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

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VOL. 14 NO. 27 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 PRICE LD\$40.00

Weah's rating falling?



Former President George Manneh Weah returned home Tuesday, 27 Feb. 2024



S/Court complicates Code of Conduct

-Says Cllr. Kanneh

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Continental News

Africa's Energy Frontiers Draw Chinese Investors

China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and China Petroleum & Chemical

information, please visit www.Invest-Africa-Energy.com. To sponsor or participate as a delegate, please contact sales@energycapitalpower.com. In Tanzania, CNOOC is

partnering with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation to explore deep-sea Blocks 4/1B and 4/1C - located in close proximity to existing gas discoveries - for offshore oil and gas. The company launched wildcat drilling in Gabon's Blocks BC-9 and BCD-10 at the start of 2023, with its Tigre prospect holding up to 1.4 billion barrels of potential recoverable resources. Last May, CNOOC renewed its production sharing contract with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and TotalEnergies for OML 130 - home to the producing Akpo and Egina fields and Preowei discovery - which could enable a future FID to be made on the new discovery. In terms of production, South Sudan has been in talks with CNPC to boost output from Blocks 3 and 7 in the Paloch fields in Upper Nile, which the Chinese firm operates in partnership with Malaysia's Petronas and Sinopec. In addition to upstream investments, Chinese players are leading the construction of critical midstream infrastructure across the continent. In Mozambique, CNPC holds a 20% stake in the Coral Sul LNG project, which has transformed Mozambique into a global LNG exporter after delivering first cargo in November 2022. In East Africa, CNOOC holds an 8% stake in the planned East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), while CNPC subsidiary China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering is responsible for the construction and supply of the project's line pipes. Transporting Uganda's crude oil to the Port of Tanga in Tanzania, EACOP will facilitate crude exports to global markets, as well as stimulate economic activity, new infrastructure and improved logistics in the central trade corridor between the two countries. In Niger, CNPC is leading the development of the Niger-Benin Export Pipeline, set to increase the country's oil output from 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 130,000 bpd upon completion. Operated by CNPC, the 1,900-km pipeline will connect Niger's Agadem oil fields to the Port of Sèmè in Benin and represents the largest cross-border pipeline invested by CNPC in Africa.

Mart Africa's Digital Academy receives a \$20mn grant from the World Bank to expand across Africa

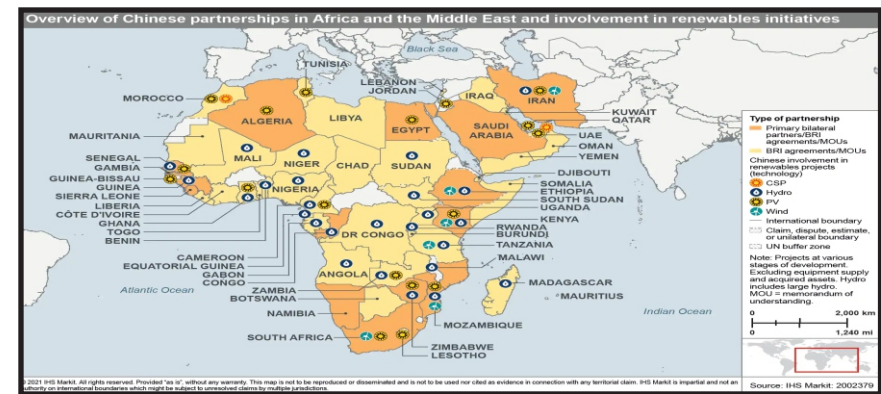
The World Bank is partnering with Smart Africa to scale up the Smart Africa Digital Academy (SADA) initiative from a national to a regional focus as part of the Western Africa Regional Digital Integration Program (WARDIP), in a bid to advance regional integration of digital markets through a USD 20 million grant for 5 years.

With this aim, the scale-up will reach 30,000 unique policymakers and decision makers from all countries in Africa, with a targeted participation level of females at 40%. Given the World Bank's commitment to digital transformation in Africa, the grant will significantly contribute to regional integration and rapid adoption of the Single Digital Market for Africa.

Launched by the Smart Africa Alliance from a seed

Mr. Lacina Koné highlighted "At the heart of the digital transformation lies the need to bridge the digital skills gap of our continent's future and present workforce. Today, I am pleased to announce that SADA, our capacity building vehicle, is geared to reach a new milestone thanks to our key development partner, The World Bank".

"DTfA/ WARDIP is a crucial step toward an interconnected, innovative, and inclusive future for West Africa. Beyond shaping a digital landscape, it aims to foster regional integration through collaboration and strategic investments", said Boutheina Guermazi, World Bank Director for Regional Integration for Africa and the Middle East. "It will break down barriers, cultivate a dynamic digital ecosystem, and empower local communities and businesses to thrive in the digital age". As the implementation progresses, SADA will focus on competency-based skills training that allows a pipeline of talents to



Corporation (Sinopec) - represent the fourth-largest energy investors in Africa, following European IOCs bp, Shell and Eni. These companies are leading and financing some of Africa's most transformative energy initiatives, from deepwater exploration to enhanced oil recovery to regional pipelines that connect new resources to underserved markets. Organized by Energy Capital & Power, IAE 2024 (<https://apopa.co/3UM00tQ>) 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 intensive engagement with industry experts, project developers, investors and policymakers. For more

Black Leaders Honored at Global Black Impact Summit (GBIS 2024)

The Black Excellence Foundation announced the recipients of four prestigious awards presented at the Global Black Impact Summit Gala Dinner on February 27th. Recognizing exceptional individuals who have made contributions to their respective fields, these awards celebrate black excellence and leadership on a global scale.

Trailblazer Award recipient NJ Ayuk, chairman of the African Energy Chamber, exemplifies visionary leadership and innovation in the energy sector, inspiring future African leaders. "Receiving this award marks a significant milestone for me. While I've prioritized impact over recognition, I'm grateful for this honor," expressed Ayuk. Sabrina Ben Salmi, acclaimed author and transformative mentor, received the Visionary Award for her groundbreaking contributions to family and personal development. "If this award can inspire just one child

out there, it's a tremendous achievement," remarked Ben Salmi.

Amadou Gallo Fall, President of the Basketball Africa League, was awarded the Impact Award for his pivotal contributions to basketball and youth development in Africa. "Today's summit has been filled with inspiring voices. We're dedicated to collaborating and leveraging sports to propel black excellence," Fall affirmed.

Former professional basketball player Luol Deng was the

recipient of the Legacy Award for his outstanding contributions on and off the court, with Fall accepting on his behalf. "After 20 years, Deng returned to South Sudan, spearheading basketball development. He's truly exceptional," Fall stated.

The Global Black Impact Summit serves as a beacon of inspiration and empowerment for the global Black community, celebrating achievements, fostering connections, and promoting equality.



money of about thirty thousand US dollars which saw the first implementation of an online training for policy and decision makers in August 2020, the Smart Africa Digital Academy (SADA) has made significant strides in advancing digital skills and fostering a dynamic learning ecosystem across Africa with initial grant support from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the German Federal Ministry for Corporation and Development and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (BMZ /GIZ). SADA aims to bridge the digital skills gap in African countries, improving employability and meeting the emerging talent needs of African citizens. Since its inception, SADA has trained over 7000 beneficiaries across 35 countries in Africa on various digital transformation topics. Commenting on the partnership with the World Bank, the CEO of Smart Africa,

be created for the job market in Africa and beyond. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic, advocated the need to mainstream ICT and digital into Africa's educational system, and this will be achieved through the training portfolio for teachers and children, which focuses on Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics. SADA acknowledges the need for a tiered approach to digital skilling in Africa and has five main target groups with a multifaceted approach of interventions to these target groups, namely: Policy and Decision Makers, Youth and Entrepreneurs, Teachers and Students, Digital Experts and the General public. It federates existing initiatives and leverages on the convening power of the Smart Africa Alliance to implement solutions that are co-created with the countries and in collaboration with prominent international and private sector organizations, including the World Bank, ITU, BMZ, GIZ, IEEE, GSMA, USTTI and major tech companies.

EDITORIAL

Fight for tenure positions

Holders of tenure positions in government and the Executive Mansion are in words of war about plan by the Presidency to scratch all tenure posts.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., seems resolved in legally undoing or removing all those occupying tenure positions especially, from the previous administration.

Institutions with tenure posts include the General Auditing Commission, Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, National Elections Commission (NEC) Liberia Ant-Corruption Commission (LACC), Internal Audit Agency (IAA), Liberia Human Rights Commission, Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and Civil Service Commission as well as the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), among others.

The President has already made nominations to several of these positions last week but the news received stiff resistance from those currently occupying tenure offices that the Executive Mansion seeks to replace, prompting the Presidency to put a hold on the process.

Fact of the matter is that these institutions with tenure posts were created by law. But the law says persons occupying each of these offices may be removed for a cause.

Interestingly, the current rigmarole would not have come about if former President George Manneh Weah had sought the approval of the 54th Legislature to remove Cllr. Kla Martin, who Mr. Weah was not comfortable with, from the Liberian Anti-Corruption despite Cllr. Martin's resistance under the law.

