

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertise Here!
Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES
of **The New Dawn**
TRULY INDEPENDENT
AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529
WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, MARCH 01, 2024	L\$190.7053/US\$1.00	L\$192.4928/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 14 NO. 28

FRIDAY, MARCH 01, 2024

PRICE LD\$40.00



3 feared dead

P11



-But police deny death report in Bea Mountain protest

Liberia Gets First Sample of DENKI Electric Vehicles



RECHARGE & BUMPAY!

100 mins | 5GB Data

Dial *156*2#
Recharge with Airtime or Bundle to become a Landlord

Lonestar Cell | MTN | Coca-Cola



Continental News

Generosity of strangers stuns struggling Nigerian mother

Shamsiyya Abubakar had begun to lose hope - Nigeria's grave economic downturn meant she was scrambling each day to feed her family of nine. The 32-



Strangers have been dropping bags of food off at Shamsiyya Abubakar's house

money. This unexpected response has "changed her life", she said when the BBC caught up with her for a second time.

"I have never seen such huge amounts of money in my life... I

little he had. "I think her case is a shame to our leaders, I actually wept after watching her video. How can someone pray for death instead of wanting to live just because of food?" he asked.

"I pray that others in her type of situation will also get the help they need that will change their lives."

Nigeria is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis in a generation, which has led to widespread hardship and anger.

On Tuesday, thousands took to the streets in a nationwide protest against the government's handling of the economy.

The steep price of food has been a major source of frustration.

Rice, a staple in Nigeria, has more than doubled in cost over the past year. Ms Abubakar is far from alone in turning to the broken, dirty and tough afafata grains - its relatively low price has helped many struggling families in the north survive. Several others have been forced to go hungry or ration the food they have.

Ms Abubakar feels that thanks to the kindness of strangers, she can now look forward to the future.

She told the BBC that in order to sustain her family in the long-run, she wants to start a business with some of the food she has received.

year-old had resorted to cooking afafata - the rice grain millers normally throw away at the end of the sorting process because it is too tough. Ms Abubakar, mother to a newborn baby, told BBC Pidgin that her struggles had taken her mind to dark places.

"Sometimes I say to myself: 'Instead of living like this, wouldn't it be better to be dead?'" she said in the Hausa language interview, which was widely shared in Nigeria. But since it was published on Tuesday, strangers have been filing in and out of her house with offers of food and

am really grateful. "I got cash from several people, while others brought bags of good rice and maize, so we have enough good food to eat now," she added.

Her husband Haruna Abubakar also expressed delight at their change of fortune. "On the day of the BBC video, we had nothing to eat, I struggled to get them 500 naira (£0.25; \$0.32) to buy cups of rice," he said.

"Today, I am a happy man as our lives has changed and we have enough to eat." Sani Isah, one of those who took supplies for the family, said Ms Abubakar's story made him cry. Mr Isah added that he felt compelled to help with the

Zambia declares national emergency over drought

Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema has declared a national disaster to tackle the prolonged drought affecting the country. Addressing the nation on Thursday afternoon, Mr Hichilema said 84 districts out of a total of 116 were affected. Zambia has been experiencing poor rain, with fears mounting that the country may experience hunger and struggle to meet its electricity demands as most of its energy is from water sources.

Water levels at Kariba Dam - which Zambia and neighbouring Zimbabwe use for hydroelectricity - had fallen to about 11.5% of usable storage as of last December.

The president said the drought would affect the generation of more than 450 megawatts of power.

He said almost half of the land used for planting crops had been affected by the dry spell.

Mr Hichilema said his government would work to ensure that additional maize and other food was brought into the country to make up the deficit. He said he would use Zambia's defence forces "in this fight to save our lives and save families and create a longer term solution to drought". "We will work together to get together farmers to plant more crops. We shall also enhance the social support programmes

for the farmers that have been affected by the drought," he said.

"We call upon all our local and international partners to avail any excess food on hand to provide relief. Some partners have already extended their commitment to offer their support, such as the British, the UN system, the World Bank Group and others." BBC



Zambia has been experiencing poor rain across the country

Opposition leader killed in Chad shootout

A leading critic of Chad's military leader, Mahamat Déby, has been killed in a shootout with security forces, officials say.

Yaya Dillo's death comes after the government blamed him for a deadly attack on the country's security agency. He denied the accusation.

On Wednesday, heavy gunfire was heard near his party's headquarters in the capital, N'Djamena.

Mr Dillo was also a cousin of President Déby, who has been in power since 2021.

Mr Déby was named by the army to succeed his father who was killed by rebels after three decades in power.

The unrest in the Central African country follows the announcement that presidential election will be held on 6 May.

networks in Chad have been down since the reported attack on the National Security Agency (ANSE) headquarters. Amaury Hauchard, a journalist based in N'Djamena, told the BBC on Thursday evening: "For 24 hours, people have not had access to the internet - only a few hotels have access."

He added that Mr Dillo's death had raised doubts about whether the election could still be held as planned

On Wednesday, Mr Dillo said the accusation he was behind the ANSE attack was intended "to make me afraid so that I don't go to the election". The PSF denied the government's version of events, saying its members were the ones who had come under attack. The party's general secretary told Reuters news agency that soldiers had targeted them while they were trying to retrieve the body of their colleague Ahmed Torabi.



Opposition politician Yaya Dillo was a vocal opponent of his cousin

These elections are intended to return the country to constitutional rule.

Before his death, Mr Dillo was widely predicted to be his cousin's main opponent in the election.

He was the leader of the Socialist Party Without Borders (PSF).

Communications Minister Abderaman Koulamallah told the AFP news agency that Mr Dillo had died on Wednesday "where he had retreated, at the headquarters of his party. He didn't want to surrender and fired on law enforcement".

The authorities said 12 others also died in the shootout.

Mobile phone and internet

Mr Torabi had been arrested and shot dead on Tuesday, before his body was dumped outside the ANSE building, the PSF said.

The government had accused Mr Torabi of attempting to assassinate the president of the Supreme Court.

This was not Mr Dillo's first violent run-in with security forces.

When running against the current president's father, Idriss Déby, for the presidency in 2021, state forces killed Mr Dillo's mother, son and three others, the PSF said. The party said the assailants were attempting to arrest Mr Dillo.

At the time, the government contested the PSF's death toll, saying three people had been killed. BBC

*Read the
NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!*

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.

*Read the
NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!*

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

COMMENTARY

By Ludovic Subran,
Günther Thallinger

To Fight Climate Change, End Fossil-Fuel Subsidies

MUNICH - In Christopher Nolan's 2010 film Inception, the line between reality and illusion becomes increasingly blurred. When it comes to fossil-fuel subsidies, life imitates art. Distinguishing between their perceived benefits and actual impact has proven to be a critical global challenge.

While such subsidies may appear beneficial in the short term, they mask the profound environmental and economic consequences of our dependence on fossil fuels. Given the interconnected threats posed by climate change, the question remains: Can we come to terms with reality and make decisions that genuinely benefit both ourselves and our planet?

Despite the international pledges made at the G20 summit in 2009 and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in 2021 (COP26), along with the European Union's Green Deal and its eighth Environment Action Program, fossil-fuel subsidies remain entrenched. According to the European Environment Agency, annual subsidies in the EU hovered around €56 billion (\$61 billion) between 2015 and 2021, with only a few member states taking steps to phase them out.

To be sure, the lack of action is not limited to the EU. The International Energy Agency recently reported that global fossil-fuel subsidies skyrocketed to more than \$1 trillion in 2022, a spike largely attributed to geopolitical shocks like Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which significantly disrupted energy markets.

The International Monetary Fund paints an even bleaker picture: accounting for the insufficient taxation of carbon dioxide emissions implies that fossil-fuel subsidies surged to a record \$7 trillion in 2022. This figure, the equivalent of 7.1% of the world's GDP, surpasses global spending on education and nearly matches worldwide health-care expenditures.

