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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024	L\$189.7407/US\$1.00	L\$191.5138/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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The burnt building with bystanders



LDEA nabs 9 Nigerian drug suspects

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Continental News

Nigeria to Promote Gas Exploration, Infrastructure Prospects at Invest in African Energy (IAE) 2024 in Paris

Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Ekperikpe Ekpo, will speak at the Invest in African Energy (IAE) forum (<https://apopa.co/4bJmL4o>) on May 14-15. Connecting with global

initiative in 2021 to achieve this goal. The country holds the largest proven natural gas reserves in Africa, measured at over 200 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of which 139 tcf is recoverable. With much of these resources largely undeveloped and the government placing gas as a priority resource

intensive engagement with industry experts, project developers, investors and policymakers. For more information, please visit www.Invest-Africa-Energy.com. To sponsor or participate as a delegate, please contact sales@energycapitalpower.com. To stimulate investment in deepwater gas fields, Nigeria is planning to launch a 2024 licensing round. The country has also issued a call for upstream investments, with several commitments already being made. Energy major Shell has announced plans to invest up to \$1 billion over the next ten years to develop Nigerian gas while multinational Chevron plans to invest in seismic data acquisition in several deepwater blocks. The American company also intends to expand its Agbami field project and has partnered with supermajor TotalEnergies on OPL215.

On the production side, TotalEnergies kickstarted operations at the Akpo West field in February 2024, increasing output at the field by 14,000 barrels of condensate per day. The project is expected to produce an additional four million cubic meters of gas by 2028. The country also expects FID to be made for its first FLNG facility in Q1, 2024, with a shareholders agreement signed in December 2023 for the development of the 1.8 billion tons per annum project. To meet 2030 production targets, new investment is needed in upstream gas.

for industrialization, Nigeria offers a wealth of opportunities for project developers across the gas value chain.

IAE 2024 is an exclusive forum designed to facilitate investment between African energy markets and global investors. Taking place May 14-15, 2024 in Paris, the event offers delegates two days of

investors in Paris, Minister Ekpo will outline investment opportunities in Nigeria's gas sector, drawing attention to exploration prospects and infrastructure requirements.

Nigeria aims to increase gas production to 5.5 billion cubic feet (bcf) per day by 2030, and launched a Decade of Gas

Bermuda Minister of Economy and Labor to Inspire Future Leaders at Global Black Impact Summit (GBIS) 2024

Jason Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labor for Bermuda, will share his expertise and insights at the upcoming Global Black Impact Summit (GBIS) in Dubai on February 27. During the summit, Minister Hayward will engage with future leaders, drawing insight to the role diversity and inclusion play in creating a more equitable and fair society. With a diverse portfolio of expertise spanning immigration, labor relations, international business, and economic development, Minister Hayward plays a key role in shaping Bermuda's economic future. Having served as a Member of Parliament since 2019 and later assuming the role of Minister of

Labor in 2020, Minister Hayward has a wealth of experience and leadership, both of which will not only inspire but serve as informative for the GBIS audience. GBIS - hosted by the Black Impact Foundation and organized by Energy Capital and Power - is an annual event that seeks to celebrate the achievements of the Black community, promote excellence, and explore untapped potential across various fields. This year's summit - taking place on February 27, 2024 in Dubai - is set to be a transformative experience, featuring influential speakers, engaging panel discussions, and networking opportunities that empower attendees to reach

new heights. To sponsor or participate as a delegate, please contact sales@energycapitalpower.com. Drawing from his experience, Minister Hayward brings a unique perspective to GBIS 2024.



Libya's Oil & Gas Minister to promote exploration opportunities at African Energy Week 2024

Amid efforts to bolster investment in hydrocarbon exploration, Libya's Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Aoun, will return to the African Energy Week (AEW): Invest in African Energy conference to connect with global investors. During the conference - scheduled for November 4-8 in Cape Town - Aoun is expected to detail onshore investment opportunities, provide updates on ongoing projects while promoting the case for doing business in Libya's energy industry.

Libya plans to increase oil production to two million barrels per day (bpd) within the next three years, planning a 100,000 bpd increase in 2024 alone. The country's efforts to stimulate long-term economic growth are underpinned by

owned National Oil Corporation (NOC) is also set to launch a domestic bid round, aimed at enticing local private players to invest in upstream oil and gas. The round will feature two types of contracts - a services contract and a production sharing contract - and falls part of efforts to develop 45 greenfield and brownfield oil and gas projects. Insight into these licensing rounds will be offered during AEW 2024, where Minister Aoun will discuss upstream investment opportunities and competitive fiscal terms.

The government also launched a Strategic Programs Office in February 2023 to spearhead the implementation of the revitalization of the oil and gas sector. The office is tasked with improving transparency and coordination across the market. Additionally, to support

Confirmed Speaker

H.E. BRUNO JEAN-RICHARD ITOUA

Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo



African Energy Week 2023

www.aecweek.com



Speaker

H.E. Mohamed Aoun

Minister of Oil and Gas
Libya

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new investments in oil and gas, and Minister Aoun will provide insight into the various strategies the country has initiated to encourage investment during the AEW conference this November.

AEW: Invest in African Energy is the platform of choice for project operators, financiers, technology providers and government, and has emerged as the official place to sign deals in African energy. Visit www.AECWeek.com for more information about this exciting event. Libya is set to launch an international tender in 2024 aimed at stimulating exploration in the Sirte, Murzuq and Ghadames basins. Representing the first in the country since 2005, new blocks will be offered as part of a strategic partnership with engineering and advisory firm KBR. The country's state-

geological understanding and attract investment, a mandate was issued for the NOC to conduct an extensive mapping of the country's hydrocarbon reserves.

Meanwhile, the government's commitment to engaging with international oil companies to expand the hydrocarbon market has already culminated in various milestones being achieved. Libya's NOC and oil and gas company Tatneft discovered oil in Area 82 of Block 4 in 2023; energy major Eni revoked force majeure status at three oil and gas exploration sites; Algeria's Sonatrach resumed exploration in the country; while production resumed at the El Sharara oilfield in July 2023 - one of the country's largest oil deposits. The NOC signed an \$8 billion gas deal with Eni in January 2023 for the development of the Structures A&E project, aimed at increasing the supply of gas to European markets.

EDITORIAL

A messy PR

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia has struggled but failed to present pictorial or video evidence that during President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's recent visit to the Republic of Ghana, he met with Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo or Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia as it has claimed.

Last week, the Executive Mansion announced via a press release that President Boakai left the country Tuesday, February 13, 2024 for a two-day visit to meet and hold consultations with President Nana Akufo-Addo, on matters of mutual interest to both countries and issues obtaining in the sub-region.

But just as the Liberian President arrived in Accra, Ghana, President Akufo-Addo was leaving Ghana for an official trip abroad. Subsequently, it was gathered that President Boakai did not meet the Ghanaian Vice President either.

Who then did the President of Liberia meet with while in Ghana, is the US\$50 million question Liberians are seeking answer to, which the authority has been unable to clearly address.

In a fruitless endeavor to provide some explanations, as speculations grew in Monrovia, Presidential Press Secretary Kula Fofana told the NEW DAWN last week Thursday, 15 February that things may change in the presidential space.

The Executive Mansion in a release on Wednesday, 14 February had announced, "His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia returns home following a brief successful working visit to the Republic of Ghana. While away, he held talks with members of the Ghanaian Government. During his meeting with the Ghanaian team, the President extended appreciation for the support received prior to and during his inauguration as well as the visitation by the Ghanaian Leader, President Nana Akufo-Addo.

For his part, the Vice President of Ghana, Honorable Mahamudu Bawumia expressed excitement for the visit and assured the Liberian Leader of their continuous support and commitment to Liberia."

However, a NEW DAWN's independent investigation that has not been challenged established that President Boakai was flown from Monrovia to the University of Ghana Medical Center last week Tuesday morning for treatment, a place that he had frequently even proper to becoming President of Liberia.

In the first place, there was absolutely no need for the Executive Mansion to have misled the Liberian public about the real intent of the President's trip to Ghana that has created serious embarrassment for the country. Mr. Boakai is now President of the Republic of Liberia and Liberians deserve all rights to know or to be told clearly where he goes and who talks with other than feeding the public with something totally different from the actual happening, as was unfolded recently.

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COMMENTARY

By Abdoul Salam Bello, Patrick
Guillaumont, Arnaud Buissé

Official Development Assistance Must Recognize Countries' Vulnerabilities

C LERMONT-FERRAND/WASHINGTON, DC - Last October, at the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund in Marrakesh, member countries emphasized the urgency of scaling up development finance. In recent years, an extraordinary confluence of health, climate, and security crises has worsened global inequalities and eroded the economic and social gains of the last few decades, especially in many African countries.

Many of the continent's key sectors were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which pushed 55 million Africans into extreme poverty in 2020. For example, in Cape Verde, where tourism accounts for 25% of GDP and 23% of formal employment, the economy contracted by nearly 15% in 2020 - one of the sharpest declines in Africa.

African countries are also disproportionately affected by global warming, despite contributing the least to climate change. In 2022, Madagascar was hit by five successive tropical storms and cyclones, with direct damage estimated at more than \$658 million, or the equivalent of 4.8% of the country's 2020 GDP. For its part, the Comoros is one of the continent's most disaster-prone countries and particularly vulnerable to tropical cyclones: in 2019, Cyclone Kenneth inflicted damage estimated at \$185 million, or more than 160% of budget revenues.