He went as far as the Supreme Court of Liberia, and the High Court rendered an opinion that was in favor of the former President, thus setting a precedent that current President Boakai may rely on to boot all those presently in tenure offices out.

We understand that all those appointed by the Executive work at the will and pleasure of the President, but our only qualm is if the Presidency wield so much power to undo or amend the law for his convenience, there is no need for the legislature to pass such law.

Some of these tenure offices are important for check and balance purposes, but if everyone that is appointed in those positions must dance at will and pleasure of the President, then it defeats the objective for which they were created.

As the Executive Mansion and current tenure office holders dig their heels into the ground for a faceoff, we can but only caution all sides to proceed with care to avoid sending a wrong signal.

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COMMENTARY

By Cina Lawson,
Rory Stewart

A Global Cash-Transfer Fund Could End Extreme Poverty

LOMÉ - For decades, the international community has grappled with the challenge of ending extreme poverty, which is the leading Sustainable Development Goal for 2030. Despite some progress, we remain far off track, with an estimated 700 million people still struggling to survive on less than \$2.15 per day. Unlike in previous decades, however, we now have a solution that can be scaled up rapidly to accelerate the end of extreme poverty: direct cash transfers to the poorest households.

The concept itself is not new. Cash aid has proven effective, especially in the face of emergencies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, one of every six people in the world received some cash assistance. Direct transfers are powerful tools for helping individuals to take control of their lives and invest in their families' well-being. That is why high- and middle-income countries are increasingly incorporating cash aid as a central part of their social safety nets. Still, it is estimated that less than 5% of the \$200 billion spent annually on international development is allocated to cash transfers.

The positive impact of cash transfers is well-documented and undeniable. The upshot from more than 300 randomized control trials is that transfers can boost incomes more than twofold; increase school enrollment and entrepreneurship; decrease skipped meals, illness, and depression; and reduce domestic violence. Importantly, they neither reduce hours worked nor increase spending on temptation goods like tobacco and alcohol. Better still, every \$1 transfer has a spillover effect of around \$2.50 in the local economy. Three years after the transfer, recipients are still earning more and are better educated. Recent research from Kenya showed that a \$500 lump-sum cash transfer was particularly effective in empowering families to make income-generating investments.

Equally important, we now have the technology to reach the world's poorest people en masse with direct transfers. New digital technologies have dramatically lowered the cost and expanded our capacity to deliver money safely to the poorest parts of the world.

During the pandemic, Togo used mobile-phone data and satellite imagery to identify and target people in need of relief. Its NOVSSI program leveraged the basic USSD technology on all mobile devices (similar to SMS text messaging) to reach and validate recipients, distributing \$34 million to 920,000 beneficiaries.

Having been carefully studied, Togo's successful pilot is now being scaled up to a \$100 million program, with World Bank support. Similarly, India enrolled 1.3 billion people in its digital ID system in the space of just six years, facilitating rapid growth in digital payments and enabling seamless

cash transfers to the country's remotest areas.

Now that these and many other programs have demonstrated the effectiveness of cash transfers, the question is how to globalize this solution. Building on the insights of an international working group we recently co-chaired, we propose establishing a new global fund dedicated to eradicating extreme poverty through lump-sum direct cash transfers. This solution would help countries expand their use of digital cash transfers by expanding existing social-protection programs or starting new ones. The money required would come from a mix of philanthropists, institutions, and governments, similar to how the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria raises its funds. Crucially, these transfers would be offered not as a substitute for other interventions, but rather as a complement.

After all, if families still lack access to health care, education, and employment opportunities, additional cash will not help as much as it could. As a complementary measure, however, the benefits of that cash would extend beyond the initial payment. Individuals and families equipped with mobile money accounts would gain access to a financial lifeline, enabling them to save, start businesses, or receive remittances from abroad. At scale, this infrastructure accelerates underserved communities' financial inclusion, and empowers national governments to provide emergency cash support during disasters and to offer long-term benefits to vulnerable populations.

While direct transfers alone will not end extreme poverty, they represent a concrete first step toward catalyzing wider action. As with the strategy for tackling HIV - whereby an agreement to distribute anti-retroviral treatment preceded larger reforms to health systems and measures to encourage behavioral changes - a swift, unified initial step can make a daunting problem more manageable than we thought.

It should be unacceptable in today's world that hundreds of millions of families still struggle for food and adequate shelter. Children shouldn't face stunted growth and development, or be unable to complete their education. This type of poverty isn't just painful; it is a tragic waste of human potential.

By improving dozens of outcomes simultaneously, cash transfers offer a transformative solution to multidimensional poverty.

They have already proven effective, adaptable, and replicable, and now they are becoming more attainable every year with growing mobile coverage and improved digital infrastructure. This technological diffusion offers a historic opportunity to break the cycle of extreme poverty and desperation. For the first time, the world has both the money and the methods to succeed. What are we waiting

OP-ED

By Wempi Saputra

Banking on the World Bank's Knowledge

WASHINGTON, DC - Amid a cascade of intertwined challenges, including public-health emergencies, climate change, and violent conflict, that threaten to reverse decades of hard-won development progress, the World Bank has introduced an Evolution Roadmap to boost efforts to reduce poverty and inequality. Crucially, the unified and scaled response called for by Bank President Ajay Banga includes leveraging knowledge to help countries make more informed and effective decisions.

While best known for its financial services, the World Bank has a long history of researching and disseminating the lessons of development. In 1996, then-President James D. Wolfensohn, recognizing the potential of the information-technology revolution, urged the institution to function as a "Knowledge Bank." He emphasized that the World Bank's relationships with governments and international organizations would allow it to play a leading role in new global partnerships for creating and sharing knowledge. So long as it invested in the necessary systems, the Bank would be able to make more and better information available to its client countries.

Since then, the World Bank has offered both financial support and knowledge services, including technical assistance, training, capacity-building, policy advice, and data analysis. In fact, many clients consider these services - which capitalize on the Bank's vast experience, sectoral expertise, and wide array of data sources - to be as valuable as the financial assistance provided by the institution, if not more so.

But, to become a fully-fledged Knowledge Bank, the World Bank still needs to build these services into its operating processes and develop a model that supports the creation and dissemination of information as a standalone activity. This is crucial to improving the effectiveness and relevance of its knowledge initiatives.

Moreover, the Bank must ensure that it is providing client countries with the knowledge they need. After visiting 14 countries over the past year in my capacity as an executive director of the Bank, I have identified three areas in which clients could use more guidance. Fortunately, the Bank can mostly fill these gaps with its existing knowledge services and products.

For starters, client countries need to know how to use financial resources more efficiently to create projects or programs that have the largest multiplier effects and serve as many beneficiaries as possible. For example, a successful mangrove-rehabilitation project in Indonesia could be a model for other countries seeking to improve the welfare of local communities, support small and medium-size enterprises, and generate revenue through carbon credits in a transparent way.

Countries also require a better understanding of how to align domestic priorities with climate and development goals, which is essential for accelerating the green transition, broadening crisis-response toolkits, and strengthening climate resilience. According to the International Monetary Fund, delaying the transition to a low-emissions economy could impede GDP growth. But so far, striking the right balance between meeting environmental and social targets and pursuing an agenda for domestic development has been a challenge for many of the Bank's clients.

Lastly, there is the question of how to sustain strong, balanced, and inclusive economic growth by mobilizing private capital and boosting investment. To address this challenge, the Bank could provide systematic country assessments and international comparisons of good practices or lessons learned, which would likely contribute to poverty alleviation and shared prosperity.

Over the past 25 years, the World Bank has developed the capacity to address such questions. Its World Development Report, published in 1998, recognized that knowledge, not capital, is the key to sustained economic growth and focused on two main issues: knowledge gaps (the unequal distribution of know-how within and across countries) and information gaps (incomplete knowledge of products, processes, and institutions). The Bank's inaugural report assessing the state of its knowledge services, published in 2011, provided a comprehensive overview of the institution's efforts to overcome these problems. Later, in 2021, the Bank established a strategic framework for knowledge.

Last year's annual report summarized the World Bank's knowledge achievements to date, showcasing how far it has come. Examples include the launch of the Utility Knowledge Exchange Platform in 2022, which helps countries improve the performance of their electricity systems through policy, regulatory, institutional, and governance reforms. This initiative was complemented by more than \$27 billion in Bank-financed projects supporting utilities between 2018 and 2022.

In 2023, the Bank also supported 510 employment-related projects, totaling around \$87 billion, while conducting job diagnostics and facilitating global knowledge-sharing and research. And in Kenya, a youth-empowerment program that combined classroom learning with on-the-job experience significantly increased the number of young Kenyans in paid work.

When Wolfensohn first proposed the idea of a Knowledge Bank, he aptly noted that lessons from economic development are part of the "global commons," and that the cultivation and dissemination of this expertise requires international cooperation. Banga has inherited an even more daunting development challenge in this context, given the corrosive effects of contemporary geopolitics on multilateralism.

Even so, with the new playbook developed under Banga's watch, the World Bank can continue its shift toward becoming a Knowledge Bank. Now more than ever, the Bank must make its expertise more widely available, use its convening power, and deepen its partnerships to meet the needs of its client countries.

OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato and Ilan Strauss

The Algorithm and Its Discontents

LONDON - In a new lawsuit in the United States against Meta, 41 states and the District of Columbia argue that two of the company's social-media products - Instagram and Facebook - are not just addictive but detrimental to children's well-being. Meta is accused of engaging in a "scheme to exploit young users for profit," including by showing harmful content that keeps them glued to their screens.

According to one recent poll, 17-year-olds in the US spend 5.8 hours per day on social media. How did it come to this? The answer, in a word, is "engagement."

Deploying algorithms to maximize user engagement is how Big Tech maximizes shareholder value, with short-term profits often overriding longer-term business objectives, not to mention societal health. As the data scientist Greg Linden puts it, algorithms built on "bad metrics" foster "bad incentives" and enable "bad actors."

Although Facebook started as a basic service that connected friends and acquaintances online, its design gradually evolved not to meet user needs and preferences, but to keep them on the platform and away from others. In pursuit of this objective, the company regularly disregarded explicit consumer preferences regarding the kind of content users wanted to see, their privacy, and data sharing.

Putting immediate profits first means funneling users toward "clicks," even though this approach generally favors inferior, sensational material, rather than fairly rewarding participants from across a broader ecosystem of content creators, users, and advertisers. We call these profits "algorithmic attention rents," because they are generated by passive ownership (like a landlord) rather than from entrepreneurial production to meet consumers' needs.

Mapping rents in today's economy requires understanding how dominant platforms exploit their algorithmic control over users. When an algorithm degrades the quality of the content it promotes, it is exploiting users' trust and the dominant position that network effects reinforce. That is why Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram can get away with cramming their feeds with ads and "recommended" addictive content. As the tech writer Cory Doctorow has colorfully put it, platform "enshittification comes out of the barrel of an algorithm" (which may, in turn, rely on illegal data collection and sharing practices).

The Meta suit is ultimately about its algorithmic practices that are carefully constructed to maximize user "engagement" - keeping users on the platform for longer and provoking more comments, likes, and reposts. Often, a good way to do this is to display harmful and borderline illegal content, and to transform time on the platform into a compulsive activity, with features like "infinite scroll" and nonstop notifications and alerts (many of the same techniques are used, to great effect, by the gambling industry).

Now that advances in artificial intelligence already supercharge algorithmic recommendations, making them even more addictive, there is an urgent need for new governance structures oriented toward the "common good" (rather than a narrowly conceived notion of "shareholder value") and symbiotic partnerships between business, government, and civil society. Fortunately, it is well within policymakers' power to shape these markets for the better.

First, rather than relying only on competition and antitrust law, policymakers should adopt technological tools to ensure that platforms cannot unfairly lock in users and developers. One way to prevent anti-competitive "walled gardens" is by mandating data portability and interoperability across digital services, so that users can move more seamlessly between platforms, depending on where their needs and preferences are best met.

Second, corporate governance reform is essential, since maximization of shareholder value is what pushed platforms to exploit their users algorithmically in the first place. Given the well-known social costs associated with this business model - optimizing for clicks often means amplifying scams, misinformation, and politically polarizing material - governance reform requires algorithmic reform.

A first step toward establishing a healthier baseline is to require platforms to disclose (in the annual 10-K reports filed to the US Securities and Exchange Commission) what their algorithms optimize for, along with how their users are monetized. In a world where tech executives descend on Davos every year to talk about "purpose," proper disclosures will pressure them to do what they say, as well as help policymakers, regulators, and investors distinguish between earned profits and unearned rents.

Third, users should be given greater influence over the algorithmic prioritization of information shown to them. Otherwise, the harms from ignoring user preferences will continue to grow as algorithms create their own feedback loops, pushing manipulative clickbait on users and then wrongly inferring that they prefer it.

Fourth, the industry standard of "A/B testing" should give way to more comprehensive long-term impact evaluations. Faulty data science drives algorithmic short-termism. For example, A/B testing may show that displaying more ads in a feed will have a positive short-term impact on profits without overly harming user retention; but this ignores the impact on acquiring new users, not to mention most other potentially harmful long-term effects.

Good data science shows that optimizing recommender systems for long-term, delayed rewards (such as customer satisfaction, retention, and new-user adoption) is the best way for a company to drive long-term growth and profitability - assuming it can stop focusing primarily on the next quarterly-earnings report. In 2020, a team within Meta determined that fewer intrusive notifications would be better for both app usage and user satisfaction over a longer period of time (one year). Long-term effects differed sharply from short-term effects.

Fifth, public AI should be deployed to evaluate the quality of algorithmic outputs, particularly advertising. Given the considerable harms arising from platforms lowering the standard of acceptable ads, the United Kingdom's advertising watchdog will now use AI tools to scrutinize ads and identify those making "dodgy claims." Other authorities should follow suit. Equally important, AI evaluators should be a feature of platforms' openness to external auditing of algorithmic outputs.

Creating a digital environment that rewards value creation from innovation, and punishes value extraction from rents (especially in core digital markets), is the fundamental economic challenge of our time. Safeguarding the health of Big Tech's users and the entire ecosystem means ensuring that algorithms are not beholden to shareholders' immediate profit concerns. If business leaders are serious about stakeholder value, they should accept the need to create value in a fundamentally different way - drawing on the five principles above.

Meta's forthcoming trial cannot undo past mistakes. But as we prepare for the next generation of AI products, we must establish proper algorithmic oversight. AI-powered algorithms will influence not just what we consume, but how we produce and create; not just what we choose, but what we think. We must not get this wrong.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All. Ilan Strauss is a research associate at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

COMMENTARY

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

The decade of healthy ageing – responsibilities and prospects for the Africa we want

By Angeline Marokoane

While Africa is a continent with a rapidly growing population of young people, it is crucial for the region to pay attention to the global agenda on ageing.

The United Nations declared the years 2021 to 2030 as the "Decade of Healthy Ageing". This global collaboration, aligned with the last 10 years of the Sustainable Development Goals, seeks to improve the lives of older people, their families and the communities in which they live.

"With increased longevity in Africa, it is imperative to focus on research, policy and infrastructure development to properly support and care for current and future cohorts of older people and their families. There will be a huge increase in the absolute number of older persons on the continent."

This is according to Prof Jaco Hoffman, an expert on ageing in Africa and professor of Socio-Gerontology at the NWU's Optentia research unit. He is also a professorial fellow at the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing at the University of Oxford.

"The number of older people aged 60 and above in Africa is projected to nearly triple by 2050, from 74 million in 2020 to 235 million, making Africa the third-largest grouping of older persons globally after Asia and Europe," says Prof Hoffman. He says in South Africa alone, the current population of 6 million older individuals is estimated to double to around 12 million, exceeding the entire population of some European countries like Denmark.

Research, appropriate policy and investments in infrastructure for the elderly will be crucial in preparing for the needs of a growing ageing population.

Research for better understanding

Africa must invest in research that delves into the social and healthcare needs of its ageing populations, says Prof Hoffman. This continent must bridge the knowledge gap by conducting studies on the social determinants of health and subsequently put relevant long-term care systems in place. It must concurrently also capitalise on the potential and contributions of this group.

"The field should prioritise translational research by integrating evidence, advocacy, policy and practice. Research should be guided by local contexts, and emerging researchers ought to concentrate on mainstreaming African research on ageing," he says.

Policy implementation for inclusive ageing

The development and implementation of comprehensive policies are necessary to address the needs of the ageing population. To this end, the NWU was extensively involved in the development of the Policy on Ageing of the African Union (AU), approved by all member states in 2022. Although governments across Africa are increasingly putting policies and initiatives in place to cater for the needs of older people as they become more aware of the significance of healthy ageing, Prof Hoffman asserts that greater effort is required to implement the AU Policy on Ageing and the Protocol on Human Rights for Older Persons in the contexts of (South) Africa.

Infrastructure and investment to support ageing communities

Adequate infrastructural planning and investments are crucial for a society to support its ageing population. This includes accessible healthcare facilities, age-friendly housing and transportation systems, and user-friendly public spaces. For South Africa in particular, Prof Hoffman emphasises the importance of a long-term care system focusing on community support, and the development of a long-term care economy where carers are valorised.

Positive outlook on ageing and intergenerational learning at the NWU

Prof Hoffman underscores the importance of the NWU establishing itself as a reference point for research on ageing in Africa and as a centre for intergenerational learning, and fostering a positive approach to ageing across the entire life course.

By investing in healthcare, social support and age-friendly environments, Africa might harness the wisdom and experience of older Africans, who can contribute to shaping the continent's future towards the Africa we want for all ages. To this end, the NWU, in partnership with the International Federation of Ageing, will host the 17th Global IFA Conference on Ageing in Cape Town from 9 to 12 September 2025.

Wisdom Not Age

There is plenty talk about some persons getting fooled because they are old and can not figure out the right things to do.

The relevant expression found in the Holy Scriptures says: what does the wisdom of Solomon have to do with the age of Methuselah.

This expression is not in the Holy Scriptures for nothing. This expression is telling the Truth. We can learn the Truth by examining the records in history through books or stories from the Elderly.

From the Truth, we learn that some young people do the right thing while some old people do the wrong thing. Some young people do the wrong thing while some old people do the right thing.

Some blind people do the right thing while some people who have good eyesight do the wrong thing.

Some people who have good eyesight do the right thing while some people who are blind do the wrong thing. A blind woman took care of her Son who had good eyesight and worked as a Market Woman to send him to school until he became a national religious leader.

So, it is wrong for some people to go around blaming old and blind people for the doing of bad things.

I am almost 83 years of age and nobody can fool me except Our Creator who will only tell me the Truth.

This situation is possible because of learning to do the right thing and carrying it out.

Many people, even some calling themselves progressives, talk a lot but do

not Walk The Talk. No wonder the people of Liberia have concluded that Liberia is headed in the wrong direction (Afrobaometer, 2022).

We know that the prevailing direction is wrong because it promotes poverty generation rather than poverty alleviation. The promotion of poverty generation is the promotion of Business As Usual. The promotion of poverty generation is the making of the same mistakes.

Therefore, it makes non-sense to talk about getting on the ground running when you are running in a political campaign only to get on the ground running backwards after the campaign.

This getting on the ground running backwards is not surprising because the entity that you promote has the record of promoting the prevailing poverty generation system.

The only credible record is the record of working to change the prevailing poverty generation system.

Only the people who love Liberia have a credible record because the work that they do promotes poverty alleviation.

This work is working well, as seen in the non-re-election of the National Legislators who wanted to be re-elected, This work is the raising of awareness to motivate the people of Liberia to take action through the Rule of Law to transform the prevailing unfair electoral system into the enduring fair electoral system.

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

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Senator McGill cautions President Boakai

In the midst of controversies rocking the early stage of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's leadership here, a key opposition Senator, Nathaniel Falo McGill, cautions President Boakai not to be misled. Sen. McGill, who chairs the CDC Legislative Caucus, notes that the President is giving too much attention to his advisors rather than looking at the bigger picture.

By Ramsey N Singbeh, Jr

Margibi County, Liberia, February 28, 2024 - Margibi County Senator Nathaniel Falo McGill is cautioning President Joseph Nyumah Boakai not to

those people in the Mansion to undermine your administration. You fought to be President for this country. Liberian people gave it to you. Your concern now should be how to keep the country

going through the legal system.

According to the senator, his understanding is that Boakai won the Presidency with about a margin of 17,000 votes, which he notes is too small to start chasing after people, if he wants peace and stability in the country. McGill who also chairs the CDC Legislative Caucus, said some of the officials have not even spent about 30 days in office to understand government, but they are making statements he describes as funny, warning them to behave.

He once served as Minister of State for Presidential Affairs under the administration of former President Weah, but was sanctioned by the United States Treasury along with several former officials for significant public corruption. He was one of the officials of the Weah administration that was highly criticized for wrongly running the affairs of the former government. But the table has turned and McGill now a senator, is expressing disappointment in the new administration. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



allow officials of his government especially, in the Executive Mansion to undermine his administration.

Speaking in a live press conference on Wednesday, February 28, Senator McGill said, "We should do everything for the sake of peace. I want to appeal to the President, my own Uncle. Please, don't allow

peaceful." He said the President should not listen to those calling themselves legal advisors, seeking attention, popularity and wanting to exercise power. The Senate Committee Chair on Education wonders how the government could deny people of employment just because they wore party T-shirts without

GVC launches in Liberia

The launching of Global Village Connections, a multipurpose organization in Liberia with the objective of uniting the world through farming, education, health, entrepreneurship, arts and culture, among others appears to be a lifeline for rural dwellers seeking access to safe drinking water.

By: Ramsey N Singbeh Jr

Margibi County, Liberia, February 28, 2024 - An international multipurpose organization, Global Village Connections (GVC) has officially been launched in Liberia.

The group was established in 2019 by Mr. Jackson Dukpa from Buthan. Its sole purpose is to unite the world through farming, education, health, entrepreneurship, arts and culture, among others.

The launch occurred in Konola, District# 5, Margibi County recently with more than 500 people represented from different counties in Liberia. Indoor activities of the program were followed by a parade of women and men, including farmers, entrepreneurs and many other professional people from Kissi Camp Community to Mars Yard in Kolona along Weala highway in the county.

Providing an overview of the organization, its president, Sylvester Lepolu said the group

was established with a clear vision and mission of serving humanity unconditionally and bringing about global transformation for a better world. It also serves as a vehicle of hope for the weak and voice of the voiceless, he added.

Mr. Lepolu stated that GVC's mission entails so many things including achieving zero hunger in Liberia by 2028. This he said will be done through community farming, supporting small farmers and creating market connectivity to ensure a balanced global food supply.

The group also seeks clean and green earth mission by 2035 thru trees planting and land regeneration, implementation of safe and smart waste management, protection of the

natural eco- system and creating green and clear energy initiatives.

GVC also wants to ensure clean drinking water by 2030 by creating access to clean drinking water and implementing rain water harvesting system.

Mr. Lepolu also spoke about the right to livelihood by 2030 through skill development across all sectors, sustainable employment creation and access to sustainable finance.

He named peaceful and safe world by 2035 which will be addressing crimes and promoting safety, providing peaceful education initiatives, relocating displaced people affected by wars and natural calamity.



BWI reiterates calls for elevation

Liberia's premier technical and vocational institute, Booker Washington Institute situated in Kakata, Margibi County is calling on the government to grant it full university status in order to deliver adequately and efficiently to the public. BWI currently offers associate degree and diploma programs to Liberia's youthful population.

Ramsey N Singbeh Jr

Kakata, Margibi County, Liberia, February 28, 2024 - The Booker Washington Institute, which is a modeling center for T-VET Education here situated in Kakata, Margibi County is calling on the government to elevate the Institute to university status.

BWI craves the government's full support during the first term of President Joseph Boakai.

Speaking recently during the school's graduation, BWI Principal Attorney Harris Fumba Tarnue said: "We request the government under your leadership to give full support to BWI's elevation to Liberia's first T-VET University in your first term and probably in your first year of your leadership. We make this open request additionally with the Ministry of

policy statement that talks about turning BWI into a technical institution that will produce most of the agricultural machines that will make life easier for farmers.

On Saturday, February 24, 2024, graduated 452 young men and women after completion of studies in various vocational skills.

The graduation ceremony took place on the main campus of the BWI on Saturday, February 24, 2024, with students, parents, BWI Administration and Board, Margibi County authorities and partners in attendance.

The graduates include 234 males and females from the regular secondary T-VET program, 203 from the post-secondary T-VET and professional studies program and 15 from the domestic science short-term and skill training program, respectively, totaling 452.

The graduates are from the business department that offers Accounting, Secretarial Science and Domestic Science. Others came from the building trade department, which offers plumbing, masonry and carpentry, the Automotive and machinery department, Agriculture department, Electricity and

Electronic departments.

BWI Principal Harris Fumba Tarnue, says the graduates completed the prescribed curriculum from the Ministry of Education.

He says with the support of the government and development partners, the institution continues to make success in its efforts to building the capacity of the administrative and instructional staff.

According to Mr. Tarnue, currently he anticipates return of six of his staff, who are studying in China.

He disclosed that eight of instructors are competing dual Master's program that is funded by the European Union and the Swedish Fund under the Youth Rising Program at Han University in Finland.

He adds that T-VET instructors who have been training in Kenya, Zambia and South Africa have returned home with specialization in automotive, carpentry, machinery and information technology, among other skills.

Named in memory of late Afro-America scholar and educator, BWI is Liberia's leading technical and vocation institution founded in 1929 under the administration of late President Charles Dunbar Burgess King. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



BWI Principal Attorney Harris Fumba Tarnue

Finance and Development Planning to timely restore the grant status to BWI which was removed by the outgoing leadership at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning."

Principal Tarnue assured that with the restoration of the grant status, the Institute's autonomy will be in full swing to even deliver better T-VET education to Liberian youth.

He said with the support of BWI's Development Partners and looking forward to the support of the government, BWI can turn the policy statement of President Boakai into practical reality.

He noted that without doubt, the institution's mechanical workshop with funding from the EU under UNIDO's implemented Youth Rising Project is ready to partner with the government to fulfill the national development policy.

He continued that they have greeted the ascendency of President Boakai with favorable

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

First Lady Boakai Meets UNFPA Liberia Delegation

Monrovia, February 28, 2024) - The Office of First Lady Kartumu Y. Boakai, over the weekend, held fruitful discussions with the United

noting that its various interventions, particularly in ending maternal mortality and teenage pregnancy, among others, remain fundamental to alleviating some of the major

engagements with relevant stakeholders were paramount.

Held at the First Lady's Executive Mansion office, the meeting also enabled the two institutions to exchange notes on their respective aspirations and initiatives, exploring potential opportunities for partnership.

For her part, Madam Pillai reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to partnering with the government of Liberia, including Mrs. Boakai's office, in various ways possible to elevate the voices of women and seek sustainable solutions to their plights.

Also speaking, Liberia's immediate former Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, who had accompanied the UNFPA country team, congratulated Mrs. Boakai on her ascendency to the Office of First Lady.

Madam Howard-Taylor, a one-time First Lady of Liberia, assured Mrs. Boakai of her support. -Press release



Nations Population Fund, UNFPA Liberia Country Team, headed by Madam Bidisha Pillai, on a number of issues surrounding women and girls' empowerment.

During the meeting, Mrs. Boakai commended UNFPA,

challenges confronting women and girls.

Mrs. Boakai, however, stressed the need for more collaborative efforts between the government and its many partners, which is why she noted that such strategic

Judge Paula da Conceição Machatine Honwana sworn in as RSCSL Justice

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) strongly supported President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's 2023 presidential bid and even deployed some of its supporters to protect his votes. Hence, its dismissal of impeachment call shows the party's unflinching support to Boakai.

Wednesday, February 28 - Justice Paula da Conceição Machatine Honwana was sworn in today as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL). In a ceremony held in Freetown prior to the opening of the Plenary of Judges, Justice Machatine Honwana made a solemn declaration before RSCSL Vice President Justice Emmanuel E. Roberts to "without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, serve as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone honestly, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously." She subscribed to the solemn declaration before Justice Pierre Boutet, and in front of witnesses representing the two parties to the RSCSL Agreement. Stephen Mathias, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, witnessed the declaration on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mohamed Lamin Tarawally, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, witnessed on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone. Justice Machatine Honwana succeeds the late Justice Elizabeth Ibanda-Nahamyia, who passed away in

January 2023. The RSCSL Statute provides for a roster of 16 Judges, ten of whom are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the remaining six by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Judges receive no compensation for being on the roster but are paid on a pro rata basis if called upon to serve the Court. Justice Machatine Honwana was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. From 2011-2014, and again from 2020-2022, she served as a Judge of the Superior Court of Appeals in Mozambique. From 2014 to 2020, she served as Legal Adviser to the President of the Supreme Court of Mozambique. Since 1998 she has served as a Judge in Mozambique in various capacities, in Civil and Labour Divisions of the First Instance Court, and from 2001-2011 was

Secretary-General of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, the management and disciplinary board of the Mozambican judiciary.

Justice Machatine Honwana was a member of the Review Committee of the Statute of Mozambican Judges, the Legal Framework of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, and other legal instruments linked to the judiciary. She has taught law at the Higher Institute of Sciences and Technology of Mozambique (ISCTEM), and at the Centre of Judicial and Judiciary Training in Maputo, Mozambique. She co-authored the book Manual de Formação e Apoio ao Magistrado Judicial em Matéria de Criminalidade Contra a Vida Selvagem (Training and Support Handbook for Judges on Wildlife Crime) in 2022 and has authored a number of articles and academic papers. Since 2022 Justice Machatine Honwana has served as Legal Adviser at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations in New York.



EFFL dismisses Boakai's impeachment call

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone is responsible for the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which concluded its mandate in December 2013. These include supervision of prison sentences, witness protection and support, maintenance and preservation of the archives, and assistance to national prosecution authorities.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, 29 February 2024: The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) leader Mr. Emanuel Gonquoi has dismissed as mere distraction, a call by two opposition lawmakers to impeach President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Gonquoi's EFFL strongly supported President Boakai's 2023 presidential bid and went as far as deploying some of its supporters to protect Boakai's votes.

In less than two months in office, two opposition lawmakers - Representatives Yekeh Kolubah and Frank Saah Foko are demanding that the 79-year-old Liberian President be impeached.

Foko comes from the opposition Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), while

narratives and keep the administration of Boakai out of focus," Gonquoi argued.

In a statement issued on his official Facebook page Wednesday, Gonquoi accused the CDC lawmakers of attempting to divert President Boakai's attention away from the audit of the CDC administration.

"They simply intend to divert the president's attention away from the audit of their administration. We can't fall for that nonsense," Gonquoi noted.

On 8 February 2024, President Boakai asked the Liberia General Auditing Commission to carry out an audit of three government institutions.

The institutions included the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Executive Protection Service (EPS).

The audit is to focus on the



Kolubah, who supported Boakai's presidential bid, now finds comfort in dealing with the CDC he denigrated for years for leading a bad government.

On 27 February 2024, Montserrado County Electoral District #9 Representative Frank Saa Foko announced his intention to propose a bill to impeach President Boakai.

Representative Foko cited alleged constitutional breaches by President Boakai, including failure to represent Liberia adequately abroad and inability to govern effectively within a month after assuming office.

"We are working with our lawyers, and we will ensure that the impeachment letter of the President be on the floor today or latest Thursday," Foko emphasized.

However, Gonquoi argued that the Boakai impeachment call is a mere distraction orchestrated by lawmakers from the CDC.

"That mere bluff from lawmakers of the CDC about impeachment is what we consider a theory of distraction. They are trying to control the

period from 2018 to 2023, with findings expected within three months.

However, EFFL's Gonquoi observed that after Boakai's order for the audit, they attended meetings intended for assets recovery, and their terms of reference was outlined.

Unfortunately, he said, up to now, they are still awaiting the President's announcement to begin going after government's stolen assets, both at home and outside of Liberia.

"The process is taking a 360-degree backward path without any justifications from those who called us," said Gonquoi.

"Without trying to witch-hunt officials of the previous administration, I don't see the GAC well-intentioned about fairly implementing the President's agenda on the fight against corruption," he noted.

At the same time, Gonquoi highlighted the EFFL's commitment to honest and patriotic leadership.

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Français

George Weah annonce son retour sur la scène politique libérienne

L'ancien président George Manneh Weah est rentré au Liberia mardi 27 février, déclarant qu'il était de retour pour dénoncer les

l'étranger où il se trouvait depuis qu'il a quitté le pouvoir en janvier, a déclaré qu'il s'exprimerait sur les maux de la société libérienne afin de remodeler l'avenir du pays.

2029.

"Je suis de retour et prêt à parler des maux de la société libérienne et à travailler pour mon parti en tant qu'institution", a déclaré l'ancien président.

M. Weah était accompagné de son épouse, l'ancienne Première Dame Clar Marie Weah, de l'ancien commissaire maritime libérien Lenn Eugene Nagbe, de l'ancienne chef du protocole du Palais exécutif, l'ambassadrice Nora Finda Bundoo, et d'autres membres de son entourage. L'accès au salon VIP de l'aéroport international Roberts lui aurait été refusé sur instruction de l'administration actuelle.

Le salon VIP Clar Marie, construit et inauguré par l'ancien gouvernement dirigé par la CDC, a été spécialement conçu pour accueillir les présidents et autres invités et dignitaires très importants en visite au Liberia.

Cependant, le porte-parole de la présidence, Kula Fofana, a déclaré sur Facebook qu'à aucun moment l'ancien président Weah n'avait été empêché d'accéder au salon VIP de l'aéroport.

L'ancien président et sa délégation ont plutôt utilisé l'ancien salon VIP de l'aéroport à leur arrivée, malgré l'annonce préalable de son retour par les services de sécurité de l'aéroport.



maux qui affectent le peuple libérien et faire pression sur son successeur, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, pour qu'il tienne ses promesses. Ce retour marque le début d'un probable combat politique contre son adversaire de 79 ans, qui l'a battu aux élections de 2023 par une marge de moins de 20 000 voix.

M. Weah a quitté le pays pour l'étranger, visitant les États-Unis d'Amérique, Turin en Italie et Paris en France.

Le leader populaire de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) semble prêt à reprendre son rôle d'opposant, comme il l'avait fait au début de sa carrière politique. Il est impatient de défendre la cause de son peuple et de tenter un retour au Palais de l'Exécutif en

L'Hôtel Golden Key accusé de mauvaises pratiques de travail

Une ancienne employée, Decontee Dennis, porte plainte contre l'hôtel pour mauvais traitements, discrimination et agression physique.

L'hôtel Golden Key, situé à Paynesville au Liberia, est accusé de violations des droits du travail et de traitement inhumain envers ses employés. Ces allégations proviennent

d'une ancienne employée, Decontee Dennis, qui réclame huit mois de salaire impayé et dénonce des agressions physiques de la part de la propriétaire de l'hôtel, Madame Nowai Gorlorwulu.

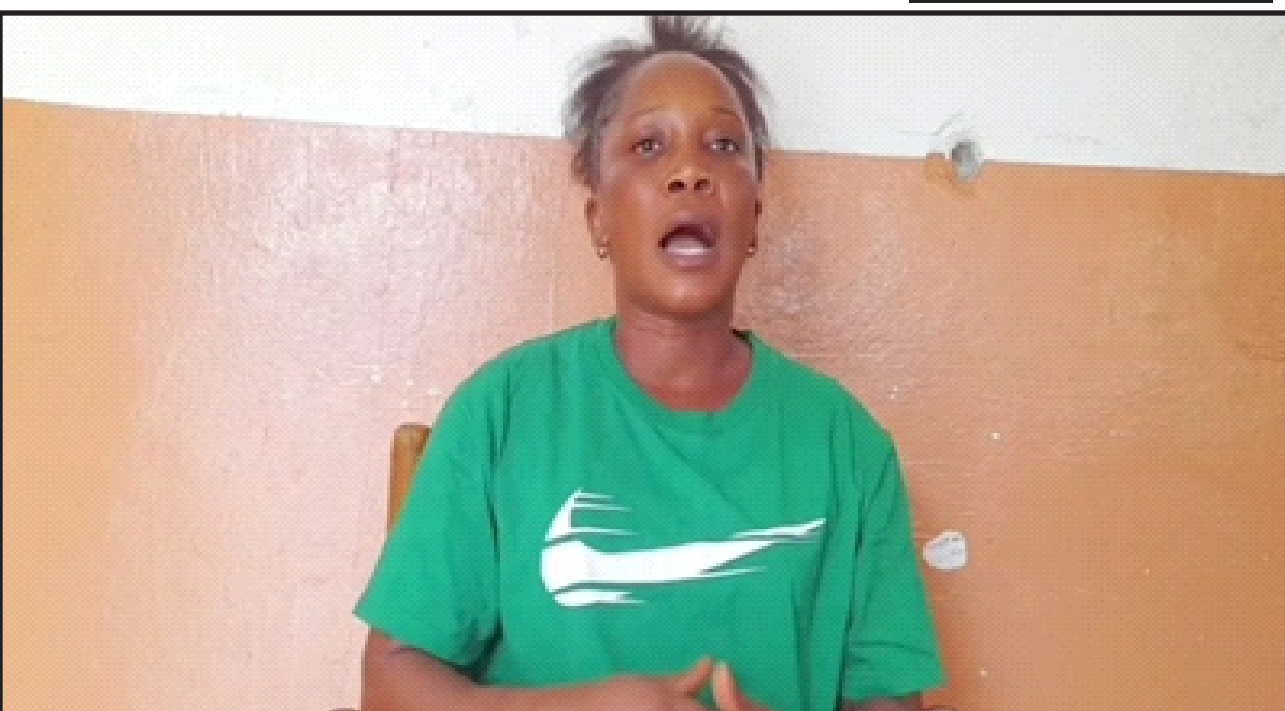
Madame Dennis affirme avoir été maltraitée, discriminée et agressée physiquement par Madame Gorlorwulu. Elle accuse également la propriétaire de l'avoir licenciée sans la payer et de refuser de lui verser les

salaires qu'elle lui doit.

Selon Madame Dennis, les employés de l'hôtel Golden Key travaillent dans des conditions difficiles et injustes. Elle ajoute qu'elle n'avait pas osé dénoncer ces agissements auparavant par peur de représailles et du manque d'opportunités d'emploi au Liberia.

Elle explique avoir été agressée physiquement alors qu'elle servait des clients de la Commission électorale

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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.

Français

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George Weah annonce

Parallèlement, les piliers de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, la CDC, notamment l'ancien représentant du district n°8 du comté de Montserrado, Moses Acarous Gray, et le président Mulbah K. Mulbah, ont remobilisé les partisans pour entamer une bataille pour un retour au pouvoir, à cinq ans des élections de 2029. La campagne est baptisée "Transformer le recul en retour".

La déclaration de M. Weah aux journalistes à son arrivée mardi à l'aéroport international Roberts indique qu'il est prêt à un combat politique imminent contre l'administration du Parti de l'unité au pouvoir.

Ses commentaires pourraient également intensifier les tensions politiques, en particulier concernant les discussions en cours sur les postes à durée déterminée au sein du gouvernement, où l'ancien président a encore la plupart de ses anciens collaborateurs.

Le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a déjà rencontré une opposition farouche face à la nomination de nouveaux responsables à ces postes, alors que les mandats des anciens responsables ne sont pas expirés.

Face à ces protestations, le président Boakai a nommé une commission chargée d'examiner la question et de lui faire rapport afin de trouver une solution à cette impasse.

Les routes des fermes aux marchés sont essentielles au programme ARREST



Le ministre de la planification et du développement financier, M. Boima S. Kamara, a déclaré que les routes reliant les fermes aux marchés sont essentielles au programme ARREST du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai. "Nous avons besoin d'un redressement solide qui facilitera la libre circulation des biens et services transportés d'une zone rurale à une autre zone urbaine à travers le pays grâce à la connectivité routière", a déclaré le ministre Kamara. Il a fait cette déclaration le lundi 26 février 2024, lors d'une visite de courtoisie du directeur pays de la Banque mondiale pour le Ghana, la Sierra Leone et le Liberia au ministère de la planification et du développement financier. Le ministre libérien des finances a souligné que les routes reliant les fermes aux marchés contribueront à réduire la pauvreté extrême en facilitant la circulation des biens et services transportés par les entreprises, les agriculteurs et les propriétaires de fermes privées lorsque leurs produits sont prêts à être mis sur le

marché.

Selon lui, le plan national de développement du président Boakai, acronyme de "ARREST", mettra l'accent sur la construction de routes et d'autres domaines au cours des six prochaines années, car les routes sont un facteur important de la croissance du secteur privé. "Dans le cadre du plan national de développement du président Boakai pour les six prochaines années, la construction de routes est essentielle car elle contribuera fortement à la croissance du secteur privé", a-t-il expliqué.

Actuellement, le gouvernement du Liberia compte plus de 13 000 km de routes qui doivent être goudronnées pour stimuler le secteur privé. Seuls 9 % de ces 13 000 km ont été réalisés.

Pour sa part, le directeur pays de la Banque mondiale pour le Ghana, la Sierra Leone et le Liberia, M. Robert Taliencio O'Brien, a expliqué que la Banque reste engagée à soutenir le programme ARREST du président Joseph N. Boakai. "Nous nous engageons également à soutenir le budget du gouvernement dans divers secteurs, notamment le développement du secteur privé et la résilience au changement climatique", a déclaré M. Robert Taliencio O'Brien, de la Banque mondiale. Selon lui, le plan d'action de 100 jours du gouvernement est une excellente initiative et la Banque se réjouit de fournir une assistance technique partout où cela sera nécessaire.

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L'Hôtel Golden Key accusé

nationale (NEC) dans le cadre d'un atelier financé par l'USAID. À son retour d'Amérique, Madame Gorlorwulu lui aurait demandé, ainsi qu'à un collègue, de nettoyer l'entrepôt en prévision de l'arrivée d'un conteneur de marchandises en provenance des États-Unis. Madame Dennis ayant refusé, invoquant le fait qu'elle s'occupait déjà des clients, Madame Gorlorwulu l'aurait giflée, la considérant comme irrespectueuse et grossière.

"C'est un jour, alors que je travaillais dans la cuisine, que ma patronne est venue vers moi, m'informant de l'arrivée prochaine de son conteneur de marchandises et demandant à moi et à mon amie Evelyne d'aller nettoyer l'entrepôt. Je lui ai alors répondu que j'étais déjà occupée à servir et à m'occuper des clients, ce qu'elle a considéré comme irrespectueux et elle a commencé à me gifler. C'est moi seule qu'elle a frappée, me battant comme son esclave, alors qu'elle ne paie même pas pour le travail que nous faisons", raconte Madame Dennis.

"Parfois, il faut attendre cinq, six, voire quatre mois pour recevoir un mois de salaire ; elle nous malmenait et nous renvoyait parfois illégalement chez nous sans salaire. Il n'y a jamais de service supplémentaire, donc quand elle est venue me demander, à moi et à Evelyne, de l'aider à nettoyer l'entrepôt pour ses marchandises et que je lui ai répondu que j'étais déjà occupée, c'est là qu'elle a commencé à me battre", poursuit Decontee.

Elle explique être rentrée chez elle le jour même de l'agression et avoir commencé

un traitement. À son retour le lundi 12 février 2024, Madame Gorlorwulu lui aurait annoncé la fin de son contrat à l'hôtel, sans salaire, et l'aurait sommée de quitter les lieux immédiatement par l'intermédiaire de la sécurité privée.

Son mari, Alphonso Dennis, confirme ses dires et ajoute avoir été insulté par la direction de l'hôtel lorsqu'il a tenté de comprendre les raisons du licenciement de sa femme.

Contactée par les journalistes, Madame Gorlorwulu, propriétaire de l'hôtel, a admis devoir de l'argent à Madame Decontee Dennis pour les services rendus. Elle nie cependant les allégations de mauvais traitements et affirme que Madame Dennis a été licenciée pour "manque de respect flagrant" envers l'établissement. Elle soutient également que Madame Dennis n'avait pas de contrat écrit et qu'elle ne l'avait embauchée que par recommandation de son mari et dans le cadre de la responsabilité sociale de l'entreprise.

Cette affaire soulève à nouveau la question du traitement des employés par les hôtels au Liberia. Récemment, la direction de l'hôtel RLJ Keneja, situé sur la route de Robertsfield à Paynesville, a été poursuivie en justice par une ancienne employée pour les conditions de travail insupportables qu'elle aurait subies pendant son service.

Cependant, les chances de succès de Madame Decontee Dennis devant la justice semblent compromises en l'absence de contrat écrit.

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Scepticisme face aux récentes opérations de la LDEA au Liberia



Des résidents de Monrovia ont exprimé des inquiétudes et des doutes quant à l'efficacité et aux résultats des récentes opérations menées par l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA) dans les quartiers de la ville.

****Succès récents de la LDEA****

La LDEA a récemment intensifié ses efforts dans la lutte contre le trafic de stupéfiants, ce qui s'est traduit par de nombreuses arrestations et des saisies importantes de drogue.

****Scepticisme quant à l'impact à long terme****

Malgré ces succès, de nombreux habitants restent sceptiques quant à l'impact à long terme et à la responsabilité de ces descentes.

****Doutes sur la poursuite judiciaire et la responsabilisation****

Le scepticisme des habitants découle d'un historique de défis dans la poursuite des affaires de drogue impliquant des personnalités importantes et dans la demande de comptes aux personnes prises dans des activités liées aux drogues illicites.

Un habitant, sous couvert d'anonymat, a exprimé ses

doutes : "Nous avons déjà vu ces descentes, mais que se passe-t-il après les arrestations ? Les coupables seront-ils traduits en justice, ou retomberont-ils dans l'anonymat ?"

**** Craintes de corruption et de redistribution des drogues ****

Certains habitants craignent que des agents de la LDEA eux-mêmes soient impliqués dans la distribution de drogues dans les communautés, et que les drogues saisies soient parfois redistribuées après les descentes.

**** Manque de transparence et de confiance dans le système judiciaire ****

Les résidents soulignent également l'importance de la transparence, de la responsabilité et du suivi pour s'assurer que les suspects soient poursuivis et que la justice soit rendue. Ils remettent en question la capacité du système judiciaire à traiter et à mener à bien les poursuites dans les affaires de drogue complexes, citant des exemples passés où des affaires ont échoué en raison de vides juridiques, de manque de preuves ou d'un manque de surveillance judiciaire, ce qui a conduit à la libération de suspects et à une perte de confiance du public dans le système judiciaire. **** Conclusion **** Malgré les inquiétudes, certains citoyens espèrent que des efforts concertés et un engagement envers la transparence et la responsabilité permettront à la LDEA de faire des progrès significatifs dans la lutte contre le trafic de drogue et de garantir la justice pour les communautés touchées à travers le Liberia.

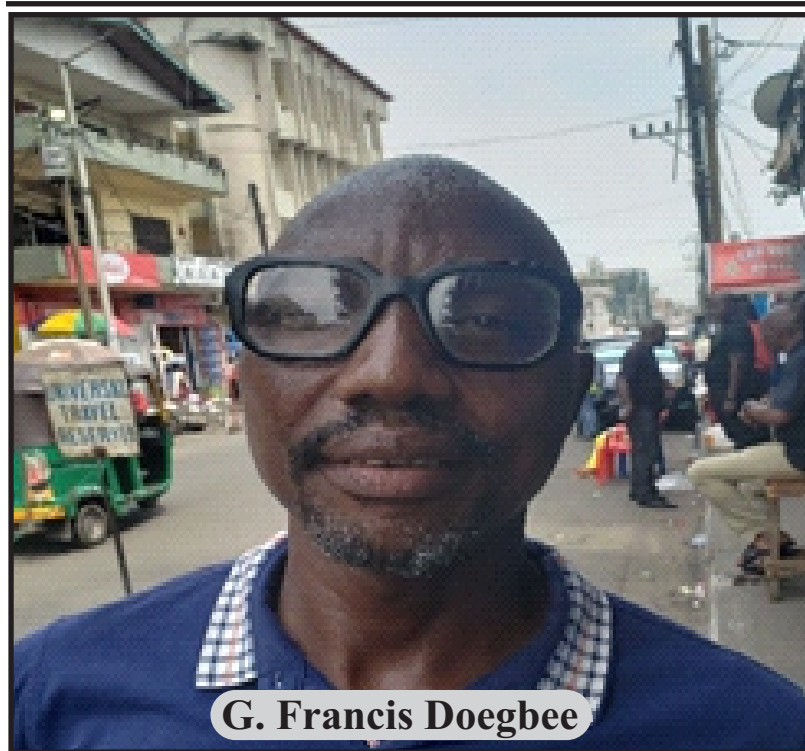
LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Weah's arrival at RIA

By Naneka Hoffman

Controversy surrounding the arrival of Former President George Weah here Tuesday, February 27, 2024 with reports that he was denied entry to the Presidential Lounge at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County has left Liberians speaking up, as you may read below.



G. Francis Doegbee

be denied a VIP entrance in anyway; they have no right to do that. If it is true as it's captured in Frontpage Africa Newspaper and they investigated it is true, President Boakai needs to apologize to the former President in an open letter because it was very wrong. While it is true that I'm from the Unity Party, but for me, denying an ex-President it is not good.

"If the story that was injustice to our came out regarding former President because a President Weah was denied is always a access to the new President, so there VIP lounge is true was no need for a then I want to say it former President to

If President Boakai's time is over and other government get in power and deny him as former President from having access to the VIP lounge, I will stay feel bad.

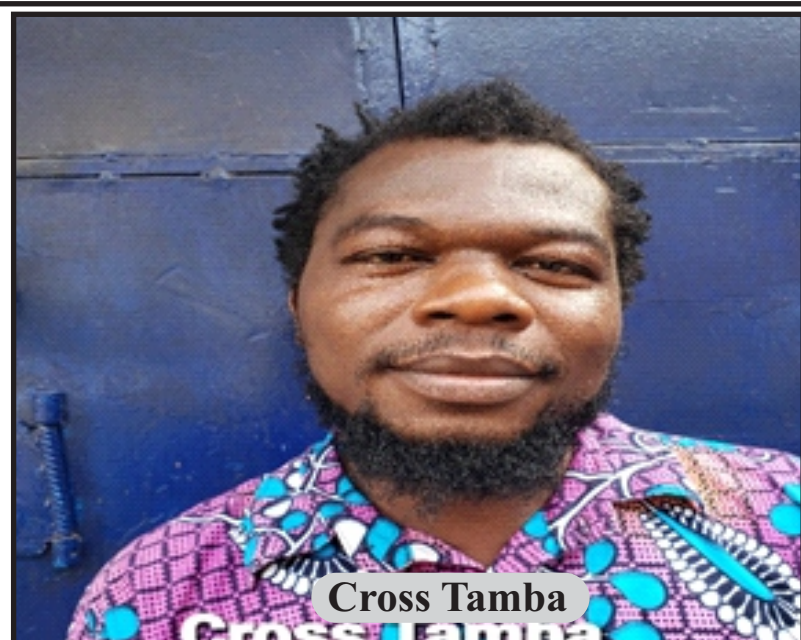
"For me, it was very unfair; George Weah is not an ordinary man in Liberia, especially in Africa at large, because the role he played in maintaining the peace in the just-ended election. He played an important work in maintaining the peace in Liberia by showing to the world that he is too democrat and Liberia democracy is growing. George Weah is an icon that we all can follow that the world can show as an example. So, George Weah coming home, he should be celebrated and dignified. For me, it shows the ex-President was disrespected to the



Mohammed Bah

extent that those that this by denying our were outside icon that everyone celebrating Weah, if likes to follow, so I they heard it, they will want for them to be condemn us. This stop the regime should desist embarrassment they from such a thing like did to the former President."

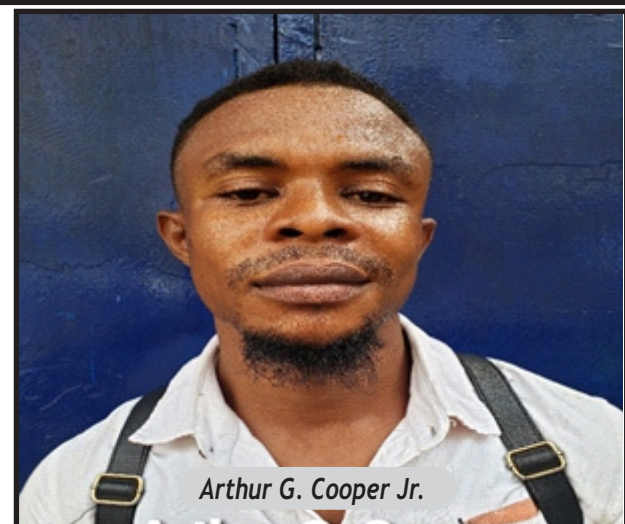
"You know, whether they like it or not, President Weah served the country and by protocol he is a VIP. So, when President Boakai will give instruction to his colleagues to stop Weah from using the VIP lounge, I believe it's a witch-hunt like the way President Boakai is witch-hunting people that were appointed by George Weah. I want to say it isn't a good start for the Rescue Mission. President Joseph Boakai told us it will not be business as usual. And he told us that there is not green and blue Liberians; we are all one; these are protocols setup by law that must be respected. What happened yesterday it was sad and



Cross Tamba

frustrating. We are calling on President Joseph Boakai to speak on that matter because George Weah is the biggest opposition candidate in this country and what happened yesterday must not be condoned by the President of the Republic of Liberia."