While subsidies are often viewed as a means to address social inequalities and offer relief to poorer households through reduced food and energy prices, they often have the opposite effect. In reality, these subsidies disproportionately benefit wealthier households and perpetuate unequal access to energy. Moreover, they divert crucial public funds from more effective investments that could reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and improve infrastructure, social protection, and health-care services, all of which offer greater benefits to low-income communities.

By contrast, the IMF estimates that eliminating these subsidies could prevent 1.6 million premature deaths annually, generate \$4.4 trillion in revenues, and accelerate progress toward global climate goals. By maintaining energy subsidies initially designed as temporary measures, we risk perpetuating our dependence on fossil fuels.

But given that tackling social inequalities requires a phased approach, a balanced long-term climate strategy must include targeted financial support to vulnerable populations. This could involve expanding welfare programs, retaining universal subsidies for essential goods, and boosting investment in public services that primarily benefit low-income households, such as health care, education, and infrastructure. Means-tested transfers and energy rebates could also facilitate a smoother climate transition.

Similarly, low- and middle-income countries must pursue structural reforms to enhance economic stability, deepen financial markets, and strengthen their institutions, thereby improving their credit ratings and reducing their borrowing costs. Transparent sustainable investment disclosures and strategic use of guarantees could also help these countries mitigate investment risks.

The Green Climate Fund underscores the crucial role of blended finance in helping developing countries decarbonize. Created under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Fund currently manages 216 projects with a combined value of \$12 billion. When accounting for co-financing, its overall assets exceed \$45 billion.

The next few years will be critical for the global transition to net-zero emissions, with technological innovations playing a vital role. The EU's plan to achieve energy independence and a 55% reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2030, for example, depends heavily on the development of a thriving climate-tech sector.

But despite the need for rapid emissions reductions, Europe lags behind the United States and China. Our discussions with leaders from European climate-tech companies such as STABL, Proxima Fusion, Claims Carbon, and Electra underscored the urgency of the situation, which the EU must address by adopting supportive policies to stimulate the sector's growth.

A future of sustainable growth is within reach if we acknowledge the real costs of fossil fuels and adjust our financial and political priorities accordingly. To this end, global policymakers must outline their plans for the energy sector, transportation networks, and information systems. By redirecting funds currently allocated to fossil-fuel subsidies, governments could meet their climate targets by 2030 and accelerate the shift to a net-zero economy.

As climate change worsens, it is increasingly evident that ignoring the devastating consequences of our dependence on fossil fuels is no longer an option. Achieving net-zero emissions requires bold policies such as the phaseout of fossil-fuel subsidies, as well as investment in technological innovation and a global commitment to a fair and equitable energy transition.

OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

Shock Therapy Killed Navalny

CAMBRIDGE - The world was stunned, though perhaps not surprised, by the death this month of Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition politician and Kremlin critic, in an Arctic penal colony. The converted gulag in which he died, called "Polar Wolf," reserved for hardened criminals rather than political prisoners, was known for its harsh conditions, and Navalny had been tortured extensively.

Still, the circumstances of Navalny's sudden death - who had made a cheerful court appearance the previous day - were mysterious. At 47, Navalny was still young, and the plans he was actively making suggested that he remained hopeful for the future. So, the signs don't point to a death from "natural causes," as the Russian authorities claimed.

Navalny was, of course, living on borrowed time after years exposing the corruption of President Vladimir Putin's regime. In 2020, the most serious attempt on his life - a near-fatal poisoning with a military-grade nerve agent, Novichok - failed when he was flown to Germany for emergency treatment. Aware of the fate that awaited him in a country where the line between a prison sentence and a death sentence is dangerously thin, he nonetheless chose to return to Moscow, where he was arrested on arrival and ultimately handed a 19-year prison term.

The prime suspect in Navalny's death is obvious. "Putin is responsible," said US President Joe Biden. Other world leaders and a chorus of commentators have gone on the record in agreement. Navalny, an adept grassroots organizer who ran for mayor of Moscow in 2013 and president in 2018, was by far the most credible and charismatic voice to speak out against Putin, calling his party one of "swindlers and thieves."

Even behind bars, Navalny remained a credible threat to Putin. So, his death, suspiciously close to the presidential election in March, in which Putin is campaigning for a fifth term in office (having removed constitutional term limits in 2020), would point, at least circumstantially, to a clear culprit. But, while Putin's role in Navalny's death is all but undeniable, there is a silent accomplice whose part in this tragedy must not be ignored: the economic policies adopted in the early 1990s.

Instead of pursuing a gradual transition away from the Soviet command economy, Russia adopted a package of reforms that promised to unleash market forces as quickly as possible. "Shock therapy," as the approach was known, had the endorsement of the International Monetary Fund and many highly respected economists, several based at the Harvard Institute for International Development, as well as the blessings of US President Bill Clinton's administration.

Rapid mass privatization - a key component of shock therapy - resulted in one of the biggest wealth transfers in history, including many of the world's largest oil, natural gas, and metal deposits. The most ambitious effort, the "loans for shares" scheme designed by President Boris Yeltsin's privatization czar, Anatoly Chubais, created a politically powerful class of oligarchs who gained control of Russia's most valuable assets.

The goal of rapid privatization was not merely economic. Chubais had one eye cocked on the still-overweening presence of the Communist Party, which was dispirited but not divided by the collapse of the Soviet Union. So, one goal of mass privatization was to let greed shatter Party unity by dividing Party cadres and officials. That part of the scheme worked to near-perfection: even KGB members broke with their clans to seize industrial and other assets.

The problem is that none of the institutional preconditions, such as courts or regulatory structures (which are famously "sticky" and not amenable to transplantation from abroad), or even indicators that could demonstrate that markets were functioning, were in place. Not surprisingly, Chubais's privatization policies turned out to be as much "shock" as "therapy." Sudden liberalization of prices and mass privatization delivered only disfigured kleptocracy, crony capitalism, and rampant corruption. At the end of his term, the increasingly frail and unpopular Yeltsin appointed Putin, an obscure former mid-level KGB officer, as prime minister, a position Putin exchanged for the presidency in 2000.

Navalny's tragic death, coinciding with the two-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has its roots in this history. To be sure, Putin has blood on his hands; but the economic policies that created the ecosystem in which he emerged and has thrived are also to blame. In an ideal world, we would be celebrating the demise of these policies, instead of mourning the death of a modern-day hero.

Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law and cognition.



Lord, ley papay na making appointment lazy oo

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Hmm, ley Papay na making appointment lazy oo. De orlor day, ley Old Man mom go wasay again. Na fun oo. Whole 139 people in one day-awa. Ehn, they say ley papay slow, and he wasting time-they will balance.

They say tenure or no tenure de Papay wor jus naming people in those positions. Na, they say aa na easy. You wan see de tenure people running behind him again!

Um, my son, they say da na small wahala de Old Man cause oo. I hear say de unity they never had before they coming together to take de Papay before de Elders at de Palaver Hut.

Father, da ley one you talking slow leh da so? They say de Papay na know how somer de name them geh on da list sef.

You joking!

Da fire! They say de orlor day, some Paramount chief them from de Traditional Council wen to visit him at our village Palace to leh him know da they were na happy with one of de names.

And what de papay say my son?

Father, de papay mom make them weak again. They say de Papay told de Paramount Chief them da he himself saw somer de name them on de list da he na put there.

You say whatin?

Father, this one da na fun oo. They say some people jus there oo, when de Papay say yor bring de list, they say soon de list leave him office, some people can start squeezing their friend them name there.

This one da lie!

Mm be there. You na hear de thin, they say de Papay him sef, sef told de Paramount Chief them da he noticed something leh da happening-people jus putting all kina people on de list.

Hmm, bor de Old Man da "baby, de Papay na Baby."

