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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024	LS188.6435/US\$1.00	LS190.4774/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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Boakai's speech



draws mixed reactions



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Continental News

Namibia's President Hage Geingob going to US for cancer treatment

Namibia's President Hage Geingob, 82, is flying to the US to receive "specialised" medical treatment for cancer, his office has said.

here? It means I'm tired and I'm not feeling well," the privately owned Namibian newspaper quoted him as telling journalists.

Mr Geingob is due to step down at the end of his two terms later

was followed by a biopsy, which revealed cancerous cells.

His office did not give further details of Mr Geingob's condition, but said at the time



Namibia's President Hage Geingob said in 2014 that he had survived prostate cancer

It comes less than a week after his office said that medical tests revealed that he had "cancerous cells".

The 82-year-old would receive "novel therapy" in the US for a week, before returning to continue with his treatment in Namibia, his office added. Vice-President Nangolo Mumba will be acting president during his absence.

Concerns about Mr Geingob's health have been growing, with reports saying that he admitted last year that he had become frail.

"You see how I'm standing

this year. In a statement on Tuesday, the vice-president of the governing Swapo party, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, said Mr Geingob was in "good spirits" and receiving "good medical attention".

She appealed to Namibians to allow Mr Geingob and his family to focus on his recovery and healing process without speculation.

The president's office said he would return from the US on 2 February, and 95% of the treatment for the cancerous cells would be carried out in Namibia.

Last week, it said that doctors had done a colonoscopy and a gastroscopy on the president. This

that he would continue with his presidential duties.

Mr Geingob underwent an aortic operation last year, while in 2014 he revealed that he had survived prostate cancer. Namibia is due to hold presidential and parliamentary elections in November.

Swapo, which has been in power since independence in 1990, has chosen Mrs Nandi-Ndaitwah as its presidential candidate. She is currently also Namibia's deputy prime minister, and will become the country's first female president if she wins. BBC

More Than 70 Dead After Gold Mine Collapses in Mali, Says Official

An official in Mali says more than 70 people are dead after an informal gold mine collapsed late last week, and a search continues amid fears the toll could rise.

Karim Berthe, a senior official at the government's National Geology and Mining Directorate, confirmed the details to The Associated Press on Wednesday and called it an accident.

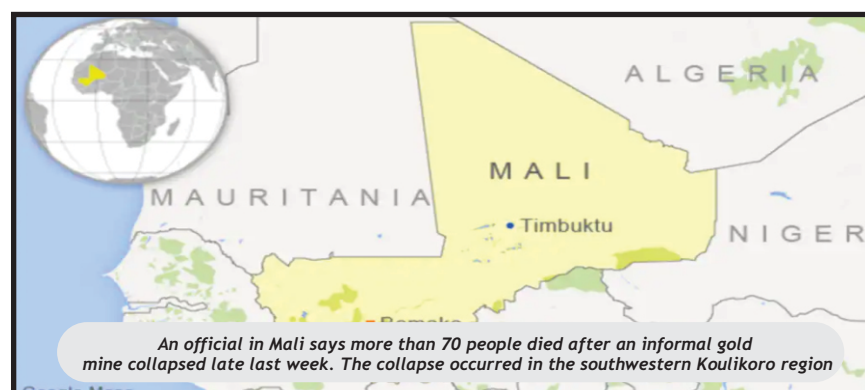
It was not immediately clear what caused the collapse that occurred on Friday and was reported on Tuesday in a Ministry of Mines statement that estimated "several" miners dead. The collapse

occurred in Kangaba district in the southwestern Koulikoro region.

Such accidents are common in Mali, Africa's third-largest gold producer. Artisanal miners — small-scale, informal ones — are often accused of ignoring safety measures, especially in remote

areas.

"The state must bring order to this artisanal mining sector to avoid these kinds of accidents in the future," Berthe said. The Ministry of Mines statement "deeply regretted" the collapse and urged miners as well as communities living near mining sites to "comply with safety requirements." VOA



An official in Mali says more than 70 people died after an informal gold mine collapsed late last week. The collapse occurred in the southwestern Koulikoro region

Zimbabwe Hopeful UN Cholera Vaccines Will Contain Outbreak

Zimbabwean health authorities — battling a cholera outbreak that has infected about 20,000 people and killed more than 370 — say they hope donated vaccines will ease the spread of waterborne disease now affecting 60 of the country's 64 districts.

Zimbabwean Health Minister Douglas Mombeshora told reporters in Harare on Wednesday that the country had recorded 20,121 suspected cholera cases and 376 deaths — six of them since Tuesday. He said the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund had secured 2.3 million cholera vaccine doses for the country, with nearly 900,000 of them to be administered next week.

"The vaccination campaign is expected to start from the 29th of January in [a] phased approach to the hot spots," he

cholera cases is being recorded in the region due to many factors, including extreme climatic events such as droughts, cyclones and flooding ... With porous borders and high population movements, cholera is spreading fast."

Mombeshora is urging Zimbabweans to accept the cholera vaccine.

"This is not a new vaccine and it has been used all over the world," he said. "The only reason why we do not have it enough is because it is only manufactured on demand. Therefore, it's the same vaccine and it's very, very safe. We did not receive an adverse report in our past use of it. I have had a cholera vaccine before, years ago, nothing to worry about."

Dr. Prosper Chonzi, Harare's director of health services, says now that there is vaccine, people must not ease up on hygienic practices. Chonzi said he was not happy that Harare is still full of vendors selling uninspected fruits and vegetables.



FILE - A family is seen entering a tent set up for suspected cholera patients at a clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe

said. "This is because the doses are not enough to cover the whole country. And then roll on to the other affected districts as we receive more vaccines. The challenge is that there is a shortage of vaccine in the world because cholera is not in Zimbabwe alone. So, all other countries that have reported cholera are also getting the same vaccine from the same source. So, it's now controlled by the WHO. Otherwise only the rich countries will wipe out the vaccines before others get them."

Mombeshora said 37 African countries had confirmed cases of cholera. The WHO's Africa office did not confirm the number Wednesday.

In a statement to VOA, Dr. Paul Ngwakum, regional health adviser for UNICEF in eastern and southern Africa, said the cholera outbreak "remains a serious public health concern and continues to impact children's lives in the region. An unprecedented surge in

"I think the general economy is playing against us," he said. "We have been doing these hide-and-seek games, chase after vendors, it has not been working. At least if we clean up for now, then we come up with medium- to long-term plans to maintain the clean environment that is there. As the director of health, I am not happy with the vending situation in the city. It is playing against what we want to achieve as we try to contain the outbreak. If you buy food from uninspected premises, the chances of you contracting not only cholera, but typhoid, dysentery and other diarrhea, are very high."

Zimbabwe's moribund economy is forcing citizens to venture into vending as a source of income as jobs are hard to come by, with some estimates putting unemployment at about 85%. Experts say that is making the fight against a cholera outbreak difficult with the country recording 1,000 new cases every week since the beginning of the year, according to the United Nations. VOA

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.

COMMENTARY

By Ishac Diwan, Vera Songwe

Developing Countries Need Debt Relief to Act on Climate Change

WASHINGTON, DC/PARIS - If developing economies found it hard to manage their debts in 2023, they are likely to face even more formidable challenges this year. Though most possess relatively small debt stocks and are not considered insolvent, many are in dire need of liquidity. As long as this remains true, they will struggle not only to manage their debts, but also to invest in the green transition.

Developing economies have faced a series of external shocks in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, war-related disruptions of food and energy supply chains, and an uptick in global inflation. Moreover, their access to capital markets has been curtailed, preventing them from rolling over maturing loans, as they would do in normal times. As a result, countries have been forced to channel a large share of their tax and export revenues to service their debt, avoiding default at the cost of priorities like infrastructure investment, social-welfare programs, and climate action.