"I think it is sad to hear that our Ex-President who gave up his seat to President Joseph N. Boakai, would face such an issue. I will like to firstly recommend to the President of Liberia to conduct an investigation in such an issue because it is frightening. We just from election, a very peaceful election. Seeing such occurrence is bad; mine you, Weah stands for peace and of course, President Boakai, as well. He shouldn't allow other guys, who are already disenchanted by the regime to see such an issue arise. There are other guys who are disenchanted like I said, and will want to use this to bring the country to war which of course, isn't necessary for our democracy. So, we are stay speaking to President



Arthur G. Cooper Jr.

Boakai and the peaceful man George Weah to remain calm. For me, it was a test, because there are other guys who are watching to see the reaction of George Weah because George Weah is the face of the CDC and in in order to see the face of CDC being denied, they will want to know and stand ready to carry out whatever order. I see it as politically-driven issue."



Jeremiah D. Duah

"The former President was denied access from passing through the new VIP lounge which he should privileged to use as former President. If it was so, it wasn't actually right. But then in my view, the best people to justify this will be those that denied him. But in my

view, the VIP lounge was made for Presidents, key government officials and past Presidents. Like for him, since former President Weah left power isn't taken three months to be hearing that he was denied VIP lounge access. It was wrong. So, we will like to ask the government to investigate the matter."

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Weah's rating falling?

Ex-president George Manneh Weah appears to be losing his once strong popularity with Liberians, especially youth, as his return to Liberia Tuesday, 27 February was greeted by low-key reception. Mr. Weah and entourage arrived here, accompanied by few loyalists without visible presence of key executives of his former ruling Congress for Democratic Change.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, February 28, 2024 - The once-mighty popularity of former President

Mawine Diggs, former City Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee, and former Deputy Public Works Minister Joseph P. Todd, among other Liberians who

year tenure, disputes between the Standard Bearer and the former chairman have been recurrent. In a statement on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, Mr. Morlu criticized Weah's appointments as "underachievers" that would eventually undermine his administration.

While the Ex-president and the former chairman had been in verbal battles despite belonging to the same party, some members of the CDC party suggested removing him for openly criticizing his administration.

However, ex-Representative Moses Gray stood by Morlu at the time, affirming that his tenure would end successfully without resorting to undemocratic means.

Nevertheless, Morlu's resignation letter came as a shock to many Liberians, after holding on for six years despite numerous disputes with the Standard Bearer.

While Mr. Weah, a former footballer-turned politician, who served as the 25th President of Liberia from 2018 to 2024, has not responded to the resignation letter of Chairman Morlu, questions linger about the sustained legacy of his presidency and the future of the CDC in Liberia's evolving political landscape.

Before his election in 2017, Mr. Weah served as Senator for Montserrado County and also enjoyed a prolific 18-year professional football career as a striker, ending in 2003. He remains the first African former footballer to become a head of state. Meanwhile, for Weah, once celebrated as the pride of Liberia, the current shift in public sentiment marks a notable turn in his political journey. Editing by Jonathan Browne



George Weah appears to have experienced a significant decline in recent weeks following his departure from office.

Formerly hailed for drawing massive crowds during his return from foreign trips, marked by enthusiastic supporters dressed in red and jubilant celebrations, Weah's latest return to the country Tuesday saw only a subdued gathering of individuals, dressed in ordinary attire.

The no doubt once famous former President George Tawlon Opong Ousman Manneh Weah and his wife, former First Lady Clar Weah, left Liberia for France shortly after the inauguration of President Joseph N. Boakai to accept a prestigious peace award.

During his departure, he was accompanied to the airport by several former government officials, including former Justice Minister Frank Musah Dean, former Commerce Minister

had gone to see him take-off. However, his return on Tuesday, February 22, 2023, at the Roberts International Airport saw a dwindling turnout, signaling a notable shift in the former president's popularity.

While Weah, who conceded defeat to former Vice President Joseph Boakai after the November 14 runoff election, stated that he had returned to engage in party work and critique the Boakai Government, there appears to be internal strife within his former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) since voters denied the CDC a second term.

On the day of the former president's return, CDC party Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu, Jr. tendered his resignation letter, citing challenges faced during Weah's administration. He disclosed encountering constraints that limited his ability to carry out his responsibilities fully.

During President Weah's six-

S/Court complicates Code of Conduct

There have been calls for the Legislature to repeal the Act creating the Code of Conduct (COC) to replace it with a new one that is applicable due to the complicated nature of the current instrument.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, 29 February 2024: The head of the Law Reform Commission, Cllr. Boakai Kanneh has accused the Supreme Court of Liberia of complicating the Code of Conduct which is intended to set standards for public officials. Cllr. Kanneh accused the Court during a presentation on Wednesday, 28 February 2024 at the official opening of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa-Liberia International Elections Observation Mission (EISA-LIEOM).

Code of Conduct was enacted, it was first hindered by the lack of enforcement because the office of the Ombudsmen was not established. He wondered how far should somebody go before you can know that they have violated the Code of Conduct, an apparent reaction to some of the Supreme Court's decisions that brought about "egregious violation," and "substantial compliance."

Regardless of the description, he argued that there is still an element of non-compliance.

"Violation is a violation and must be punished. Because of that, we think that one of the ways to deal with all those defects is to repeal the



"The Supreme Court has had the opportunity to several interpretations of the law. These interpretations created more complications to our standing on the Code of Conduct," said Cllr. Kanneh. "In one instance, it's an egregious violation and in another instance, it's a substantial compliance. What do you mean?" Cllr. Kanneh wondered. "When you interpret the law, you don't complicate the law or don't create ambiguity in the law," the constitutional lawyer argued. According to him, since the

entire Code of Conduct which includes the conflicting views of the Supreme Court," he proposed. He believes that when the law is repealed, all those opinions and interpretations from the Supreme Court on the law will be left void.

"The Code of Conduct is one of the most abused legal instruments in our country today in my mind, some of which are deliberate, which is quite unfortunate," he lamented.

He said when you make laws, they are intended for your governance. Kanneh stated that those laws must be upheld and nobody should make a law and deliberately choose to bend it.

Abolish tenure positions

Start from back page government to preserve peace.

His comments were in reaction to allegation Mr. Weah was denied access to Presidential Lounge at the Roberts International Airport, upon his return from abroad on Tuesday, February 27.

However, Mr. Farhat noted that the former President will always be remembered in the history of Liberia for his contribution to the State while he was in power. "I once served as Finance

Minister in this county and I used to travel with Diplomatic Passport in the past but now, I no longer carry Diplomatic Passport because I'm no longer a minister", he cited. He cautioned that there is no name for Liberians to be fighting one another for things that will not help improve the country or their lives, noting that there are lots of challenges confronting the people which need to be addressed. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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SURVEY NOTICE

February 22, 2024

The public is hereby notify that the undersigned registered Land Surveyor has been duly authorized based upon the request of Edwin and Telimu Kamanda to conduct a survey of a parcel of Land that contain (1 1/2) One and half of Land and in favor of said Edwin and Telimu Kamanda.

This parcel of Land is lying and situated at 1st Ward Louisiana Township, Montserrado County. The field re-survey exercise will commence on Saturday 2nd, day of March 2024 at the hour of 11: 00PM.

Therefore, all adjoining properties owners, and interests person are requested to be present on the day of the survey with copies of their deeds, relevant documents and technical representatives' surveyors to substantiate their claims.

1. AJ
2. NJ
3. JC
4. JLT &PCT
5. The Administrator of the Estate of Powell Town
6. Officer of the Commissioner
7. Community Chairman
8. Who it may concerned

Signed By: YARRAWOLO T. KOLLIE
Yarrawolo T. Kollie
Regd. Land Surveyor
Lic.# 051
0777732799
0888110193

Abolish tenure positions

Ex-minister recommends to President Boakai

Though President Joseph Nyumah Boakai is waiting on a special committee he constituted to investigate and report back to him how to proceed in removing officials holding tenure positions from the previous regime, Former Finance Minister David Farhat has come to the defend of the President, saying that Mr. Boakai is not in error in replacing tenure officials, especially those from the previous government.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, February 28, 2024 - As debate over attempt by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to replace officials serving in tenure

his government despite resistance by those currently occupying those positions. Speaking in an exclusive interview with The NEW DAWN on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Mr. Farhat argued that tenure

those offices.

He added that those who are running to the court to seek redress for their removal are wasting their time.

He noted that tenure positions were created by another President and a new President who comes to power has power to maintain or repeal said tenure clauses.

The Ex-finance Boss during the administration of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe, is urging the people of Liberia to rather focus on issues that will help improve their lives than engaging in activities that will not help the country and its citizens.

According to him, tenured positions were never enacted into law through a national referendum that requires participation of all citizens.

At the same time he said former President George Weah should consider himself now as an ordinary Liberians and be willing to abide by security protocol set up by



Former Finance Minister David Farhat

positions from previous government continues, Former Finance Minister David Farhat has come in defend of the President, saying that President Boakai is not in error to nominate

positions were created by former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, not by law.

According to him, President Boakai should have abolished those positions before nominating new officials into

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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