years. You all remember Martin Luther who condemned the excesses of corruption, especially indulgences for forgiveness of SIN. In 1517, he wrote his 95 Theses, and this sparked the Protestant Reformation. We look forward to seeing President-Elect's '95 Theses' or Roadmap for the development of Liberia, a ROADMAP that would spark the much-needed Transformation of the country. Liberians have waited for 176 years, and they are very hopeful that the Boakai Administration will benefit all Liberians.

The NIGHTMARE the President-Elect faces has been in the Liberian Society from the foundation of the country. For many years, it was forbidden to discuss it at homes, churches, schools, community centers because Presidents, Legislators, Judges were actively benefiting from it. The late William R. Tolbert Jr. was the first President to encourage an open discussion on the topic. He established the first Commission to fight this NIGHTMARE. This act of Tolbert encouraged MOJA, PAL, SUP, and other groups to discuss and educate the masses of the country and how it negatively affected their lives and that of their children and grandchildren. These groups gave the definition of the NIGHTMARE. Once the masses and the members of the Armed Forces were educated, they decided to act for their own interest and safety. And this led to the April 12, 1980, coup d'etat that killed the President and many others. This was followed by the execution of the 13 former Ministers and Legislators. However, this did not put an end to the NIGHTMARE that hunts the country. In fact, it got worse. One American Financial expert, who was assigned at the Ministry of Finance said, “During the Tolbert's Administration, the door of NIGHTMARE was wide enough just to drive a VOLKSWAGEN through, but under the PRC, it is wide enough for Boeing 707 Aircraft to fly through.” This NIGHTMARE eroded all the good achievements of Madam Sirleaf. Later during her administration, she even called it a VAMPIRE. Madam Sirleaf's greatest weakness was listening to the advice of her close friends and relatives. We remembered during a Cabinet Retreat in Kakata City, she commented as follows: “Each time I want to fire someone, people talk to me.” What we pick-up from such statements is that if people did wrong and she wanted to dismiss them, some people went to her and begged her not to dismiss the wrongdoers. And those she dismissed were those who had nobody close to her who could vouch for them. We believe the President-Elect was at that Retreat and there are many people in President-Elect proximity today that were also at that Kakata's Retreat. “President-Elect beware of the Art of March”. Do not repeat the errors of Madam Sirleaf. Those friends and relatives, who will advise you not to dismiss wrongdoers are your enemies and people who want you to fail. We would like to summarize what this NIGHTMARE is just to remind you.



1. This NIGHTMARE is the EVIL that is directly responsible for underdevelopment of Liberia and keeping its citizenry perpetually impoverished.
2. This NIGHTMARE is a dream killer of young people seeking a better future.
3. This NIGHTMARE is the single most contributor to the exodus of skilled manpower and inhibitor to meaningful diaspora contribution to Liberia's development.
4. This NIGHTMARE is the primary killer of Liberian entrepreneurship by creating a hostile environment for Liberian-owned businesses in favor of affluent foreign competitors who have created an illicit relationship with government officials willing to sell our country to the highest bidders.
5. This NIGHTMARE is the single contributor to Tax Evasion, hence undermining the revenue base of the country for which the revenue cannot reach US\$1.0 Billion.
6. This NIGHTMARE has undermined the health and education systems, deplorable road condition, poor water, and sanitation system, etc.
7. This NIGHTMARE drives away serious investors from the country thereby creating a youth unemployment crisis in the country.
8. This NIGHTMARE is the cause for Capital flight and high foreign exchange rate.
9. This NIGHTMARE is responsible for the DRUGS that are killing our youths.

This feature is about the NIGHTMARE that has kept the country backward for the past 176 years.

This is the NIGHTMARE President-Elect will be inheriting. It is not a good Inheritance because it kills and increases poverty. And POVERTY in a WEALTHY NATION is a CURSE. The question is can the President-Elect break or remove this CURSE? We hope he does. We saw demonstrations, uprising, civil disturbance during, Tolbert, Doe, Taylor, Sirleaf and Weah Administrations. The NIGHTMARE is called CORRUPTION and the best way to start is talk about corruption globally. World leaders met on December 22, 2022 and estimated that 5% of Global GDP or US\$2.6 Trillion is lost to corruption annually, read Till Johannes Hartman and Carlos Ferreyra or go to <https://www.aljazeera.com>, feature 2023/11/23. Those involved in Corruption are very rich and corruption is like a MAFIA Organization, the members go at any length to silence anyone or group trying to EXPOSE them. Just think about the death of the auditors. This global loss is 1.53 times the annual budget of the United States of America for 2023 or 11.304 times the annual budget of China. And Africa loses US\$88.6 Billion yearly in illicit financial flows, such as Tax Evasion and Theft. This amount is more than what African Countries receive in total Development Aid according to United Nations Study presented at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UNCTAD). It seems that if African Leaders work together to fight corruption, they will not need to borrow money for the development of their countries.