Over the past half-century, drought-related risks have caused at least 500,000 deaths and more than \$70 billion in economic losses in Africa.

Looking to the future, the picture is equally bleak. By 2050, up to 13.5 million additional people in the Sahel region could fall into extreme poverty if adequate adaptation policies and investments are not put in place, and the effects of climate change could cost African countries \$50 billion a year.

The international community has acknowledged the complex challenges posed by these crises and the urgent need for bolder action.

In Marrakesh, governors endorsed the WBG's new vision and mission to create a world free of poverty and to boost shared prosperity on a livable planet. France hosted the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in June, leading to the Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4P), while the United Nations held a High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development in September.

But to accelerate the fight against poverty, multilateral lenders must consider countries' structural vulnerabilities to external and internal shocks when allocating development finance.

The UN, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and other organizations already produce vulnerability indices, while others are under preparation, as at the World Bank. These should be multidimensional, with an emphasis on economic, environmental, and social challenges, but also adaptable, to meet the unique mission of each institution.

During the Annual Meetings in Marrakesh, we helped organize a session on the need to consider countries' structural vulnerabilities in the deployment of concessional resources, with a focus on the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries. Many participants acknowledged the importance of updating the IDA's allocation formula (of course, multilateral lenders' representatives could not take a position on the reforms).

Post-shock support mechanisms, which many lenders create through contingency loans or instruments that redistribute funds to emergency-response measures, are of course very important. But they are not enough. We must be able to act preventively to strengthen poor countries' financial resilience. Incorporating vulnerability into the formula for allocating concessional funds can compensate for structural handicaps, avoid financial collapses, and reduce the use of opaque exceptions, all of which would increase fairness, efficiency, and transparency. Other institutions, including the Caribbean Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, have already adopted such an approach.

The ongoing reform of the WBG presents an excellent opportunity to reflect on how to make prevention a reality. The IDA's efforts to improve management of issues related to fragility and vulnerability from one funding cycle to the next are welcome, as is the priority now given to crisis preparedness, a necessary condition for vulnerability not to become a poverty trap.

The cost of inaction is high for countries that are vulnerable to external and internal shocks, especially those global warming has made more frequent. According to a comprehensive report published by the World Meteorological Organization, meteorological, hydrological, and climate-related hazards directly affected more than 110 million people in Africa in 2022 and caused economic damage estimated at more than \$8.5 billion.

Unless multilateral lenders adopt a more preventive approach to development aid, these costs will only rise.

The views expressed in this commentary are those of the authors and not necessarily of the institutions they represent.

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OP-ED

By Gordon Brown

Empowering the Pandemic Accord

EDINBURGH - The COVID-19 pandemic taught us several lessons, many of which came at great cost. Chief among them was that, despite years of rehearsals, the world was not prepared for a fast-moving outbreak of a novel infectious disease.

Countries failed their own citizens, but the global response was even more inadequate. It was marked by an inexcusable absence of cooperation and coordination, ugly nationalism that included vaccine hoarding, and greed on the part of Western countries, which refused to share information, pathogens, and therapeutics. I would say that the response was - to use a word that may seem old-fashioned and out of favor in some quarters - sinful.

The overwhelming lesson we learned the hard way is that no one is safe anywhere until everyone is safe everywhere.

Could the wave of infections caused by the second Omicron variant have been avoided if the Global South had been vaccinated more quickly? We cannot be sure. But we do know that international cooperation is not compatible with nationalism, xenophobia, and new forms of colonialism. We need a form of globalization that works for everyone, because while our world may be deeply fractured, we are all still inescapably interdependent.

In response to our collective failures, the World Health Organization's member states decided to negotiate a Pandemic Accord, an international legal instrument that would provide a global framework to ensure equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. You could call it a pandemic nonproliferation accord, an agreement to help each other and work together in the event of a new public-health catastrophe.

Unfortunately, this global effort is being threatened by a torrent of misinformation and disinformation, blatant lies, and percolating conspiracy theories. Among the falsehoods are that the WHO would be empowered to strip member states of sovereignty, deploy armed troops to enforce mandatory vaccinations and lockdowns, and monitor people's movements through digital passports. All these claims are wholly untrue.

National governments themselves have proposed and are negotiating the Pandemic Accord, and they alone - not the WHO - will be responsible for its requirements and, ultimately, for its success or failure.

We must not underestimate the importance of the Accord, which represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve the world we live in, especially for young people and future generations.

Young people, in particular, suffered greatly during the pandemic: their education was disrupted, their lives turned upside down, and their prospects diminished. And, given the endurance of the collateral effects of COVID-19 and its control measures, especially their adverse impact on mental health, young people have a right to expect that their future will be protected.

But the clock is ticking. Countries must act now to meet the self-imposed deadline of May 2024, when they are expected to present an agreement to the 77th World Health Assembly (the WHO's decision-making body). They must not squander the opportunity to adopt a global pact that will protect future generations from a repeat of the devastation wrought by COVID-19. The unprecedented nature of the pandemic requires an unprecedented response.

Some of the current sticking points in the Pandemic Accord are related to intellectual property. But if countries embrace a spirit of global collaboration, they can devise creative solutions that balance intellectual-property rights, incentives, and the flexibilities in TRIPS, the World Trade Organization's intellectual-property agreement. Compromise on this issue and others requires recognizing that the private and public sectors must work together in the fight against infectious diseases. But above all, security, equity, and equal access to information, technology, and products must be at the heart of the Accord.

People all around the world are desperate for hope. They want assurance that the future will be better than the past. Countries must recognize that adopting a give-and-take approach during the final negotiations is critical to reaching an agreement on the Pandemic Accord, which in turn could provide some much-needed optimism.

We must demonstrate through our deeds as well as our words that we live in a deeply interconnected world in which we share each other's burdens, even when times are difficult. Establishing an effective model of open and inclusive health multilateralism will deliver the crucial message that cross-border cooperation can deliver global solutions to global problems.

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OPINION

By Josh Burek

Is Blockchain Ready for Primetime?

CAMBRIDGE - As the crypto winter thaws, and financial institutions renew their interest in digital assets, an old debate has re-emerged over whether blockchain is truly a "trust machine," as The Economist described it in 2015.

A figure from fifteenth-century Venice can help answer that question. Though he was neither a technologist nor a banker, the friar Luca Pacioli is remembered today for developing the double-entry bookkeeping accounting system that underpins much of the modern economy. It was his ingenious model that introduced debits and credits to the method of recording transactions in two separate accounts.

This seemingly boring and cumbersome tweak to a core business function didn't just ensure accuracy and curb fraud; it also gave owners new insights into how to run and improve their businesses and cut costs. Under Pacioli's system, efficiencies soared, commerce accelerated, and the Renaissance took flight. Double-entry accounting became a cornerstone of economic activity because it was simple, easily shared, and undeniably useful. Centuries later, financial statements based on Pacioli's work became mandatory for any business. Such is the power of a basic infrastructure upgrade.

The broader lesson is that an innovation that makes it from conception to global adoption typically passes three tests of public trust: Does it work? Is it useful? Is it safe? Or put another way, users expect competence, value, and reliability.

Today, blockchain's advocates see the technology as the next great leap toward making financial transactions massively more efficient. "The root problem with conventional currency is all the trust that's required to make it work," wrote Bitcoin's pseudonymous creator Satoshi Nakamoto in 2009. "With e-currency based on cryptographic proof, without the need to trust a third-party middleman, money can be secure and transactions effortless." Nakamoto envisioned crypto proofs replacing human trust to create a truly peer-to-peer, trustless financial system.

The underlying blockchain technology that Bitcoin's creator(s) deployed builds elegantly on the foundation that Pacioli laid. Imagine if a fifteenth-century Florentine merchant's ledger entry showed up instantly on the books of every other merchant. Such a distributed ledger creates triple-entry (or effectively infinite-entry) accounting, making the data immutable and incontestable.

That functionality alone is transformative, but the architecture of blockchain networks gives them superpowers well beyond financial applications. As the tech entrepreneur Chris Dixon notes, "[I]t's wrong to think of blockchains as mere ledgers for tabulating numbers. Blockchains are not databases; they're full-fledged computers."

Of course, one of the great ironies of the crypto industry is that a technology grounded in a desire to strengthen financial trust has generated so much mistrust. But while The Economist was not wrong to call blockchain a trust machine nearly a decade ago, its assessment may have been incomplete. After settling literally trillions of transactions, blockchain's fundamental claim to facilitate the reliable exchange of value has been well verified. Though it is little solace to those who lost funds during the industry's implosions in recent years, those episodes reflected irrational exuberance and old-fashioned fraud, not any flaws of distributed-ledger protocols.

These failures were as predictable as they were regrettable. Excitement about emerging technologies typically outpaces their utility, leaving a wake of disappointments. Even the most promising technologies struggle with early design flaws. AI chatbots can hallucinate. Electric-vehicle batteries can fail in extreme cold or heat. New software is often buggy. And blockchain networks have not been fully immune to hacks and performance issues. But their battle-tested durability makes them well positioned to upgrade the way we move money.