The outlook for these countries is likely to worsen in the next few years. According to estimates by the Finance for Development Lab (FDL), large debt payments are coming due in 2024 and 2026 for at least 20 low- and lower-middle-income countries. As countries hit this "debt wall," their already fragile fiscal positions will deteriorate further. This does not bode well for climate action.

Climate change is not some distant menace; its effects are already being felt worldwide, especially in climate-vulnerable developing economies. But international summits on the topic last year sent a disappointing message: while developed economies pledged to increase climate financing by 2030, developing-economy policymakers are struggling against severe fiscal constraints. With medium-term strategies being used to address a short-term threat, developing and emerging economies have been expressing frustration, including at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact that was held in Paris last June.

Multilateral development banks can provide an essential lifeline, but their capacity would have to be strengthened - and quickly. According to World Bank data, the new concessional loans the world's poorest countries received from MDBs in 2022 were smaller than these countries' debt-service payments, a large share of which went to private and bilateral creditors. Increasing capital flight from the developing world - driven not least by monetary tightening in advanced economies - will intensify the needs of illiquid lower-income countries.

But it is not only a matter of financial capacity. MDBs have so far been inconsistent, at best, when it comes to supporting countries struggling to repay their debts. For example, both Kenya and Ethiopia have been under pressure to repay their private and Chinese creditors, which are now collecting more in debt-service payments than they are providing in new

loans. But only Kenya received enough support from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and others to refinance its debt that is maturing this year.

By contrast, assistance to Ethiopia has declined in recent years. As a result, Ethiopia recently defaulted on its external debt, even though it amounts to just 25% of GDP. While the Kenya approach is not the solution - providing similar levels of support to all illiquid countries would require a tripling of MDB flows - this is clearly unacceptable.

A better approach would focus on closing the gap between short-term debt concerns and long-term investment needs, by unlocking net-positive inflows for countries facing liquidity constraints. As the FDL has proposed, an agreement among debtors, creditors, and MDBs to permit countries to reschedule debts coming due - delaying maturities by 5-10 years - would create fiscal space for climate-friendly investments, financed by MDBs.

For this liquidity bridge to work, MDBs would have to accelerate progress on implementing existing reform plans and increase funding substantially, while the IMF helps manage debt-rollover risks. Importantly, private and bilateral creditors would have to agree to the rescheduling. That is why, compared to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative that the G20 introduced in 2020, the proposal includes stronger incentives for private-sector creditors to participate, in addition to longer time horizons.

There are good reasons to believe that creditors can be convinced to join the program voluntarily. It is, after all, in their best interest to remain invested in solvent countries with strong growth prospects; no one benefits from debt crises like those that have ensnared Zambia and Sri Lanka. In any case, creditors would continue receiving interest payments, and as global interest rates fall and economic-growth prospects improve in the coming years, debtors may well be able to return to capital markets and resume repayment of the principal.

Shaping a workable blueprint along these lines is a task for upcoming international gatherings, such as the G20 summit in Brazil later this year.

Logistical and financial coordination will be needed to ensure sufficient liquidity. Coordination among the IMF, the World Bank, and regional development banks will also be essential to ensure that participating debtor countries pursue investments that genuinely support green growth.

If nothing is done to help countries facing liquidity crises, the world will risk a wave of destabilizing debt defaults, and progress on the green transition will be severely undermined, with catastrophic implications for the entire world. Because promising solutions like the liquidity bridge can prevent such outcomes, they deserve broad global support.

OP-ED

by Jim O'Neill

Is the Outlook for the Global Economy Still Bullish?

LONDON - Last month, I wrote about the central role of inflation trends in the outlook for the world economy in 2024 and beyond. Of course, there are many additional risks, which is why the forecasting community is hedging its projections with sensible caveats about various "known unknowns." Chief among these are the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, the uncertainty about China, and looming elections in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere.

With respect to inflation, I offered a cautiously optimistic outlook based on recent reports showing that many underlying indicators appeared to be moving in a promising direction. Since then, however, the latest monthly inflation data (for December) in the eurozone, the United Kingdom, and the US have surprised on the upside. That has given pause to many policymakers, investors, and analysts after weeks of markets pricing in large interest-rate cuts this year.

Finally, I concluded by mentioning that it would be a pleasant surprise if wage gains in many countries persisted, despite the improving inflation outlook, without contributing to a fresh, more sustained rise in prices. Of course, most economists and central bankers would put little store in this scenario unless there was clear evidence of a much-needed uptick in productivity across the Western world (and beyond).

Without additional productivity, they would warn, real (inflation-adjusted) wage gains cannot be sustained without becoming inflationary.

Nonetheless, I find myself holding on to the same hope I had last month. After all, productivity data arrive with a lag, so it would be quite risky for central bankers to react too strongly to continued wage gains, such as by declaring that they will maintain a more restrictive monetary policy than they otherwise would have done.

Specifically, there are three good reasons to adopt a wait-and-see posture. First, although forecasters failed to anticipate the persistent weakness in productivity over the past two decades, it is only recently that they seem to have given up signaling an expectation that it will start to recover. Second, there are obvious reasons for thinking that productivity will eventually improve, even if most have given up hope.

Just look at the big developments in artificial intelligence, the shift to alternative energies, the change in working patterns since the start of the pandemic, and policymakers' renewed focus on initiatives explicitly designed to boost productivity. True, the data have yet to show that these developments are bearing fruit; but, again, the gains from new technologies often take time to work their way through the economy - and into official statistics.

The third reason to hold off on monetary tightening concerns the social and human aspects of the wages and productivity issue. As we know from debates about the sources of growing anxiety and economic insecurity across many democracies, median real wages have performed poorly in recent decades. This trend has clearly played a big role in the public's growing disillusionment with "capitalism" and "globalization," and in the rising support for more radical and populist political parties and movements. It follows that an increase in real wages would help to moderate political attitudes. Repressing wages simply because of a belief that they are unjustified would be dangerous.

Will the improvement in inflation be sustained? Though the December inflation figures came in higher than expected, the preceding months had shown sharper-than-expected declines. If one examines the smoother underlying measures of trend inflation, as well as surveys of inflation expectations, the outlook remains quite promising.

As for the other cyclical factors, three things stand out to me as we approach the end of January. First, Chinese economic data and financial-market performance remain generally disappointing despite stronger efforts by the authorities to support a robust recovery.

Second, in the US, most (though not all) economic indicators continue to come in stronger than expected. That is a relief, even if it isn't alleviating the uncertainty among many commentators who worry that the recent positive trends may not be sustainable. Markets, too, have had a jittery start to the year.

According to the so-called five-day rule (whereby a net gain for the S&P 500 in the first five trading days of January bodes well for the next 12 months), there is only a 50% chance that this will be a positive year for stocks. Yes, this is far from a scientific truth. But, as I have noted previously, a positive start has predicted a positive year more than 85% of the time, going back decades.

Lastly, despite the worrying issues in the Middle East and Ukraine, commodity-price volatility has remained remarkably subdued.

Perhaps there are some odd technical supply-demand factors that account for this. But whatever the case, the relative stability is discernible across many markets. Most key commodities, as well as the recognized major commodity indices, are down compared to a year ago. That, too, is slightly reassuring.

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OPINION

by Benjamin Schreiber, Richard Mihigo, Ann Lindstrand

Lessons from Lower-Income Countries' COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts

GENEVA - There was a global sigh of relief when the World Health Organization declared in May 2023 that COVID-19 was no longer a public-health emergency of international concern. But there is no room for complacency. The pandemic has represented an urgent warning about weak health systems and has served as an impetus to strengthen them ahead of a possible new variant or the emergence of a new pathogen.

The challenges of vaccine delivery, in particular, offered insights into what makes a successful health campaign. Specifically, lower-income countries demonstrated how to reach people where they are by using innovative and tailored approaches that often required collaboration among national governments, local organizations, and vulnerable communities. Their experience provides crucial lessons as the world prepares for the next pandemic.

Like their wealthier counterparts, lower-income countries had to vaccinate their adult populations against COVID-19 as quickly as possible. That meant reaching broader population groups than their existing childhood-vaccination programs could serve, while also targeting those in the greatest need: health-care workers, immunocompromised people, and the elderly.

But lower-income countries faced unique challenges. Owing to vaccine nationalism and other obstacles, many of them only accessed consequential amounts of doses much later than high-income countries, delaying their immunization campaigns. A dearth of financial resources, together with the weaknesses of national health systems, also hindered vaccine uptake. For example, countries with limited cold-chain capacity often lacked the ultra-cold storage facilities required for certain COVID-19 vaccines. And many countries' reporting systems could not provide decision-makers with up-to-date, in-depth data to adjust rollout strategies based on what was working and what wasn't.

Despite these challenges, lower-income countries found ways to meet the needs of their communities. These initiatives included door-to-door outreach to vaccinate older people at home; female vaccination teams to encourage uptake by women; coordination between professional organizations and the private sector to reach people at the highest risk of getting very sick from COVID-19; mobile vaccination teams - on buses, motorbikes, camels, donkeys, and boats - to access remote or underserved areas; and vaccination sites in markets, along nomadic routes, and at major transit points, including bus stations.

Somalia is a good example of how to reach people where they are. The vaccine rollout occurred in the context of multiple overlapping challenges: years-long political instability and conflict; severe hunger caused by the worst drought in decades; and the displacement of several hundred thousand people by historic floods. But the country's polio vaccination program had pioneered the use of locally informed "micro-planning" to find unvaccinated people, and these tailored strategies ensured that Somalia's nine mass COVID-19 vaccination campaigns reached underserved populations, such as women and nomadic communities.

In September-October 2022, for example, a phased campaign led by the Somali government reached 3.2 million people, achieving a 37% primary series vaccination rate. Equally important was Somalia's investment in cold-chain infrastructure and vaccine-delivery logistics, made possible with financial support from partner organizations.

The Solomon Islands, the South Pacific's third-largest archipelago, also struggled to vaccinate people living in remote areas, given that most of the country's resources are concentrated on Guadalcanal, the largest island. Government health workers responded by creating pop-up and informal clinics on outer islands, making it easier for isolated communities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and additional health services.

Meanwhile, in Sierra Leone, a country covered by grassland, savannah, and dense forest, many villages can be reached only by bike or on foot - a journey made even harder during the rainy season. But the country's health workforce, together with community mobilizers, conducted mobile vaccination clinics in rural villages. Moreover, to address fears about the vaccine, local leaders took the jab and then promoted their vaccinated status within the community, creating a snowball effect. In Mali, access to information similarly posed a major challenge, as many people were not aware of the availability or effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine. To engage communities and raise awareness, trucks carrying entertainers and influencers alongside vaccinators traveled through busy markets to answer questions and encourage passers-by to get the shot; loud music and dancing created a buoyant atmosphere. Over the course of 12 days, the caravan reached more than 21,000 people and vaccinated more than 3,000 men, women, and adolescents.

These innovative strategies can serve as models for the global community. But they also highlight the importance of developing tailored immunization programs, which in turn require trust, clear communication, equitable access to vaccines, data-driven decision-making, and collaboration among governments, health organizations, grassroots groups, and volunteers.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that miraculous vaccines can be developed quickly and delivered to hard-to-reach communities. The key is to focus on meeting people where they are.

The-Delivery.org is a digital time capsule developed by CEPI, Gavi, UNICEF, and the WHO to ensure that official findings and stories of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout are safely stored and easily accessible for future generations.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Pursuing Justice in Liberia: Imperative Actions Under Boakai and Koung's Leadership:

By: Austin S. Fallah, Law and Legal Studies Student:

Justice stands as the cornerstone that unites the fabric of any society, and in Liberia—a nation marred by a tumultuous history of civil unrest, political instability, and human rights violations—the significance of justice cannot be overstated.

This article underscores the urgent need to address grave injustices and heinous



crimes committed during the tenure of former President George Weah's CDC government.

This essay of mine advocates for the identification, prosecution, and fair resolution of these offenses under the current leadership of President Joseph N. Boakai and Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung.

Liberia's haunting past under the CDC government continues to cast a shadow over its present and future. Allegations of heinous crimes and murders perpetrated by individuals, including accused government officials, have been largely overlooked, fostering a climate of impunity under the George Weah CDC government (source: HRW report).



The cry for justice from the victims echoes from their graves, underscoring the pressing need for swift action. "Justice delayed is justice denied," a maxim resonating in Liberia, where the wheels of justice have turned exceedingly slowly.

The gravity of crimes committed under Weah's administration

demands a prompt, decisive, and transparent response from the Boakai-Koung leadership.

A robust judicial system, anchored in transparency, fairness, and impartiality, is essential for delivering justice to the victims and curbing further impunity.

Liberia must send a resolute message that such atrocities will not be tolerated, and perpetrators will face the full force of the law.

Political will and leadership play pivotal roles in driving reforms across law, policing, and the judiciary system to ensure justice for the victims.

The new administration under Boakai and Koung has a historic opportunity and moral obligation to restore faith in the justice system, showcasing an unwavering commitment to justice and accountability.

Punishing perpetrators is not merely retribution; it serves as a deterrent and brings closure to victims' families, fostering healing and reconciliation in Liberia.

"Justice should not turn a blind eye; indeed, those innocently murdered in cold blood are crying from their graves for justice."

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Transformative Public Policy Initiatives: A New Dawn for Liberia under Joseph N. Boakai's Leadership:

By Austin S. Fallah, Student of Public Policy and Public Administration:

The Republic of Liberia, once plagued by civil wars, is on the cusp of significant change. President Joseph N. Boakai and Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung spearheading these efforts signal a promising shift in public policy, poised to benefit all Liberians.

This analysis explores the potential impact of these changes on Liberian society, advocating for their swift implementation.

Central to the anticipated policy transformation is the administration's unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law.

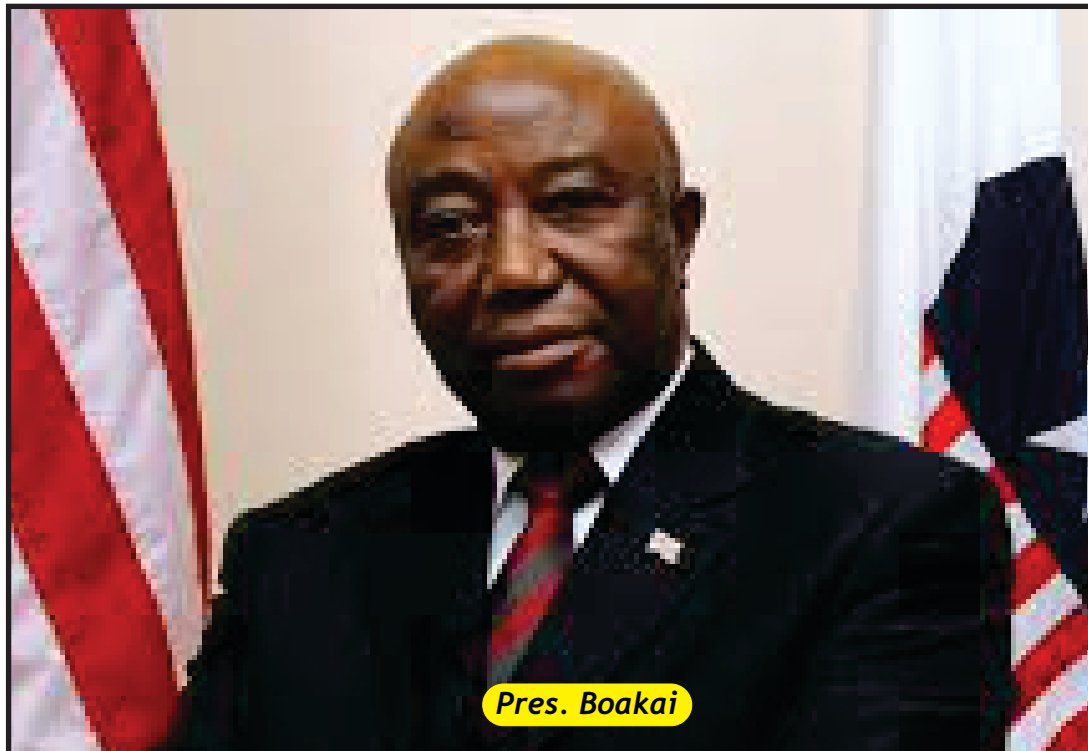
Unlike previous administrations marred by allegations of corruption and human rights abuses, there is optimism that Boakai and Koung's tenure will effectively address these issues.