Father, da de same thin I been telling my village people them this whole time. I say de Papay na baby. De Papay able to make him own list. Bor leh wait to hear wah de Elders at de Palaver Hut will say.

Bor is it true da de Chiefs at de lower end of de Traditional Council say de Papay mom account for him fiasco Charlie Land visit.

Yes, oo Father. They say de Old Man mom tell them how much him spent on da fiasco trip they say wor town visit.

And him tell them?

Father, da de one we still sitting down here waiting to hear oo. De story sef fini long leh spider story. It jus join, join every where no hay no tail.

You joking.

Bor Father, which one be surprised in da one. De Papay town crier them say, him wen to see him brother Nana. Bor it turned out him brother Nana from Charlie Land had gone to Uncle Sam's Cousin village. Den, they say no, him saw Charlie Land second man in command, bor de story too geh plenty noise.

So, na de chief them mom help us know how much him spend. And in doing da maybe, maybe they will ask him to tell them who him really met. Bor in de main time they say him mom tell de village thru them how much him usage on this trip.

Hmm, my son aa look leh yor village geh plenty news oo?

Father, da fun, de Papay mom geh him 41 million Uncle Sam money him asked de Chiefs at de Traditional Council to giv him-no noise, business continue. We jus picking up from de place we stop.

Start from page 11

3 feared dead in Bea

Mount County,” the release said.

The LNP noted that the primary objective of the team is to restore tranquillity and thoroughly examine the circumstances surrounding the riot in Kenjor, Grand Cape Mount County.

“Subsequently, appropriate measures will be taken accordingly. However, IG Coleman earnestly appeals to the public to maintain composure, assuring them that every effort will be made to swiftly conduct the investigation and ensure that those responsible for the violence face the full consequences of the law,” the release added.

“The public will be promptly updated on casualties and the actions taken to address the situation,” it said further. Meanwhile, the newly elected lawmaker of District #2 Grand Cape Mount County, Mohammed Dosi told reporters on Wednesday that he supported the protestors because armed men were deployed in the operation area of the company, something that he did not like.

On Wednesday and Thursday protestors went on rampage after the lawmaker held meeting with them.

He told residents in Gologoma, Grand Cape Mount County that they were unhappy.

The protestors later set ablaze the

make our people afraid. Why will you bring armed people to the community that you want to work in? That is a conflict,” Dosi told reporters.

Dosi admitted that he wrote his colleague lawmakers to call for the withdrawal of armed men at the mines. According to him, there is no need to hire armed men to be at the mines.

But his statement was debunked by some citizens from Cape Mount who said that BMCC was right to hire armed men to protect its facilities.

According to Amara Folley, a resident of Kinjor, the presence of armed men was necessary due to past experience in which BMCC facilities were destroyed.

According to him, approaching the general elections last year, the National Security team did an assessment of all potential Hotspots in the country and determined that the explosives magazines at Bea Mountain was a potential risk point.

It was realized that the presence of police was not strong enough to withstand any violent activities. So, the Ministry of Justice sought support from the AFL and the troops were deployed not only at Bea Mountain but also at LEC facilities like Mount Coffee. More importantly, according to Section 11.2 .a of the MDA-Mineral Development Agreement signed between the Liberian government and Bea Mountain states that; “The Company



home of one Boakai Lansannah Tararero, a citizen of the county. Boakai contested against Representative Dosi in the just-ended election of 2023. He is seen as a potential rival to Rep. Dosi.

On his official facebook page, Boakai accused Rep. Dosi of supporting the burning his home.

Due to the seriousness of the protest, the police had to fire light bullets and fired teargas to dispel protestors. The newly dedicated vocational school in the area was destroyed as well as several machines and other centers in the town. The police have dispatched a team of officers to ascertain more facts. Not only them, but also the house of Representatives has sent a team of lawmakers to the area to know the details of the incident.

In an interview journalist on the scene, Rep. Dosi defended the protest action, saying it was due to the deployment of hired armed men at the company’s site. On whether he was aware of the burning of equipment, he said, he only heard about it but, said: “because the armed people are here to

may, directly or by contract with a responsible provider of security services, establish, manage and maintain its own asset and employee security and protection service for the purpose of protecting assets in the Production Area and in the immediate vicinity of other locations at which Company has or maintains property and assets through its own security force and to do so always in accordance with Law and rules and regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Justice relating to security forces. Such security force shall not bear arms and shall at all times operate subject to the authority of, and coordination with the Liberia National Police.”

Not only that, but also, In section b says; “In the event the Company deems it absolutely necessary to have armed guards for the purpose of protecting assets in the Production Area and in the immediate vicinity of other locations at which Company has or maintains property and assets, the Company shall make a written request to the Government. The Government shall provide armed guards as needed, which expense shall be borne by the Company.”

DATE WITH THE NATION
WITH D. WAHNE, JR.
THEN... REPEAL ACTS
CREATING TENURE POSITIONS

By D. Wa Hne, Jr.

It seems former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai were not on the same page with the creation of tenure positions which significantly limited presidential powers and preferences as contained in Article 54a of the 1986 Constitution.

Though the Vice President at the time presided and represented the Executive Branch of Government and greatly influenced its passage, the current quagmire and controversies can only speak to two thoughts which might be that the former Vice President, now President, was dimensionally and diametrically opposed to his boss's decision, but preferred to remain silent about it, influenced it, until he assume the Presidency and then scrap it.

Another thought could be that the President believes in the tenure law, but the current state of tenure positions could be that the President cannot stand the sight of any CDCian being closed to him or becoming a part of his Government. If the latter is true, then it showcases the bitterness both parties might have exhibited during the last six years and such is now engrained in the formation of this government and within its governance plan. However diagnostic analysis might just be difficult to comprehend and conclude on as a critical question might pop up.

If indeed President Boakai did not agreed with his former Boss in creating the Tenure Positions, why did he and his Party not stand by President George Manneh Weah when the CDC argued that tenure positions were in contravention of Article 54a of the 1986 Constitution? Why did they not agreed with him that Tenure Laws encroached on the President’s constitutional rights to freely appoint officials of government, but instead they vehemently opposed his attempts to nullified the tenure laws?

The fact that President Boakai along with others within the CPP supported the Tenure Laws against the CDC could suggest one thing and that is, the current emblogio is not about tenure laws being in violation of the presidential prerogative to appoint in compliance with Article 54a, but it is about this administration not seeing inclusivity, especially with CDC in its governance, being a totally wise and acceptable decision.

But the law being the law, there is no need to set up a committee to find loopholes to remove tenure holders from their respective jobs. Searching for loopholes could clearly be an art of commissioning witch hunt. The right and proper course could be de-legalizing tenure positions through repeal of the acts creating them to revert to status quo ante which gives the President free hands.

As a thinker and author, my intent is not to denigrate President Boakai, but to help guide this nation, especially his Administration and help it to succeed and meet promised expectations. I have known the President closely and interacted with him prior to his presidency and I think my best support is to advise the course from this unpreferred distance. There are too many controversies generating at this early stage of the UP Government which questioned whether all is going to be well in this Country and for its people.

There are crucial people oriented decisions that need to be made. The first 100 days may soon evaporate without tangibilities. That would signal failure. NAYMOTE has already placed this administration under the spotlight with promises made. Advisors need to help the President succeed instead of creating more controversies.

Furthermore, the nation awaits the government's position on tuition free studies at public universities, WAEC fees payment for students by government, de-harmonization of salaries and salaries increment as promised, processing the implementation of war and economic crimes court, creating job opportunities, stabilizing electricity, and many other ambitious and needed development programs.

There are anxious minds and voices that want to see policies and programs taking shape as the direction of the administration appears to remain stuck in potential controversies. We must get back to the drawing table to remove all the dark clouds created.