What about usefulness? This quality is more subjective. Obviously, collectible cartoon apes and purely speculative trading do not amount to a transformative, more inclusive upgrade to the global financial system.

Fortunately, responsible market players today are using blockchain to do many other things: delivering mobile, corruption-resistant humanitarian aid to refugees; lowering the costs of charitable giving, remittances, and cross-border payments by 80%; expanding access to basic financial services; giving workers in high-inflation countries a portable store of value; establishing provenance to power the "creator economy"; transmitting money at scale with the ease, security, and speed with which the internet transmits data; and upgrading legacy financial rails that date back to the 1970s.

While still nascent, these applications undeniably deliver high social and economic value. That brings us to the third question: whether blockchain-based financial rails are safe - which, in financial services, means regulated. Can users expect common, high standards around the world? Not quite yet, but we're getting close.

This is another irony for crypto. What began as a libertarian vision for a code-based financial system air-gapped from government is colliding with regulatory reality. There is a growing recognition that blockchain-based networks and financial applications are not displacing so much as modernizing and democratizing traditional financial infrastructure. That means working with - not against - regulators and policymakers.

The good news is that 2024 is poised to bring greater regulatory certainty. Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the European Union have all established strong standards and consumer protections for this growing ecosystem. And the US Congress could follow suit this year with bipartisan digital-asset and stablecoin legislation that would crack down on illicit financing and counterfeit digital currencies. That would make a material difference in public confidence.

Is blockchain a trust machine? The year ahead could give us a definitive answer.

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Church of the Lord hosts 72nd Conference

The Church of the Lord World-wide Liberia Province ends its 72nd Annual Conference here with congregants worshipping and praising God for His bountiful blessings.

Addressing the media after a week-long conference, the

He said among topics taught at the seminar was evangelism, reminding every individual of a personal responsibility to evangelize both in society and the Kingdom of God.

He continued that another topic was sermon preparation and its importance in

gather once a year to reason and plan how to get to the next step saying, "We have some decisions, some resolutions, all ministers will meet three times in a year to go on the mountain in order to seek the face of the Lord."

However, he encouraged all Liberians to join hands with President Boakai in moving Liberia forward, stressing that unity, peace, and honesty are needed to achieve personal and collective goals.

"My message is that election campaign is over and this is not time for campaign any longer, but time to join hands and move as a team, let's forget about tribalism, division, nepotism, and come together as one to move the country forward."

Archbishop Moses: "Also when you look around you, you find out that there are lots of things to be fixed, and majority of the youth that are supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow are just roaming the streets here and there." He notes that if the leaders of tomorrow are roaming the streets, that means there is no future for the country, adding that the government should focus and bring the disadvantaged youth out of the mess for the benefit of the country. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

presenting the word of God. The 72nd Annual Conference was well attended by members of the church from all 15 counties of Liberia, including Maryland, Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Bomi, among others. Archbishop Moses emphasized that the church is a body of believers whose lives reflect on the blessings of God through the covenant He made with their spiritual father. He said as a church, they all



Provincial Head of Liberia, His Grace, Archbishop Dr. Olasemojo Victor Moses, said the conference provided the church an opportunity to plan ahead in order to move away from where they are currently to a higher level. Archbishop Moses explained that the conference started on February 12 - 18, with lots of activities, including seminars, marching, and thanksgiving under the theme: "The Merciful and Covenant God."

Government warns against price hike

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) says there has been no authorized increase in the price of rice in the country as being reported.

The Ministry recently announced reduction in the price of 25kg bag of 5% broken Indian Parboiled Rice from US\$17.00 to US\$16.75 cents, following engagements with the Rice Importers Association.

In a press release, it says this remains the approved price for the current stock in the country which is expected to last up to June.

The Ministry announces that it will continue to monitor global as well as local trends and factors impacting the cost of rice on the market with the aim of ensuring that rice is sold at a fair market price.

It also admonishes distributors to ensure that the

downward adjustment announced trickles down to the various counties and local communities. The Ministry says it will not hesitate to institute the appropriate actions against those found to be culpable of selling above the approved price, hoarding rice, and spreading false information to the public to profiteer or cause panic.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announces that its Inspectorate Division will be vigilant to ensure full compliance.

The retail price of a 25kg bag of rice has shoot up to

between US\$18 and US\$19 here, putting citizens on edge, as rice is Liberia's staple, but does not grow enough to become self-sufficient. Press Release



Commerce Minister Amin Modad

Liberia, FAO sign MOU

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Liberia for the conduct of a Regional Demersal and Pelagic Resources Survey in the Western Gulf of Guinea.

The signing ceremony which took place at the FAO office in Monrovia on Monday, February 19, 2024, marks a significant milestone in the commitment to sustainable fisheries management and the promotion of food security in the region.

According to a press release, the collaboration between the Government of Liberia and the FAO underscores the shared vision to enhance the understanding and management of demersal and pelagic resources in the Western Gulf of Guinea.

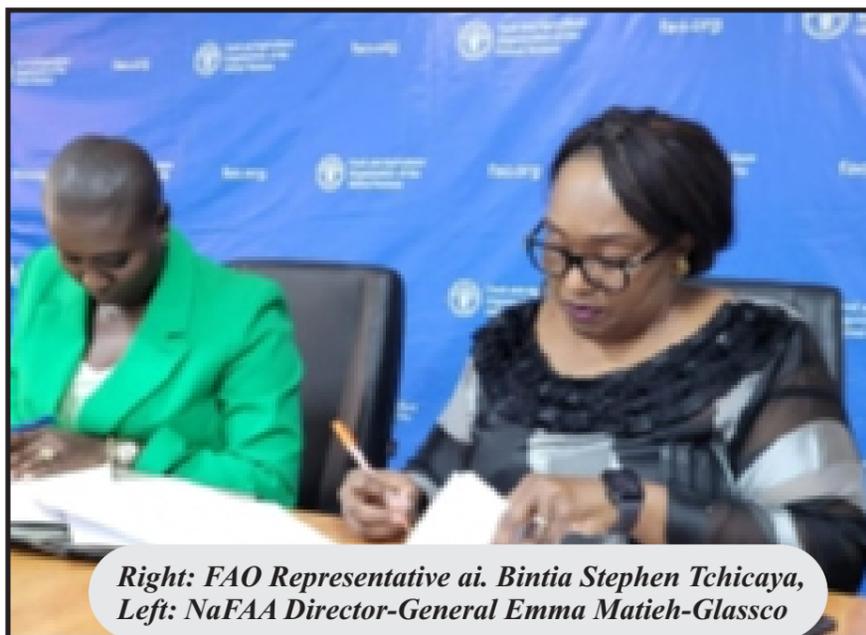
As part of the MOU, FAO will be responsible for surveying with the participation of the Institute

United Nations as the housing flag.

Speaking during the signing ceremony of the MOU, FAO Liberia Representative a.i Mrs. Bintia Stephen Tchicaya, expressed enthusiasm for the partnership and emphasized the organization's dedication in providing technical support to the development of sustainable fisheries in Liberia.

She said the partnership agreement is part of the FAO EAF Nansen-Programme which focuses on conducting surveys of marine resources across coastal regions of the world for sustainable use of the oceans.

Madam Tchicaya described as very important the partnership agreement with the Government of Liberia, noting that it will provide scientific data on the marine resources in the Liberian waters which will help the Liberian authorities put into place safeguard measures that will discourage improper use of the ocean and provide a clearer approach to the



Right: FAO Representative ai. Bintia Stephen Tchicaya, Left: NaFAA Director-General Emma Matieh-Glassco

of Marine Research (IMR). FAO will also provide other services as well as technical inputs per the work plan contained in the document. The survey will be conducted by research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, consistent with the Programme Agreement between the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Institute of Marine Research of Bergen (IMR), and FAO, titled: "Supporting the Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management considering Climate and Pollution Impacts" (EAF-Nansen Programme). IMR as operator of the vessel will be responsible for providing vessel services.

On the other hand, NaFAA will, among other things, be responsible for obtaining all clearances, authorizations, licenses, and necessary permits by the Government of Liberia for the vessel, and all personnel assigned to the project and shall keep FAO informed in this regard. The vessel shall fly the flag of Norway as the country of registration, and the flag of the

governance of the country's waters.

"The data to be obtained from the research will inform NaFAA to guide the artisanal fisheries activities by determining at what time fishers should fish and the type of fish that will be available to them. The findings from the research will also enable the Liberian authorities to understand how to intensify fisheries activities and undertake fisheries sustainably" said FAO acting Representative in Liberia.

For her part, Madam Emma-Matieh Glassco, Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), expressed appreciation for the collaboration with the FAO and reaffirmed Liberia's commitment to responsible marine resource management and conservation.

She emphasized the importance of the MOU, noting that collecting data on the country's marine resources will boost fisheries activities. She said with the survey, Liberia will be able to identify what is in its waters and will be able to make informed decisions to address marine issues.

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AML Training Academy Welcomes New Batch of 71 Young Liberians for 3yr Training Program

Yekepa, Nimba County (February 21, 2024) The ArcelorMittal Liberia Training Academy (AMLTA), one of Liberia's premier vocational training institutions has enrolled a new batch of young Liberian

110 are completing their programs.

