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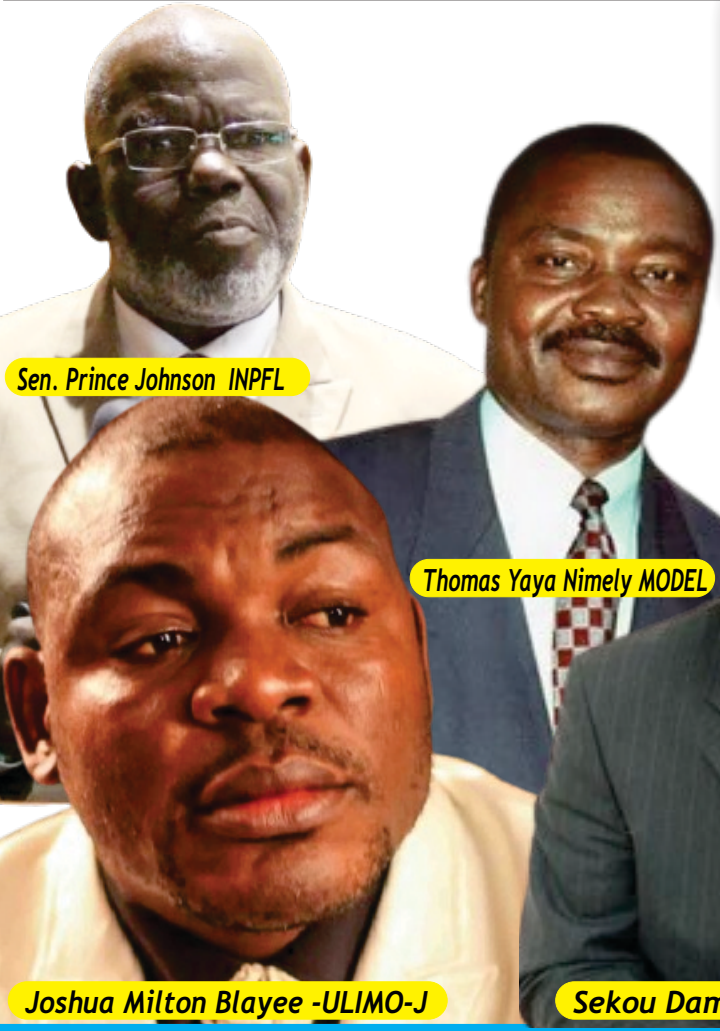
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024	LS188.4766/US\$1.00	LS190.3544/US\$1.00

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

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VOL. 14 NO. 02 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 PRICE LD\$40.00



Boakai wants
War, Economic
Crimes Court

Messy and
disastrous!



-Dillon terms Boakai's inauguration

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Continental News

S Africa president axes adviser as PhD questioned

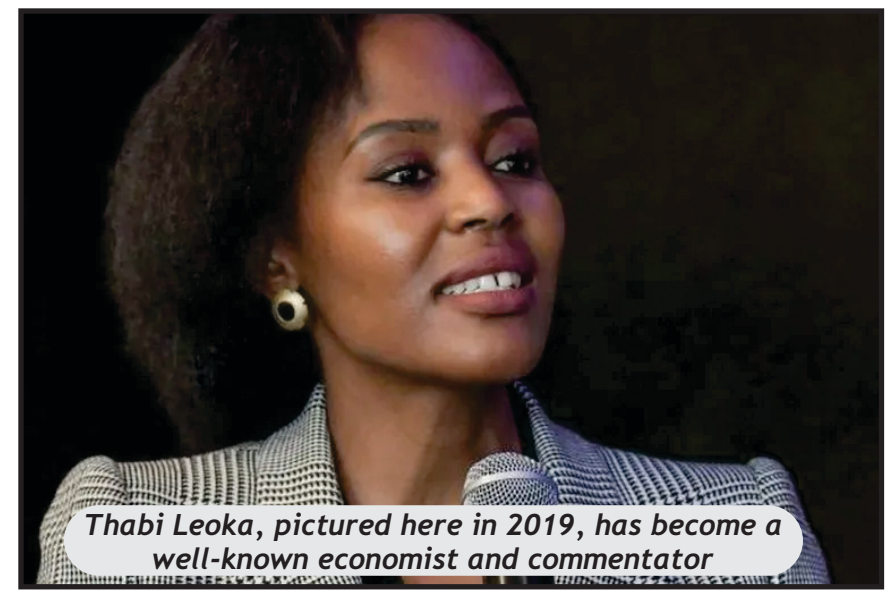
South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has dropped a high-profile economist from an advisory

attend to her health and the questions she has been facing in relation to her academic qualifications". Mobile phone company MTN SA released a

said that she had been busy and not had the time to get hold of her degree certificate. "I'm not based in [South Africa] full time... I have been at the Miami Bascom Palmer Eye Hospital as I have glaucoma and have since lost sight in my right eye," she said to the online publication.

"You also don't have my names as reflected on my degrees," she added. Last week, she said she was about to undergo surgery. When the BBC asked the LSE whether it had a record of Ms Leoka's doctorate it said: "We have checked our files and can find no record of 'Thabi' or 'Bathabile' Leoka being awarded a PhD from LSE." She had changed her name from Bathabile in 2018, according to South Africa's News24 website.

Ms Leoka agreed to appear on local station Radio 702 after the story was published in the Business Day newspaper last week. When asked "have you misrepresented your qualifications?", she responded: "The answer is a straight no." Ms Leoka has become a well-known commentator and economist in South Africa, serving on several boards as well as advising the government. BBC



Thabi Leoka, pictured here in 2019, has become a well-known economist and commentator

panel as questions are being raised about her PhD. Thabi Leoka said that the London School of Economics (LSE) awarded it but Business Day and Daily Maverick journalists said they have not been able to find a record of the degree.

Last week, Ms Leoka denied misrepresenting her qualification. On Monday, she resigned from the boards of two prominent companies. Mining firm Anglo American Platinum Limited said Ms Leoka stepped down from her position as a non-executive director "in order to

similar statement. On the same day, she was informed about "the immediate termination of her membership in the Presidential Economic Advisory Council", Mr Ramaphosa's spokesman Vincent M a g w e n y a told the BBC. Membership of the body "does not require formal vetting", he said.

The council advises on "economic policies that spur inclusive growth", according to the presidency's website. In earlier comments to South Africa's Daily Maverick news site, which had asked for evidence of her qualification, Ms Leoka had

Liberia's new president in good health - spokesman

Liberia's new President Joseph Boakai has been declared "perfectly fine" by his doctors, his office says. The 79-year-old failed to reach the end of his inauguration speech and had to be helped away from the podium during his swearing-in ceremony on Monday.

His office said he had suffered heat exhaustion but had now resumed his normal activities.

Concern about Mr Boakai's health was a major issue during last year's election campaign.

He narrowly defeated the outgoing president, 57-year-old former football star George Weah, in a run-off election in November. Mr Boakai had been speaking for around 30 minutes at his inauguration when it became clear that he was having difficulty continuing.

He had already been sworn in as Liberia's oldest-ever president at the outside ceremony held at the Capitol Building, the seat of parliament in the capital, Monrovia.

The temperature had reached more than 30C in

swelteringly humid conditions.

Video footage from the ceremony had shown a man fanning papers near Mr Boakai's face, before he was taken away.

"His doctors have declared him perfectly fine," Charles Snetter from the president's office said in a statement. An official in Mr Boakai's party told the AFP agency that the president was not taken to hospital. "The president is normal, and he's doing well," Amos Tweh said.

Before he was forced to cut short his speech the new president pledged to rescue all Liberians from the tough

economic times, address corruption and improve basic services.

Mr Boakai was vice-president in Nobel Peace Prize-winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government until 2018, and contested the presidency under the banner of the United Party (UP).

He defeated Mr Weah by just over 20,000 votes in the run-off vote.

Mr Boakai also ran for the presidency in 2017, but lost to Mr Weah, who became Liberia's young-ever elected president. BBC



President Boakai had been speaking for around 30 minutes at his inauguration when he started feeling unwell

Two Nigerians held in Kenya over student killing - police

Two further suspects have been arrested over the murder and mutilation of a student in Kenya.