But what is the simple definition of corruption? The United Nations defines corruption as the Abuse of Entrusted Power for Private Gain. We can go further to define Political corruption as the use of Powers by Government Officials or their Network Contact for illegitimate Private Gains. It is Political Corruption that we see in Liberia. Corruption can take many forms linked to different types of behaviors, such as Bribery, Embezzlement, Nepotism, Extortion, Kickbacks, Money Laundering, Fraud, and conflict of interest. Liberians have experienced and continue to experience three types of political corruption (nepotism, conflict of interest and bribery). These three are rampant in all sectors of our country. The

Country's National Budget is greatly influenced by Political Corruption. Just look at salaries and benefits, who gets the Lion Share of the budget? It is those who have the Constitutional Power (Legislators) to distribute the resources including the budget. Some of them even think that they have the Power to waive taxes as was done recently referencing the case of VEDANTA-Western Cluster Limited. How can the legislators, the minister of Justice, and the Minister of Finance waive US\$13.6 Million in a country that has been classified as one of the POOREST in the world? They must be INSANE. The majority of the 105 people we entrusted with political Power have abused the power we gave them under the Weah Administration. Liberia has been ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world, but that notoriety

reached its lowest depth under the Weah Administration. Because of the corruption, the current International Dollar: 17881 view Liberia GDP and Economic data, and Africa's oldest Republic has been ranked among the POOREST Countries in the World according to their report released on December 25, 2023. This is because of the corruption in the country. Corruption is at every fabric of society (government-all benches, churches, mosques, educational institutions, health facilities, sports, marketplaces, transport sectors, etc. Dealing with corruption will be the President-Elect's Nightmare immediately upon his inauguration. The world will be watching him as he nominates the first set of cabinet ministers and heads of autonomous agencies. Considering that corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development, and further exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division and environmental crisis, the President-Elect should start the fight against corruption from day one in branches of the government from the highest to lowest. We wish to recommend the following:

1. The President-Elect should request his senior ministers and heads of autonomous agencies provide financial disclosures to refuse any gifts worth more than US\$500.00 or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars. In taking aims at matters, both large and small from real estate holding and investments to work-related gifts given to any government official.
2. The President should require all senior ministers and heads of autonomous agencies to sign a declaration stating they have not been charged and convicted of CRIMES involving corruption, frauds, exploitation of minors, human trafficking, terrorism, money laundering or tax evasion. They should do such disclosure yearly before the 15th of February. Any false declaration by any person or individual should be dismissed immediately.
3. Government officials should be encouraged to save their money in the local banks in Liberia. They will be allowed to transfer money abroad through local banks only.
4. Senior ministers and heads of autonomous agencies will be asked to sign performance contracts every six months.
5. Before being commissioned, the senior ministers and heads of autonomous agencies should declare their assets and publish the same in three local newspapers.
6. Senior ministers, legislators and heads of autonomous agencies should be encouraged to seek medical treatment in the country and should only be allowed to go abroad upon recommendation from his/or her physician.
7. Ministers and heads of autonomous children should complete secondary school before travelling abroad for advanced education. This is what Tolbert did to all his children. In Tolbert's case, the children completed undergraduate studies in Liberia.

CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

Retirement or gameplay?

By Lincoln G. Peters

Questions are beginning to mount here whether the outgoing President George Manneh Weah is sincere about his pronounced retirement from seeking further presidential ambition, just about a month after he lost his re-election bid.

Some Liberians are wondering if President Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) are

governments did. But the ruling party lost the presidential run-off election in November against the opposition Unity Party headed by Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai and suddenly Mr. Weah retires from seeking presidential ambition.

Immediately after the CDC's presidential defeat, reports emerged that some of its executives were considering business executive-turned-politician

be thinking about his children and grandchildren and how to give them his time. The outgoing Liberian President further indicated that the best thing he can do now is to promote peace and prosperity for Liberia, adding that nobody is going to drag him into politics for longer.

"We are not chasing politics. We pray to God to serve, that's why I serve as President. Whether it's one time or fifty times, I can guarantee you it's one time," said Mr. Weah.

"One time because I [have] broken undisputed records. In Liberia, people feel that I could be there for 90 to 100 years, while children are growing up. I have to give them a chance," he continued. "If you are looking for me on that trust me, I can't," he added.

President Weah explained that 'parents' who were in politics when he was young, are in their 80s and still running behind politics. He said he was one year old when his uncle was in politics, and today his uncle can't walk but he is still chasing politics.

He further explained that he doesn't come to politics to high jack politics, rather, he came to politics to make a mark. "Maybe you can say he came to politics to prove something. Well, I can say yes. Because some people say that we are insignificant people and I proved them wrong and say it just that we never had the possibility and opportunity that you had," Weah argued.

"Every possibility that we had we made use of it," he stated. He noted that his revelation is a very good thing that is significant, but he has done his part that's why he constructed the PHP Park to bring unity. The Liberian leader noted that the PHP Park is intended to preach unity, peace, and togetherness, and it sets the historical foundation for Liberia's peace and stability.

Mr. Weah noted that if Liberians don't foster peace, the country is likely to go back to where it was. "When we get older, there are certain things that we can't do because the Bible says, the old things had passed away."

"Nobody should force me in that area o."

Alexander B. Cummings to take over the party. Cummings heads the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) which is made up of his Alternative National Congress (ANC) and a faction of Liberty Party (LP).

In a recent statement, Mr. Weah announced his early retirement from politics in the country while reacting to a revelation by one of his members at his Folky Klon Jlahleh Family Fellowship Church in Paynesville. The revelation had to do with his long service in the Liberian Presidency and the construction of a grave for slain Liberian President Samuel K. Doe.

Mr. Weah said the revaluation was good, but he believes it's not for him, but rather the incoming government to do so. According to President Weah, he has no intention of being in politics until his 70-80 years old because he needs to give himself, his family, children, and grandchildren his time.

"At certain times Liberians will be convinced. They will know that I'm older, I can't perform certain duties when am old," he said.

"And what you [are] talking about, a few years from now, I'm 57 now, and our retirement age is sixty-five. Six years from now, I will be sixty-three. And so, I can't work for two years," Weah continued. "You are not going to drag me into politics until I reach 90 years," President Weah stated. He noted that he will

UP on begging spree for Boakai's inauguration?

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr.

Report from Margibi County says despite an amount of US\$650,000 allotted by the Government of Liberia for the inauguration of President-elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Vice President-elect, Jeremiah Kpang Koung on January 22, 2024, some key players and stakeholders of the incoming Unity Party, and the county administration, are seriously soliciting funds from businesses in the county for inaugural program to the dismay of many people.

An official communication seeking assistance from the office of the secretary general of the UP in Margibi under the signatures of county chairperson Cecelia K. Doe, inaugural program chair Mrs Harrisona Tomah Grigsby Grimes, Dr. Nancy T. Freeman, focal person; and Margibi Superintendent Jerry O Varnie with the official stamp of the UP secretary general in the county is being

various political districts of Margibi County focus in Kakata. With the above, we are kindly asking your institution/business to assist us financially to make this day a successful one in Margibi County."

An inside source of the UP in Margibi told the NEW DAWN that an amount of US\$2,500 is being allocated per district, but the team on the ground sees the amount as insufficient.

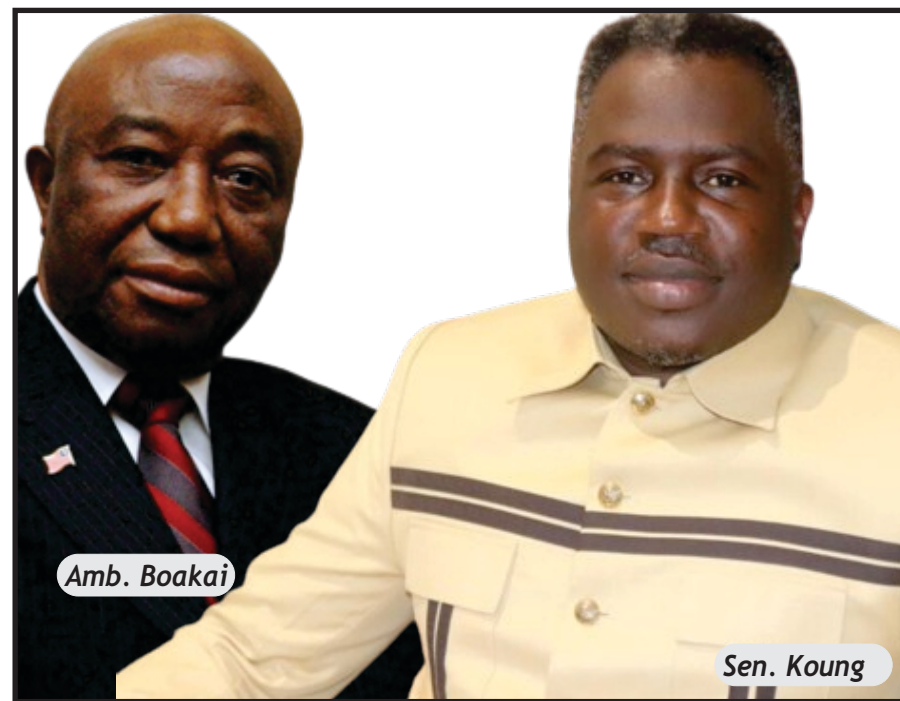
Some are wondering in the county why the UP didn't make projection to national government that could save them the headache of looking for financial support for the President's inauguration.

President-elect Boakai recently promised US\$5,000 to each electoral district (totaling 73 districts) across Liberia for the inaugural celebration, as all citizens cannot gather in Monrovia for the historic event.

A former Vice President of Liberia, Ambassador Boakai is the declared winner of the 14



Pres. Weah



Amb. Boakai

Sen. Koung

circulated to business houses and institutions.

The extract of the communication reads: "Margibi County will be celebrating the inauguration of Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Senator Jeremiah Kpang Koung, President and Vice President-elect on January 22, 2024, in the

November 2023 Presidential Runoff Election lost by incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

Mr. Weah has since conceded and appointed a transitional team that is working with the incoming administration for smooth hand over of power. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Nimba County District#4 is tense

-as NEC prepares for recount
By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

The source of gunfire behind the Magistrate Office of the National Elections Commission in Sanniquellie, Nimba County

National Elections Commission to conduct recounts in some parts of the 84 polling centers in Electoral District#4, Nimba County.

On Friday night 12 January unknown persons discharged

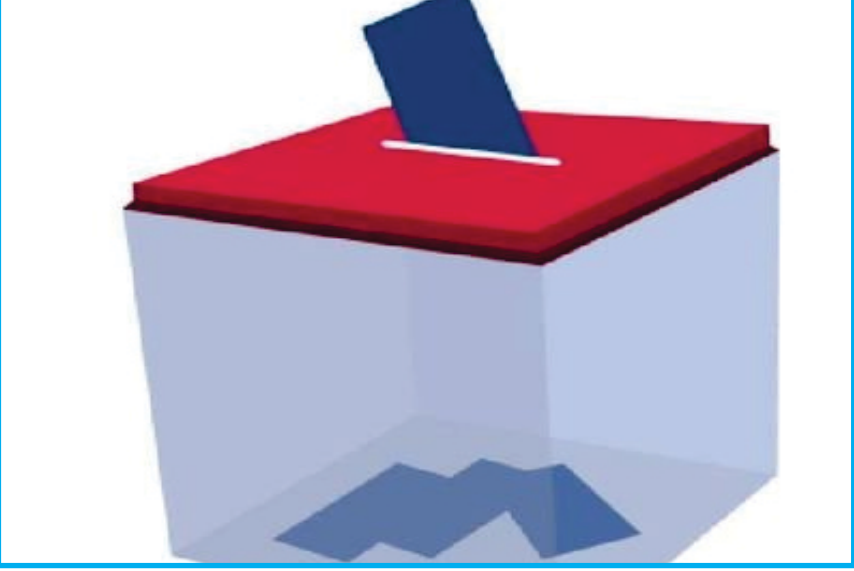
office narrated to the NEW DAWN Nimba correspondent that the attackers used single barrel pistol in committing the act.

There has been no arrest since the incident, a police source said.

However, residents around the NEC local office said since the Supreme Court of Liberia rendered opinion in the electoral dispute case in District #4, they have noticed strange movement around the NEC local office prior to the incident.

Bill Bumie, spokesperson for Representative-elect Ernest Manseah; Junior Nutuah, Chairman and Sampson Tougbay, planning chairman; accused Representative Gunpue L. Kargon and his supporters of being the masterminds of the incident with an intent to burn down the NEC local office in Sanniquellie.

They also accused an instructor at the Nimba County University Allen Zor, hosting more than 300 men believed to be involved into the various incidents that the NEC sub-office in Sanniquellie is experiencing.



remains a subject of investigation in the county.

As a result of Friday's firing of over five single-barrel rounds coupled with reports of threats to burn down the NEC local office in Upper Nimba, the Government of Liberia has deployed huge state security officers to protect the building.

The firing of live weapon followed a Supreme Court's instruction last week to the

firearm behind the NEC magisterial office in Sanniquellie. Some villagers suspect that those involved may be supporters of Representative Gunpue L. Kargon or supporters of newly elected Representative Ernest Manseah, whose poll result was challenged in court.

Residents of Sanniquellie who live around the NEC local

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