The 71 successful candidates matriculated into the institution on February 20 in Yekepa Nimba County after being recruited from amongst 2,047 applicants who

went through the eight Learning Ability Batteries (LAB) that assessed them in English, Mathematics, Science, and areas of interest, and from this assessment, the 71 successful candidates were selected to form the fifth batch of trainees.

"During our assessment, we test you in English, Math, Science, and even the vocational career of your choice, and if we find out that you don't fit in your chosen area but in another area, we transfer you there rather than where you have chosen," said Mr. Worzon.

Worzon further noted that out of the 71 new recruits, 19 are from Nimba County, 22 from Grand Bassa, and 9 from Bong County. The rest are from the other counties of Liberia.

Dawie Loots, Manager of AMLTA, welcomed the new recruits and cautioned them that they must live by the rules of the institution and study hard to avoid "Redo" in their studies.

He congratulated them for taking the courage to go through activities leading to their admission, urging that while they have tough time of work ahead of them, there is also a playing time wherein they will engage in various sporting activities to ease their stress.



Cross-section of students

trainees for a three-year international-standard vocational and technical education program in several disciplines.

The latest batch of trainees are 71 in total, with 10 females. This brings the total number of students who have been enrolled at the AMLTA since its launch in 2018 to 276. Of that number, 95 have graduated and were employed by ArcelorMittal Liberia, while

underwent various levels of assessments in line with the high standards set by the AML Training Academy.

Steve Worzon, Administrative Supervisor at AMLTA explained that after assessing all applicants, reviewing their credentials and conducting interviews, 174 successfully reached the second phase of the assessment. The 174, according to Mr. Worzon, also

School Principals want permit fees reduced

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The National Association of Liberian School Principals and National Association of Private School Owners of Liberia are appealing to the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education to reduce permit fees for private schools operating across the country.

According to the association, the exorbitant fees charged by the government have led hack in tuition, posing burden on parents and hindering the growth of the education sector of Liberia.

Addressing reporters here Tuesday, 20th February 2024 at the Vine Christian International School's premises in Paynesville, shortly after private school principals and school owners held a daylong meeting, brainstorming on challenges confronting them, Dr. Benjamin Yele Wehye, President of the National Association of Liberian School Principals and head of the LICOSESS Teacher Training College, pleaded with the government to consider

reduction of permit fees that will help curtail hack in tuitions by some institutions.

Dr. Wehye said the outright request if considered and done by the Ministry of Education, will curtail irregularities in fees that have caused corresponding increments in tuition.

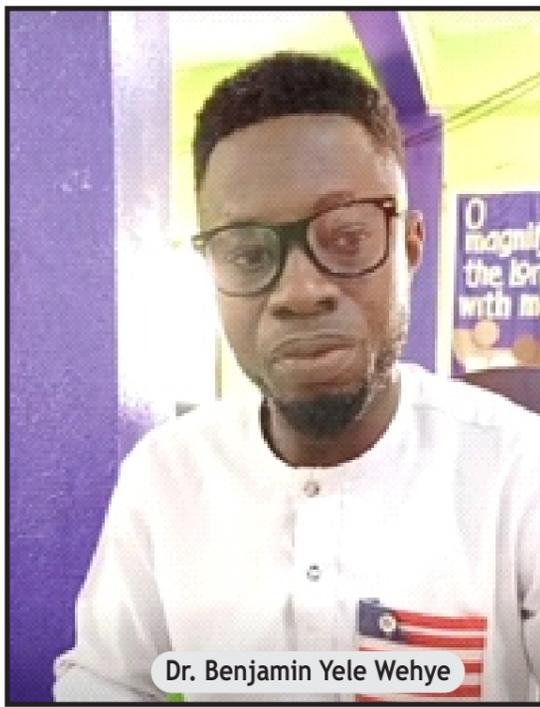
He accused the previous administration specifically, District Education Officers (DEOs) for the exorbitant fees charged for permits from as low as 3,500 Liberian dollars for elementary schools, 6,000 Liberian dollars for junior high schools, and 8,000 Liberian dollars for secondary schools to now more than US\$240 plus \$50 for assessment.

"We as Administrations of public and private schools are deeply concerned about the irregularities of permit fees and how was the permit conducted because some schools pay 42,000, some pay

80,000 Liberian Dollars, while others pay 240 + 50 United States Dollars, and how it contributes to the Ministry of Education for the welfare of schools, when we don't receive chalk, sheets, and absolutely nothing as subsidy", he wonders.

Dr. Wehye calls on the new Minister of Education, Dr. Jarso Maley Jallah, to audit financial transactions between schools

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Dr. Benjamin Yele Wehye

Lonestar MTN unveils Recharge & Bumpay mega promotion

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's leading GSM giant, Lonestar Cell MTN in partnership with Coacola Liberia has unveiled what it calls "Recharge & Bumpay mega promotion" with life-changing amazing prizes for lucky subscribers across the country and in the diaspora.

The program will last for three months with a possible extension. The launch of the program took place on Wednesday, 21 February 2024 at the GSM company's head office in Congo Town in the presence of internal stakeholders.

With the introduction of the Recharge & Bumpay mega promotion, Lonestar Cell MTN takes another step forward in realizing the promise of a digital world while at the same time investing in its customers.

The initiative commenced

engaged with the promotion details.

Giving further background information about the promotion, Mr. Flomo indicated that the program is not just another campaign.

He said it is a testament to Lonestar Cell MTN's commitment to improving the livelihood of subscribers through driving innovation by taking them on par with what is happening in the region and globally when it comes to the technology of a cashless society.

"Of recent we have embarked on the modernization of our network, and we managed to modernize most of our network which our customers stood by us."

"This promotion, Recharge & bumpy mega promotion is giving back to our customers to say thank you for your loyalty to Lonestar Cell MTN," he explained.

For his part, Christopher Ssali, General Manager of MTN Mobile



immediately after it was launched.

Acting Chief Marketing Officer, Kolubah Flomo described the initiative as a significant giveaway from Lonestar Cell MTN to its valued customers in Liberia and beyond.

Flomo noted that every customer deserves the benefit of a modern connected life.

He named the grand prize of a three-bedroom house worth USD\$60,000 and many exciting prizes including smart TV, smartphones, bikes, kekeh, crate of coke, among others.

Flomo explained that these prizes will be won through weekly, monthly, and grand draws and customers can participate only by recharging card or momo.

The giveaway for the promo also includes airtime and data to encourage viewers to stay

Money, emphasized that the goal and objective of Lonestar Cell MTN are to drive a digital world.

He encouraged customers to make use of mobile money which he noted will drive a cashless society.

"If you recharge using mobile money you [will] be able to get double points during the promotion as compared to a single point when you recharge using scratch card for the program. Our intention is to promote a digital world," he said.

Abubakari Haiidu, Senior Manager, Sales and Distribution, highlighted the impact and coverage of the campaign.

Haiidu noted that this demonstrated that all Lonestar Cell MTN's customers across the country now have the opportunity to own a house.

He stressed that customers have many chances to win exciting prizes from the campaign which is a life-touching initiative for all customers.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UP chairman replies critics

By Lincoln G. Peters

Ruling Unity Party (UP) Chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh has sharply reacted to criticisms against his appointment by President Joseph Nyumah Boakai to chair the Board of the National Port Authority (NPA).

"I want to leverage my position for several young men and women who worked so hard for President Joseph Boakai's victory. I want to run the party and ensure we create a brand that has a national appeal," he noted.

Rev. Tarpeh was this week

functionality and competitiveness of Liberia's ports in Sub-Saharan African regions, ultimately contributing to the nation's progress and the well-being of its citizens.

He dismissed rumors that his visit to the USA was an escape after some UP partisans were seen protesting for jobs outside President Boakai's residence. Rev. Tarpeh clarified that it was solely to reunite with his family, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to Liberia.

"I am accepting this as an act of service to the country and not necessarily a job to put food on my table," he explained.

"Our people are suffering and need [a] rapid response to their social and economic needs. If Liberia is beautiful and progressive, and ordinary Liberians can take care of their families, I am satisfied."

Chairman Tarpeh also addressed misconceptions regarding his motivations, dismissing suggestions that he sought government employment for personal gain.

Instead, he accentuated his dedication to building a Unity Party that prioritizes deliverables, development, and responsive leadership, particularly in addressing the social and economic challenges faced by ordinary Liberians.



Rev. Luther Tarpeh

Tarpeh said his appointment is a duty to national development. He noted that his acceptance of the appointment as Chair of the NPA Board is driven by a sense of duty to Liberia and a desire to utilize his position for the benefit of the nation.

"It is not about the job for me. It is all about the country," Tarpeh stated firmly.

appointed by President Boakai to serve as NPA Board Chair.

He said rapid response and effective governance are needed in dealing with the pressing social and economic needs of ordinary Liberians.

He expressed his commitment to working alongside the new Managing Director of the NPA, Mr. Sekou Dukuly, to enhance the

Boakai was ill-advised

-National Registry Boss reacts

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Executive Director of the National Identification Registry (NIR) Andrew Peters, vehemently rejects President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's nomination of Dr. Edward Liberty as Executive Director of the National Identification Registry, describing the President's decision as ill-advised and detrimental to the Republic. Mr. Peters argues that President Boakai does not have any legal right to appoint an Executive Director at the National Identification Registry, rather, it is the Board of Directors by an Act of the National Legislature that allows the establishment of the institution under the chairmanship of the Minister of Internal Affairs that should appoint an Executive Director for the N.I.R. to run the day to day affairs of the entity for a four-year tenure.