A US State Department briefing underscores the importance of justice in economic crimes and human rights abuses for Liberia's societal well-being.

The government's dedication to fostering a just society signifies a departure from elite-centered governance to an inclusive approach prioritizing the common good.

Transparent governance and anti-corruption measures are crucial for building public trust and catalyzing economic growth.

This strategic focus on governance integrity aims to optimize public finances, directing resources towards enhancing public services like healthcare, education,



and infrastructure development.

Aligning with Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, the proposed policy shift also places a greater emphasis on human rights.

This commitment recognizes the inherent dignity and fundamental rights of all Liberians, distinguishing itself from dehumanizing allegations against previous regimes.

Boakai and Koung's pledge to prioritize human rights promises a more accessible, fair, and democratic Liberia.

The transition towards responsible, transparent, and rights-centered public policies, championed by Joseph N. Boakai and Jeremiah K. Koung, is commendable and indispensable for Liberia's progress.

Through their steadfast commitment to combating corruption, prioritizing human rights, and serving the common good, this leadership duo instills hope for a better, more equitable Liberia.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Margibi District#4 gets new yellow machine

By: Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr.

businessman. According to him, the machine is going to be officially turned over to the district and used to pave roads in the area that are seriously confronted with bad road networks.

Rep. Yah also says the machine is going to be beneficial to other districts in Margibi apart from his district.

He derails that the machine is a lovol model that he purchased from a well-known company in the country and that lots of people have always done business with the firm since it came to Liberia in 2018.

Rep Yah: "The purpose for which this machine was purchased was for the district. I remember during the campaign, we faced lots of difficulties in the rural areas of District 4 and there was a challenge that we went through in terms of road connectivity in the district that we had in mind, but we didn't promise the people because we didn't want to do it like a promise then in time to come we cannot fulfill the promise, then it is like the man has lied to us."

The lawmaker says he decided to work on ensuring that the machine was purchased before he took office because the issue of road was a concern.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Nigerian royal urges Boakai to invest in agriculture, human resources

By Lincoln G. Peters

Nigerian royal Alhaji Shehu Ashimi II Ibn Umar Al-amin El-Kanemi has urged Liberian President Amb. Joseph Nyuma Boakai to invest in agriculture and human resource development.

The Emir of Damaturu believes that this will put Liberia on the path of developmental potential and compete with sub-regional counterparts.

Alhaji El-Kanemi spoke with journalists at the Nigerian Embassy in Oldest Congo Town on Tuesday, 23 January 2024.

During his interaction with journalists, Alhaji El-Kanemi appealed to President Boakai to take adequate advantage of the richness of Liberia's soil to harness the country's developmental potential.

"What is more important is the development of Liberia, a very blessed and fertile land

key area in sensitizing and enlightening the youths for them to be self-sufficient for them to start on their own.

He expressed optimism that Liberia can surmount all the developmental challenges of the new government and pay keen attention to agriculture and human resource development.

The Nigerian envoy who was part of his country's delegation to the inauguration of Liberia's President on Monday, 22 January 2024, also advised Liberians to embrace peace and genuine reconciliation. "We have to accept ourselves; we have to be our brother's keeper and exhibit the sense of belonging to our brothers and sisters so that development can thrive," the Nigerian envoy said. Following the inauguration of President Boakai, the Nigerian royal wants Liberia to unite amidst political, tribal, and religious diversities for the general good of the country.

He beseeched Liberians to



O. Yah before taking his seat at the Capitol.

The machine according to Rep Yah, is worth about US\$90,000 but because of his business connection and relationship with the vendor, he paid US\$67,000 out of his personal earnings as a

He notes that specifically, farm-to-market roads are not conducive in the district so his leadership thought it wise to secure a machine that will do the roads and give the people hope that he has come to work with them in bringing about developments.

Speaker Koffa appoints committee members

By Bridgett Milton

The Speaker of the 55th Legislature Cllr. J. Foniti Koffa, appoints members of three Statutory Committees of the House of Representatives, highlighting his commitment to effective governance and legislative excellence.

According to Speaker Koffa, the newly appointed chairs and co-chairs will play pivotal roles in shaping policies and decisions within their respective committees.

Those committees appointed during the 4th day sitting of the first session of the 55th Legislature are Rules & Order, chaired by Bong County District # 5 Representative J. Marvin Cole and Co-chaired by Montserrado County District #15 Representative, Abu Kamara.

Also appointed are Foreign Affairs Committee chaired by Representative Taa Z. Wongbe of Nimba County District # 9 and Co-chaired by Montserrado County District #11 Representative, Richard Nagbe Koon, while the Committee on Executive is chaired by Rep Emmanuel Danh of Montserrado County District #7 and Rep. Samuel Enders as Co-chair, respectively.

The Rules & Order Committee is instrumental in ensuring the orderly conduct

of legislative proceedings. The wealth of experience and dedication of its leadership to upholding parliamentary procedures will contribute to a transparent and efficient legislative process.

The Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Rep. Taa Wongbe will oversee matters of international relations and diplomacy. The expertise of its leadership will be vital in navigating global issues and fostering positive relationships with other nations, advancing the interests of Liberia.

The Executive committee

under the guidance of Rep. Emmanuel Dahn as Chair and Rep. Samuel Enders as Co-Chair, will focus on matters related to the executive branch and government administration.

Meanwhile, Speaker Koffa has expressed confidence in the appointed members, stating, "I am confident that these distinguished individuals will bring their unique skills and perspectives to their respective committees, contributing to the overall success of our legislative agenda. Together, we will work towards building a stronger and more prosperous Liberia."



Cllr. J. Foniti Koffa



covered with streams," he said.

"What I will encourage and advise His Excellency is to dwell more on agriculture. Investment in agriculture and human resources development is paramount to Liberia's developmental potential."

According to him, this land is fertile, and the younger generation is in the position to lead the charge. Alhaji El-Kanemi also wants the Unity Party (UP)-led government under President Boakai to invest in the youthful population of Africa's oldest Republic.

The Nigerian envoy encouraged the new government to focus more energy on sensitizing Liberia's youthful population to the importance of being self-sufficient. "Seeing the resources, both mineral and human in Liberia, I see no reason why Liberia cannot be at the top of all nations," said Alhaji El-Kanemi.

According to him, there's a

embrace genuine peace because, in the absence of peace, development cannot take place.

"Where there's no peace, there's no development; where there's no peace, the survival and quality of development is questionable."

He also praised President Boakai for a well-pointed inaugural speech because the speech signifies the President's commitment to provide an environment where every citizen can contribute to the nation's growth and development.

He said: "I sincerely appreciate and congratulate the inaugural speech of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. To me, the inaugural speech of the president has sent a very good signal and a very significant, positive [message] to all Liberians and Africans at large."

He praised Liberians for what he termed as the genuine exhibition of a glamorous display of true democracy in the peaceful manner they conducted themselves in the November 14, 2023, Presidential run-off election.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CDC observers boycott recount in Nimba

Police interrogate Jurors after verdict

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County
Several supporters and observers of Nimba County District #4 Representative Gonpue L. Kargon have boycotted ongoing recount at the

fraud and the Commission instructed them to write a formal complaint. However, the process ended peacefully on the first day.

On Saturday, the next day, all of the over 20

contested in the October 10, 2023, Presidential and Representative elections.

Following the first day of the recount on Friday, Representative-elect Ernest Manseah of the MDR took the airwave and openly told Nimbaians that he had won the ongoing recount, which led his supporters to get in the streets of Ganta and other parts of Nimba County in jubilation, ahead of official pronouncement by the National Elections Commission.

NEC officials told The NEW DAWN that they will continue with the process and upon completion, the winner will be announced officially.

However, supporters of Representative Kargon alleged that serial numbers of ballot boxes that contained votes that are being recounted are not corresponding, while others claimed some of the boxes were already open. They also alleged that during initial count of votes in October 2023, most of the votes of Representative Kargon were classified as invalid.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Police in Sanniquellie, Nimba County are investigating several jurors assigned at the Eight Judiciary Circuit Court for allegedly receiving bribes.

The Jurors were turned over to the police recently for allegedly receiving bribes and ruling in favor of Pastor Fred Suah.

Few years ago, a group of United Methodist Church families took issues up with Pastor Fred Suah for allegedly taking control of huge properties (lands) from a group of church missionaries.

The Eight Judiciary Circuit Court in Sanniquellie was scheduled to have brought down final ruling in the case on Monday, January 15, 2024, in a long-standing land dispute between Pastor Suah and the United Methodist Church families, but was aborted after a lawyer representing the Church rejected the jurors'

stopped the case.

The NEW DAWN learned that this is the first incident for jurors to be arrested by Police for allegedly taking bribes.

Former Public Defender for Nimba County, now Judge for the Debt Court at the Eight Judiciary Circuit Court in Sanniquellie, Robertson Mehn, said years back, jurors' selection was done by the court to avoid such activity.

He said Jurors should be well equipped and prepared educationally before they can be selected but nowadays, even high school graduates, some of whom don't know their left from their right, are being vetted to play such a critical role in court.

"Jurors should be well educated people, including nurses, doctors, social workers, and teachers, among others, not just a high school graduate", he underscored.

Few days ago, Jurors assigned at the Eight Judiciary Circuit Court brought down a ruling in favor of Pastor Fred Suah, who they claimed is the legitimate owner of



election magistrate's office in Sanniquellie, upper Nimba.

The Supreme Court of Liberia had ordered the National Elections Commission to conduct a recount in 70 polling places out of 84 polling centers in electoral district#4, Nimba.

But following day one of the exercise last week Friday at the NEC sub-office in Sanniquellie, some CDC representatives alarmed

representatives from the CDC openly announced that there was irregularity in the process, which led them to walk out in protest.

They vowed not to be a part of the recount again but the NEC continued the exercise in the presence of local and national observers, including media institutions.

The ongoing recount in Sanniquellie is taking place among 17 candidates that

Whein Town residents decry hazardous conditions

By Lincoln G. Peters
Residents of Whein Town Community in Paynesville, Montserrado County have decried the unhygienic and hazardous living conditions they are facing in the area following a fire outbreak.

According to the citizens, a massive fire outbreak at the only sanitary landfill site in Paynesville is posing a serious threat to their living conditions. The site is designated for garbage from various cities in Montserrado County. On Wednesday, 24 January 2024, community members reported that the fire started at about 9 pm on Monday. They said the fire originated from the middle of the third large, densely packed garbage mound at the landfill site, causing a sleepless night for residents near the area. The residents further stated that the blaze unleashed a colossal amount of smoke throughout the community, prompting them to evacuate their homes in search of a safer place to rest.

In response to finding an adequate solution to the embarrassing situation, the Liberia National Fire Service swiftly dispatched two fire service trucks and personnel

equipped to combat the fire.

Despite their efforts, the fire continued to escalate due to strong winds. It's appropriately 48 hours now since the firefighters commenced efforts to combat the fire but to no avail.

John Siaffa, the coordinator for the JNB and JKK volunteers who were on the scene, lamented that upon examination, they established that the cause of the fire was an immense heat and gas generated by the accumulated garbage. "These are testament to global warming, and the time that we had in-between that we didn't have water to battle this thing, that's what increased the fire," he noted.

Siaffa emphasized that the fire was a natural occurrence,

attributing it to the rising temperatures within the garbage during the dry season, causing the gas produced by the stacked garbage to ignite nearly every year.

Siaffa further called for technical support from individuals with water trucks to assist the Liberia National Fire Service in extinguishing the fire.

He also mentioned that their team is working to empower community members to contribute to the firefighting efforts.

The JNB & JKK Inauguration Volunteers head further stated that there's an urgent need for more logistics to help battle the incident.

"We need Fuel, we need water, even manpower, whatever you have send it and we will appreciate it," Mr. Siaffa requested.



report that the case was in favor of Pastor Fred Suah.

Following a review of the jurors' report in which they referred to Pastor Suah as owner of several parcels of land that allegedly belong to the Methodist Church families, lawyers representing the Church raised issues with the Court, which caused the Resident Judge to order the Liberia National police to arrest those jurors for investigation.

The Eight Judiciary Circuit Court Jurors' investigation by the Police is expected to come out shortly, as the judge has

the lands in question, but the ruling was rejected by lawyers representing the Methodist Church, a situation that has landed them in hot water.

Some Nimbaians who spoke to the NEW DAWN, expressed disappointment and frustrations that most young people referred to as jurors are people who are not knowledgeable of the law and their only aim for taking up the role is money, rather than telling the truth. Meanwhile, Stephen Nya Quoi, head of the Nimba County City Solicitor said the Police are currently investigating the matter. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Fight over inaugural food, money

Starts from page 11
 Meanwhile, other peaceful Boakai supporters and UP partisans in the district who did not participate in the scuffle, are angry over the way the US\$5,000 allotted by President Boakai to the district for his inaugural program was handled.

Some claimed that they did not hear anything about the money until the program was held, while others alleged there was no information about venue(s) of the program.

The US\$5,000 was said to have been given to one Richard Carter, an office staff and close associate of former Representative Ben A. Fofana of electoral District#4, who is also current National Vice Chair for Governmental Affairs of the UP.

When contacted, Mr. Carter told the NEW DAWN that the money was taken to the county and openly distributed for the inaugural program, which was successful, noting that it was not meant for community dwellers.

Français

Liberia : le président Boakai pris de faiblesse lors de sa cérémonie d'investiture

Âgé de 79 ans, le nouveau chef de l'Etat est un vétérinaire de la politique libérienne : il a été vice-président de 2006 à 2018

fonctionnalité « Offrir un article ».

Le nouveau président du Liberia Joseph Boakai, 79 ans, a montré des signes de grande fatigue imputée par son

médecins ont conseillé au président de rentrer chez lui », a déclaré à l'AFP Amos Tweh, secrétaire général du parti de M. Boakai. « Le président n'a pas été transporté à l'hôpital. Tout s'est bien passé, le président est normal et se porte bien. Il a repris ses fonctions habituelles », a-t-il ajouté.

Dans son discours, le président Boakai a insisté sur la nécessité de reconstruire les infrastructures défectueuses, d'améliorer les services de base pour tous et de donner les mêmes chances de réussite à tous les Libériens. « Nous voyons des temps difficiles, nous voyons des dysfonctionnements. (...) Nous voyons de la corruption en haut lieu et en bas lieu. Et c'est dans ces conditions que nous sommes venus à la rescousse », a déclaré le président, promettant de s'atteler à l'impunité et de se battre pour le respect de l'Etat de droit.