In a killing that shocked the country, the dismembered remains of Rita Waeni, 20, were discovered in rubbish bags at a rental apartment in the capital, Nairobi, on 14 January.

Her head was missing, along with her phone and other personal items.

The two men, who Kenyan police say are Nigerian, have appeared in court but have not yet been charged. Police asked a magistrate for permission to keep the men in custody until 31 January, as their investigations were continuing. The magistrate granted their request.

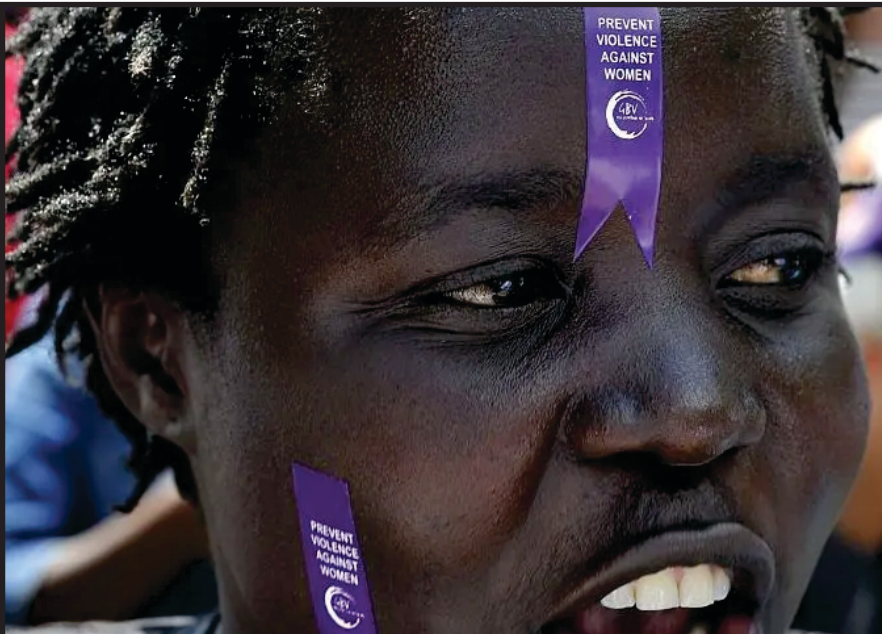
Ms Waeni's murder has led to calls for more to be done to address violence against

including a butcher's knife and small axe suspected to have been used in the killing and mutilation of the university student, according to Kenyan media quoting the police.

Mr Opia told investigators that he bought the axe online for self-defence, the privately owned Nation newspaper reported.

The two men were arrested in Ndenderu, a town about 20km (12 miles) from Nairobi and near a dam where the police recovered a head suspected to be Ms Waeni's, along with her phone and some of her missing items. Ms Waeni's family have so far been unable to identify the recovered head. The family said last week that those responsible demanded a ransom of 500,000 Kenyan shillings (\$3,100; £2,400) to release Ms Waeni, even after she had died.

The gruesome way in which her body was dealt with has shocked people, including the



Kenyan rights groups have called for nationwide protests over the levels of violence against women

women.

Four Kenyans are also in custody in relation to the killing, as well as one person who had been travelling on a Mozambican passport and was picked up as he tried to leave the country.

Police have named the two new suspects being held as William Ovie Opia, and Johnbull Asbor.

Mr Opia had an expired Nigerian passport and Mr Asbor had lost his passport two years ago, police said. The police seized several items from the suspects' apartment,

chief government pathologist Johansen Oduor, who said he had "never come across such an incident" in his forensic career. Human rights and feminist groups have planned countrywide demonstrations to protest against what they see as a surge in femicide and violence against women.

There has been a spate of reported violent killings of women since the beginning of the year. A survey carried out in 2022 found that at least 34% of women said they had experienced physical violence at some point in their lives. BBC

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EDITORIAL

A journey that is irreversible

LIBERIA IS SAILING on an historical path of smooth democratic transition following two peaceful elections that is clearly becoming irreversible. Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf peacefully handed power to now Ex-President George Manneh Weah in 2018 and six years after, Mr. Weah handed power to his successor, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai on Monday, 22nd January.

THE NATION CURRENTLY can boast of three surviving former Presidents: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, George Manneh Weah and Charles Ghankay Taylor, who is serving a jail sentence in Britain. This is a remarkable departure from former Presidents William R. Tolbert, Jr., and Samuel Kanyon Doe who both were violently ousted in bloody coup and civil war respectively.

LIBERIA IS GRADUALLY joining Ghana, Nigeria and other democratic nations in the region that subscribe to free, fair elections and peaceful transition of one government to another. All Liberians should endeavor to keeping the nation on such enviable path.

WITH FORMER PRESIDENTS Sirleaf and Weah sitting in the back and watching, President Joseph Boakai has no reason to fail, if he is willing to consult with his predecessors especially, having served as Vice President for two terms under the women he refers to as his "former boss."

THE CURRENT GENERATION of leaders owe it to the nation and its people to keep the Motherland on the path of democratic elections and peaceful transition, if this country is to make progress, for this is the surest way to attracting and maintaining attention of our international partners.

BOTH MADAM SIRLEAF and Mr. Weah have revolutionized the way Liberians should seek political power. That way is to go at the ballot and be willing to accept out of the poll following a transparent election that leaves no room for contention and violence.

IN HIS INAUGURAL speech on Monday, President Boakai noted that his election by Liberians is a clarion call for a new Liberia, a different Liberia, a Liberia, he says, that genuinely practices the rule of law and adheres to the tenets of democratic governance in the interest of all. We believe that should be the essence of seeking political office - to serve the people rather than selfish agenda that is a ground for corruption.

ALL LIBERIANS SHOULD pat themselves on the back for the democratic path the nation has taken. We should stand tall in ensuring that Liberia remains on the democratic journey by always exercising our franchise at the ballot box.

BY THEIR VOTES, Liberians have made the job easier for President Boakai, as he will go out to seek help from friendly governments and nations. The credential of our democracy is important in dealing with global partners.

THERE IS NO turning back. We must keep on this journey of smooth transition, for we owe it not only to ourselves but to posterity.

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

COMMENTARY

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR YOURSELF

With Political Leader of the Incoming Ruling Political Party, Unity Party being a national religious leader from the Baptist Church. Expectations are high, especially among Christians, that Liberia will be placed in the right direction, the direction of poverty alleviation.

Expectations are high because the people of Liberia have concluded that Liberia is heading in the wrong direction (Afrobarometer, 2020).

It is expected that a religious leader from the Christian realm would practice the Word of God as coming from the Holy Bible, found in the Gospel according to Saint Matthews, Chapter 22, Verses 34 to 40, mandating Christians first to Love God and then to Love their neighbors.

In the constitutional act of unity, the incoming leader is also expected to follow the same Word of Our Common Creator in the Holy Quran and in the other Holy Books. Due to the Truth that the people of Liberia conclude that Liberia is heading in the wrong direction, the people of Liberia openly declare that they prefer Peace to War.

The wrong direction is the prevailing poverty generation in Liberia. The wrong direction is clearly seen in the access of the National Legislators of Liberia to at least LD200,000 a day and

their foreign partners have access to at least LD300,000,000 a day while nearly all of the people of Liberia have access to at most less than LD300 a day (The Annual Reports of CBL, LISGIS, MFDP, MCI, WB, IMF, ADB and UNDP).

The good news is that the good people of Liberia are not sitting and watching Liberia head in the wrong direction.

The good people, the people who love Liberia and work to place Liberia in the right direction, are continuing to raise awareness among the people, especially poor people, to motivate them to take actions through the Rule of Law to transform the prevailing unfair electoral system into the enduring fair electoral system. This non-violent method of work is working well, as seen in the non-re-election of over 75 per cent of the National Legislators who wanted to be re-elected.