He notes that the President's decision was influenced by bogus supporters of the ruling Unity Party (UP)

who he notes, are so eager and desperate for appointed positions. He blames the President, adding that President Boakai as Head of State, should have carefully reviewed and observed tenure positions in government before making said nomination that he describes as unwise.

The embattled N.I.R. Boss, Andrew Peters further explains that he was endorsed and appointed to serve as Executive Director of the National Identification Registry by the Board of Directors headed by

former Internal Affairs Minister Varney K. Sirleaf and has served for seven (7) months with three (3) years and three (3) months remaining in his tenure.

"I was unanimously endorsed and appointed to serve as Executive Director of the National Identification Registry of Liberia (NIR) through a resolution convened on (June 22, 2023) and the President has no authority to appoint an Executive Director here; it is the Board of Directors' responsibility, according to an Act by the Legislature which established this institution", he argues.



Dr. Edward Liberty



Pres. Boakai

CENTAL damns appoints to tenured offices

By Lewis S. Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, has expressed serious dismay over President Boakai's latest decision to appoint individuals to key government institutions that hold tenured positions.

CENTAL Program Director Attorney Gerald D. Yeakula told reporters on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 in a news conference that the Center is concerned about recent appointments made by President Boakai that have affected tenured positions at public entities.

"Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press: we wish to highlight that tenured security is a settled matter and that interferences with it in the form of appointments to positions of

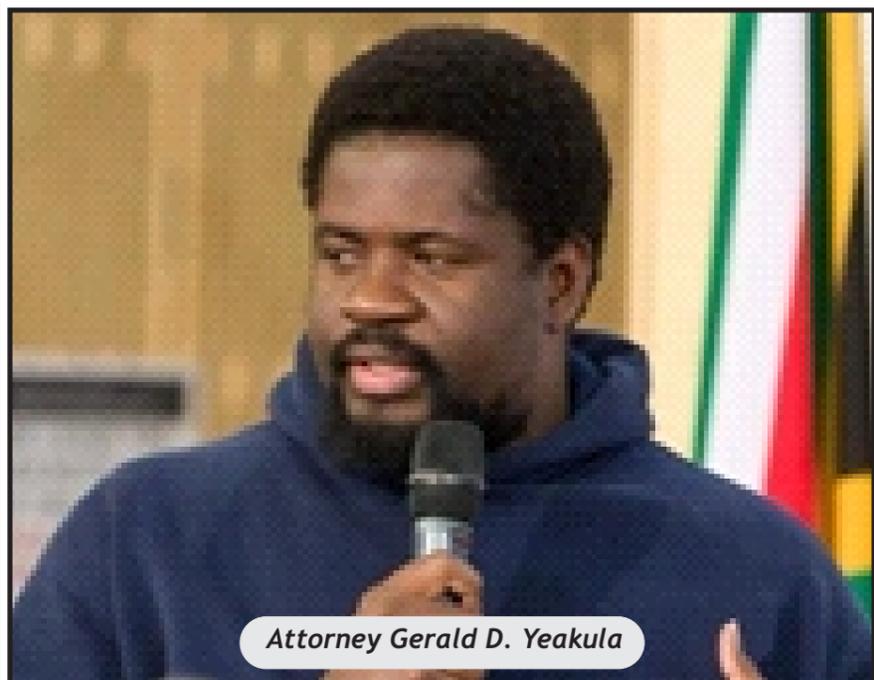
of the President does not only violate relevant laws but undermines the tenets of good governance which Mr. Boakai seeks to promote and defend.

The CENTAL program manager notes that given President Boakai's professed commitment to good governance, and the fight against corruption, it's of great importance that the President's actions are consistent with what he professes.

He says Liberians cannot afford a continuation of disregard for the rule of law and promotion of political interest, at the expense of their hard-fought and growing democracy.

"We cannot continue to repeat the same mistakes of yesterday when such can early be avoided", he cautioned, noting that this must not be business as usual, keen attention must be paid to the excesses of yesterday to avert recurrence.

Meanwhile, Atty. Yeakula is calling on President Boakai to recall



Attorney Gerald D. Yeakula

active tenures are unlawful", he argues.

President Joseph Boakai nominated several individuals to the Board of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority, Governance Commission, National Lottery Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, National Identification Registry, among others, pending senate confirmation.

But in a three-page press statement, Atty. Yeakula says he is taken aback by those appointments, which he says are being made without regard to tenured security that are provided in relevant laws.

According to him, the action

nominees made to positions occupied by persons with active tenures.

"President Boakai should constitute the membership of the National Environment Policy Council of Liberia to allow for a recruitment process for the position of the Executive Director of the EPA, consistent with section 16 of the EPA act", he suggests.

He says that CENTAL believes the trend of interim appointments constitutes deliberate actions that do not comply with the EPA act, saying this will be business as usual and not deviating from the ugly past, which the President has severally promised.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Le président Boakai nomme 139 responsables en une nuit

Le président libérien Joseph Nyumah Boakai a nommé le plus grand nombre de fonctionnaires en une seule nuit, ce qui semble indiquer

individuelles publiée depuis son accession au pouvoir le 22 janvier 2024.

Au début de ses nominations de fonctionnaires, le président Boakai nommait lentement les

présidentielles de lundi ont touché plusieurs ministères et organismes de premier plan. Au ministère de l'Intérieur, le président Boakai a nommé Samuel Brown au poste de vice-ministre de l'Administration, Selena Polson Mappy au poste de

Éditorial

Un sale coup de relations publiques

La présidence à Monrovia a peine à fournir des preuves photographiques ou vidéo de la rencontre du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai avec son homologue ghanéen Nana Akufo-Addo ou son vice-président Mahamudu Bawumia lors de sa récente visite en République du Ghana, comme elle l'a affirmé.

La semaine dernière, la présidence a annoncé dans un communiqué de presse que le président Boakai quittait le pays le mardi 13 février 2024 pour une visite de deux jours afin de rencontrer et de consulter le président Nana Akufo-Addo sur des questions d'intérêt mutuel pour les deux pays et la sous-région.

Or, au moment même où le président libérien arrivait à Accra, au Ghana, le président Akufo-Addo quittait le pays pour un voyage officiel à l'étranger. Il s'est avéré ensuite que le président Boakai n'avait pas non plus rencontré le vice-président ghanéen.

La question à 50 millions de dollars que se posent les Libériens et à laquelle les autorités n'ont pas pu répondre clairement est donc celle-ci : qui le président libérien a-t-il rencontré au Ghana ?

Dans une tentative infructueuse de fournir des explications, alors que les spéculations s'amplifiaient à Monrovia, le porte-parole de la présidence, Kula Fofana, a déclaré au NEW DAWN le jeudi 15 février que les choses pouvaient changer dans l'espace présidentiel.

La présidence avait annoncé dans un communiqué publié le mercredi 14 février : "Son Excellence Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., président de la République du Libéria, est rentré chez lui après une brève visite de travail fructueuse en République du Ghana. Au cours de son séjour, il s'est entretenu avec des membres du gouvernement ghanéen.

Lors de sa rencontre avec l'équipe ghanéenne, le président a exprimé sa gratitude pour le soutien reçu avant et pendant son investiture, ainsi que pour la visite du dirigeant ghanéen, le président Nana Akufo-Addo.

Pour sa part, le vice-président du Ghana, l'Honorable Mahamudu Bawumia, s'est réjoui de la visite et a assuré le dirigeant libérien de leur soutien continu et de leur engagement envers le Libéria".

Cependant, une enquête indépendante du NEW DAWN, qui n'a pas été contestée, a révélé que le président Boakai avait été transporté de Monrovia au centre médical de l'université du Ghana le mardi matin de la semaine dernière pour y être soigné, un endroit qu'il fréquentait régulièrement même avant de devenir président du Libéria.

En premier lieu, il n'était absolument pas nécessaire que la présidence induise le public libérien en erreur sur le véritable but du voyage du président au Ghana, ce qui a créé un sérieux embarras pour le pays. M. Boakai est désormais président de la République du Libéria et les Libériens ont le droit de savoir ou d'être clairement informés de ses déplacements et de ses contacts, au lieu de nourrir le public avec des informations totalement différentes de la réalité, comme cela s'est récemment produit.



qu'il est vexé par les critiques de longue date selon lesquelles il aurait été trop lent à former son cabinet.

Lundi soir 19 février 2024, le président Boakai a nommé 139 responsables à la tête de différents ministères et organismes gouvernementaux, la plus longue liste de nominations

membres du cabinet et autres nommés en plus petit nombre, et parfois, attendait plusieurs jours avant de nommer d'autres fonctionnaires.

Son style de sélection des fonctionnaires, qui implique une vérification approfondie des candidats potentiels, a fait que le public attendait avec impatience de savoir qui seraient leurs nouveaux responsables.

Les nominations

vice-ministre des Opérations, Cllr. Loseni F. Bility, conseiller juridique, James K. Yolei, vice-ministre des Opérations, et Mike Khailelu B. Jabateh, vice-ministre des Affaires urbaines.

Parmi les autres nominations au ministère de l'Intérieur, on peut citer Brown B. Sarlee, Sr., vice-ministre de l'Administration, et William Jallah, vice-ministre des

La Chambre des représentants approuve la demande de 41 millions de dollars du président Boakai

La Chambre des représentants a approuvé la demande du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai d'autoriser son gouvernement à utiliser un douzième du budget national 2024.

Les représentants ont voté mardi 20 février 2024 lors d'une session ordinaire.

Le président de la commission conjointe des moyens, des finances et de la planification du développement et des comptes publics et

dépenses, le représentant Dixon Seboe, a déclaré que la Chambre des représentants avait chargé sa commission d'examiner la demande du président Boakai.

Il a expliqué que l'objectif de la communication du président Boakai est de maintenir le fonctionnement du gouvernement en attendant l'adoption du budget national.

M. Seboe a ajouté que la commission conjointe a été chargée d'examiner le montant demandé, en s'assurant qu'il correspond à un financement réaliste pour le fonctionnement

du gouvernement dans le délai imparti.

Le député de Montserrado a déclaré que la commission conjointe, après avoir examiné la demande du président Boakai, a recommandé que le rapport soit adopté à un montant de 41 300 000,00 \$US et envoyé au Sénat pour approbation. Une fois adopté par le Sénat, l'instrument sera envoyé à l'exécutif pour action.

Plus tôt, le 15 février 2024, le président Boakai a écrit à la Chambre des représentants pour l'autoriser à dépenser 41

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Français

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Le président Boakai

Affaires culturelles.

Pour le gouvernement local, qui relève du ministère de l'Intérieur, le président Boakai a nommé Whroway Bryant au poste de surintendant du comté de Montserrado, Byron W. Zahnwea, surintendant du comté de River Cess, Alex Grant, surintendant du comté de Grand Gedeh, Miatta Dorley, surintendant du comté de Bomi, Alfred Zinnah, surintendant adjoint au développement du comté de Bomi, et Robert Bestman, maire de la ville de Paynesville, comté de Montserrado.

Au ministère de la Santé, le président Boakai a nommé Roger S.W.Y. Domah, I., au poste de vice-ministre de l'Administration, et Martha Morris, au poste de vice-ministre de l'Administration.

Au service d'immigration du Liberia, le président Boakai a nommé l'ancien sénateur de Lofa Stephen Zargo au poste de commissaire général, Elijah F. Rufus, sous-commissaire à l'administration, A. Kundukai Jaleiba, sous-commissaire aux

opérations, et Atty. Dickson R. Tamba, sous-commissaire à la naturalisation.

Au ministère de l'Éducation, le président Boakai a nommé Amos Fulley, vice-ministre de l'Instruction, James Armah Massaquoi, vice-ministre de l'Administration, Jonathan S. Jackson, vice-ministre des affaires fiscales et des ressources humaines, et Clifford Konah, Jr., vice-ministre de la formation des enseignants.

Le président a également rappelé Mme Masah Sobboh, sous-ministre des ressources humaines au ministère d'État aux affaires présidentielles, et l'a nommée coordinatrice des services spéciaux et des projets au ministère d'État aux affaires présidentielles.

Ces nominations, le cas échéant, sont soumises à la confirmation du Sénat libérien.

Le président Boakai appelle également toutes les personnes nommées et désignées à continuer à faire preuve de diligence, d'engagement, d'intégrité, de professionnalisme et de loyauté au service du pays.

Starts from page 8

La Chambre des représentants

300 000,00 \$US pour couvrir les opérations du gouvernement pour le mois de février.

Il a déclaré qu'étant donné que le projet de budget pour l'exercice 2024 a été renvoyé et est en cours de finalisation pour être soumis à nouveau, les opérations du gouvernement doivent se poursuivre pour éviter un arrêt.

Selon le président Boakai, l'autorisation de dépenser 41 300 000,00 \$US couvre les opérations du gouvernement pour le mois de février.

Le 25 janvier 2024, la Chambre des représentants a voté à l'unanimité pour

renvoyer le budget national à l'exécutif.

Dans une communication de la représentante Ellen Attoh-Wreh, elle a fait remarquer que le budget devrait être aligné sur le programme du gouvernement actuel.

Le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement a soumis le projet de budget national en décembre 2023 à la 54^e législature pour un montant de 625,57 millions de dollars américains pour l'exercice 2024.

Le budget a été soumis sous le gouvernement de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC).

Le ministère de l'Éducation invité à comparaître à la Chambre des représentants



La Chambre des représentants a convoqué les responsables du ministère de l'Éducation (MoE) à se présenter devant l'assemblée plénière jeudi prochain. Les responsables du MoE devront fournir des informations récentes sur l'éducation primaire obligatoire du gouvernement libérien et l'éducation spéciale inclusive pour les sourds et les malvoyants. La décision a été prise lors de la séance plénière du mardi 20 février 2024, suite à une communication de l'honorable Michael M. Thomas, représentant du district électoral #4 du comté de Montserrado.

Selon M. Thomas, son attention a été attirée sur l'inefficacité persistante de l'éducation primaire gratuite et obligatoire et de la politique d'éducation spéciale mise en place par le gouvernement libérien dans l'ensemble du secteur éducatif.

Il a rappelé que la politique gouvernementale sur l'éducation primaire gratuite et obligatoire et l'éducation spéciale au Liberia a été introduite en 2001 et réaffirmée en 2011. Il a ajouté qu'il s'agit d'une loi sur la réforme de l'éducation adoptée par la législature libérienne en 2011 pour améliorer la qualité de l'éducation dans le pays, encourager la scolarisation, réformer la structure de gouvernance du système éducatif et respecter la disposition constitutionnelle qui oblige le gouvernement à développer l'esprit des enfants libériens. Il a poursuivi en disant qu'elle visait à développer les personnes vivant avec un handicap par l'intermédiaire de la division de l'éducation inclusive spécialisée du ministère de l'Éducation. Mais

il a déclaré que les personnes sourdes et malvoyantes ont été négligées et sont devenues de simples mendiants de rue. M. Thomas a ajouté que, malheureusement, les politiques et les programmes définis par le ministère de l'Éducation ont fortement mis à mal le secteur éducatif, les acteurs étatiques qualifiant le secteur de "désordre" avec peu ou pas d'amélioration. Selon M. Thomas, l'accès à l'éducation pour chaque enfant libérien et pour les personnes vivant avec un handicap formera l'esprit d'une grande partie des futurs dirigeants dans la bonne perspective et réduira les dangers que représentent l'analphabétisme et l'inégalité fondamentale dans les domaines social, moral et politique du pays.

Gongloe appelle à une enquête sur les morts suspectes de responsables passés



L'ancien candidat à la présidence et célèbre avocat des droits de l'homme, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, appelle le gouvernement libérien à créer une commission d'enquête spéciale chargée d'enquêter sur toutes les morts suspectes et mystérieuses d'anciens responsables. Selon Cllr. Gongloe, cette commission d'enquête, lorsqu'elle sera créée, enquêtera sur les morts suspectes à partir de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf jusqu'au président George M. Weah. S'exprimant récemment à Monrovia, le leader du Parti populaire libérien a déclaré que cela aiderait le gouvernement du Liberia sous la direction du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à gagner la confiance des entreprises internationales. "Nous voulons dire que depuis quinze à vingt ans, il y a eu des morts suspectes au Liberia. Le gouvernement a enquêté sur certaines et nous doutons des conclusions du gouvernement. Je crois fermement que le gouvernement devrait aller de l'avant et créer une commission d'enquête spéciale pour enquêter sur tous les décès suspects dans le pays. Cela inclut de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf à Weah", a-t-il souligné. Cllr. Gongloe a souligné que sous l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf, il y a eu

de nombreux décès mystérieux et suspects, en particulier celui de Harris Greaves, et il est important que ces cas soient enquêtés pour mettre fin à ces soupçons. Il a indiqué que sous l'administration de l'ancien président Weah, il y a eu également trop de morts mystérieuses, allant des auditeurs à Princess Cooper et aux trois garçons disparus qui travaillaient pour le directeur général du service funéraire St. Moses. "J'appelle le gouvernement à le faire parce que je pense qu'ainsi, nous pouvons mettre fin aux rumeurs. Trouvons la vérité. Le gouvernement peut trouver de l'argent et obtenir le meilleur enquêteur médico-légal, afin que nous puissions être à l'aise les uns avec les autres. À l'heure actuelle, les anciens responsables du gouvernement font l'objet de toutes ces rumeurs et de ces ragots qui ne nous aident pas. Cela nuit à notre unité et à notre réconciliation", avertit Cllr. Gongloe. Selon lui, la lutte pour ce qui est juste est bonne, mais lorsque les gens sont en position, ils devraient en parler. Il a également indiqué que la véritable réconciliation et le bonheur du Liberia ne peuvent s'exprimer que lorsque ces enquêtes seront menées et que leurs résultats seront rendus publics. Il note que le Liberia avait un bon marché et de meilleures lois, mais qu'en raison de ces morts suspectes, personne n'a jamais pensé à y apporter de véritables investissements, ce qui, selon lui, a entraîné une diminution des investissements et des investisseurs dans le pays.

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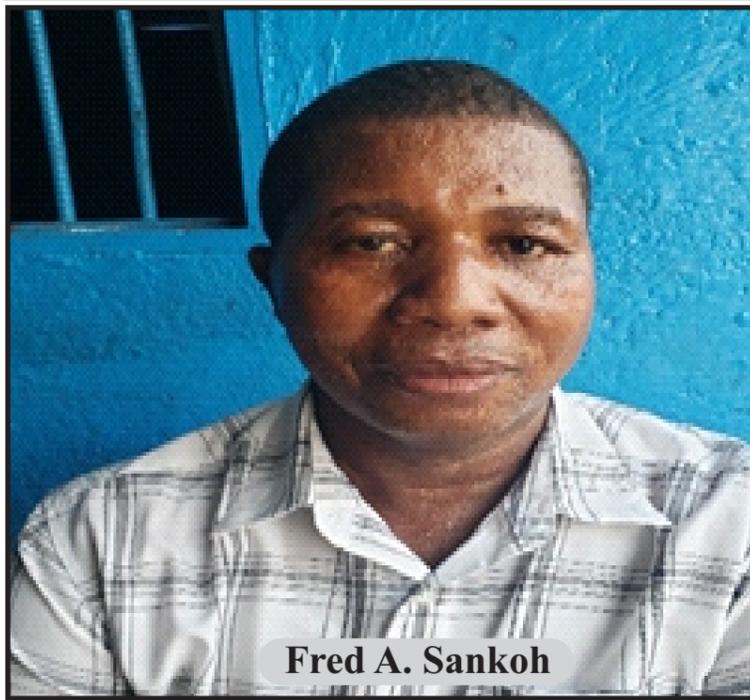
LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Meeting between Pres. Boakai and Sen. Prince Johnson

By Naneka Hoffman

President Boakai and Kingmaker Senator Prince Yormie Johnson met recently after which the senator, who has been complaining of his Nimba people being left out of the President's nominations for jobs, said things will not fall apart between the two. In this random sampling, The NEW DAWN asked ordinary citizens in Monrovia whether PYJ's words should be taken by a pinch of salt. Read their responses below.



Fred A. Sankoh

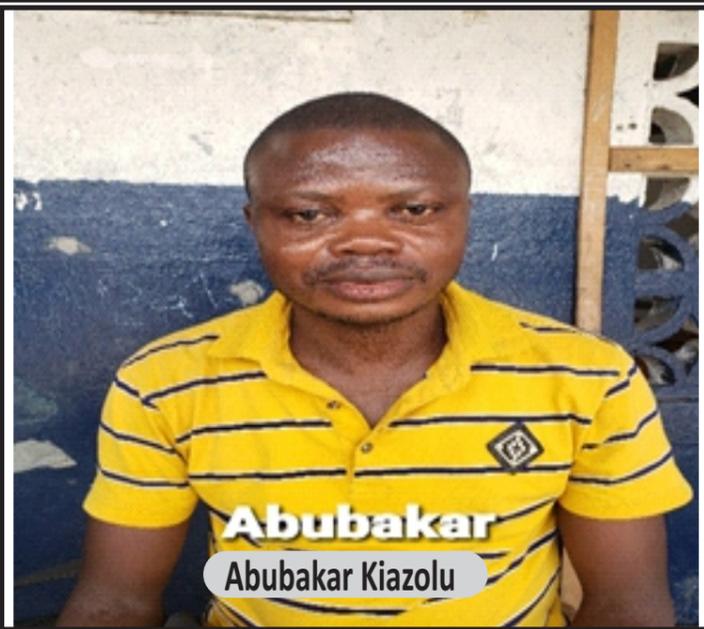
don't believe in Prince Johnson, such statement has serious question mark. He isn't a man that can stand by his words, because if you want development, you have to be consistent, think positive and think development. Looking at President Boakai, he is willing to bring development, so we have to put our hands together and work with him;

that is the only way our country will move forward. For now, it is just words from Prince Johnson's mouth. He is a human; I can say he is like a cemellion, a camellion can change at any time, so making such statement, it depends if he believes in himself that things will not fall apart.

Yes, it will not fall, but to hold such statement, he has to believe in himself and how best he can work with Boakai and the President is willing to work with every person."

"The manner in something and will which I look at not commit to that. Senator Prince Considering his age Johnson, he is a and the kind of controversial person President politician; he says Boakai is and God one thing and has elevated him to before you look, he that position, will change it. It Prince Johnson happened to former going on radio President George saying that Weah, and if he is President Boakai is doing it to President this, and that he has Boakai, this is his battery isn't really way. I don't believe good. He (Boakai) is him; he will say our President. I

"First and foremost Senator Prince Johnson that I know in politics, is inconsistent he doesn't stand by his words. I know him for that and he is well known in Liberian politics for that, so for him to say that things will not fall apart is a trap; President Joseph Boakai that I know, who is very competent and consistent, a well determine old man that he is now, taken the term to serve the Liberian people, I know that he doesn't take advice from an individual that isn't in the interest of the country. For President Boakai, as he stated in his campaign message that he's coming to the Presidency to rescue the country, and he is driving toward that statement gradually, so by listening to an individual, instead of the country's interest, I don't think

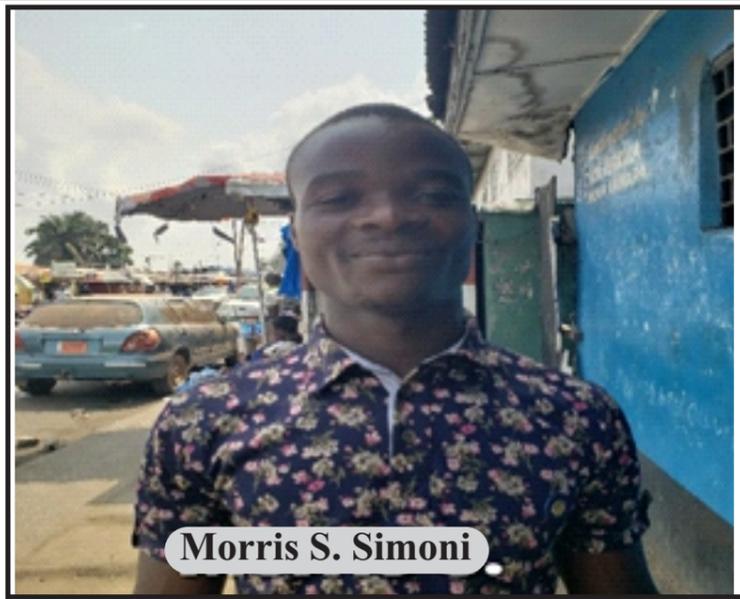


Abubakar Kiazolu

he is going to take change as for today, that. The only way from his both of them can work inconsistency then smoothly is that Sen. they can work Prince Johnson can together."

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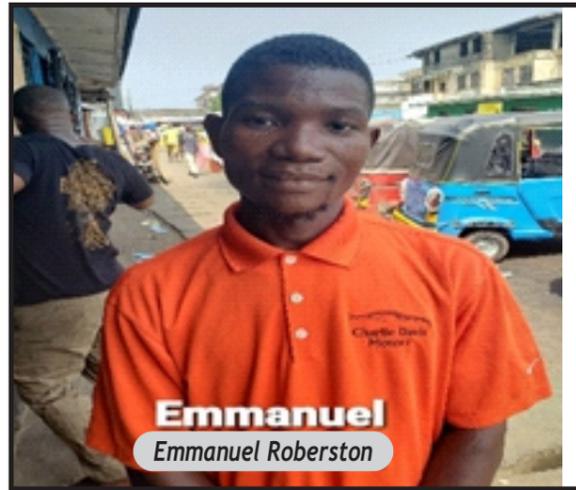
"President Boakai mentioned in his inaugural statement about War and Economic Crimes Court, and then he and Prince Johnson having meeting then Prince Johnson says things will not fall apart. What President Boakai was speaking of, Prince Johnson wasn't getting it clear, but I'm sure within myself, for President Boakai and Prince Johnson to work smoothly, it will be hard because President Boakai signing War and Economic Crimes Court will not go down well with Sen. Prince Johnson, because Johnson is one of the former rebel leaders, so Prince Johnson will be affected, so both of them will not work smoothly. By he saying it is the people from Nimba County that made Boakai President, so Boakai should appoint



Morris S. Simoni

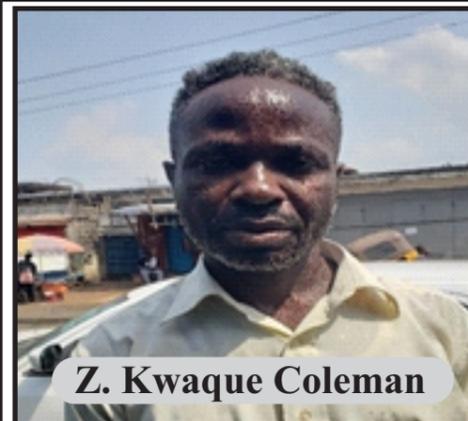
more Nimbaians, is not possible. Boakai won, Liberia has won. It isn't only Nimbaians that voted for Boakai, so from my mindset, both of them will not work smoothly because as long as President Boakai is bold to sign War and Economic Crimes Court, both of them will not work smoothly because it will not be in the interest of Prince Johnson."

"For my own view, the meeting held between Sen. Prince Johnson and President Boakai, I wasn't here, but I believe he went for consultation because he Prince Johnson, is a man that is so controversial. Looking at Prince Johnson making reckless statement that the President is appointing more Lofans than Nimbaians and that Nimbaians aren't incorporated, I think this government didn't come to power on the bases of tribalism. President Boakai came to power to serve the Liberian people. Whoever is qualify and have the potential, they will recommend to the President and the President will look at those recommendations and start to carry on appointments. In my mind, President Boakai has been doing justice to Nimbaians by appointing their sons and daughters



Emmanuel Roberston

in more strategic areas. I don't think President Boakai will work smoothly because there is a War and Economy Court on hand, and President Boakai is under obligation to sign that document, so not because of the interest of Senator Johnson, Boakia is going to ignore that, so because of that, both of them are not going to work together smoothly."



Z. Kwaque Coleman

"As per the meeting between President Boakai and Sen. Prince Johnson, they are going to work smoothly, if only the President is going to work with Prince Johnson's demand, because from Prince

Johnson's statement that things will not fall apart, you tell that the both of them met and discussed certain things that are very much important to the both of them. If the President is going to work by that, then they are going to work smoothly but until then, I don't think they are going to work smoothly because the President will not be willing to go by all Prince Johnson demands."

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Tragedy: Candle fire leaves 5 dead

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

At least five persons, including three women and two men, have died as a result of a fire outbreak in Paynesville, destroying properties reportedly worth thousands of United States Dollars.

The fire disaster has left

community, Paynesville.

Speaking to reporters on the scene, Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) Mayor-designate, Robert Bestman, expressed shock about the incident, while extending sympathy to the bereaved families and the entire community.

Mr. Bestman describes the

to providing relief for those who survived the incident.

Rep. Thomas says he will work with his colleagues in the 55th Legislature to ensure that logistics, including fire trucks, are provided to the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) to help curtail wave fire outbreaks in the city.

Meanwhile, there has been



The burnt building with bystanders

residents in devastating shock, sorrow and pain.

The victims, including a four-year-old Student Alexander Johnson, Eleazar P. Zamerzar, age 16; Jennifer Johnson, 37, Pauline Myers, 26; and 11-year-old Cecelia Fallah, were all burnt beyond recognition in the fire. Reports gathered indicate that the victims were all asleep when the fire started, as a result of candle lit in one of the rooms of a house in Cow Field

situation as an irreparable loss, not only for the City of Paynesville but Liberia at large, while pledging the City Corporation's commitment to working with the bereaved families in ensuring a befitting burial for the victims as well as providing assistance to survivors of the outbreak.

Visiting the scene also, Montserrado County District #4 Representative, Michael Thomas, said he is saddened by the incident and committed

recent appeal by the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) to the legislature to consider allocating funds in the 2024 National Budget to purchase a fire truck for Paynesville and potentially additional fire trucks for other cities, aimed at fire safety regulations to protect lives, property, and natural resources. Paynesville City has seen an increase in fire outbreaks in recent times destroying lives and property.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

New EPA boss wants Prof. Tarpeh audited

Starts from back page 2022 to 2026.

Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo narrated that he has also read the employee handbook, adding that apart from innovation that will make the EPA second to none among other autonomous agencies of government in Liberia, they will not do anything new but enforce existing policies, laws, and regulations.

"For us employees' welfare is

key to success at the EPA. Part of this is to ensure that people are properly placed based on qualifications," he noted.

"To end, we will conduct a rigorous employee appraisals to identify key strengths and weaknesses. Findings from this exercise will enable us to reshuffle the staff ensuring proper placement," Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo said.

According to him, all

employees will have their just and rightful benefits (including salaries that are commensurate with qualifications and nature of work) as mandated by the labor law of Liberia and other statutory laws.

"Think Liberia, Love Liberia, Build Liberia because a Better Liberia is Possible if and only if [the] Government becomes a place to serve and NOT a place to steal. Thank you," he concluded.

School Principals want permit fees reduced

Starts from page 6

and the previous CDC-led Administration, including remittances collected through Mobile Money from several public schools without any subsidy from the government.

He said an audit will help address challenges that have led increment in tuition and enhance capacity and growth of schools.

He wants permit fees set at 10,000 Liberian Dollars for elementary schools, 15,000 Liberian for junior high schools, and 30,000 Liberian Dollars, which he says are enough to contribute to government revenues.

In related development, at least 504 students will this Saturday, 24 February 2024 graduate from the LICOSESS Teacher's Training College in Paynesville after completion of studies at the college.

According to Dr. Wehye of that number, 90 candidates will for the first time be

graduating with bachelor's degree in teacher's training since the school was elevated to a Bachelor's degree program, while 73 others will be graduating with Associate degrees under the sponsorship USAID TESTS program. Editing by Jonathan Browne

LDEA nabs 9 Nigerian drug suspects

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) has arrested nine Liberian-based Nigerian nationals and two Liberians suspected of running a drug cartel in Sayon Town on Bushrod Island.

Newly confirmed LDEA Boss Col. Abraham Kromah led LDEA agents in the operation late Wednesday afternoon, 21 February 2024 as residents cheered on.

Liberians saw the arrest as a significant breakthrough in the nation's fight against illicit drugs in the wake of a growing population of young people who are going wayward due to drug abuse.

Among those arrested were two female Liberians identified as Hawa Tamba, aged 28, and Shelly Sheaton, aged 17.

These two ladies are being held by authorities for allegedly facilitating the illicit drug deal in the community.

The Nigerian suspects facing investigation are George Ikpehehukwu, alias Original

actions to clamp down on the increase of narcotic substances here.

He said the smooth-strike action was part of the LDEA's mission to buttress government efforts to fight against illicit drug abuse in the country and hunt down traffickers.

According to Col. Kromah, the alleged drug cartel is being investigated by the Liberia National Police (LNP).

According to him, the suspects were found with a huge percentage of cocaine, heroin, and tramadol, among other narcotic substances worth around Five Million Liberian dollars.

Meanwhile, the LDEA Boss pleaded with the Government of Liberia to increase budgetary support to the LDEA to boost the agency's operations.

"We will not cease in this fight against drugs because this situation is affecting [a] number of people, especially our youth," Col. Kromah said.

"You see people of Sayon Town were living in fear of the criminal rate because the drug users after taking the drugs will hijack innocent people and take away their property. This is [a] war we must fight together," Col. Kromah said.



Japan who is alleged to be an Auto-parts dealer, and Mr. Sunday Odeh.

Others are Peter Momat, Edwin Ozioko, Brigston Harris, Iglwe David, Ndubuis Okoronkwo, China Ekwe, and Efam Jamo. Briefing reporters shortly after the arrest, LDEA Director Col. Abraham Kromah said the alleged drug dealers, including notorious drug dealer George Ikpehehukwu, alias "Original Japan" were tracked down by agents of the LDEA after a tip-off received from an unnamed whistleblower. Col. Kromah said the suspects were arrested in smooth strike-

"This is our first operation, and [we] will continue even more with strengthening team of agents across the country and I'm going to ensure those who are arrested today are fully prosecuted by the law of this country," he added.

Residents of Sayon Town commanded the LDEA for the smooth operation which they said will provide relief to their community.

At the same time, the alleged perpetrators behind the drug activities in Sayon Town, suspect George Ikpehehukwu, said he was innocent of the alleged drug cartel.

He noted that he knows nothing about the illicit drug trade in the community.

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New EPA boss wants Prof. Tarpeh audited

By Lincoln G. Peters

The new acting Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Dr. Emmanuel Urey-Yarkpawolo has vowed to audit his predecessor Prof.

Flomoyan and his team, under the supervision of Hon. Dr. Louise Kpoto who led the transition here at the EPA," said Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo.

"I have read their report and recommendations. Part of their recommendations calls for an audit to be conducted," he

from now, the EPA will be a force for good not only for Liberia but for the global community," said Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo.

"All we ask is that you be transparent with us as well. we do not want to bore you down with many words. As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words," he noted.

He told partners to watch and see the transformation that will occur at the EPA, assuring that they all will form part of it and together they will be proud of his administration's achievements.

Meanwhile, Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo pointed out that over the next few days, they will conduct a thorough review of the plan to see what has been implemented, the ongoing projects, and the parts of the plan that need urgent attention.

Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo said he is grateful that they are not starting from zero, saying that there have been several good things done at the EPA and they are here not to undo what has been accomplished. However, he stated that his administration will build upon what has been achieved.

He noted that he had seen the Strategic Plan of the EPA from



Dr. Emmanuel Urey-Yarkpawolo

Wilson Tarpeh and his administration.

While taking office on Monday, 19 February 2024, Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo said the audit is in keeping with the recommendation from Mr. James Flomoyan and his team's assessment from the past administration of Prof. Tarpeh.

He indicated that regular auditing is a good organizational practice, and his administration will ensure that this is done.

The EPA Boss assured national and international partners that a new day has dawned on the EPA.

"We promise you that a year

"I want to thank Mr. James

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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