There are, the Julie Endi cry for justice which questions this government commitment to the rule of law as promised; the alleged police brutality on peaceful students protesting against the continue closure of the University of Liberia which raises doubts on fundamental rights being protected under this administration; unbalanced geopolitical distribution of cabinet and junior cabinet positions which is contradictory to campaign promises made; controversial appointments, the denial of the former President from using the VIP Lounge and other issues stirring Mr. President in the face. UP needs to clearly define the course; pursue the course and reach the marks. Visibility of direction must be established.

I think Mr. President needs to review the paragraphs in his inaugural speech that promised a government of inclusion, reconciliation and unity. There are actions being taken that are preventing their achievements and if care is not taking, we might have a sharply divided nation, less accomplishments, and more turmoil. I write not to blindly criticize, but to make my contributions to “Think Liberia, Love Liberia and build Liberia”.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Mensah raises red flag over budget delay

The House of Representatives voted in January this year returning to the Executive under President Boakai's rule, the draft National Budget earlier submitted by his predecessor, Mr. Weah, to enable the new administration to realign its agenda in the budget.

By Bridgett Milton

Bong County Electoral District #6 Representative Moima Briggs Mensah has raised a red flag against the

the House of Representatives the reasons for the delay in the submission of the 2024 National Fiscal Budget.

"Speaker and Colleagues, resulting out of communication

lamented, the Ministry of Finance has ignored a 15 February 2024 mandate associated with the submission of the budget as communicated to the Ministry by the House of Representatives.

She said President Boakai's vision dubbed Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, Tourism (ARREST) is defined as the development path set for the development of the country. As such, Representative Mensah argued that the earlier implantation depends on the submission of this year's 2024 fiscal budget. Mensah added that the delay in submitting the budget has been four days as at the time she had raised her concern with her colleagues. She urged that the House should ascertain reasons for such delay without any formal communication from the Finance Ministry stating the reasons for the delay.

She said it is her fervent hope that plenary acts collectively in the interest of the country as always. Following her submission, the House Plenary mandated its Chief Clerk, Mildred Sayon, to write a communication to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, reminding him to resubmit the budget.

from the Co-Chair on Ways, Means, and Finance Committee, Hon. Ellen Attoh Wreh, and in the spirit of coordination, the House of

Representative unanimously voted to send back the 2024 Nation Fiscal Budget to the Executive," she explained. Mensah said the budget was returned for proper adjustment and realignment to suit the President's 100-day deliverables and his 'ARREST' platform for the collective achievement of the nation.

Unfortunately, she



Rep. Moima Briggs Mensah

Executive branch's delay in submitting Liberia's National Budget without any formal communication to the House of Representatives stating a reason. Ex-President George Manneh Weah's regime submitted a budget before its exit, but the House of Representatives in January this year returned the instrument to the Executive to allow the Boakai-led regime to realign its agenda in the budget. But Rep. Mensah said the Minister of Finance and Development Planning needs to explain to

Military veterans' selection for leadership nullified

Liberia's military officials say only the board of directors of the National Bureau of Veteran Affairs is authorized to vet and forward qualified veterans for onward recommendation to the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, 1 March 2024: The High Command of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has with immediate effect nullified the selection of three military veterans for the management team of the National Bureau for Veteran Affairs.

The Military High Command has restored calm in the veteran community. A 17-man steering committee set up by the veteran community of the AFL in collaboration with the National Bureau of Veteran Affairs selected Retired Major Thomas Plato, Director General, Retired Captain Edward Tokpah, Deputy Director General for Administration, and Retired First Lieutenant Isaac Wallace, Deputy Director General for Veteran Affairs.

The selected veterans were due to be forwarded to

President Joseph Nyumah Bokai for their nomination and subsequent confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

Speaking Thursday, 29 February 2024 in the conference room of the AFL High Command, AFL Chief of Staff Major General Davidson Forleh said only the board of directors of the National Bureau of Veteran Affairs is clothed with the authority to vet and forward qualified

veterans for onward recommendation to the President.

According to Maj. Gen Fortleh, the continuous presence of the outgoing leadership at the bureau and the measures taken by some members in selecting and vetting a new leadership is in sharp contravention of the procedures for appointments.

He said the selection must

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



AFL Chief of Staff, Major General Davidson Forleh

RIA road project causing major health hazard

-EPA wants HOR's intervention

The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking the backing of lawmakers because past political influences allegedly hindered the agency's efforts to compel East International to adhere to regulations.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Monrovia, 1 March 2024: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reported to the House of Representatives several occupational, health, and safety issues recorded onsite at the East International Company which is constructing the ELWA-Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway. An EPA community survey said approximately 83% of the interviewed individuals reported constant dust occurrence in their environment during afternoon hours, with respiratory problems such as coughing and asthma being major health concerns.

In preparation for a meeting with the House of Representatives, the Agency recently dispatched a team of environmental technicians from the Environmental Research and Radiation Safety Department to

January 2024.

Additionally, there were no records of quarterly and terminal monitoring reports submitted by the company, and inadequate personal protective equipment was provided for workers, among other violations.

Moreover, East International did not adhere to regulations, and enforcement was hindered by past political influences. The findings further revealed that Particulate Matter 2.5 or PM 2.5, a dust particle easily inhaled and causing respiratory problems, averaged 42.6ug/m³, exceeding the World Health Organization's permissible limit of 15ug/m³.

Based on these findings, the EPA intends to engage with East International to rectify their compliance status by renewing their license, and addressing other environmental irregularities identified during previous compliance monitoring



conduct a preliminary assessment of the situation. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate air quality at random points along the construction area, conduct physical inspections, and gather residents' feedback on the dust situation. The EPA investigative findings were disclosed during deliberations that took place recently during a meeting convened by the House Joint Committee on Public Works, Rural Development.

The objective of the meeting was to address issues related to toxic dust allegedly causing respiratory ailments and other health issues along the 45km RIA road construction project.

The EPA technicians conducted a study on the operations of East International company, focusing on compliance audits, physical observations, air quality testing, and community perception surveys to gauge the views of residents in the affected areas.

The EPA investigation revealed to the House that East International Company's EPA permit had expired since 31

interventions. The EPA said it will ensure that East International management takes immediate steps to implement all EPA permit conditions related to the environment, health, and safety to reduce dust levels to acceptable standards. EPA Acting Executive Director Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkparwolo, is advocating for political and budgetary support from the 55th National Legislature.

Dr. Yarkparwolo is seeking the House of Representatives' assistance in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the EPA as a revenue-generating entity for the national government.

His comments come amidst reports of some entities and companies adopting a non-compliant posture towards the EPA's operations in fulfilling its duties.

Furthermore, the EPA recommends that East International management implement traffic control measures to reduce truck speeds during working hours and ensure other road safety measures, as emphasized by the EPA Director during a House Committee hearing.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NAC calls for enabling environment to end stigma

In Liberia, discrimination continues to serve as a barrier to fast-tracking HIV interventions to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Monrovia, Thursday, February 29, 2024 - In observance of World Zero Discrimination Day, country's social, health, and economic challenges posed by discrimination, the health rights of persons living with

discourage discriminatory attitudes and practices taking place in healthcare settings, misinformation, lack of privacy, stereotyped or hate messages, and breach of confidentiality.

To accelerate Liberia's commitment to ending HIV-related stigma and Discrimination, the Commission said it has collaborated with stakeholders to develop the Zero Discrimination Action plan for the country and held the first-ever national stigma, Discrimination, and Advocacy conference.

The conference called on policymakers to ensure that no new discriminatory laws, regulations, and policies are passed, and zero denial of health services based on a person's perceived or positive HIV status and sexuality. The conference also called for increased political will from the Liberian government in the fight against discrimination.

The National AIDS Commission is commending its partners and donors including the Ministry of Health, UNAIDS, Independent National Human Rights Commission, PEPFAR Inter-Agencies, the Global Fund, and Civil Society Organizations for their continuous support of the fight against stigma and discrimination in Liberia.