Corruption et niveau élevé de pauvreté

Le vétérinaire de la politique libérienne, vice-président de 2006 à 2018 sous la présidence d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et serviteur de l'Etat pendant plus de quarante ans, a remporté au second tour la présidentielle en novembre avec 50,64 % des voix, contre 49,36 % pour son adversaire George Weah.

Le scrutin a été pacifique, dans une Afrique de l'Ouest où la démocratie a été malmenée ces dernières années par une succession de coups d'Etat militaires (Mali, Burkina, Guinée, Niger). M. Weah, qui

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le Président Boakai veut un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a annoncé lors de son discours d'investiture le lundi 22 janvier 2024 qu'il a décidé de créer un bureau pour explorer la faisabilité de la mise en place d'un Tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques pour le Liberia.

"Nous avons décidé de créer un bureau pour explorer la faisabilité de la mise en place d'un Tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques afin de donner l'occasion à ceux qui portent la plus grande responsabilité des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité de rendre compte de leurs actions devant la justice", a-t-il déclaré.

Les crises civiles de longue date au Liberia ont fait plus de 250 000 morts, détruit des biens de plusieurs millions de dollars et déplacé de nombreuses personnes.

Les cas de corruption publique, même dans les

gouvernements d'après-guerre, ont privé les citoyens de services sociaux de base, de développement infrastructurel nécessaire, de soins de santé accessibles, et ont intensifié des décennies de pauvreté abjecte.

Il semble que ce soient des raisons clés pour lesquelles les Libériens continuent de demander un tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques.

"Environ un quart de million de nos compatriotes ont péri dans la guerre. Nous ne pouvons pas

rester éternellement indifférents à cette tragédie nationale brûlante", a déclaré M. Boakai.

Il a ajouté que le Parlement aura son mot à dire de manière appropriée dans cette affaire pour éviter tout soupçon de vengeance ou de chasse aux sorcières.

De manière similaire, le président Boakai a déclaré que des pratiques commerciales prévisibles, y compris la certitude contractuelle et la

▶ CONT'D page 9



Éditorial

Le Liberia 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'Etat 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

Starts from page 8 **Liberia : le président Boakai**

avait battu M. Boakai en 2017 au second tour, a reconnu sa défaite avant l'officialisation de la victoire de son adversaire, s'attirant des louanges internationales. M. Boakai entre en fonction alors que le pays de cinq millions d'habitants, en quête de stabilité après des années de guerres civiles et une épidémie d'Ebola, est confronté notamment à la corruption et à un niveau élevé de pauvreté.

Durant les élections, M. Boakai s'est allié à des barons locaux, comme l'ancien chef de guerre Prince Johnson, qui avait soutenu George Weah en 2017 et qui bénéficie toujours d'un fort soutien dans sa province de Nimba (nord-est). M. Johnson, qu'une vidéo montra en train de siroter une bière pendant que ses hommes torturaient à mort le président Samuel Doe en 1990 et qui est sous sanctions américaines pour corruption, a placé l'un de ses hommes, Jeremiah Koug, au poste de vice-président de M. Boakai.

« Reconstruire notre pays »
« Les attentes sur la présidence de M. Boakai sont élevées en raison de son expérience de l'Etat, de sa réputation de probité et de quelqu'un qui a essayé de vivre de la plus simple des manières », a déclaré à l'AFP

un ancien élu local dans le comté de Nimba, Larry Nyanquoi. « Tous les dirigeants [libériens] ont promis de réprimer la corruption et d'améliorer les conditions économiques [des populations] mais ont échoué à le faire. Il [M. Boakai] doit faire la différence », juge l'analyste Abdulla Kiatamba, du Geo Baraka Group of Strategists, une organisation de conseil.

Une baisse des prix de produits comme l'essence et le riz est attendue, selon John Kollie, le chef de l'ONG Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives.

Le président élu avait appelé les Libériens à s'unir « comme un seul peuple pour reconstruire notre pays », dans une rare déclaration publique fin novembre après son élection. Il avait promis « d'étendre le développement à l'ensemble du pays », en construisant notamment des routes dans la région du Sud-Est, « négligée depuis des années ». Il avait aussi dit qu'il mènerait une réforme « radicale » de la sécurité et de la justice et ferait respecter l'Etat de droit.

Pour sa part, le président sortant Weah a annoncé tirer un trait définitif sur la présidence. Agé de 57 ans, il a invoqué son âge en 2029, date de la prochaine présidentielle, dans un enregistrement de ses propos auquel l'AFP a eu accès.

Burkina Faso : les forces armées annoncent la neutralisation d'un cadre important du groupe État islamique



Sahara, au Burkina Faso, quitte la zone des « trois frontières » à destination de Markoye dans la région du sahel à bord d'un véhicule pick-up. L'agence officielle d'information burkinabè donne des précisions sur l'opération. Escorté par d'autres combattants terroristes à motocyclette, le cortège du cadre de l'EIGS est repéré par les appareils de l'armée de l'air burkinabè.

Bombardement
Le convoi est bombardé depuis les airs, alors qu'il observait un arrêt sous des arbustes. Le constat fait par les soldats au sol établit un bilan de cinq terroristes tués parmi lesquels Abdel Malick. Des

Au Burkina Faso, les forces armées annoncent avoir « neutralisé » un important cadre du groupe État islamique au grand Sahara. Harouna Oulel alias Abdel-Malick était le numéro deux de l'EIGS dans le pays. Il a été tué au cours d'une opération dans la région du Sahel le 21 janvier dernier, avec plusieurs de ses lieutenants. Sa neutralisation représente un grand pas dans la lutte contre le terrorisme et la reconquête des localités sous contrôle jihadiste, en particulier dans le nord du Burkina Faso, déclare l'agence officielle d'information.

Le 21 janvier 2024, Harouna Oulel alias Abdel Malick, le numéro deux du groupe État islamique au Grand

motocyclettes et de l'armement ont également été détruits.

Formation des recrues

Spécialisé dans les attaques de convois militaires et les enlèvements, Harouna Oulel alias Abdel Malick avait pris part à plusieurs attaques contre les forces de défense et de sécurité sur le territoire burkinabè depuis 2019 selon des sources sécuritaires. Il formait également les recrues au maniement des armes selon les sources citées par l'agence officielle d'information. Sa tête avait été mise à prix pour la somme de 150 millions de francs CFA.

Les Etats-Unis et le Liberia renforcent leur partenariat



Les gouvernements libérien et américain ont réaffirmé leur engagement envers un partenariat diplomatique et une coopération renforcés, un jour après la prestation de serment du nouveau président libérien, l'ambassadeur Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

Le président Boakai et l'ambassadrice américaine auprès des Nations Unies (ONU), Linda Thomas Greenfield, qui a dirigé la délégation américaine à l'inauguration de Boakai, ont eu une réunion diplomatique bilatérale d'une journée à la résidence présidentielle à Rehab, Paynesville.

S'exprimant lors d'une interview avec des journalistes à la fin de la réunion, le président Boakai a déclaré que la réunion diplomatique à huis clos visait à recalibrer le partenariat et la coopération entre les deux pays.

Au cours de la conversation, M. Boakai a informé le gouvernement américain, par l'intermédiaire de ses représentants, que le Liberia respectera le partenariat et la coopération qui existent entre les deux pays.

"Je viens de lui dire que le Liberia est un partenaire de l'Amérique depuis très longtemps. Nous veillerons à respecter ce partenariat en veillant à ce que le pays soit sur

la bonne voie afin que le peuple puisse en bénéficier", a noté l'ambassadeur Boakai.