It is only through this transformation that persons with good records can be elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

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**Congratulations to the good people of Liberia,
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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
MONTERRADO COUNTY) FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

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

VERSUS

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

PETITION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

PLAINTIFF'S AFFIDAVIT

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

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



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Handwritten signature of Mark M. M. Marvey

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

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

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

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

VERSUS

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

PETITION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

PETITIONER'S PETITION

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

- 1. Petitioner submits that as the duly appointed administrator of the intestate estates of Late Eugenia Stevenson, Benjamin Wordsworth, and Edna Wordsworth, William Wordsworth has (in order to institute this suit), executed a Power of Attorney, in favor of Marjann W. Bakar, who is also a joint Heir with him. Attached and marked as Petitioner's Exhibit "P/1" Bulk are the copies of the Monthly and Probate Court's April 21, 2023, Letters of Administrator granted Mr. William Wordsworth to Administer all properties the late Edna Wordsworth, including the Estates' 11th Street property; as well as Powers-of-Army mentioned above, to form a cogent part of Petitioner's Petition.
2. Further to Count One (1) above, Petitioner says that Respondent is believed to be a Liberian business primarily engaged in the sale of Petroleum products and is a party, lessee in the June 10, 2023, Lease agreement for the estates' 11th Street and Tubman Boulevard, opposite Ecobank, where the Respondent currently operates a segment of its business on the leased property.
3. That under Section 3 of the June 10, 2013 Lease Agreement (the "Lease Agreement"), Respondent undertook to, and is obligated to pay rentals to Petitioners in advance for the first three years and thereafter to pay rentals in advance annually, as and when due, vis-à-vis, on the 16th Day of June of each year, the effective date of the Lease Agreement as a condition for its continued use and occupancy of the subject property;
4. Additionally, Section 6 of the Lease Agreement further requires Respondent to pay the real estate and realty taxes for the leased property during the time of the lease agreement, which obligations Respondent fully undertook as an obligation for the Lease with Petitioners. However, Petitioner has reasons to believe that Respondent has failed, refused, and neglected to honor this obligation. Hence, Petitioner gives notice that it will subpoena the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) to produce the realty and Real estate tax records in connection with the said obligation of the Respondent as emanating from the June 10, 2013, Lease Agreement.
5. Petitioner says that although, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the June 10, 2013, Lease it has dealt with the Respondent in good faith by surrendering its property to the Lessee and ensured its quiet enjoyment; thereby fulfilling its obligations under the Lease Agreement, Respondent on the other hand has grossly breached of Clause 3 of the lease Agreement for the past six (6) years, by its intentional failure, refusal and neglect to make annual rental payments to Petitioners as and when due.
6. Further to Count Six (6) above, Petitioners say that the Respondent has further been in gross breach and violation of Clause 6 of the Lease Agreement from the inception of this Agreement by its refusal to pay taxes on the property as and when due, and Petitioner's request to Respondent to furnish it with copies of the proof of underwriting the agreed tax obligations have gone without answer.
7. Petitioners submit that the pre-condition for Respondent's continuous quiet enjoyment, possession, and use of the leased premises are more fully described/stipulated in Clause 10 of the Lease Agreement, which state as follows:

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

- 8. Petitioners submit that on several occasions through oral discussions, telephone conversations, email, text exchanges, and other sundry means of communications, it has notified Respondent about the intentional and gross breach of duties/obligations voluntarily assumed under the Lease Agreement, but that Respondent has despite its repeated assurances of honoring its obligations, failed to comply with its undertakings under the lease agreement. There have been various commitments made through emails by the Respondent's CEO, Musa A. Sheriff. Copies of the email exchanges and notices served on Respondent during the period of its breach are accordingly, attached and marked as Petitioners' EXHIBIT P/2" IN BULK to form Part of Petitioners' Petition
9. Petitioners submit and say that in spite of the several communications and the repeated assurances, Respondent has failed to pay as agreed, in advance the rent due and payable as per the term of the lease. However, the Respondent continue to occupy and use the demised premises without fulfilling the condition precedent.
10. Petitioners say and submit that the failure of Respondent to pay annual rental as and when due for the last six years, together with Respondent's gross failure to pay real estate and realty taxes from the very inception of the lease agreement are gross/material breaches of the said Lease Agreement for which a Court's decree for cancellation of the Lease Agreement ought to lie. Petitioner submits that as a consequence of the Respondent decided failure to honor its contractual obligation, despite numerous promises to do so, Petitioner here, filed an action in debt and obtained a judgment against the said Respondent, copies of which proceedings and the resultant ruling is hereby annexed and marked as Petitioners' EXHIBIT P/3" IN BULK to form a cogent Part of this Petitioner's Petition.
11. Petitioner submits that gross/material breaches are ip so facto legal basis for the Cancellation of any contract, and the Lease Agreement, consummated between the parties on June 10, 2013, having been honored by Petitioner by its tendering of the subject premises to the custody, and use of the Respondent for rent, will lie to prevent the said Respondent from unjustly enriching itself at the expense and detriment of the Petitioner and also for breach of the lease agreement by the Lessee. Hence, this Petition for Cancellation of the June 10, 2013, Lease Agreement. And the petitioner so prays.

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

- Enter a judgment of liability against the Respondent for breach of the June 3, 2023 Lease Agreement; i) for not honoring its rental payment obligation; ii) also for not honoring its obligations to pay realty and real estate tax (as irrespective of numerous requests to provide Petitioner with receipt/deposit slips have all proved futile);
Enter a Decree of Cancellation against the Respondent, canceling the Lease Agreement of June 10, 2013;
Order that Petitioner be forthwith placed in sole and exclusive possession of the Property Subject lying and situated on the corner of 11th Street Sinkor and Tubman Boulevard in keeping with the June 10, 2013 Lease Agreement;
Rule the cost of these proceedings against the Respondent; and
Grant unto Petitioner any and all other relief this Court may deem just, legal, and equitable.

PECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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

CLLR. MARK M. M. MARVEY

ed this ___ day of December A. D 2023

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) MONTERRADO COUNTY)



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

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

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

VERSUS

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

PETITION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN

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

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR LEGAL PUBLICATION

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

GREETINGS:

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

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

COURT SEAL:

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL Hails Lasting Partnership With EBKUST

The University of Liberia (UL) through its delegation to Sierra Leone, has hailed a milestone that will live on forever, the partnership between UL and the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology (EBKUST). The delegation headed by UL Vice President for Legal Affairs Cllr. Viama J. Blama on Saturday, January 20, 2024, graced an invitation to attend EBKUST's 5th Congregation Ceremony for the conferment of degrees and awarding of diplomas and certificates to graduates.

The ceremony was held at the Prof. E.J.J. Momoh Pavilion on EBKUST's Magburaka campus, Sierra Leone. It marked the graduation ceremony of the second cohort of EBKUST's post-graduate students. Speaking during the ceremony, Cllr. Blama said UL President Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., had asked him to greet the EBKUST Family and to say how much he appreciates the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed

doing anything negative. Cllr. Blama stated that today the transport system at the University of Liberia is privatized, noting that the hurdles the university previously had no longer exist. "Prefinance system is very good," said Cllr. Blama. During the congregation ceremony, Cllr. Blama and his team presented a gift to EBKUST on behalf of UL and the Association of Liberian Universities as a symbol that the relationship between UL and EBKUST, and the citizens of the two countries will live on forever.

The gift presented to EKBUST comprised two beautifully printed large-sized photos of UL President Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., and EBKUST Vice-Chancellor and Principal Rev. Prof. Edwin J.J. Momoh. Earlier in his speech, EBKUST Vice-Chancellor and Principal Rev. Prof. Edwin J.J. Momoh said his institution's partnership and collaborative programs with universities include institutions in Canada, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, The Gambia,



between UL and EBKUST. He said the MoU between the two universities was a concept initiated by the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Visitor of EBKUST, H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, referring to him as "our graduate."

According to Cllr. Blama, Dr. Nelson had asked him to let the EKBUST Family know that this unity between the two universities would exist beyond the current government.

He also explained that Liberia's new President, H.E. Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai attended a school in Sierra Leone, telling that gathering that "we are a family, separation is not possible."

Addressing the graduates, the UL Vice President appreciated their efforts and challenged them to be Ambassadors of not only their alma mater EBKUST, but its partnership as well.