—Press release



the National AIDS Commission of Liberia (NAC) is calling on state actors to ensure the creation of an enabling environment to put an end to stigma and discrimination in all sectors of the country. Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated on March 1 each year to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all the member countries of the United Nations.

In a press release, the National AIDS Commission said discrimination remains a major barrier in fast-tracking HIV interventions to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The Commission empathized that to address the

HIV, key populations, and other vulnerable groups should be respected regardless of their health status, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

This year's Global Theme is: "Protect Everyone's Health, Protect Everyone's Rights." In recognition of this theme, the Commission said it is important to allow persons living with HIV and other key and vulnerable populations who are directly affected by societal discrimination to feel confident and protected in accessing and adhering to life-saving treatment at health facilities. The Commission is urging duty bearers, healthcare providers, and social workers to expose and

Foreign Minister Nyanti seals historic deal with Barbados; Bolsters ties with Norway

The signing of a bilateral relations between Liberia and Barbados has sealed the bonds connecting the two countries, which dates back from the 1800s when immigrants from the Barbados migrated to Liberia as did others from other Caribbean nations..

(Accra, February 29, 2024): Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti, has concluded a successful two-day working visit to Ghana, further solidifying Liberia's diplomatic relations on the international stage that established a new bilateral relationship while cementing another one.

According to a release from the Liberian Embassy in Accra, Foreign Minister Beysolow who led a high-level Liberian delegation signed the formalization of diplomatic relation between the Republics of Liberia and Barbados.

signing, Minister Nyanti explored key areas of collaboration, including workforce development, tourism, cultural heritage, legal education, agriculture, fisheries, and trade. These initiatives aim to deepen ties and foster mutually beneficial partnerships between the two countries.

According to the release, Minister Nyanti also highlighted the historical ties between Barbados and Liberia, dating back to the arrival of Barbadians in Liberia in 1865. Notable individuals of Bajan descent, such as former presidents and key figures in Liberian society, have made significant contributions to



Liberia's Foreign Min. Nyanti (left) & Barbados' Head of Mission Madam Babb-Riley (right) during the signing ceremony in Accra, Ghana on February 28, 2024

Madam Juliette Babb-Riley, Head of Mission of the High Commission of Barbados, signed on behalf of Barbados during the historic formalization. The signing ceremony took place in Accra, Ghana on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Other members of the Liberian delegation included the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Hon. Boima S. Kamara, the Chairperson of the Board of the National Ports Authority (NPA) of Liberia, Hon. Luther Tarpeh, and the Charge d'Affaires of the Liberian Embassy in Accra, Mr. Philip Garjay Innis, the release adds.

Wednesday's ceremony marked the culmination of engagements between the Embassy of Liberia in Accra and the High Commission of Barbados in Ghana, underscoring the importance of building fruitful South-South relationships. Prior to the

Liberia over the years, the release adds.

A day earlier, on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Minister Nyanti and her Liberian delegation held a meeting with Her Excellency Ingrid Mollestad, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway accredited to Liberia with residence in Ghana. The discussions centered on enhancing bilateral relations between Liberia and Norway, covering a wide range of topics. The release notes that those recent developments underscore Minister Nyanti's commitment to advancing Liberia's foreign policy objectives and strengthening its position in the global community.

According to the release, the agreements with Barbados and Norway mark important milestones in Liberia's diplomatic efforts and pave the way for enhanced cooperation and collaboration in various fields.

Lawmaker wants clinic at Capitol Building

The proposed establishment of a mini clinic at the Capitol Building, the seat of the National Legislature if undertaken would prioritize the health and safety of legislators, staff members, and visitors. The proposed establishment of a mini clinic at the Capitol Building, the seat of the National Legislature if undertaken would prioritize the health and safety of legislators, staff members, and visitors.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, Liberia, February 29, 2024 - Montserrado County District#13 Representative, Edward P. Flomo, has written the House of Representatives, proposing to that Body, a need to establish a mini-clinic at the 55th Legislature for emergency cases. According to Rep. Flomo, in light of the pressing need to prioritize the health and safety of legislators, staff members, and visitors, he wants Plenary to collaborate with the Ministry of Health in establishing a mini-clinic on the grounds of the Capitol. "The proposal to set up a mini-clinic within the Legislature's premises aligns with best practices observed in other Legislatures worldwide and across Africa. Such healthcare facilities serve as vital resources for immediate

response to medical emergencies, ensuring prompt and efficient care for individuals in need", he explains. He underscores that establishing a dedicated mini-clinic for legislators and staffers would demonstrate commitment to safeguarding the health and welfare of all employees at the legislature.

The Montserrado County lawmaker maintains that provision of timely medical assistance within the Legislature will not only bolster emergency preparedness but serve as proactive approach in addressing unexpected health situations that may arise.

He notes that such facility should have capacity to handle a range of medical emergencies from minor injuries to more critical health incidents, thereby fostering a safer and

more secure environment for all stakeholders within the legislative premises. "As we collectively strive towards institutional reforms and progressive advancements under the guidance of our esteemed Speaker, it is imperative to prioritize initiatives that enhance the legislative environment and uphold the well-being of all individuals within our esteemed institution". He said the establishment of a mini-clinic represents a tangible step towards realizing this shared commitment to health, safety, and effective governance.

Meanwhile the committee has been forwarded to the committee on Health and Ways Means and Finance. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

La popularité de Weah en baisse ?

L'ancien président George Manneh Weah semble avoir perdu sa forte popularité auprès des Libériens, en

Monrovia, Liberia, 28 février 2024 - La popularité autrefois importante de l'ancien président George Weah semble avoir connu un déclin important

George Tawlon Oppong Ousman Manneh Weah et son épouse, l'ancienne Première Dame Clar Weah, ont quitté le Liberia pour la France peu après



particulier de la jeunesse, car son retour au Liberia mardi 27 février a été accueilli par une réception discrète.

M. Weah et son entourage sont arrivés à Monrovia, accompagnés de quelques loyalistes, sans la présence visible de dirigeants clés de son ancien parti au pouvoir, le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC).

ces dernières semaines depuis son départ du pouvoir.

Autrefois salué pour avoir attiré des foules lors de son retour de voyages à l'étranger, marqués par des supporters enthousiastes vêtus de rouge et des célébrations joyeuses, le dernier retour de Weah dans le pays mardi n'a vu qu'un rassemblement discret d'individus habillés de vêtements ordinaires.

L'ancien président, sans aucun doute autrefois célèbre,

l'investiture du président Joseph N. Boakai pour recevoir un prestigieux prix de la paix.

Lors de son départ, il était accompagné à l'aéroport par plusieurs anciens responsables gouvernementaux, dont l'ancien ministre de la Justice Frank Musah Dean, l'ancienne ministre du Commerce Mawine Diggs, l'ancien maire de la ville Jefferson Tamba Koijee et l'ancien ministre adjoint des Travaux publics Joseph P. Todd, entre autres Libériens venus

Le sénateur McGill met en garde le président Boakai

Au milieu des controverses qui secouent les premiers jours du mandat du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, un sénateur clé de l'opposition, Nathaniel Falo McGill, met en garde le président Boakai contre les informations trompeuses.

Le sénateur McGill, qui préside le groupe législatif du CDC, note que le président accorde trop d'attention à ses conseillers plutôt que de voir les choses dans leur ensemble.

Comté de Margibi, Liberia, 28 février 2024 - Le sénateur du comté de Margibi, Nathaniel Falo McGill, met en garde le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai contre le fait de permettre aux fonctionnaires de son gouvernement, en particulier ceux de la présidence, de saper son administration.

Lors d'une conférence de presse en direct mercredi 28 février, le sénateur McGill a déclaré :

"Nous devons tout faire pour la paix. Je veux lancer un appel au président, mon propre oncle. S'il vous plaît, ne laissez pas ces gens saper votre administration. Vous vous êtes battu pour être président de ce pays. Le peuple libérien vous l'a donné. Votre préoccupation actuelle devrait être de maintenir la paix dans le pays."