De son côté, l'ambassadrice Linda Thomas Greenfield a félicité le président Boakai et exprimé sa gratitude au peuple du Liberia pour avoir connu une transition stable.

"Le message que j'ai apporté du président et du peuple des États-Unis était notre soutien continu au Liberia, la réaffirmation de notre partenariat", a déclaré l'envoyée américaine.

"Nous sommes partenaires depuis de nombreuses années. Nous sommes impatients de travailler avec la nouvelle administration pour que le Liberia progresse dans une direction positive", a-t-elle ajouté.

Selon elle, les ressources présentes au Liberia devraient soutenir la population libérienne en termes d'éducation, de santé, ainsi que de développement des infrastructures.

"Je voyage avec le directeur de l'USAID pour aborder certaines de ces questions avec le président également. Nous soutenons le Liberia, et nous soutenons le secteur privé", a déclaré l'ambassadrice Greenfield.

Selon elle, les États-Unis encouragent le secteur privé à investir non seulement au Liberia, mais aussi à avoir confiance en le gouvernement.

"Cependant, je suis très confiante que le président Boakai donnera cette confiance au secteur privé. Ils sont prêts à travailler et à revenir au Liberia", a-t-elle déclaré.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

World Bank's US\$40 Million Urban Resilience Project in Limo?

By Kruah Thompson

It seems that the US\$40 million World Bank-funded Urban Resilient Project, intended to enhance lives of urban Liberians, has been abandoned, causing distress among residents.

Despite the signing of the deal on May 31, 2022, and assurances of project benefits from World Bank County Director Pierre Laporte, investigation reveals that the project has been neglected since funds were allocated in 2022.

Works Minister Ruth Coker Collins mentioned the setup of a Project Management Unit (PIU) and training for project execution, but the project's current status



remains unclear.

Minister Collins told our reporter during one of her appearances at the ministry of information, cultural affairs and tourism's briefing in 2023 that they have already set up the Project Management Unit (PIU) and are training those responsible to carry out the exercise. She at the same time promised infrastructure improvements for the Soniwein drainage and compensations for affected residents to relocate.

Efforts to seek an official statement from the Ministry of Works have been met with silence. But Assistant Director for Communication and Documentation at the ministry, Mr. Simon G. Gambleh said via a phone call that the Liberia urban resilient



project funded by the World Bank and co-financed by the French development agency with 10 million Europe does not only cover the Soniwein drainage, as it is intended to upgrade various structures within the city center.

Mr. Gambleh said there are ongoing formalities and interviews for PIU personnel, indicating that the project is still in its formational stage.

"It is not only Soniwein that will benefit the project," he said, adding "it's possible the money could be used to address the situation across Bushroad Island, or it might also be possible that some of the money might be used in the urban settlement in Central Monrovia."

However, residents have expressed disappointment over the unfulfilled promises, highlighting issues like neglected drainage, causing health hazards. Community Chairman Johnson Tayler, in an interview mentioned efforts by the community and former Representative Acarous Gray, but lamented that challenges still exist.

Chairman Tayler disclosed that Gray at the time provided materials, food and US\$1,700 for the cleaning of the drainage, but the situation continues to unfold.

He blamed community residents for the condition they face, noting that they have been working but it's just that their people are not seeing a reason to help.

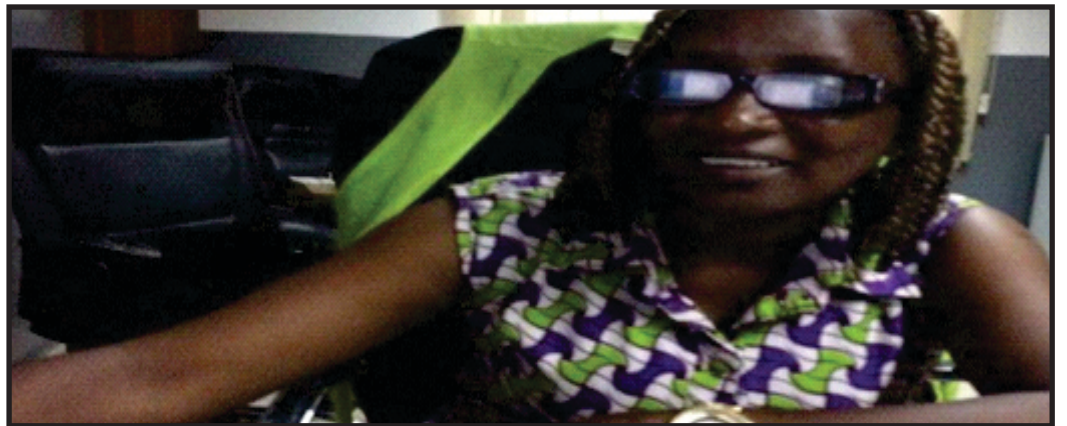
"When you clean the drainage today, before you end, you will see the dirt packing again in the drainage."

He told this publication that he felt happy when news emerged that the World Bank has provided money to address the situation but since the information reached them, they have been attending meetings with the Bank and the Government of Liberia. Yet, it looks like they are not ready and he is growing impatient.

"I don't know when this project will be implemented, but I want to believe that maybe it will be after the elections", he added.

As news about the abandonment spreads, uncertainty shrouds other communities along the Soniwein, leaving them to question promised improvement by the Urban Resilient Project.

Health workers from clinics within the community, including Goodwill Clinical, point to piled-up garbage in drainages as a major cause of diseases like Malaria and Typhoid. Mamie Barlai from Goodwill Clinical highlights the recurrent complaints of patients suffering from mosquito bites, typhoid, and roach infestations. Lack of mosquito nets contributes to the cycle of sickness, with patients returning for treatment shortly after recovery.



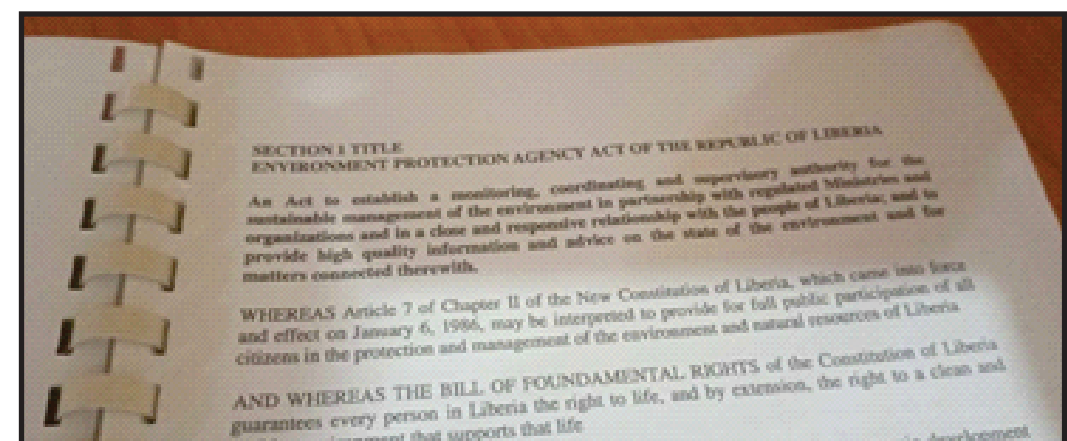
Tennema M. Coleman, assistant manager for outreach and radiation safety at the Environmental Protection Agency, clarified in an interview with NEW DAWN that despite the chairman's statements, the EPA has visited the community multiple times. They established a health team and donated tools on August 18, 2022, encouraging community cleanup initiatives extending to areas like Bushy Quarter, Saye Town, Jallah Town, and Plumkor.

Mrs Coleman emphasized that cleaning is not the EPA's primary mandate, as they are a regulatory agency. Their focus lies in education and public awareness, with dirt management being the responsibility of the Monrovia City Corporation. Challenges arise when there's a perception of overlapping functions.