Meanwhile, Cllr. Blama has cautioned EBKUST to beware of fraudsters, fly-by-night organizations, and individuals who come to taint the administration black, take away the resources, and leave the country. He suggested the need to push for pre-financing when entering an agreement with institutions to prevent them from

Rwanda, and Ivory Coast, among others. Prof. Momoh welcomed the UL delegation at the congregation ceremony. According to Prof. Momoh, public-private partnerships in education can help make significant progress in delivering on the relevance of programs and the quality of products.

He noted that the good news is that EBKUST's Chancellor Dr. David Omatshola Carew is the one with the right mindset to position the administration for full implementation of the public-private partnership drive.

He said EBKUST was cautious to brace itself in exploring other viable sources of funding, as the institution throughout 2022 and 2023 was busy working around the theme "Institutional Autonomy of Higher Education Governance in Sierra Leone: Managing the Transition."

He said among EBKUST's six strategic pillars is the provision of relevant and high-quality academic programs that address the government's quest for professional and meritocratic public service that is fit for purpose.

He pledged that EBKUST shall continue to produce the best and brightest graduates to serve the people of Sierra Leone.



LIBERIA NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY
107th Lynch Street, Monrovia

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT – INVITATION TO BID NOTICE

The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRC) is a Humanitarian Organization that works throughout the 15 Counties. The LNRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose mandate is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all time all forms of humanitarian activities.

LNRC invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced bidders for the provision of 2,083 pcs **MOSQUITO NETS** and other item mentioned in the Bid document, to the LNRC Monrovia Office, DDP (Incoterms 2020, 107 Lynch Street Monrovia-Liberia).

Bid documents containing invitation to bid, instruction to bidders, requirements, general & special conditions of the contract etc. for the provision of Mosquito Nets can be obtained from the LNRC HQ until **27th Jan 2024 at 16:00** from LNRC by sending a request via email at the following email address:

Lnrcs.procurement@liberian-redcross.org cc: aloysius.perry@liberian-redcross.org or visit www.liberiahjobs.com, or obtain a hard copy at the security desk of the **LNRC Head Office, 107 Lynch Street.**

Bids, complete in all respects and in a sealed envelope must be received at the above address during office hours (Monday to Thursday) from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. **no later than 29 January 2024 at 3:00 pm**

The LNRC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest bid.



Vacancy Announcement
PROGRAM MANAGER (LOCAL)

USAID/Liberia Data, Evaluation, Learning and Technical Assistance (DELTA) Activity

The DELTA Activity ("Project") is a five-year USAID-funded program with the overall goal of establishing an informed, systematic, and institutionalized approach to effectively monitor, evaluate, learn, and foster adaptation within USAID/Liberia and among its implementing partners (IPs). DELTA is implemented by IBI in collaboration with its major subcontractor—Social Impact (SI).

As part of project activities, IBI is seeking a qualified Short Term Technical Assistant (Program Manager) to oversee the work of a local data collection firm to conduct a counter-verification of outputs from the Government-to-Government (G2G) Partnership for Improved Health Outcomes Activity. To apply, please email a current resume to deltarecruitment@ibi-worldwide.com with the subject line "G2G Program Manager STTA_[INSERT APPLICANT NAME]"

Please check on the below websites for details to apply:

Executive Mansion Web site: <https://www.emansion.gov.lr/index.php/opportunities/opportunities/vacancies>
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Speaker Koffa calls on Liberians to own tourism sector

By Bridgett Milton

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa has called on Liberians to take

32% of our total landmass forested, containing here are more than 2000 species of vascular plants of which 225 are species of trees and timbers; more than 140 species

diamonds," said Sepaker Koffa. He continued that Liberia has the potential of being among the top tourist destinations in Africa, if not the world. And to make that happen, he said the full force of the government, the private sector, and the ordinary citizens must work concertedly. "Tourism is foremost, the function of security and basic infrastructures, especially road connectivity. I am pleased that the President-elect Joseph N. Boakai has repeatedly mentioned infrastructure development as a priority of his AREST AGENDA," said Cllr. Koffa.

"Our role as the peoples' deputies- the Legislature, will be to support the Executive to implement policies that would advance tourism and enhance the welfare of our people."

He noted that this will also include bringing about additional policy initiatives such as making the country more accessible to tourists and empowering the local business community.

At the same time, Speaker Koffa thanked the Liberia Eco-tourism Exploration (LETE) and its Chief Executive Officer, George G. Wisner, for this initiative.

For his part, Wisner said the goal of LETE is to expand and sustain its operation while generating income and employment opportunities for host communities.



Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

advantage and own the tourism sector. Speaking at the Liberia Eco-Tourism Exploration Comedy and Networking Dinner on Sunday, 21 January 2023 at the EJS Ministerial Complex, Koffa said the private sector can be a constructive advocate of policies and actions that could improve the tourism sector.

"Liberia has a rich history and cultural heritage. Our biodiversity, our landscape, and our pristine beaches are breathtaking natural attractions," said Cllr. Koffa.

"Imagine having nearly

of mammals, including the rare pygmy hippopotamus," he added.

The Liberian House Speaker also mentioned that there are over 600 species of birds and about 75 species of reptiles and amphibians, including the Nile dwarf, and West African Crocodiles, and six species of tortoise. He added that the nation, under God's command, is greatly blessed with abundant natural endowments that could be leveraged to create conditions that will spur growth and development for all the people. "I am not talking about iron ore and gold, and

We will not disappoint Liberians

-UP Chairman vows

By Lewis S. Teh

The National Chairman of the ruling Unity Party (UP) Rev. Luther Tarpeh has assured citizens across the country that the party will do all in its power to change Liberia for the greater good.

"We want you to understand that the Unity Party will not disappoint those who believe in the leadership of the Unity Party," said Chairman Tarpeh.

According to him, Liberia is poised to witness a massive change with a specific focus on declaring drugs as a national emergency.

Rev. Tarpeh said the initiative underscores the administration's unwavering commitment to address challenges that have hindered the growth of the country.

Addressing UP auxiliaries over the weekend in Paynesville, the UP Chairman sought to speak to the high

expectations of the public about the transformation of the country and the lives of the citizens. Chairman Tarpeh emphasized the devastating impact of narcotic substances on the youthful population, something he said contributed to the growing number of disadvantaged youths across the country. He stated that President Boakai will not be able to provide jobs for every Liberian, instead, the party and the government will create a conducive environment where

Liberians will work and support their families. "We are going to work on the drug pandemic that is swallowing our nation. We will declare war and state of emergency on drugs," he added.

According to him, the essence of declaring war on drugs is to redeem the youthful population who have fallen prey to the menace.

Tarpeh assured Liberians that the UP government would tackle corruption, saying those entering the government will declare their assets.



Rev. Luther Tarpeh

Gov't to declare drugs a national emergency

-Chairman Tarpeh

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia is poised to witness the declaration of drugs as a national emergency by the Boakai government. This initiative underscores the administration's unwavering commitment to address the pervasive issue that has long hindered the nation's progress.

Addressing Unity Party (UP) auxiliaries in Paynesville recently, UP Chairman Rev. J. Luther Tarpeh emphasized the critical need for this declaration, shedding light on the devastating impact of narcotics on the nation's youth and the urgent necessity for collective action. "We are going to work on this drug pandemic that is here to swallow up our next generation. We are going to declare war (emergency) on drugs because when we are no longer able to provide leadership. We will depend on our young people for the

Meanwhile, the Unity Party National Chairman also disclosed that the Boakai-led Government is inheriting a very broken system with empty coffers from the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led Government in the country. "And so, for Liberians in and outside of the country, their expectations are high. But as a National Chairman, I want to let you know without any iota of doubts we are inheriting a very broken system and I want you to understand this," said Chairman Tarpeh. "When President Weah and the CDC people were going all round here telling people that they were paying WAEC ... fees, from everything we have seen so far through our interactions with the government that is going out, out of the six years the CDC Government has ruled, only one year they have paid WAEC fees and the country is indebted to WAEC for five years," Chairman Tarpeh claimed. "I am mentioning this to you all because when President-



Rev. Luther Tarpeh

transformation of our beloved country - Liberia. So, we will fight this enemy," said Chairman Tarpeh.

He assured scores of Unity Party auxiliary groups about the Boakai-led government's plan to tackle the issue of drugs that has been destroying thousands of youth across Liberia mentally and physically. Beyond the announcement of the national emergency, Chairman Tarpeh unveiled Boakai's visionary ARREST Agenda (Agriculture, Road, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation & Tourism).