Il a déclaré que le président ne devrait pas prêter l'oreille à ceux qui se disent conseillers

juridiques, qui cherchent l'attention, la popularité et qui veulent exercer le pouvoir.

Le président de la commission sénatoriale de l'éducation se demande comment le gouvernement peut refuser un emploi à des personnes simplement parce qu'elles portaient des tee-shirts du parti sans passer par

▶ CONT'D page 9



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

La popularité de Weah

Starts from page 8

l'assister au décollage. Cependant, son retour mardi 22 février 2023 à l'aéroport international Roberts a connu une participation en baisse, signalant un changement notable dans la popularité de l'ancien président.

Alors que M. Weah, qui a concédé sa défaite à l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai après le second tour du 14 novembre, a déclaré qu'il était revenu pour s'engager dans le travail du parti et critiquer le gouvernement Boakai, il semble y avoir des conflits internes au sein de son ancien parti, le CDC, depuis que les électeurs lui ont refusé un second mandat.

Le jour du retour de l'ancien président, le président du parti CDC, Mulbah K. Morlu Jr., a présenté sa lettre de démission, citant les défis rencontrés pendant l'administration Weah. Il a fait état de contraintes qui l'ont empêché d'assumer pleinement ses responsabilités.

Pendant le mandat de six ans du président Weah, les disputes entre le leader du parti et l'ancien président se sont répétées. Dans une déclaration du mardi 10 décembre 2019, M. Morlu a critiqué les nominations de Weah comme étant des "sous-performants" qui finiraient par miner son administration.

Alors que l'ex-président et l'ancien président se livraient

à des batailles verbales malgré leur appartenance au même parti, certains membres du CDC ont suggéré de le destituer pour avoir critiqué ouvertement son administration.

Cependant, l'ancien représentant Moses Gray a soutenu Morlu à l'époque, affirmant que son mandat se terminerait avec succès sans recours à des moyens non démocratiques.

Néanmoins, la lettre de démission de M. Morlu a été un choc pour de nombreux Libériens, après avoir tenu bon pendant six ans malgré de nombreux différends avec le leader du parti.

Alors que M. Weah, ancien footballeur devenu homme politique, qui a été le 25e président du Liberia de 2018 à 2024, n'a pas répondu à la lettre de démission du président Morlu, des questions subsistent sur l'héritage durable de sa présidence et l'avenir du CDC dans l'évolution du paysage politique libérien.

Avant son élection en 2017, M. Weah a été sénateur du comté de Montserrado et a également connu une carrière professionnelle prolifique de 18 ans en tant qu'attaquant, qui s'est terminée en 2003. Il reste le premier ancien footballeur africain à devenir chef d'État.

En attendant, pour Weah, autrefois célébré comme la fierté du Liberia, le changement actuel du sentiment public marque un tournant notable dans son parcours politique.

Le sénateur McGill

Starts from page 8

le système judiciaire.

Selon le sénateur, il croit comprendre que M. Boakai a remporté la présidence avec une marge d'environ 17 000 voix, ce qui, selon lui, est trop peu pour commencer à poursuivre les gens, s'il veut la paix et la stabilité dans le pays.

M. McGill, qui préside également le groupe législatif du CDC, a déclaré que certains responsables n'ont même pas passé 30 jours en fonction pour comprendre le fonctionnement du gouvernement, mais qu'ils font des déclarations qu'il qualifie de drôles, les avertissant de se comporter

correctement.

Il a occupé le poste de ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles sous l'administration de l'ancien président Weah, mais il a été sanctionné par le Trésor américain, en même temps que plusieurs anciens responsables, pour corruption à grande échelle dans le secteur public.

Il faisait partie des responsables de l'administration Weah qui ont été vivement critiqués pour avoir mal géré les affaires de l'ancien gouvernement.

Mais la situation a changé et M. McGill, désormais sénateur, exprime sa déception vis-à-vis de la nouvelle administration.

Supprimer les postes à durée indéterminée



Alors que le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai attend qu'un comité spécial qu'il a constitué enquête et lui fasse rapport sur la manière de révoquer les fonctionnaires occupant des postes à durée indéterminée du régime précédent, l'ancien ministre des finances, David Farhat, est venu à la défense du président, affirmant que M. Boakai n'a pas commis d'erreur en remplaçant les fonctionnaires en poste, en particulier ceux du gouvernement précédent. M. Farhat a soutenu que les postes à durée indéterminée ont été créés par l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, et non par la loi, de sorte que le président Boakai aurait dû les abolir avant de nommer de nouveaux fonctionnaires à ces postes. Monrovia, Liberia, 28 février 2024 - Alors que le débat se poursuit sur la tentative du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai de remplacer des fonctionnaires occupant des postes à durée indéterminée du gouvernement précédent, l'ancien ministre des finances, David Farhat, est venu à la défense du président, affirmant que M. Boakai n'a pas tort de nommer des personnes à des postes à durée indéterminée pour assurer le bon fonctionnement de son gouvernement, malgré la résistance de ceux qui occupent

actuellement ces postes.

S'exprimant lors d'un entretien exclusif avec The NEW DAWN le mardi 27 février 2024, M. Farhat a soutenu que les postes à durée indéterminée ont été créés par l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, et non par la loi. Selon lui, le président Boakai aurait dû abolir ces postes avant de nommer de nouveaux fonctionnaires.

Il a ajouté que ceux qui se tournent vers les tribunaux pour obtenir réparation de leur limogeage perdent leur temps. Il a fait remarquer que les postes à durée indéterminée ont été créés par un autre président et qu'un nouveau président arrivé au pouvoir a le pouvoir de maintenir ou d'abroger ces clauses de durée.

L'ancien ministre des finances de l'administration du président Samuel Kanyon Doe, assassiné, exhorte le peuple libérien à se concentrer sur les questions qui contribueront à améliorer sa vie plutôt que de s'engager dans des activités qui ne seront d'aucune aide au pays et à ses citoyens. Selon lui, les postes à durée indéterminée n'ont jamais été inscrits dans la loi par le biais d'un référendum national nécessitant la participation de tous les citoyens.

Dans le même temps, il a déclaré que l'ancien président George Weah devrait désormais se considérer comme un Libérien ordinaire et être prêt à respecter les protocoles de sécurité mis en place par le gouvernement pour préserver la paix.

Lancement de Global Village Connections au Libéria

Le lancement de Global Village Connections (GVC), une organisation polyvalente au Libéria ayant pour objectif d'unir le monde à travers l'agriculture, l'éducation, la santé, l'entrepreneuriat, les arts et la culture, entre autres, s'annonce comme une bouée de sauvetage pour les populations rurales en quête d'eau potable salubre.

Fondée en 2019 par M. Jackson Dukpa du Bhoutan, l'organisation a été officiellement lancée au Libéria. Son unique objectif est d'unir le monde à travers l'agriculture, l'éducation, la santé, l'entrepreneuriat, les arts et la culture.

Le lancement a eu lieu récemment à Konola, district n° 5, comté de Margibi, en présence de plus de 500 personnes représentant différents comtés du Libéria.

Le programme a débuté par des activités en salle, suivies d'un défilé de femmes et d'hommes, y compris des agriculteurs, des entrepreneurs et de nombreux autres professionnels, de la communauté de Kissi Camp à Mars Yard à Kolona, le long de la route Weala.

Sylvester Lepolu, président de l'organisation, a présenté un aperçu de GVC, soulignant qu'elle a été créée avec une vision et une mission claires : servir l'humanité sans condition et apporter une transformation globale pour un monde meilleur. Elle sert également de véhicule d'espoir pour les faibles et de voix pour les sans-voix, a-t-il ajouté.