The EPA engaged with community leaders for awareness sessions, offering further training if needed. However, the complex drainage issue, spanning from Soniwein to Bushy Quarter, involves multiple stakeholders, including the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation.

Mary Freeman, a roadside trader in the community, attributed drainage issues to at-risk youth (zogos) collecting money from vendors and dumping waste in the drainage. She highlighted the health challenges faced by traders due to flies and mosquitoes breeding in the stagnant water.

Meanwhile, Liberia faces challenges in waste management, with inadequate data on waste composition and quantity.



On July 19, 2018, flooding in Liberia, affecting over 31,000 people, highlighted the consequences of insufficient waste management, causing material damage and severe transport issues, with the project that is intended to address some of these challenges yet to be implemented.

Boakai's speech draws mixed reactions

By Lincoln G. Peters

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's inaugural speech on Monday, January 22, receives mixed reactions amongst citizens with various characterizations and appreciations toward the

reminding the citizenry of the true Liberian dream, while focusing on addressing disunity, inclusion, jobs, and the economy, among others.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with The NEW DAWN on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 in Zondo Town

rhetorics", Doe notes.

Ruth Saryon, a resident of Guinea Yard Community in Montserrado District#15 extols President Boakai for what she describes as an inclusive address.

Ms. Saryon maintains the speech is inclusive because it addresses every aspect of the Liberian society, especially, the purpose of the Land now called Liberia.

"I just don't know what those people wanted to hear, but what I do know is that the President's speech was inclusive because it addresses every fabric of the Liberian society. The President talked about corruption, job creating, and above all, youth empowerment and drugs. These are the things that are hindering our society. What more do they want for him to say?" She asks.

According to her, in the past, President Boakai had provided recommendations and suggestions as to how he intends to calm down on corruption, drugs abuse and many other social vices but because people are going into forced opposition, they are seeing the President's speech as empty. In the middle of his speech Monday on Capitol Hill, delivered before Presidents, dignitaries, and Liberians, President Boakai froze suddenly due to severe heat and exhaustion amid a temperature that some say was over 100 degrees Celsius. Several other persons reportedly fainted during the occasion, including security officers with one death reported. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Jewel announces bid for 2029

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Vice President, Jewel Howard-Taylor lets the cat out of the bag here early, announcing her bid for the Presidency in 2029.

According to Mrs. Taylor, she didn't go through all of the leadership experiences and tests to turn around, in response to a question about her active engagement in political activities and if she could contest for the Presidency while speaking to Closing Argument, a live online talk show recently.

"Yes, I will contest 2029. Someone asked me a question, why do you want to be President one day. And I said, do you think I have gone through all of this only to get to it and say I'm turning around? That is a fraud in my character. When I'm on a trajectory as you know, it takes a bulldozer to turn me around", she noted.

The former first female Vice President maintains that she believes she can still impact her country in many ways.

She further indicated that because the Coalition for

and hoping that they could have won and remain together.

"Now, since it didn't, every political party will now go back in house and ensure if they are staying or reforming. There were other new things among which calls for the chairmanship of the party to rotate, among others that they have to agree as to what to do going forward."

On Wednesday, January 24, 2024, NPP controversial Chairman Atty. George Mulbah said they will field a candidate for the Presidency in 2029.

Mulbah said never again will the party lost its identity on the ballot, adding that they won all of the slots that were provided to the NPP in the Coalition, which shows that they have strength to win national elections.

"Though I'm not the final decision maker of the NPP, I will propose to the National Executive Committee; we can form a collaboration but we can't again lose our identity on the ballot.

While in the CDC, they gave us five seats in 2017, in the just-ended elections, NPP won about six seats. They gave us one seat to



Pres. Boakai

oration.

Several citizens on Bushrod Island, a Monrovia suburb describe the President's address that was inconclusive because of heat exhaustion, as long, historical, and empty. According to them, the speech failed to address current days' realities and situations Liberians are grappling with.

On the other hand, dozens others defend the speech, terming it as long but very informative and realistic that points out meaningful recommendations for addressing Liberia's problems.

According to them, the President's inaugural address struck the historical foundation of Liberia,

Community, Logan Town, a resident, Jackson Doe said, President Boakai's speech was very far from what Liberian people expected.

He says the speech was very long and without substance and information to address Liberia's problem.

"My brother, all I want to say to you is that President Boakai's speech was very empty and lacks substance. Imagine, President Boakai and the UP campaign message was on the economy, jobs creation, and poverty reduction. But disappointingly, the President failed to tell the Liberian people how he intends to address those issues, rather, he bored us with historical

Starts from back page Fight over inaugural food, money

only received US\$20 and two bags of rice was a complete act of corruption.

Their behavior brought the UP to serious public disrepute with ordinary residents expressing dismay, especially on an occasion that should have been a day of jubilation for the now ruling party.

Some UP supporters and partisans had earlier been informed by their district leadership that Mother Gwee received US\$100 and three bags of 25kg rice for the inauguration in their zone which is Mandingo Quarter Community where she lives but it seems that she conceived the information from most of them.

The aggrieved partisans further argued that the chairlady was wrong in telling them that the food was meant only for people who will attend the inaugural program in the district.

After all the drama, Mother Gwee took another UP supporter, Madam Jemima Palmer, to the Police, accusing her of being responsible for the confusion at her (Gwee's) residence.

But Madam Palmer explained that being a prominent supporter of the party in the county, a group of disenchanted UP partisans approached her, complaining that Chairlady Gwee received money and rice for the inaugural celebration but she kept it secret.

She said that predicated upon the complaint, she went to verify the information from Mother Gwee, who told her that she instead, received US\$20 and few bags of 25-kg rice to prepare food only for people going for the inaugural program.

Upon hearing this, Madam Palmer said she quietly left, so she was surprised to have heard

that she instigated the violence.

A NEW DAWN's investigation established that Madam Palmer had done background checks and had information in her possession that rather US\$20 and few bags of 25 kg rice, Chairlady Gwee actually received US\$100 and three bags of rice she used portion of the amount to purchase some other food items.

Yahn, a guy who made away with one of the 25 kg bags of rice, was jailed and later released during the night of the celebration.

This happened because police realized that he instigated the violence among some of his friends, who were not on the scene when he took the rice but met them later and wrongly presented the matter to them which encouraged them to go and forcibly take their share of the items.

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Former Vice President, Jewel Howard-Taylor

Democratic Change lost the election, she is now political leader of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), noting that the standard bearer is given a year before standing up either as President or Vice President.

On the marriage with the CDC, Mrs. Taylor said she doesn't know if the NPP as a political party remains in the Coalition because the agreement was to go in the presidential election

contest in Maryland and we won. They gave us a by-election in Sinoe and we won. I strongly believe that if our emblem is shown on the ballot, we will get more representations", Chairman Mulbah added.

According to him, he will convene a meeting with the political leader and other party executives to determine the next action of the NPP in the Coalition. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Fight over inaugural food, money

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr.

The confusion erupted in Mandingo Quarter Community, Kakata at the residence of the UP Margibi Chairlady only identified as Mother Gwee. The NEW DAWN has

water satchels, chicken, among others allotted to the zone. As the violence continued, other aggrieved partisans were heard



UP partisans in a rally

Margibi County Monday, 22nd January when some aggrieved supporters and partisans of the Unity Party engaged in a scuffle over inaugural food. The matter was taken to Police in Kakata where one person was incarcerated briefly and subsequently released.

established that the brawl started over three 25-kg bags of rice, US\$100, two gallons of argo oil, and other assorted items meant for the inaugural ceremony in the community, which led angry supporters and partisans violently taking away some of the raw rice, cooked food, oil gallons, mineral

completing that they just voted out a government for corruption, so the alleged act by Chairlady Gwee to have taken delivery of US\$100 and three bags of rice but only told a few people who inquired that she

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