The Boakai administration promises not only to combat the drug crisis but also to usher in an era of holistic national development. The imminent declaration reflects a proactive stance, signaling the government's commitment to building a resilient and prosperous Liberia.

elect Joseph Boakai takes office on Monday, Liberians will be expecting miracles from day one."

He said while it is true that UP is not giving any excuse, the party is going to inform the Liberian people of the kind of government it is taking over from and the challenges that it has.

He said for WAEC not to suspend Liberia, the Unity Party-led government needs to find the money and pay WEAC for the five years that CDC's leadership should have paid for.

Rev. Tarpeh revealed that from every indication, the country will suffer from a financial deficit for a period, but the Boakai-led government will strengthen Liberia and work towards the expectations of Liberians.

"Despite all these challenges, the Unity Party leadership will not disappoint those who believe that we can transform this country," he said.

Français

Gardez des attentes réalistes - Boakai prévient les Libériens

Le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a appelé aux partisans du Parti de l'Unité (UP) et aux Libériens en général que leur plan ou leur

dysfonctionnements, nous constatons une culture de l'impunité, nous constatons la corruption dans les hautes sphères comme dans les basses. Ce sont ces conditions et des

entre autres.

Le président Boakai a expliqué qu'il a entrepris sa quête de la présidence parce que quelque chose semblait ne pas aller chez les Libériens et la direction du pays, notant que plutôt que de mettre en avant les aspects positifs, les Libériens accentuaient les aspects négatifs de leur pays et les uns sur les autres.

"Nous avons initié de faux départs, construit sur de mauvaises bases. Nous approfondissons nos différences, créons de nouvelles lignes de faille sociales. La gouvernance inclusive et responsable était au plus bas. Nous avons créé une culture d'affaires inachevées, nous nous sommes lancés dans des entreprises ad hoc, faisant de ce comportement la "nouvelle normalité". Nous étions chevaleresques envers la primauté du droit. Nous avons abaissé les normes dans de nombreux domaines de notre vie commune en tant que peuple. Nous semblons avoir perdu notre chemin, perdu l'espoir."

M. Boakia a assuré qu'il est venu raviver l'espoir, replacer le pays sur une voie nationale et rappeler à tous les citoyens que même si l'accident des naissances nationales a fait des Libériens un peuple diversifié, ils doivent utiliser leur citoyenneté libérienne pour devenir un peuple uni, "car seul un peuple uni", souligne-t-il, "peut construire une nation."

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

désir de remédier aux maux hérités doit avancer avec des attentes réalistes.

Le président Boakai a affirmé que la mission de sauvetage dirigée par le gouvernement de l'UP ne comporte aucune fausse assurance, mais agira dans les cent premiers jours de l'administration, puis poursuivra diligemment la mission.

"Les experts nous ont présenté des analyses convaincantes de notre situation nationale. Nous ne pouvons plus tenter de nous voiler la face. Nous vivons des moments difficiles, nous constatons des

situations similaires que nous sommes venus SAUVER", a déclaré le président Boakai immédiatement après avoir prêté serment le lundi 22 janvier 2023 en tant que 26e président du Libéria sur le terrain du Capitole.

La cérémonie d'investiture a été suivie par plusieurs dignitaires et leaders mondiaux, dont l'ambassadrice des États-Unis auprès des Nations Unies, Linda-Thomas Greenfield, un vice-Premier ministre de la République populaire de Chine, le président Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo du Ghana, le président sierra-léonais Julius Maada Bio et l'ancien président nigérian Olusegun Obasanjo,

Le Président Boakai promet un gouvernement inclusif

Le tout nouveau président libérien, S.E Joseph Nyumah Boakai, a promis un gouvernement inclusif dénué de partisanerie, quelques minutes après avoir prêté serment au Capitole le lundi 22 janvier 2024.

"Les élections sont terminées ; la partisanerie doit être effacée. Il est temps d'avoir un gouvernement national et inclusif, pour que chacun ait l'opportunité de travailler. Ensemble, nous pouvons construire un nouveau Libéria, un Libéria plus grand et un meilleur Libéria, rétablissant notre dignité", a déclaré le président Boakai.

L'ancien vice-président libérien de 79 ans a succédé à l'ancienne icône internationale du football, M. George Manneh Weah, qui, après une élection âprement disputée, a concédé la défaite suite au second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14

novembre 2023. L'investiture de Boakai a réuni des invités internationaux de haut niveau, dont l'ambassadrice Linda Thomas Greenfield, la représentante des États-Unis auprès des Nations Unies, qui représentait l'administration Biden au Libéria pour le transfert historique du pouvoir. Dans son discours inaugural, Boakai s'est engagé à former un gouvernement inclusif où chaque Libérien aura l'opportunité de servir son pays dans la voie de la construction d'un

nouveau Libéria avec dignité, intégrité et un avenir prospère. Le nouveau président a redonné espoir à ses opposants, en particulier à ceux qui quittent des postes gouvernementaux des administrations précédentes et qui se demandent quel sera leur sort sous la nouvelle ère du Parti de l'unité. Dans son discours inaugural, le président Boakai a dénoncé les

▶ CONT'D page 9



Éditorial

Le Libéria se lance sur une trajectoire démocratique irréversible

Le Libéria a emprunté un chemin historique de transition démocratique fluide suite à deux élections pacifiques. C'est une randonnée clairement irréversible.

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a pacifiquement transmis le pouvoir à l'ex-président George Manneh Weah en 2018, et six ans plus tard, M. Weah a remis le pouvoir à son successeur, le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, ce lundi 22 janvier.

Le pays peut actuellement se vanter de trois anciens présidents vivants : Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, George Manneh Weah et Charles Ghankay Taylor, qui, lui, purge une peine de prison en Grande-Bretagne. C'est une distinction remarquable par rapport aux anciens présidents William R. Tolbert, Jr., et Samuel Kanyon Doe, qui ont, tous deux, été évincés violemment lors d'un coup d'État sanglant et d'une guerre civile.

Le Libéria se joint progressivement au Ghana, au Nigeria et à d'autres nations démocratiques de la région qui souscrivent à des élections libres et équitables ainsi qu'à des transitions pacifiques d'un gouvernement à un autre. Tous les Libériens devraient s'efforcer de maintenir le pays sur cette voie enviable.

Les anciens présidents Sirleaf et Weah étant en retrait et disponibles, le président Joseph Boakai n'a aucune raison d'échouer. Il n'a qu'à consulter ses prédécesseurs, surtout étant donné qu'il a été vice-président pendant deux mandats sous la femme qu'il appelle son "ancienne patronne".

La génération actuelle de dirigeants doit cela à la nation et à son peuple pour maintenir la patrie sur la voie des élections démocratiques et de transitions pacifiques, si l'on veut le pays progresse, car c'est le moyen le plus sûr d'attirer et de maintenir l'attention de nos partenaires internationaux.

Tant Madame Sirleaf que M. Weah ont révolutionné la manière dont les Libériens devraient rechercher le pouvoir politique. La voie à suivre est de passer par les urnes et d'accepter les résultats suite à un scrutin transparent qui ne laisse aucune place à la contestation et à la violence.

Dans son discours d'investiture lundi, le président Boakai a souligné que son élection par les Libériens est un appel clair à un nouveau Libéria, un Libéria différent, un Libéria qui pratique véritablement la primauté du droit et adhère aux principes de la gouvernance démocratique dans l'intérêt de tous. Nous croyons que cela devrait être l'essence de la recherche d'une fonction politique - servir le peuple plutôt qu'un agenda égoïste qui est le terreau de la corruption.

Tous les Libériens devraient se féliciter du chemin démocratique que le pays a pris. Nous devrions être fiers de veiller à ce que le Libéria reste sur le chemin de la démocratie en exerçant toujours notre droit de vote.

Par leurs votes, les Libériens ont facilité la tâche du président Boakai, car il sollicitera l'aide des gouvernements et des nations amis. La crédibilité de notre démocratie est importante dans nos relations avec nos partenaires mondiaux.

Il n'y a pas de retour en arrière. Nous devons continuer ce voyage de transition en douceur, car nous le devons non seulement à nous-mêmes, mais aussi à la postérité.

Français

Par Daron Acemoglu

Ce qu'il faut pour bâtir des institutions démocratiques

BOSTON - Pour bâtir de meilleures institutions démocratiques, les pays en voie de développement et les pays industrialisés peuvent suivre différents modèles. Le Chili, après plusieurs tentatives avortées de rédaction d'une nouvelle Constitution, fournit en revanche l'exemple de ce qu'il ne faut pas reproduire.

Comptant pourtant parmi les pays les plus riches d'Amérique latine, le Chili souffre encore aujourd'hui de l'héritage de la dictature brutale du général Augusto Pinochet, ainsi que d'inégalités historiques. Le pays a réalisé des progrès dans la construction d'institutions démocratiques depuis le référendum de 1988, qui a marqué la transition loin de l'autoritarisme, de même que les programmes d'éducation et sociaux ont réduit les inégalités de revenus. Un certain nombre de problèmes majeurs persistent néanmoins. De profondes inégalités demeurent non seulement en termes de revenus, mais également d'accès aux services publics, de ressources éducatives de qualité, ainsi que d'opportunités sur le marché du travail. Par ailleurs, le Chili demeure régi par la Constitution imposée par Pinochet en 1980.

Bien qu'il puisse sembler naturel de repartir de zéro, le Chili s'y est pris de la mauvaise manière. À la suite d'un référendum de 2020 qui a révélé un soutien considérable à la rédaction d'une nouvelle Constitution, le processus a été confié à une convention de délégués élus. Seulement voilà, environ 43% seulement des électeurs ont participé à l'élection de 2021 pour la composition de cette convention, et de nombreux candidats provenaient de cercles d'extrême gauche, idéologiquement déterminés à rédiger une Constitution répressive pour les entreprises, et établissant une multitude de nouveaux droits pour différentes communautés. Lorsque le document qui en a résulté a été soumis au vote, 62 % des Chiliens l'ont rejeté.

Une deuxième tentative a reproduit les mêmes échecs, mais dans la direction inverse. Une majorité de droite à la convention, galvanisée par la réaction du public à la première version, a rédigé une Constitution qui a elle aussi fini par être rejetée, considérée comme allant trop loin. Cette expérience devrait sembler familière, le Chili n'étant certainement pas le seul pays dans lequel un organe militant préconise des mesures auxquelles s'oppose une majorité d'électeurs. Des épisodes comparables s'observent en effet aujourd'hui à travers le monde - notamment aux United States - avec pour conséquence une perte de confiance dans les institutions.

Le soutien à la démocratie peut-il être rebâti ? Mes récents travaux aux côtés de Nicolás Ajzenman, de Cevat Aksoy, de Martin Fiszbein et de Carlos Molina peuvent apporter ici plusieurs indices. Nous constatons que les individus qui ont fait l'expérience des institutions démocratiques ont tendance à les soutenir, mais seulement s'ils estiment que les démocraties sont efficaces dans l'accomplissement des performances économiques, des services publics et d'autres résultats auxquels ils s'attendent.

Ce que les individus semblent attendre des démocraties est tout à fait révélateur. Le soutien à la démocratie diminue ainsi durant les crises économiques, les guerres ou autres périodes d'instabilité, et augmente lorsque la population bénéficie de services publics de qualité, de faibles inégalités, et d'une corruption minimale voire inexistante. Les leçons à en tirer sont claires. Si nous entendons bâtir une meilleure démocratie, nous devons commencer par nous pencher sur la capacité des institutions démocratiques à atteindre les résultats escomptés par la population.

Avec le creusement des inégalités dans de nombreux pays et la montée en puissance des grandes entreprises mondiales, il est raisonnable pour les démocraties d'appliquer une plus grande redistribution et de plus fortes protections pour les catégories défavorisées. En revanche, comme toujours, la droite et la gauche procéderont ici des différentes manières.

Dans le cas du Chili, le programme de gauche radicalement hostile aux entreprises apparaît malavisé. Une meilleure alternative réside dans le modèle promu par les partis sociaux-démocrates scandinaves, qui ont accédé au pouvoir après le krach boursier de 1929 et la Grande Dépression, période à laquelle il était impératif de procéder à des changements institutionnels majeurs, ainsi que d'appliquer des politiques de redressement de

l'économie et de lutte contre les inégalités.

De nombreuses idées faussent entourent les origines de la social-démocratie nordique. Certains commentateurs semblent croire que les pays scandinaves ont toujours été prédisposés à l'égalité et à la coopération. D'autres les considèrent comme des modèles de social-démocratie. Ces deux perceptions sont en réalité erronées. La Suède et la Norvège étaient toutes deux marquées par de fortes inégalités au début du XXe siècle. Le coefficient de Gini du revenu avant impôts (une mesure d'inégalité sur un échelle de 0 à 1) s'élevait à 0,57 pour la Norvège en 1930, ce qui signifie que le pays était à l'époque plus inégal que n'importe quel État d'Amérique latine aujourd'hui.

La Suède et la Norvège ont également connu des conflits industriels fréquents. Les partis ouvriers qui sont devenus plus tard des partis sociaux-démocrates étaient enracinés dans le marxisme. Lorsqu'ils sont arrivés au pouvoir, ils avaient néanmoins commencé à s'éloigner de leurs engagements antérieurs en faveur de la révolution et d'une idéologie rigide. Ils ont davantage fait campagne sous une large ombrelle de promesses : une gestion macroéconomique saine, ainsi qu'une réforme égalitaire du marché du travail et de l'éducation.

Pour sa part, le Parti travailliste norvégien a changé de cap par rapport à son programme marxiste radical après de piètres résultats aux élections de 1930 en Norvège. Tout comme les partis ouvriers danois et suédois de l'époque, il a recentré son attention sur des questions plus pragmatiques, mettant en œuvre les politiques que la population souhaitait. Le parti a également promis une réforme éducative majeure pour améliorer la qualité de l'éducation dans les zones rurales en retard. Après son retour au pouvoir en 1935, le parti a rapidement mis en œuvre sa « loi sur l'école populaire » l'année suivante.

Dans mes récents travaux aux côtés de Tuomas Pekkarinen, de Kjell Salvanes et de Matti Sarvimäki, nous démontrons que la réforme scolaire en Norvège a fait davantage qu'améliorer la qualité de l'éducation en milieu rural. Elle a également exercé un profond impact sur la politique norvégienne, dans la mesure où nombre de ceux qui ont bénéficié de cette réforme (à commencer par les parents) ont changé d'allégeance en faveur du Parti travailliste, contribuant ainsi à créer la coalition qui soutiendrait le modèle de démocratie sociale désormais célèbre en Norvège. Autrement dit, le parti a fourni les services que les électeurs souhaitaient, et les électeurs l'ont récompensé par leur soutien électoral.

Le cas suédois est largement similaire. Après sa première victoire électorale en 1932, le Parti social-démocrate suédois a tenu sa promesse d'augmentation des salaires, de paix industrielle et d'environnement macroéconomique stable, ce qui lui a valu d'être récompensé dans les urnes pendant plusieurs décennies.

Des leçons peuvent ici être tirées par ceux qui entendent renforcer la démocratie et bâtir de nouvelles institutions afin de combattre les inégalités et de protéger les moins favorisés. La première étape doit consister à prouver que la démocratie fonctionne, en élaborant un programme réformiste qui soit une réussite dans la fourniture de services à la population. Les tentatives qui consistent à imposer aux électeurs des politiques extrémistes (de droite comme de gauche) sont vouées à l'échec - et risquent même d'altérer encore davantage la confiance dans les institutions démocratiques.

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, est coauteur (avec Simon Johnson) de l'ouvrage intitulé *Of Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023).

Starts from page 8 Gardez des attentes réalistes -

En réponse à la question rhétorique où les Libériens prévoient de prendre le pays dans les six prochaines années, il a appelé le pays à se recentrer sur ses énergies politiques, disant qu'avec la campagne électorale maintenant derrière nous, "j'embrasse tous mes compatriotes libériens, chez eux et dans la diaspora. Une des bonnes choses mises en lumière par la campagne, facilitée par les médias sociaux, est que les Libériens de tous horizons ont eu l'occasion d'engager une "conversation nationale" sur notre passé, notre présent et nos perspectives d'avenir. Nous avons appris ensemble ce qui ne va pas dans notre pays, et espérons ce qui va bien aussi."

Le président Boakai a exhorté les Libériens à recalibrer pour "restaurer les années que les sauterelles ont dévorées" en mettant l'accent sur le positif concernant le pays et leurs concitoyens.

"En pensant, aimant et construisant le Liberia, adoptons cet état d'esprit dans le domaine de la guérison nationale et de la réconciliation, tant les anciennes que les nouvelles lignes de faille sociales émergentes. Restaurons l'inclusivité, la transparence et la responsabilité à la gouvernance à tous les niveaux de notre société, y compris le gouvernement."

Il a souligné que les Libériens doivent décourager

la culture des affaires inachevées, les choses désordonnées et non sérieuses pour restaurer l'espoir individuellement et collectivement, ajoutant : "Nous devons également restaurer la dignité et l'intégrité dans la fonction publique - des rémunérations et des régimes de retraite viables pour les fonctionnaires et les travailleurs du gouvernement des services étrangers. Nous devons restaurer le respect de la primauté du droit et le respect des officiers de la loi dans nos trois branches de gouvernement."

Le président Boakai, dans la soixantaine, note que les vingt-cinq présidents libériens qui l'ont précédé ont chacun apporté leur contribution au patrimoine commun, de sorte que les Libériens doivent capitaliser sur leurs forces et corriger leurs lacunes.

"Je a remercié la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, mon ancienne patronne, pour sa direction lorsque le pays avait besoin de sortir des ruines de la guerre. Je salue mon prédécesseur immédiat, le président George Weah, d'avoir respecté les exigences de notre Constitution et de nos lois pour assurer le transfert pacifique du pouvoir. Le peuple voulait du changement, et nous n'avons pas d'autre choix que de faire la volonté du peuple."

Cependant, le discours inaugural du président a été interrompu par un épuisement dû à la chaleur, car la température était très élevée.

Starts from page 8 Le Président Boakai promet

uts de la partisanerie et des affiliations politiques au sein du gouvernement qui se sont fréquemment produits sous les administrations précédentes. Boakai a suggéré que la nomination de partisans d'un parti politique à des postes clés a entravé la croissance, le développement et le progrès du Libéria au fil des ans.

Le président Boakai a appelé à l'inclusivité, à la transparence et à la responsabilité des anciens responsables envers la nouvelle administration, soulignant la réconciliation nationale comme la voie à suivre pour faire progresser le Libéria. "Nous devons nous unir pour résoudre l'étroitesse de notre pays, restaurer notre dignité, construire un meilleur Libéria, car seulement avec un peuple uni, nous pouvons construire cette nation", a déclaré le Président Boakai.

Le 26e président de la République du Libéria a également lancé un appel pressant pour un nouveau Libéria où chaque Libérien

respectera la primauté du droit et adhèrera aux principes de la démocratie. Il a appelé les Libériens à remodeler leurs énergies politiques, à recalibrer et à aider à restaurer les années que les sauterelles ont dévorées.

"Nous devons restaurer notre dignité et notre intégrité. Les campagnes électorales étant maintenant derrière nous, j'embrasse tous mes compatriotes libériens. Recalibrons-nous maintenant et restaurons les années que les sauterelles ont dévorées", a déclaré le président Boakai.

Il a promis de remédier aux maux de la société libérienne et de lutter contre la corruption.

Le nouveau Président n'a cependant pas pu conclure son discours devant des milliers de dignitaires suite à un incident que beaucoup ont considéré comme un épuisement dû à la chaleur massive. Il n'y a aucun rapport médical disponible concernant ce qui s'est passé au Capitole le lundi, mais M. Boakai a été conduit après avoir été observé comme ayant paru faible

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Holding Liberian Public Officials Accountable: Asset Declarations

By S. Karweaye

Barely 8 days after they assumed office, the 55th National Legislature faced a burden to declare or not to declare their assets and personal interests per the provisions of the 1986 Constitution. Provisions on the declaration of assets by all public officers in Liberia are entrenched in the Code of Conduct for Public Officials, which is contained in Chapter 11, Article 90 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, and Section 10.1 of Liberia's 2014 Code of Conduct, as amended.

Public officials affected by the Code include the President, Vice President, the Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the legislature, among others. The code was introduced to the Constitution in 1986, mainly to prevent corruption, and abuse of public office, and to ensure transparency among public officers.

For the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary branches of government, one major reason many Liberians are interested in their assets declaration is these three separate branches of government hold substantial power over the allocation of resources in the country and the citizens who hired them, and who in effect pay their salaries through their tax contributions want their asset declaration open to



public scrutiny to ensure they do not abuse their power for personal gain (corruption). As such, it is believed that by declaring their assets correctly, they will put to rest many insinuations that give verve to policies the government may adopt to fight corruption.

The asset declaration process, guided by the New LACC Act of 2022, provides a comprehensive list of properties, financial holdings, investments, and other relevant financial interests to be submitted to LACC, the agency responsible for executing Liberia's Asset Declaration and Verification Regime. Although the public declaration law didn't compel a public officer to declare his or her assets publicly, the spirit and the intent of the law on asset declaration were created to make room for public scrutiny of assets declared by public officials and ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical behavior within the government.

Recall in 2018, President George Weah did the uncommon on July 25, 2018, by providing sketchy details of his assets and liabilities. However, it was in response to growing pressure on him to adhere to Section 10.1 of the National Code of Conduct which mandates every public official to declare assets and liabilities before taking office. The presidency released the details of the president's asset declarations to the General Auditing Commission after a month's delay, but his declaration was never made known to the public.

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, declared her assets and liabilities on August 6, 2018, to the LACC a week after President Weah's assets declaration wasn't made known to the public. However, on February 26, 2019, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, who presided over the senate, expressed serious concern about the failure of Senators to declare their assets, urging them to do so immediately, but

her concerns were ignored.

In January 2024, the 55th National Legislature was sworn in, and one of the first things the House of Representatives did was vote in favor of declaring and disclosing their assets to the public. The decision mandated members of the House of Representatives to submit their asset declaration forms to Chief Clerk Mildred Sayon by February 1. Like the legislature, President Joseph Boakai and his Vice president are yet to publicly declare their assets and liabilities even though they have already taken office.

The LACC and civil society have been calling on the newly sworn 55th legislature to declare the assets and liabilities something they didn't do before taking office despite the law explicitly mandating all public officials to declare their assets before taking office. Is the House of Representatives decision shielded in hypocrisy? Do the House of Representatives need to vote on a resolution to force its members to declare their assets and liabilities or should have already done so before taking the oath of office as mandated by Section 10.1 of the National Code of Conduct and Section 4.1(9) of 2022 amended and restated in the New LACC Act of 2022.

Across the world, most countries expect their top leaders to publish information about their assets. When they don't, this can lead to both public unrest and political instability as evidenced in Nigeria and Argentina but in Liberia, the news sparked no public outcry.

Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a human rights activist, and former presidential candidate has strongly advocated for asset declaration and lifestyle audit. Gongloe in his ten-point agenda told the Liberian people that a well-defined asset declaration system is a strong tool to fight public sector corruption and abuse of power. I tend to agree with Gongloe because published information on a public official's assets and liability allows civil society and the Liberian public, in general, to hold them accountable. If public officials are seen to live beyond their means, an assets declaration can be a starting point for investigation.

Against this background, this is the best opportunity for public officials within the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary branches to win more sympathy and confidence of Liberians, if they would declare their assets and liabilities and make their assets declaration public. The need for any elected or appointed public officers to declare their assets and liabilities is not just for their good, but for the good of the general society. We don't want a situation whereby political actors will go into public offices and enrich themselves and their cronies.

The previous administration headed by George Weah failed to set a standard as far as the public declaration of assets by public officials was concerned as evidenced in the failures of public officials in the three branches of government to file assets declarations before and after exiting office as required by law.

Despite the existence of a legal framework for asset declaration for public office holders, the level of compliance is unknown, as data on asset declaration for office holders is not available to the public. The lack of public data on the assets of potential public officials provides an avenue for opacity and a lack of accountability, thereby fuelling political corruption. This is why we must prioritize accountability issues in government processes, and fiscal transparency as advocated by Gongloe and others.

A well-defined asset declaration system is a strong tool to fight public sector corruption and abuse of power. The House of Representatives must go beyond just passing resolutions mandating its members to declare their assets to revising the relevant legislation to make provision for the publication of the declaration of assets made by public officials to be accessible to the general public. This will ultimately trigger public officials to declare the assets and liabilities and to do so truthfully. There is also the need to criminalize and provide rigorous sentences for the failure to declare assets and liabilities per se, and /or the making of false or partial declarations, willfully. Making provision for sanction for non-compliance will ensure not only that declarations are made at the required time, but also that all declarants are brutally frank with the declarations they make.

It must be pointed out that countries like Tanzania and Kenya have criminalized and have provided punishment regimes for false or misleading declarations and persons found guilty are liable for fine and/or punishment. It could be in the public interest for Liberia to tread the path of these countries by criminalizing misleading or false declarations of assets and liabilities. I rest my pen.

Boakai wants War, Economic Crimes Court

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai says he has decided to set up an office to explore the key reasons for Liberians' continued demand for a war and economic crimes court. The country is endowed with

According to the new Liberian President, enforcing the rule of law and public safety is vital to his



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feasibility of the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC) for Liberia.

Mr. Boakai announced his government's decision through his inaugural address on Monday, 22 January 2024 at the Capitol. "We have decided to set up an office to explore the feasibility for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC) to provide an opportunity for those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity to account for their actions in court," he said. Liberia's decades-long civil crises are estimated to have killed over 250,000, destroyed properties worth millions of dollars, and displaced many others.

Cases of public corruption even in post-war governments have deprived the citizenry of basic social services, needed infrastructural development, accessible health care, and heightened decades of abject poverty. It seems these are

vast natural resources, but a vast majority of its population remains in abject poverty one government after the other. "An estimated quarter of a million of our people perished in the war. We cannot forever remain unmoved by this searing national tragedy without closure," said Mr. Boakai.

"We shall seek advice and assistance from the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure that the court, if found feasible, will be in compliance with the highest standards of similar courts everywhere," Boakai continued. He added that the Legislature will have its say appropriately in this matter to avoid any appearance of vendetta or witch-hunt.

Similarly, President Boakai said predictable business practices, including contractual certainty and public safety as enforced under the rule of law, will establish a better investment climate as Liberia seeks to expand the private sector and create jobs that best serve the people.

Agriculture, Road, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation and Tourism (ARREST) agenda for overall national development. He pledged that his government would improve transparency, accountability, and openness to promote good governance.

In addition, he said access to justice to preserve social, economic, and political rights and freedoms and long-term stability in the country will be a top priority of the new government.

"Corruption is a menace and a drawback. Commitment to the application of the rule of law, therefore, will be essential in the fight against corruption, as halting the tide of public corruption is an important part of our development agenda for the transformation of our country," said Amb. Boakai. "We must, accordingly, reset the fight against corruption and impunity to demonstrate firmness and resolve," he noted.

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US, Liberia commit stronger partnership

partnership," the U.S. Envoy said.

"We have been in partnership for many, many years. We are looking forward to working with the new administration to see that Liberia goes forward in a positive direction," she stated further.

According to her, the resources that are here in

Liberia should support the people of Liberia in terms of education, health, as well as infrastructure development.

"I'm traveling with the USAID director to address some of those issues with the President as well. We support Liberia, and we support the private sector," Amb. Greenfield stated.

According to her, the U.S.

encourages the private sector to invest not only in Liberia but for them to have confidence in the government.

"However, I'm very, very confident that President Boakai will provide that confidence to the private sector. They are willing to work and come back to Liberia," she stated.

Messy and disastrous!

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has termed as disastrous, disorganized, and completely messy, the manner and form President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's inaugural ceremony was planned. President Boakai embarrassingly suffered heat exhaustion while delivering his inaugural speech on Monday, 22 January 2024 before local and international guests at the Capitol, causing him to abruptly discontinue reading his speech.

Boakai and his Vice President Jeremiah Koung were sworn in following their election victory in November 2023 that ended former Liberian international soccer icon Amb. George Manneh Weah's six-year rule. Mr. Dillon's early concern comes ahead of President Boakai's return to the 55th Legislature to deliver his first State of the Nation Address on Monday, 29 January 2024.

Addressing the Senate's third day sitting on Tuesday, 23 January 2024, Mr. Dillon stressed that the planning of the event

He also spoke about the poor sound system where those sitting on the platform could not hear the President, Vice President, and Chief Justice while administering the oath of office, among others.

On the other hand, Senator Dillon blamed members of the Legislature for failing to take full charge of their responsibility.

According to him, the inaugural ceremony and the delivery of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) by the President are squarely legislative functions. He added, "The Legislature by formality, the Speaker of the House of Representatives invites guests, but the list of the guests is determined by the Ministry of Foreign." Senator Dillon then pressed on members of the Liberian Senate to ensure that the Legislature takes charge of the protocol leading to the pending event relative to the State of the Nation Address. "We need to ensure that the Capitol Building looks like a Capitol Building on the annual message day and let the place be freed from all that cheering of party links as was seen on the inauguration," the



Pres. Boakai

was out of order, coupled with a messy protocol.

The chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs complained that the discouraging feedback from the program does not demonstrate that Liberia is more than 170 years old. He said the way things were handled made it appear as if it was the country's first time going to such an event. "The protocol yesterday, nobody has to be told. How can you invite foreign guests then you are shouting at your own government officials to get up from their seats to allow the foreign diplomats to sit down?" Senator Dillon pondered.

According to him, the protocol dictated that everyone coming to the inauguration must have been invited but sadly, there was an influx of people even without invitation, thus justifying the messy planning of the program. He further named the lack of adequate seats for foreign guests, legislators, special invitees, and other government officials to sit during the event.

lawmaker added.

He wants members of the 55th Legislature, inclusive of the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives, to work collaboratively to prevent a repeat of such a mess. Our legislative reporter says following the individual inputs of other senators on the matter, the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence announced a four-member committee to handle the planning of the SONA. Those named by the Grand Bassa County Senator include the Chair on the Committee on Foreign Affairs Abraham Darius Dillon and the Chair on Executive James Biney of Maryland. Others are the Chair on Rules, Order and Administration, Gbleh-bo Brown of Maryland, and Chair on Ways, Means and Finance and Budget, Prince Kermue Moye of Bong County. The ad-hoc committee, according to the Pro-Temp, is to work with the House of Representatives to effectively work on all modalities leading to the successful planning and execution of the annual address by the President.

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US, Liberia commit stronger partnership

By Lincoln G. Peters The Liberian and U.S. governments have reaffirmed their commitment to diplomatic partnership and cooperation, a day after Liberia's new President Joseph Nyuma Boakai was sworn in. President Boakai and U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield, who headed her country's delegation to Boakai's inauguration, had a day-long bilateral diplomatic meeting at the President's residence in Rehab, Paynesville.

journalists following the end of the meeting, President Boakai said the closed-door diplomatic meeting was intended to recalibrate the partnership and cooperation between both countries. During the conversation, Mr. Boakai said he informed the United States Government through its representatives that Liberia will respect the partnership and cooperation that exist between both countries. "I have just told her that Liberia has been a partner to America for a very long time. We will ensure that we respect that partnership by making sure

we put the country on the right path so that the people can benefit from it," Amb. Boakai noted. For her, Amb. Linda



Pres. Boakai and Amb. Linda Thomas Greenfield

Thomas Greenfield expressed congratulations to President Boakai and appreciation to the people of Liberia for having a stable transition. "But the message I brought from the President, the people of the United States, was our continued support for Liberia, the reaffirmation of our partnership and cooperation between both countries. During the conversation, Mr. Boakai said he informed the United States Government through its representatives that Liberia will respect the partnership and cooperation that exist between both countries. "I have just told her that Liberia has been a partner to America for a very long time. We will ensure that we respect that partnership by making sure

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