M. Lepolu a déclaré que la mission de GVC comprend de nombreux objectifs,



notamment la réalisation de la faim zéro au Libéria d'ici 2028. Cela se fera par le biais de l'agriculture communautaire, du soutien aux petits agriculteurs et de la création de liens avec les marchés pour garantir un approvisionnement alimentaire mondial équilibré.

L'organisation vise également une terre propre et verte d'ici 2035 grâce à la plantation d'arbres et à la régénération des sols, à la mise en œuvre d'une gestion des déchets sûre et intelligente, à la protection de l'écosystème naturel et à la création d'initiatives en matière d'énergie verte et propre. GVC veut également garantir l'accès à l'eau potable d'ici 2030 en créant des points d'accès à l'eau potable et en mettant en œuvre un système de récupération des eaux de pluie.

M. Lepolu a également parlé du droit aux moyens de subsistance d'ici 2030 par le développement des compétences dans tous les secteurs, la création d'emplois durables et l'accès à un financement durable.

Il a appelé à un monde pacifique et sûr d'ici 2035, en s'attaquant à la criminalité et en promouvant la sécurité, en proposant des initiatives d'éducation pacifique et en relogant les personnes déplacées par les guerres et les

Read the
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Boakai inherits Liberia's high debt

By Seltue Karweaye

As the 26th president of Liberia, Joseph Nyumah Boakai [1] inherits an economy that is grappling with inflation [2], chronic unemployment [3], extreme poverty [4], an enormous infrastructure gap [5], insecurity [6], etc. Liberia's debt profile stands out among these problems like a sore thumb. The external debt stock - what it owes non-residents - was US\$1.3 billion [7] in 2022. Multilateral lenders accounted for almost two-thirds of Liberia's debt. The World Bank and the IMF are Liberia's two largest external creditors.

The country's public debt stock - what the government owes in total - was about US\$2.21 billion [8] at the end of December 2023. External debts can become a significant burden for countries as they are

denominated and serviced in foreign currencies, which can lead to fluctuations in interest payments due to exchange rate changes. For example, if the currency of a debtor country depreciates, it may increase interest payments, negatively affecting the country's budget.

Furthermore, interest rates may rise, making it even more difficult for the country to manage its external debt. The country's debt profile, which includes the amount and type of debt, as well as the interest rates and repayment terms, should be a concern for Boakai and his team as they work to revitalize the Liberian economy. However, this concern need not hamper their ability to implement policies that reduce unemployment, poverty rates, infrastructure deficits, etc.

Is the current debt level in Liberia sustainable? When evaluating a country's debt sustainability, economists have a range

of indicators [9] at their disposal, however, two of these metrics stand out as the most commonly utilized and reliable.

One of the indicators is gross debt as a percentage of gross domestic product (also known as the debt-GDP ratio). In Liberia, it is 52.7% [10] in 2024. The average for sub-Saharan African countries was 56%. Debt begins to harm an economy when the debt-GDP ratio surpasses 77% according to a World Bank report. In comparing debt to GDP ratios, Liberia's ratio is moderate and significantly lower than the stipulated threshold of 77%. For example, Ghana's debt to GDP has crossed the dreaded 77% to 98.7% [11] in 2022, the country's unsustainable debt levels forced the government to go back to the IMF for another bailout in July 2022 [12] - despite the IMF deal - Ghana isn't out of trouble yet, the country's debt to GDP stands at 81.5% [11] in 2024.

Moderate increases in Liberia's national debt will unlikely lead to insurmountable repayment burdens within the next few years; however, reckless financing schemes aimed at supporting unnecessary infrastructure endeavors must be avoided as they could have adverse fiscal consequences. Instead, measures are needed to create an enabling environment conducive to encouraging investor confidence while fostering tangible progress in economic growth, employment generation, and poverty reduction.

Although the United States and Liberia differ in various aspects, the former has demonstrated that a high debt-to-GDP ratio does not necessarily constrain economic vitality. Despite having a debt-GDP ratio of approximately 126.9% [13]; the US managed to reduce the unemployment rate to 3.8% [14] while keeping inflation at a stable level of around 3.1% [15].

The debt service ratio, another indicator of debt sustainability, measures the portion of export earnings used to repay borrowed funds. A healthy rate is below 18% [16]. Liberia's debt-service ratio was 6.4% [17] in 2022 and 3.7% in 2017. The 2022 number shows Liberia is getting closer to the point where servicing its debt would become a problem. In the 2016/2017 budget, debt servicing amounted to US\$30.2 million (6.1% of recurrent expenditure), and by 2023, debt servicing amounted to 99.91

million (15.72% of recurrent expenditure) in the budget. To alleviate Liberia's increasing debt burden, the Boakai administration must prioritize boosting the country's revenue.

With one of the lowest revenue-GDP ratios, Liberia registered 27.3% government

revenue as a percentage of GDP. Unfortunately, average annual government revenue declined by 0.05% between 2015 and 2021.

Liberia's reliance on iron ore and rubber as major sources of revenue implies that revenues will continue to fall with the prices of iron ore [18] and rubber [19], given uncertainties in the global iron oil and rubber market.

The economic growth of Liberia slowed down between 2022 and 2023, specifically from 4.8 percent to 4.6 percent, which also negatively impacted the country's ability to generate revenue.

In addition, President Boakai stated in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) that government expenditure has been growing faster than expected, resulting in a significant budget deficit of over US\$80 million as revealed by Revenue collection reported for 2023 standing at US\$710.23 million while totaling expenditure was recorded as US\$796.32

million. In 2024, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that Liberia's debt-revenue ratio was 18.1% [7], which is a consequence of dwindling revenue leading to high debt-revenue ratios and creating an unending cycle of borrowing for government expenditures as more revenues are devoted towards servicing existing debts thereby increasing the overall debt burden. Liberia's debt-to-revenue ratio might be lower, but the proportion of external debt service to revenue is alarmingly high.

In the 2022 budget, Liberia spent \$105 million on debt servicing which includes interest payments and principal repayment, however, \$79.6 million [20] was specifically

utilized for settling external debts. The Boakai administration must be mindful of the country's debt profile and avoid exacerbating it through prudent management of Liberia's debt, steering clear of the financial mismanagement that characterized the early 2000s when the debt-to-GDP ratio soared beyond 80%.

To improve the current state of affairs, Boakai's administration must reduce governance costs and eliminate wasteful spending. This can be achieved by streamlining processes, cutting unnecessary expenses, and implementing more efficient systems.

Additionally, measures should be taken to combat corruption while also exploring alternative methods for addressing economic problems that do not rely solely on perennial borrowing which can lead down a dangerous path towards unsustainable indebtedness.

Given the current low revenue and the numerous projects announced in his SONA aimed at promoting economic growth, employment generation, and poverty reduction in Liberia, the Boakai administration will have to continue implementing deficit spending policies. However, this approach is mainly financed by domestic and external borrowing.

To change the prevailing narrative about the risks associated with investing in Liberia, the Boakai administration must prioritize introducing policies that strengthen the nation's economic foundation and increase its attractiveness to potential investors.

In conclusion, a country's debt stock, although often viewed as a critical factor in assessing its economic health, pales in comparison to the significance of the quality of its economic policies. Well-crafted and effectively implemented economic policies have the potential to

generate budget surpluses that can be utilized to repay debts.

Economic growth and expansion require a strategic approach that includes investment in physical capital like roads and electricity, infrastructure, and access to capital for businesses of all sizes.

Moreover, prioritizing tourism and agricultural development can significantly contribute to the overall economy and lead to long-term success.



President Joseph Nyuma Boakai

3 feared dead in Bea Mountain protest

State security forces' alleged use of brut force in protecting the gold mining company Bea Mountain has led to lawmakers voting to recall the army and the police deployed there over two years ago.

By Lincoln G. Peters & Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, 1 March 2024: At least three persons are feared dead, and several others

are also protesting for other benefits as indicated in the Mineral Development Agreement signed in the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between

"We don't know about any death or live bullet. However, what we do know is that two civilians are unconscious along with ten police officers and they are currently at the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia," Mr. Carter explained.

Meanwhile, several lawmakers headed by the House of Representatives Chair on Executive Mr. Emmanuel Dahn and Representative Yekeh Kolubah of Montserrado County went to Grand Cape Mount County to negotiate peace.

Speaking to the aggrieved protesters, Representative Dahn urged them to be calm and patient, adding that their concerns are very legitimate and will be addressed.

After listening to the Representatives, the protesters agreed to abandon the protest but gave the lawmakers a one-week deadline to address their plights.

"We have listened to everything that you have said and we have decided to disengage from this protest. However, we are giving you a week deadline to address this concern. Failure on your part, we will continue our protest," the residents said.

Meanwhile, the LNP on late Thursday evening, 29 February 2024, dispatched and deployed operational and investigative teams to the incident scene following the violent protest between Bea Mountain Mining Company and the locals.

The LNP in a statement indicated that the team of investigators was dispatched by Police Inspector General Col. Gregory Coleman.

"The Inspector General of the Liberian National Police, Gregory Coleman has promptly deployed a combined operational and investigative team to Kenjor, Grand Cape

the company and the county. Protesters have told our reporter that they were peacefully protesting when the LNP officers went on the scene and demanded their forceful removal.

But they said they resisted the police's order, allegedly prompting the officers to discharge live bullets.

The citizens accused the LNP of killing three protesters through the discharge of the alleged live bullet, but the LNP has denied the report.

"We were peacefully protesting until the police came to forcefully remove us. We resisted and they discharged live bullets that led to the death of three persons. Two persons were buried and that is the one person's body you are seeing here," some of the protesters narrated.

On the protest scene, Police Spokesperson Moses Carter denied any use of live bullets and the death of anyone during an interview. Rather, Carter said few individuals were unconscious.



injured as longstanding protests against the operation of commercial gold mining company Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) continue.

The protests which turned bloody, have taken place in Tawore District, Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County.

The bloody protest in Tawore District early Thursday morning, 29 February 2024 is one of many brutal incidents as dissents grow among residents in the company's host community.

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has however denied the report of alleged deaths.

However, our reporter who visited the scene with lawmakers from Monrovia and the County said residents of Grand Cape Mount County had accused the police's Emergency Response Unit (ERU) assigned at the concession area of allegedly discharging live bullets. Part of the protesters' demand is to have one of their sons represented at the BMMC's senior management level and distribution of electricity. They

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Start from page 6 Military veterans' selection

meet the consent and approval of the board of directors after proper vetting and selection process. Based on the prevailing circumstances, the AFL Chief of Staff also requested the outgoing management team to relinquish all their activities by handing over the gavel of authority to the Human Resource Officer by the directive of former President George Manneh Weah. Maj. Gen. Forleh advised that the current Human Resource Officer, Retired Captain

Edward Tokpah, the Comptroller, Retired Major Joseph Nyunder, and a skeleton staff head an interim leadership of the bureau.

He urged both parties to be peaceful and calm and assured them that he would be consulting with the President and Commander in Chief, Joseph Boakai, during the interim for appropriate solutions in line with the Act that established the National Bureau of Veteran Affairs.

Meanwhile, the AFL Chief of Staff has also cautioned the contending parties to relate

positively to the widows of the late veterans to remain peaceful and refrain from any form of protest against the government.

He noted that the authority shall look into their concerns and come out with redress. For their part, the contending parties accepted the advice of the Chief of Staff and promised to remain calm as they would work together as a team for the good of the National Bureau of Veteran Affairs. They committed to intervene and calm the planned protest by widows of deceased veterans.

Liberia Gets First Sample of DENKI Electric Vehicles

The introduction of electric vehicles on the Liberian market signified a leap in the country's transportation industry as it get's on par with other developing countries advancing in technology. Liberia Gets First Sample of DENKI Electric Vehicles

Monrovia, Liberia March 1, 2024- Liberians are expected to witness the introduction of electric vehicles among its transportation fleets across the city today March 1.

Tuma Enterprises, Inc. (2ma), the company behind the introduction announced the arrival of DENKI Electric Vehicles (EVs) to Liberia on Thursday. The historic milestone signifies a monumental leap forward in Liberia's quest for a cleaner, greener future through private sector- driven efforts towards sustainable transportation.

This is happening now in spite of the absence of a formal country electric vehicle plan. However, 2ma recognizes the pressing need for eco-friendly transportation solutions in Liberia.

and along major highways across the country, ensuring convenient access to charging facilities for all Liberians. 2ma intends to pilot a 60-vehicle fleet model of transportation in Monrovia between July to December 2024.

Ultimately, 2ma hopes to construct an assembly plant in Monrovia, Liberia for the DENKI vehicles. "These are exciting times for us as we set our goals on introducing DENKI's Electric Vehicles to Liberia and provide consumers with sustainable transportation options," remarked Mr. Arnold Badio, President & Chief Executive Officer at Tuma Enterprises, Inc.

"As responsible corporate citizens, we are also dedicated to driving positive change and fostering a cleaner, more sustainable future for Liberia through this pioneering effort and huge investment, CEO Badio emphasized."

The DENKI EVs, according to a 2ma Statement, will also be equipped with



2ma says the introduction of DENKI EVs will position the country with readied access to cutting-edge electric vehicle technology ushering in a new era of sustainable mobility and futuristic transport technology.

Accordingly, Tuma Enterprises Inc, is set to provide for the Liberian Transport Industry and Market, DENKI's EV diverse range of models tailored to the unique needs of Liberian consumers.

They range from mini EVs to spacious SUVs which are equipped with state-of-the-art battery technology, delivering impressive range and robust performance.

Furthermore, Tuma Enterprises, Inc. is committed to establishing a robust charging infrastructure and vehicle maintenance facilities across Liberia to support widespread EV adoption through strategic partnerships and investments.

2ma aims to deploy charging stations in key urban centers

a fleet management GPS tracking system to monitor EV vehicles. This innovative solution enables owners to track the location and performance of their vehicles in real-time, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and security.

Moreover, DENKI EVs can be accessed via arideshare app called myMoto, available free to passengers. The myMoto app will be used by the general public to hail the DENKI vehicles for transportation.

Payments on the myMoto app will be done digitally through mobile money and debit cards, providing a seamless and convenient experience for both passengers and owners alike.

Through the myMoto app, owners can monitor the location and financial gains of their EV, creating a comprehensive one-stop transport system. Tuma Enterprises, Inc. looks forward to collaborating with stakeholders and government entities to accelerate the transition to electric mobility and create a brighter future for all Liberians.

Ellen to receive lifetime achievement award

Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf retired in 2018 having led Liberia for 12 consecutive years as Africa's first female elected president upon winning a 2005 democratic election at the end of a brutal 14-year civil war.

Monrovia, 1 March 2024: Your Value host the 30/50 Summit in Abu Dhabi from 5-8 March this year. Former Liberian President Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is due to

resolution following which she retired.

She is credited for dedication to leading women and inspiring them even outside of the presidency, using the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development.

Ex-president Sirleaf's peaceful transfer of power to her successor Mr. George Manneh Weah in 2018 after two terms in office marked a historic democratic transition for a country that had suffered years of bloodshed.

It came at a time when many West African countries struggled with political instability, at times due to incumbents' failure to respect constitutional term limits to leave power, among others.

Her former vice president, Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, is now Liberia's President, after another peaceful presidential transition that ended Mr. Weah's one-six-year term in office.



receive the Lifetime Achievement award this month in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates. That Honor is expected when Forbes and Know

with American news-based television channel MSNBC on Thursday, February 29. The organizers have recognized ex-president Sirleaf's leadership of her country through conflict

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

© 0886484201 Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
 © 0777007529 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia