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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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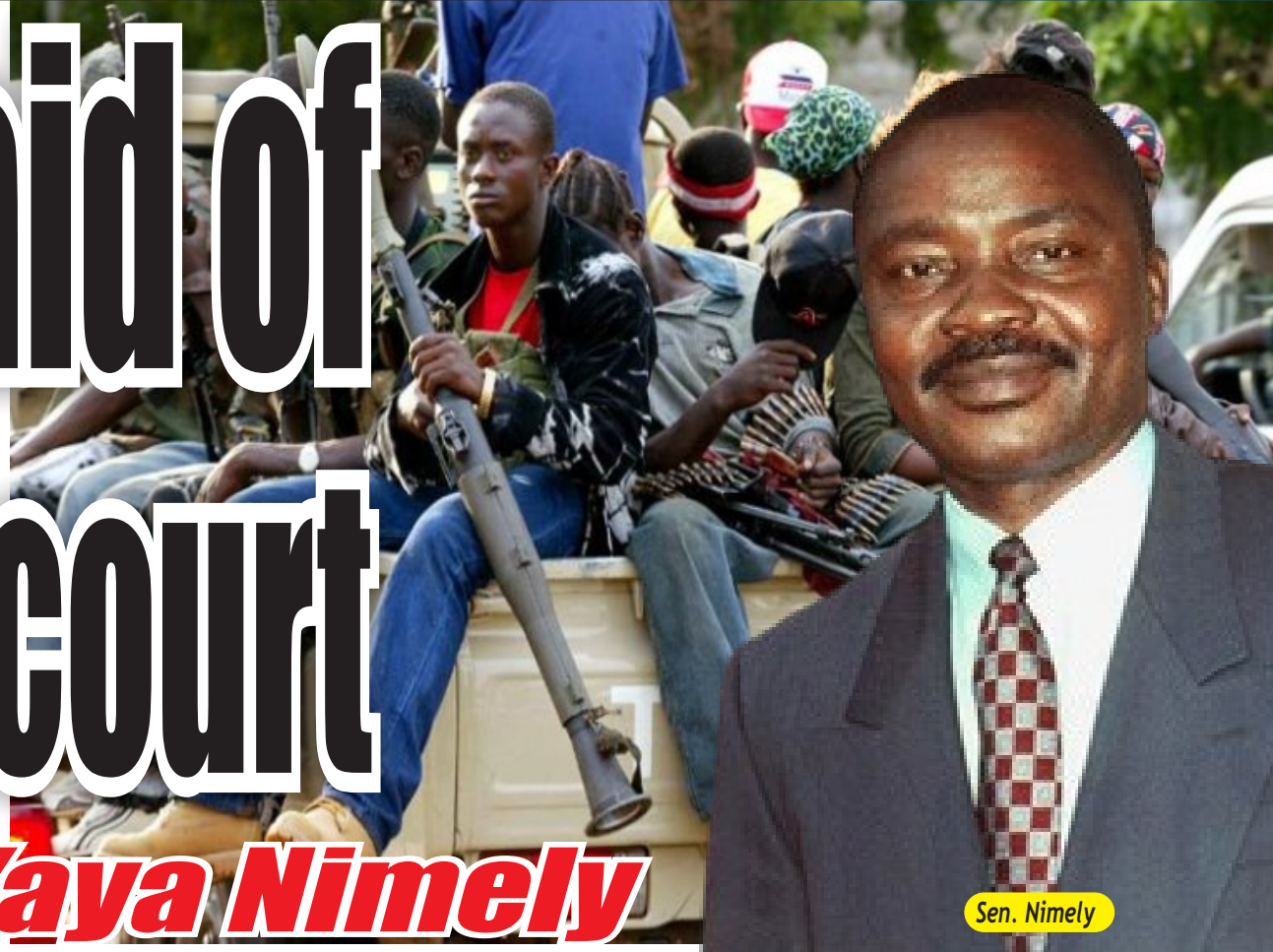
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# I'm not afraid of war crimes court



**- Sen. Thomas Yaya Nimely**



Sen. Nimely



President Boakai with U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Beth van Schaack

# U.S. to make War, Economic Crimes Court work



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# Continental News

## Nigeria's Boko Haram crisis: Dozens of women feared abducted in Gamboru Ngala

Dozens of displaced people are feared to have been abducted by Boko Haram jihadists in north-eastern Nigeria.

Chibok town, also in north-eastern Borno state, in 2014.

The latest abductions took place several days ago, but details are only emerging now because

when Borno's state government has said that 95% of Boko Haram fighters are either dead or have surrendered.

Neither it nor the federal government has commented on the latest abductions, but the chairman of the local government in the area, Umar Mohammed, confirmed the kidnappings, without giving a number.

One Gamboru Ngala resident told the BBC that 113 people had been taken away by Boko Haram fighters.

"It was on Sunday that we got information that over 200 displaced people went to get firewood but unfortunately Boko Haram kidnapped them, allowing only the very young and very old to return," said the resident, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals.

An anti-jihadist militia leader in the area, Shehu Mada, blamed the abductions on an offshoot of Boko Haram known as the Islamic State of West Africa Province (Iswap), AFP news agency reports.

He said a headcount showed that 47 women had been captured, while others managed to escape.

The insurgency in northern Nigeria has been raging since 2009, killing more than 40,000 people and forcing two million to flee their homes. BBC

## US Charges South Sudanese Activist with Gun Running Scheme

U.S. prosecutors have charged a South Sudanese economist and Harvard fellow with conspiring to export Stinger missile systems, grenade launchers and automatic rifles to armed groups in South Sudan, the Justice Department said.

In a complaint unsealed this week and dated February 29, the prosecutors alleged that Peter Ajak, a former economist with the World Bank, and an associate, Abraham Chol Keech, intended to send the weapons to "opposition groups seeking to effect a non-democratic regime change in South Sudan."

Ajak, 40, has been a fierce critic of South Sudanese President Salva Kiir's government. He was jailed in 2018 and charged with treason.

Those charges were dropped but he was convicted of disturbing the peace over interviews he gave to foreign media. Kiir later pardoned him.

Revive South Sudan, an advocacy group led by Ajak said his arrest was "administrative detention" pending investigations and court proceedings.

Ajak will soon be released to defend himself in court, the statement added.

Between February 2023 and February 2024, Ajak and Keech tried to buy weapons from undercover law enforcement agents and smuggle them to South Sudan through a third country, according to the justice department complaint.

As part of the alleged scheme, they agreed to an arms contract worth nearly \$4 million and requested a "fake contract" that said the funds were for things like equipment related to "human rights, humanitarian, and civil engagement inside South Sudan refugee camps," the complaint said.

Ajak fled to the United States during South Sudan's struggle for independence. He is an asylee who serves as a fellow at U.S. university and regularly authors



Boko Haram, pictured here in a propaganda video, has waged an insurgency since 2009

The victims were mostly women who lived in a camp in Gamboru Ngala town after fleeing their homes because of attacks by the insurgents, locals said. The abductions occurred when the group went to collect firewood to cook or sell, they added. Reports of the number of people kidnapped vary wildly, from nearly 50 to more than 300. The largest mass abduction by Boko Haram occurred when more than 270 schoolgirls were seized from their dormitory in

Gamboru Ngala is in a remote area, on the shores of Lake Chad, where the jihadists have destroyed mobile phone masts and other telecommunication infrastructure. Local residents sometimes cross to neighbouring Cameroon to make phone calls.

Borno state authorities told the BBC that a response team had been deployed to the area where the people were seized but did not give any further details. The road leading to the town has been closed.

The kidnappings come at a time

## Joslin Smith: South African police question four over missing girl

Police in South Africa have taken in four people for questioning over the disappearance of a six-year-old girl two weeks ago.

The search for Joslin Smith has transfixed the country since she disappeared outside her home in Saldanha Bay, near Cape Town.

On Monday, 300 naval officers joined rescuers from Cape Town, a dog unit and drones in the desperate search.

Two men and two women have been questioned over the disappearance.

"It is envisaged that as the investigation unfolds, light will be shed as to her whereabouts or what happened to her," said Brig Novela Potelwa, the police spokesperson in South Africa's Western Cape province.

A child goes missing every five hours in South Africa, but most are found.

On Saturday, investigators found bloodied clothing in an open field in the area where Joslin disappeared on 19 February.

Frantic community members searched sewers and pits in the days following the

girl's disappearance. Saldanha Bay Mayor André Truter said an angry mob had been raiding homes and accosting neighbours in search of the child.

A 100,000 rand (\$5,200; £4,100) reward has been offered to anyone with information on her whereabouts.

She was left in the care of her mother's boyfriend, Jacquin Appollis, when she went missing.

He could not account for her whereabouts, police said. He has denied involvement in her disappearance.

Joslin's mother had previously told local publication The Daily Voice she was not giving up hope.

"My motherly instincts are telling me my daughter is still alive and in this area. We will find her, I will walk on foot to find her. I will look in every little shack, I'm going to do it by myself if I have to." BBC



A frantic search is under way for six-year-old Joslin Smith, who went missing on 19 February



The Justice Department alleged in the complaint that the defendants violated U.S. law making it illegal to export weapons to South Sudan, which is subject to a U.N. arms embargo.

The country has endured years of civil war and fighting between armed groups since winning independence from Sudan in 2011.

It was not immediately clear if Ajak and Keech were represented by counsel.

A statement released by

articles regarding the East African nation's political and economic future. Keech is a naturalized U.S. citizen who currently resides in Utah. He serves as coordinator for opposition groups in South Sudan.

VOA reached Michael Makuei, South Sudan's minister of information and government spokesperson, who failed to comment because he was in a meeting.

Some information for this report was sourced from Reuters. Reporter Denis Logonyi contributed to this report. VOA

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# EDITORIAL

## The MRU basin and roads connectivity

News that the Government of Liberia and the African Development Bank over the weekend signed two loan agreements in Monrovia, totaling US\$40 million to enhance road infrastructure and boost inter-community trading within the Mano River Union Basing is both welcoming and laudable.

Lack of road connectivity among member countries of the MRU has impeded both movements across borders and trade, subjecting citizens within the subregion to poverty, misery and disease.

Specifically, the loans seek to support upgrading of 48.5 kilometers road in Liberia and 39 kilometers road in neighboring Sierra Leone, respectively, along with feasibility studies for an additional 97 kilometers stretch of roads on Liberia.

Liberia and Sierra Leone are one of the three founding members of the MRU. Guinea and Liberia gave birth to the subregional bloc. Ivory Coast joined subsequently, bringing the membership to four neighboring countries that continue to collaborate in many areas, including common security, economic cooperation and good neighborliness, among others.

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Boimah Kamara, who signed on behalf of the government, described the agreement as a landmark endeavor to extend infrastructure support that Liberia urgently needs to have an enabling environment for the expansion of growth and betterment of its people.

"We think that this is an expression of support from the MRU between the two nations; this will also finance feasibility studies for building 97 kilometers of roads in Liberia and other projects components include rehabilitating cross-border infrastructure between Liberia and Sierra Leone, development of social economic infrastructure, and provide support to the development agenda of the two countries", Minister Kamara said.

The Country Manager of the AfDB, Benedict Kanu, who signed on behalf of the Bank, underscored the timeliness, and relevance of the agreement, noting that the program will upgrade the ongoing phase that is aimed at boosting regional integration and trade within the MRU Basing.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai is very passionate about road connectivity in Liberia and beyond, announcing his ambitious goal of "NO CAR STUCK IN THE MUD" 100 DAY DELIVERABLE to make all major primary corridors across the country pliable.

"Our flagship road delivery program will include the Freeport to St. Paul Bridge Road. Having received funding through the Government of Japan, we will begin construction of a 4-lane road from the Gabriel Tucker Bridge to the Freeport of Monrovia. Additionally, the Government of Japan is expected to provide funds to expand the Gabriel Tucker Bridge to 4 lanes. The Government has also secured additional support from Japan for the conduct of feasibility studies for the expansion of the Freeport to St. Paul Bridge corridor. My Government will allocate funds to complete the 6.5 km Freeport to St. Paul Bridge Road", the President in his first State of the Nation Address, immediately after taking office in January.

It is in this vein that we hail the signing of the loan agreement with the AfBD to improve movement and trade within the MRU Basin just as President Boakia is determined to make roads across the country pliable for easy access and promotion of economic activities.

# COMMENTARY

By: Austin S. Fallah: An Advocate for Social, Economic, and Human Rights Justice for all of Elohim Adonai's Creations

## Deliberations on the World Crime Court: A Panacea or Problem for Liberia?

Having basked in relative peace for over two decades, Liberia is now at a crossroads, caught in the tender balance between maintaining national unity and seeking transparency and justice.

This equilibrium is being threatened by the lingering question of whether to bring past criminal activities before the World Crime Court, a question that continues to instill deep divisions amongst the populous.

There are two principal viewpoints on this salient issue.

On one hand, is the call for justice, which hinges on the belief that enduring peace can only be achieved by punishing those who perpetrated horrendous crimes during the years of civil disruption.

This group views the World Crimes Court as an essential mechanism to implement justice, believing that it will serve as a deterrent for future potential offenders.

The other standpoint revolves around the advocacy for letting sleeping dogs lie, which suggests that reopening past conflicts could lead to further divisions and an eruption of latent conflict, disrupting the existing peace.

These individuals argue that instead of appealing to an international body like the World Crime Court, Liberia should strive for national reconciliation.

Although both sides have credible points, it must be noted that the decision to choose either of these paths will have reverberating effects on Liberia's equilibrium, making this a matter of great importance that should be approached pragmatically.

The World Crime Court, by definition, lends itself to transparency, credibility, and global recognition.

However, one cannot ignore the potential dangers it brings to a barely stable nation like Liberia. History has shown that unveiling deeply rooted trauma, without adequate preparation, often results in renewed conflict.

Could Liberia's nascent peace withstand the turbulence that might arise from old wounds being reopened?

The recent eruptions of violence in other post-conflict societies, which sought international justice, provide an

unwelcome forecast.

Moreover, the World Crime Court's propensity for impartiality could gain momentum to the detriment of Liberia's peace.

The Court might call upon nations and peacekeeping forces that were actively involved in Liberia's peace process.

This would likely put several nations in a precarious position due to the delicate nature of the information, potentially destabilizing Liberia's international relations.

However, dismissing the idea of accountability outright could breed a culture of impunity and sabotage the principles of justice and human rights Liberia has been striving to uphold.

This could percolate into other spheres of society, embedding a negative norm that would not only tarnish the nation's image but would also serve as fertile ground for future violence.

Hence, the Liberian people must decide what is best for their future. Justice needs to be served, but not at the cost of peace and stability.

A middle-ground solution could involve creating a National Reconciliation Roadmap involving all Liberian communities in a dialogue to decide the necessary actions.

This bottom-up approach would empower the Liberian people to shape justice that caters to their unique context and narratives, essentially allowing them to awaken the 'sleeping dog' at their own pace and on their terms.

Equally important, the international community must stand ready to support Liberia in whatever path it chooses, remembering always that the final goal is for Liberia to sustain its hard-earned peace and stability.

Whether the World Crime Court is the solution to everlasting peace or a precursor of turmoil, is a multifaceted question that does not have a straightforward answer.

However, as Liberia teeters on the brink of decision, it remains clear that the choice must be anchored in the best interests of the Liberian people and the durable peace and unity they earnestly seek.

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# OP-ED

By Kenneth Rogoff

## What's Behind the US Stock-Market Disconnect?

**C**AMBRIDGE - There seems to be a bizarre disconnect between the surging US stock market and the sad state of American politics. Winston Churchill supposedly quipped, "Americans always do the right thing, after they have tried everything else." But in light of the impending rematch between Joe Biden and Donald Trump in this year's US presidential election, Churchill's observation needs adjusting: Americans, apparently, do the right thing only after they have tried everything else twice.

What explains this disconnect between the stock market's buoyancy and the crisis facing American democracy? The market may simply believe that the president of the United States has limited influence over the domestic economy, at least in the short term. Or perhaps investors believe that artificial intelligence conquers all.

But this interpretation overlooks the long-term consequences of possible policy decisions such as retreating from free trade (an area where Biden and Trump seem determined to outdo each other), urging the Federal Reserve to shift its focus away from inflation, and continuing on an unsustainable debt trajectory. When it comes to immigration, a top concern for voters, Trump's restrictions would impede high-skilled immigration, while Biden's open-border policy makes little sense.

Alternatively, perhaps investors understand that the US electorate has become so deeply divided that no president is likely to control both houses of Congress for more than a couple of years. With political gridlock becoming the norm in Washington, the Big Tech firms accounting for a large share of the stock market's recent gains, owing to an AI boom, are less likely to face anti-monopoly regulation.

To be sure, with Nvidia on track to rival Apple's market capitalization, Biden has issued a sweeping executive order aimed at "managing the risks" posed by the rise of AI. But given the administration's lackluster efforts to rein in the tech industry, it remains unclear how it intends to manage these risks. Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan, one of the few people trying to revitalize US antitrust policy, has been heavily scrutinized and criticized by the media, and her aggressive approach has produced mixed results.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court could soon strike down or limit state laws in Texas and Florida that seek to prevent social-media companies from making certain editorial judgments about the posts shared on their platforms. While most justices seem wary of regulating online content, there is little doubt that unregulated social-media platforms and information echo chambers have exacerbated many of America's problems, particularly political polarization and the mental-health crisis.

Given that the risks posed by AI far exceed those associated with social media, we must not repeat the same mistake. While these emerging technologies hold the promise of improving our legal, ethical, economic, and political systems, they could just as easily disrupt them in the absence of regulatory oversight.

The evolution of financial regulation offers valuable insights into how to regulate AI without sacrificing innovation. Regulators, who tend to lag behind innovators, often struggle to balance efficiency and risk. Following the 2008 financial crisis, however, regulators managed to implement stringent measures that hampered market efficiency but also enabled banks to withstand the COVID-19 shock and subsequent inflationary pressures.

The current stock-market rally is partly fueled by the expectation that AI will remain unregulated, despite the potential displacement of tens of millions of workers, the threat of political instability, and the distortion of public discourse. The AI industry could eventually amass enough political power to quash any attempt to regulate it, mirroring the strategies used by banks before the global financial crisis and social-media platforms today. Essentially, the market is operating under the assumption that AI companies will thrive, regardless of the outcome of the US presidential election.

But a Trump victory would be bad for everyone. A second Trump term could trigger an escalation in the Sino-American trade war or lead to a US withdrawal from NATO and a subsequent military conflict. Neither scenario is expected to benefit the domestic economy in the long term. Trump's planned 10% tariff on almost all imported goods, which could prompt America's trading partners to impose tariffs of their own, would undoubtedly make things worse.

Moreover, Russia's expansionist ambitions will not stop at Ukraine, and European countries will need years to shore up their military and technological capabilities, even if they manage to boost their defense spending to 2% of GDP this year. Allowing the world's largest economy to be governed by Trump's arbitrary and impulsive policies would weaken the institutions that underpin America's economic strength.

Conversely, the consequences of a Biden victory would be far more predictable, especially if the Democrats hold on to the Senate and take back control of the House of Representatives. Regrettably, this would likely result in significantly higher interest rates that constrain private demand, coupled with subtle pressures on the Fed to take greater risks with inflation.

But given the challenges and uncertainties facing both the US and global economies, it is difficult to see how the current stock-market boom can last, no matter who wins in November.

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# OPINION

By Daniel Gros

## Japan's Self-Inflicted Decline

**M**ILAN - Japan should be doing well. It boasts a well-educated and disciplined workforce, and outdoes most other industrialized countries on both investment and spending on research and development. In fact, at 3.3% of GDP, Japanese R&D expenditure was higher even than that of the United States until recently. And yet, Japan's relative decline continues.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Japan was the world's second-largest economy, not least because of its seemingly unbeatable industrial sector. Today, however, it is the world's fourth-largest economy, with data showing that it recently fell behind Germany, a country with a much smaller population - 83 million, compared to 123 million - that is subject to unfavorable demographic trends, much like those seen in Japan.

To understand Japan's economic decline, consider the story of the videocassette recorder (VCR). Requiring very small and reliable mechanical elements, these technological marvels were once the pride of Japanese precision manufacturing. Japan had a near-monopoly in the global VCR market, as there were no American producers, and European firms could not compete with Japan on quality-to-price ratio. In their heyday - the mid-1980s - many millions of units were produced and exported, with Japanese exporters charging relatively high prices and earning a good margin.

But the VCR's analog technology could not compete with the digital substitutes that emerged in the 1990s and became ubiquitous in the early 2000s. Production of VCRs declined, forcing firms to lower prices and shave profit margins until, one after the other, they abandoned the product altogether. Today, not a single company in Japan produces VCRs. Many other consumer electronics, like tape recorders and the Walkman, followed a similar trajectory.

Consumer electronics were a cornerstone of Japan's export industry. But the new solid-state digital consumer electronics did not require the precision engineering at which Japan excelled. So, it was cheaper to produce their components elsewhere in Asia and assemble the products in China, with the US providing the software. Meanwhile, demand for - and prices of - Japanese exports continued to fall.

Economists tend to look at a country's export prices not in isolation, but relative to its import prices - the so-called terms of trade. Japan is an outlier among developed economies, in that its terms of trade - which stood at nearly 160% in the mid-1980s - declined through the late 1990s and crashed in the early 2000s. By 2008, the ratio had fallen below 100%. For comparison, the terms of trade in both the European Union and the US remained at a roughly constant level (around 100%) over this entire period, almost always remaining within a narrow range of plus or minus ten percentage points.

Factors like the deterioration of Japan's terms of trade have played a far larger role than unfavorable demographics in the country's relative economic decline. Yes, the Japanese population is aging and shrinking. But the US population has increased by only about a quarter more than that of Japan since 1995, and yet its GDP has expanded by over 300% more.

While Japanese living standards have continued to improve, the pace is slow, and Japanese consumers are doing less well overall than their counterparts in other developed economies. Take per capita GDP: if you adjust for the cost of living, Japan has lost some ground to Europe, which has tended to follow the US closely.

The big question is why Japanese producers did not abandon - and were not urged by the government to abandon - products like VCRs sooner or attempt to lead on the cutting-edge technologies that were replacing them.

Path dependency is undoubtedly part of the answer: when firms have acquired know-how in a particular area, they often find it more profitable to further improve their skills in that area, rather than moving into a new field.

But psychological factors probably also played a role. The top Japanese firms - and, indeed, Japanese society at large - were proud of their engineering prowess, so they found it difficult to accept that these admirable capabilities were losing value.

The same was true of government bureaucrats, including those in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, an institution that had gained an almost mythical reputation for its success in piloting Japan's growth. Japanese leaders and producers effectively chose economic decline over admitting that their key technical competence had become worthless.

This brings us to the first key lesson from Japan's experience: an economy, no matter how successful it has been in the past, must be ready to adapt to new ideas, technologies, and circumstances. A second key lesson is that relative decline, even if well managed, leads to a loss of global influence.

Europe - with its aging population and weakness in emerging technologies - should take note. For almost 20 years, the EU has sought to increase spending on R&D to 3% of GDP and support investment. But reaching Japanese levels on these two measures might not solve Europe's growth problem, if the resources go toward sunset industries.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

## Liberia's Problems

By Hun-Bu Tulay, Cell # +231-777-111-032/886-517-356; Email: ntevoma@gmail.com

Leaders should not exercise powers that are not given them by the Constitution and the statutory Laws of the country, and the people should not allow the leaders to exercise powers that violate the Constitution and statutory laws of the country"

N. Hun-Bu Tulay

Problem #1: Lack of Political Will on the part of political leaders

The quotation above is from the author's speech delivered at the induction of the officials of the Senior Class at Cuttington University in 2010, when he served as the inducting Officer. For too long in this country, our leaders, past and present, have gotten away with exercising powers that are not given them by the Constitution of the land and violating the statutory laws of the land. Do you know that there are laws in this country that give the power to the Legislature to impeach officials of government, particularly the heads of departments now in the Ministry? Yes, there was such a law. In 1871 President Edward James Roye and Secretary of State (James E. Moore) faced Impeachment Hearings. Do you also know that the Election Boxes were kept by the State Department and later submitted to the Legislature for RATIFICATION like in the United of America? We have not seen any amendment to these laws; hence they are laws on the books of the country. These were violated after the first coup d'état and we as a people and leaders just simply float them today. We have forgotten that such laws even exist.

1986 Election Laws

S 4.12: Reads, "At close of the polls; following the close of the polls the sheriff in presence of representative of parties or candidates appointed under section" 4.9 and 4.10:

a. Cause the tabulated register to be made in triplicate signed by sheriff, clerk, the representative of political parties/or independent candidate(s). The original copy shall be inserted into the ballot box, locked, and sent to the National Elections Commission through the Election Magistrate. A duplicate shall be sent to the Magistrate of election and a third copy shall be kept by the sheriff of the poll.

S 4.12 was violated during the October 15, 1986, elections that saw Samuel K. Doe as President of Liberia.

Article 6 of the Liberian Constitution has been violated by past Presidents especially the post war Presidents. It reads "The Republic shall, because of the vital role assigned to the individual citizen under this constitution for the social, economic, and political well-being of Liberia, provide equal access to educational opportunities and facilities for all citizens to the extent of available resources. Emphasis shall be placed on the mass education of the Liberian people and elimination of illiteracy." Now our question to you across the country: Was Article 6 of the Constitution fulfilled during the Weah Administration? Of course, the answer is a BIG NO. Just look at Grand Kru County, which is the birth county of many high-ranking officials (President, President Pro Tempore, and Deputy Speaker and many Ministers and Deputy Ministers. The school facilities there remain poor, little or no chairs for students, textbooks and the list goes on. If the situation in Grand Kru County is described thus, what do you think it is like in the other counties? Your guess is as good as ours.

One President that fulfilled this Article was Dr. William Richard Tolbert, Jr. During that administration, students in the leeward Counties had the same educational opportunities as those of the coastal Counties. This was shown in the performance of the students on Public Examinations and University Entrance Examinations. A child from Grand Gedeh, Nimba, or Lofa who enrolled at Ricks Institute, St. Patrick's, or College of West Africa would do very well or even better than those in Monrovia. This is what we call equal opportunity.

We also saw the violation of Article 73 of the Constitution which reads, "No judicial official shall be summoned, arrested, detained, prosecuted, or tied civilly or criminally by or at the instance of any person or authority on account of judicial opinions rendered or expressed, judicial statements made, and judicial acts done during a trial in open court or in chambers except for treason or other felonies, misdemeanor, or breach of the peace. Statements made and acts done by such officials during a judicial proceeding shall be privileged, and, subject to the above qualification, no such statements made, or act done shall be admissible into evidence against them at any trial or proceeding." We witnessed the impeachment of a sitting Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the country, and what was interesting was the Chief Justice of the country presided over this violation, which speaks a million words regarding the independence of the judiciary of the country.

Considering the Former Defense Minister and former Chief of Staff briefing note to the

President, from that briefing note, it is very clear that the Weah Administration violated Article 33 c, which reads, "to provide for the common defense, to declare war and authorize the executive to conclude peace, to raise and support the Armed Forces of the Republic, and to make appropriations therefore provided that no appropriation of money for that use shall be for longer term of one year, and to make rules for the governance of the Armed Forces of the Republic." Many of you have read the former Minister's briefing note; do you think that the Weah Administration or the previous Administration fulfilled this article? We would say a BIG NO, because if the last two administrations (Sirleaf and Weah) had, the spouses of the men in arms would not have protested.

The Constitution of Liberia is one of the best in the world because it touches all aspects of modern democratic principles and there are so many other good laws on our books, but our political leaders have failed and continue to fail in the full enforcement of the articles of the constitution and statutory laws. As soon as this country's leadership musters the political will to enforce these articles and clauses of the constitution and the basic laws, the country will become HEAVEN on Earth.

become HEAVEN on Earth.

Problem #2 Youth - uneducated and undisciplined: Many years ago, one of the country's presidents William R. Tolbert Jr. referred to the youths as the Precious Jewels of the country; because the youths are the backbone of any nation. They are the future leaders, entrepreneurs, and the employees, who will drive the economic and the infrastructure development of the country. The role of the youths in economic development is very crucial in any nation. Hence for any nation to have a successful democracy will largely depend on the caliber of its youthful population. If they are uneducated and undisciplined it will be difficult to have a successful democracy because the uneducated and



undisciplined youths are not wise to make informed decisions, they follow public opinions. They would be unable to read and understand the content of what they read and EVIL MEN will explain everything to them in a way they want to and a terrorist or homophobic or nationalist or a tribalist would be born and eventually a nation is destroyed. We are seeing this all-around Africa and many other continents today. We saw this in the 1980s, 1990s and we are seeing it now. A nation that has uneducated and undisciplined youths is a nation that has high illiteracy rate and poverty because the youths are stuck in vulnerable and informal employment (Pempem and kehkeh drivers). The youths are frustrated that is the reason they are turning to drugs. This is where the country is today, its youthful population is addicted to drugs. This has resulted in the increased crime rate in the country. This is driving potential investors away. The government must find an urgent solution to this problem. The government needs to build three rehabilitation centers in Montserrado County and one in each of the other counties. These centers should contain medical facilities and vocational schools.

Problem #3 Sycophancy

The best way to describe sycophancy is to tell you a story. One day during the political season, a friend and I were invited by one of the presidential candidates to attend a meeting organized by some of their supporters. We arrived in time and met others there, and we had 45 minutes to discuss issues before the start of the meeting. During the discussion, this friend of mine asked a hypothetical question, "Why do ministers and friends of our leaders lie to them?" In this group, we had some PhDs, Master, and BSc and 90% of those who answered said "Because they want to keep their jobs." This philosophy caused President Weah to fail. Our leaders can guard themselves against flattery by making the men and women around them understand that telling the TRUTH will not OFFEND THEM.

In 1968, when Henry Boima Fahnbulleh and the three Superintendents of Bong, Lofa, and Nimba Counties were charged for Treason, citizens from the four counties condemned these former patriotic Liberians before the case even went to trial. Hence it was some of these people that initially condemned the accusers that were selected as jurists. This violates the status of the country. Anyway, you have read the outcome of the trials, we say trials because Henry Boima Fahnbulleh was tried separately and the three superintendents jointly. The same happened when Assistant Minister of Coast Guard (Prince Brown) and Major Stephen Jaito Koffa and Colonel Saydee were charged for treason. Major Stephen Jaito Koffa was the father of the current Speaker of the Legislature.

The people around the president do not have to be sycophants. Be real to the president, it is this sycophancy that caused the killing of some of the country's best BRAINS in 1980. And



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## Passport official assaults AFL personnel

Liberia's new military has been hailed for its professionalism since a reform process after the end of the civil war.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

An employee of the Department of Passport and Visas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was seen assaulting an officer of the Armed Forces of Liberia

who had gone to obtain an express passport form. The assault followed a heated verbal exchange between staffers of the Passport and Visas Department, including

Charlotte is said to be the Secretary in the office of Director Mendin. She was seen hitting Officer Donzo in the chest, but the officer exercised restraints and did not retaliate.

Sergeant Donzo told reporters that he had gone to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a day earlier and was scheduled by the Division of Passport and Visas Service staff to pick up the Express Passport form the following day.

When he returned the next day, based on the schedule to purchase and fill out the form, Donzo said he was aggressively attacked and hit in the chest by Charlotte.

Some journalists, including our reporter, who had gone on different duties at the Ministry, said the incident occurred in their presence.

Charlotte could be seen pointing a finger directly in the face of Sergeant Donzo, telling him, "And we told you there is no passport, and we are not dealing with you?"

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(AFL) on Wednesday, 6 March 2024, following some heated verbal exchanges.

The incident occurred in the corridor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia when an employee with the Passport and Visas Department, Charlotte Mason, assaulted Sergeant Noah Donzo,

Director Mr. Joseph W. Mendin and Charlotte Mason.

At the time of the altercation, our reporter, along with journalist Christopher Hayes Onanuga, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kool FM (91.9) FM, were present when Charlotte assaulted Officer Donzo.

## We will not complain

-new Mines Minister vows to act

Liberia's new Minister of Mines and Energy sounds a caveat to illegal miners here, saying that he has not come to the office to complain, but to act vigorously against illicit activities.

Minister Wilmot Paye took office recently following his nomination by President Boakai and subsequent confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 6, 2024 - Newly appointed Minister of Mines and Energy Wilmot Paye has sent a caveat to illegal miners that he comes to the position not making excuses but acting accordingly to protect the sector.

Speaking after he officially took office as Minister, Paye, a stalwart of the governing Unity Party, said his coming to the ministry wasn't a mistake but a right choice in adhering to promises contained in President Boakai's ARREST Agenda aimed at taking critical steps in improving the country's mining sector.

"The President has not sent me here to complain or make excuses but to take critical steps that will enhance the smooth running of this sector. So as Minister of Mines and Energy, we will not complain but be required to act", he underscored.

He said it is about time the Ministry of Mines and Energy became more proactive and

operated efficiently to gain the trust of foreign investors and the communities that are direct hosts of concessionaires and are most affected.

"While would-be investors come here to obtain Mineral Development Agreements, do nothing to start operation, and sit on the rights granted under those MDAs, while we do nothing, especially amid the foreseeable future that work is likely to begin, we will not complain, but be required to act in keeping with our MDA that protects our people."

He said he would be robust, indicating that it is unfair for him to sit as Minister while Liberia's minerals and natural resources are being depleted for 3% to 5% royalties.

Paye noted that Liberia is striving to survive while it sits atop vast natural resource potential, adding we will not allow illegal investors to occupy and undermine the sector. He promised to

proactively engage and review concession agreements nationwide, a key policy priority of President Boakai's ARREST Agenda.

"Our objective is to review all concession agreements, establishing whether or not the terms specified in these Mineral Development Agreements (MDAs) are being respected, and identifying gaps for consideration in subsequent amendments."

According to him, the mineral and energy sectors have

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## Church Aid celebrates World Hearing Day

Campaign to Promote Hearing Healthcare in Liberia through Church Aid Incorporated has marked 1st Observance of World Hearing Day, as proclaimed by the World Health Organization with the participation of several schools, teachers, and stakeholders.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Brewerville, Wednesday, March 6:- The celebration began with a parade from Bible College Community in Brewerville, Montserrado County, bringing together students, nurses, members of Church Aid INC and community dwellers, amongst others

Speaking at the indoor program on March 5, 2024, in Brewerville, keynote speaker, Dr. Tabeh L. Freeman, Jr., the only practicing ENT Surgeon in Liberia, called on Liberians to promote ear and hearing care in the country.

Dr. Freeman said such campaign needs the collective effort of all, including members of the 55th Legislature to promote ear and hearing health.

According to him, individuals with hearing

recalled that the exercise began with training of four (4) specialists last year in Lusaka, Zambia in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners, and challenged Liberians and stakeholders to engage efforts to promote hearing healthcare in the country.

Bishop Brown revealed that Starkey Hearing Foundation has donated several Hearing Aids and about eighteen thousand (18,000) batteries to power the device, to Church Aid INC.

According to him, the hearing aids will be given to people who have hearing problems based on advice of nurses to help improve their sense of hearing.

At the celebration recently, a representative of the City Corporation of Brewerville praised the efforts of Church Aid, which was described as remarkable, and called on relevant stakeholders to support



complications should always seek doctors' advice, instead of self-medicating that could further worsen their conditions.

Also speaking, a representative of the Clinton Health Access Initiative extolled the campaign and promised to collaborate with the Ministry of Health to take the campaign to all fifteen political sub-divisions of Liberia.

Bishop Kortu K. Brown, who leads the campaign here,

the campaign. The Church Aid had trained about twenty (20) specialists to be placed in major health facilities across the country to help address hearing loss.

Over 200 students participated in the program, while about eighteen (81) persons were screened and tested for hearing loss. So far, the team has referred more than two hundred (200) persons for hearing aids in the past six (6), weeks since the return of trained and specialized nurses. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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## Peacebuilding Office ends citizens' engagement training

Peacebuilding Office engaged citizens from three counties about application of Local Government Act

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Sanniquellie, Nimba County, Liberia, March 6, 2024 - The Liberia Peacebuilding Office from the Ministry of Internal Affairs has ended three days of training in

Speaking to reporters at the end of the training in Sanniquellie, Nimba, the Liberia Peacebuilding Office executive director Edward K. Mulbah said, the approach will help accelerate development efforts to bring government

for planning, designing, and evaluating locally generated projects and programs.

He said the intervention is founded by the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue with support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).



Sanniquellie, Nimba County attended by participants from Lofa, Montserrado, and Nimba counties.

The training was aimed at introducing new developmental approaches and methodology for county local development purposes.

The new approach and methodology will ensure that citizens have ownership, leadership, and sustainability of local development activities in their respective areas.

The exercise is based on the Local Government Act Chapter two that focuses on county councils.

closer to citizens in rural areas and improve their well-being.

He explained that the new methodology will help to foster peace, non-violence, social cohesion and promote sustainable development activities.

"The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) through the Liberia Peacebuilding Office is taking concrete steps to operationalize the local government law within the decentralization framework," he revealed.

Director Mulbah referred to the methodology as participatory rural appraisal

He challenged participants to apply the skills and knowledge acquired in the implementation of the local government law.

Nimba County Council Chairperson, Executive Director for CHESS - Liberia, and National CSO Council Co-Chairman John Alexander Nyahn, Jr., told reporters that they have embarked on creating awareness to provide citizens opportunities to know the Local Government Act.

Chairman Byahn explained that the week-long engagement covered the Local Government Act and the Land Right Act,

## Fulani community demands integration

Members of Liberia's growing Fulani community, who hold a large chunk of the economy, are demanding integration and appointment to public offices.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, March 6, 2024 - The Fulanis Community in Liberia has reiterated a call to be assimilated into Liberian as an ethnic group with all rights entitled to as citizens.

The National Fula Governor of Liberia, Almany Mohamed Sow, said Fulanis have been discriminated against here in almost all aspects of life, especially in the educational sector and representation in government.

Speaking on Tuesday, March 4, 2024, at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia during his induction as the new National Fula Governor of Liberia, Governor Sow said Fula people are not only businesspeople but a lot of them are also schooled as professionals in all fields of life. Based on this background, they are paying their taxes to

government. He said that while it is important to note that education is pivotal for sustainable economic growth and development, it is also imperative that this does not happen in the absence of peace and coexistence.

"This, therefore, reminds me further that the Fulani in this country have always demonstrated that despite their meaningful contributions to the economy, they have also

maintained the stability of this country by fully participating in worthwhile developmental events such as adhering to the rule of law and by largely contributing to the peace of this country," Governor Sow said.

He explained that the Fula people's long-standing history in Liberia has always reminded them of the indispensable assets they have acquired, and this is why they deem it imperative to maintain the peace and stability of the state.



## Liberia owes US\$1.7m for rental services

Start from back page

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

The EPA Acting Boss assured national and international partners

that a new day has dawned on the EPA.

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

## U.S. to make War, Economic Crimes Court work

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people and destruction of the state for selfish gains.

Some of Liberia's former rebel leaders have found their way into national leadership, and they have tried to blackmail efforts to bring about accountability by instilling a fear that establishing a war and economic crimes court would return the country to instability.

This week, about 40 Liberian lawmakers from the House of Representatives signed a resolution to establish a war and economic crimes court. If legislation grows out of this resolution and is passed by both legislative chambers, it will boost President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's quest to establish a war and economic crimes court. Following the signing of the resolution by the Representatives, Amb. van Schaack said it was a privilege and honor to meet with President Boakai following his pledge to establish a War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia.

The U.S. Embassy near Monrovia posted on its Facebook page on Wednesday, 6 March 2024, following Amb van Schaack's meeting with President Boakai. During her visit to Monrovia, the Embassy said Ambassador Van Schaack met with a broad cross-section of government officials and civil society groups committed to delivering justice. "Congratulations to Liberia's House of Representatives on passing a resolution to establish the War and Economic Crimes Court," the Embassy said. It continued that this positive news coincides with Tuesday's successful visit to Monrovia by Amb. Van Schaack. "In her engagements with the government and civil society, Ambassador Van Schaack underscored U.S. government support for accountability and justice for all Liberians," it noted.

## Passport official assaults AFL personnel

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But Sergeant Donzo was heard saying "I'm [an] AFL Personal, and I was told today to pick up my form."

In the exchanges, Madam Mason replied: "So if you are [an] AFL Officer, what do I have to do with it? You AFL not for me, but for yourself."

She said there was no passport form and told Officer Donzo that as he was doing his work as a soldier, she was doing hers.

For his part, journalist

Christopher Onanuga was also allegedly abused by staffers at the Passport Division when he went for his passport form. He was allegedly denied access to the office of the Director of Passport. But he was later handed the form after he tried calling other journalists to inform them about what was obtaining at the situation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Efforts to get the Ministry's reaction to the situation did not materialize up to press time.

## We will not complain

Start from page 6

reached a crisis point, risking national economic and security emergencies, so there will be robust efforts to review licenses and restore dignity of the mining sector. Earlier, former Minister Gesler E. Murray said part of his task in the manifesto of the PRO-POOR Agenda of former President George Manneh Weah was to transform the mining

sector by making it more vibrant, as it is one of the key contributors to the country's economic growth and development.

Mr. Murray noted that throughout his effective management of oversight of the Ministry amid numerous challenges, the sector has greatly improved. He reminded Minister Paye of the task ahead while urging him to be more vigorous.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Français

## Le parti UP clarifie le drame de la NASSCORP

Le président du Parti de l'Unité (UP), le révérend Luther Tarpeh, a tenu à clarifier les accusations selon lesquelles des hauts responsables de l'UP auraient tenté d'envahir la Société nationale de sécurité sociale

responsables de l'UP et d'autres hauts responsables du gouvernement, s'est vu remettre une lettre de nomination par l'équipe de direction de la NASSCORP.

Cependant, l'équipe de direction a informé M. Kanneh que l'institution disposait

NASSCORP par la force.

Il a expliqué que lui-même et d'autres hauts responsables du gouvernement ne se sont pas rendus à l'institution pour s'emparer de force de postes, comme cela a été allégué.

"Nous ne sommes pas allés là-bas pour prendre un poste de force, comme on le prétend dans le public. Nous sommes seulement allés là-bas pour présenter une lettre à la direction qui assurait l'intérim depuis la mise en congé du directeur général", a déclaré le président Tarpeh.

"Il s'agissait simplement de présenter une lettre du président du Libéria. Mais certains ont laissé entendre que nous étions venus prendre des emplois de force. C'est un mensonge complet et sans fondement", a-t-il clarifié.

Selon le révérend Tarpeh, on leur a ensuite demandé de quitter les lieux et que le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles devait publier la nomination sur le site web de la présidence.

Il a déclaré qu'ils sont partis immédiatement, ajoutant que s'il s'agit de la procédure, ils la respectent.

Cependant, il a trouvé très frustrant que des gens les accusent de vouloir un emploi par la force.

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et d'aide sociale (NASSCORP) pour installer un nouveau chef d'institution.

Cette clarification fait suite à un incident survenu lundi à la NASSCORP, où Molfie Kanneh, nommé par le président au poste de responsable par intérim, a accompagné de

toujours d'un directeur général, M. Dewitt vonBalmoos, dont le mandat ne prendra fin que dans trois ans environ.

Lors d'une conférence de presse, le révérend Tarpeh a qualifié de "fausses et trompeuses" les allégations selon lesquelles des responsables de l'UP tentaient de prendre le contrôle de la

## Des problèmes en vue pour les seigneurs de la guerre au Liberia !

La Chambre des représentants adopte une résolution pour la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques

Des décennies de guerre civile brutale ont fait plus de 250 000 morts au Liberia, déplacé de nombreuses autres personnes et détruit des biens pour des millions de dollars. Pourtant, les suspects de crimes de guerre et économiques n'ont pas eu à rendre compte de leur cruauté devant un tribunal depuis plus de 20 ans que la paix a été restaurée.

Des problèmes se profilent pour les anciens seigneurs de la guerre du Liberia, car plus de 40 législateurs de la Chambre des représentants ont signé une résolution pour la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques.

Si cette résolution se transforme en loi et est adoptée par les deux chambres du Parlement, elle soutiendra le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai dans sa quête de la création d'un tel tribunal.

Cela fait plus de 20 ans que

la paix a été restaurée dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest qui a été dévasté des années 90 au début des années 2000 par une guerre civile insensée.

Pourtant, la plupart des personnes accusées d'avoir commis des carnages n'ont pas été jugées par un tribunal pour leur cruauté, et certaines d'entre elles ont même occupé des postes lucratifs au niveau national.

Plus de 40 représentants ont déjà adopté une résolution en faveur de la création du tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques au Liberia, au cours

de la 55e législature.

Les législatures 53e et 54e ont reçu des propositions pour la création de ce tribunal, mais ces demandes n'ont pas été transmises au Sénat libérien pour action.

À la suite du dernier développement à la Chambre, le mardi 5 mars 2024, Thomas Goshua, représentant de la circonscription électorale n° 5 du comté de Grand Bassa, a proposé que la résolution soit adoptée et envoyée au Sénat libérien pour action.

Cependant, cette suggestion n'a pas été bien

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## Éditorial

### Ministre du commerce du Liberia : Joueur et arbitre – Un nouveau cas ?

Il est difficilement compréhensible que le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai ait choisi Amin Modad, président émérite du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party, comme ministre du Commerce et de l'Industrie. M. Modad est propriétaire et exploitant d'une chaîne d'entreprises au Liberia, y compris des hôtels. Ce choix du Président soulève de sérieuses questions concernant la transparence et la responsabilité de son gouvernement, en particulier son engagement à rompre avec les pratiques habituelles.

Comment un homme qui est un acteur actif du secteur commercial peut-il être chargé de superviser et de réglementer à la fois lui-même et ses concurrents ? Il ne s'agit pas seulement d'un conflit d'intérêts, mais d'un pur népotisme, que le président Boakai et l'Unity Party affirmaient pourtant vouloir éradiquer.

Nous pensons que le Président ferait bien, non seulement pour lui-même, mais aussi pour le pays, de revoir cette nomination afin de garantir l'équité, la responsabilité et la transparence.

Il est très décevant pour le peuple libérien qu'un parti qui a siégé dans l'opposition et prêché l'équité pendant six ans arrive au pouvoir et commence à faire exactement ce qu'il dénonçait auparavant. Ce n'est pas le style de leadership que les Libériens attendent de la "mission de sauvetage".

Prenons l'exemple du secteur de la sécurité, qui a contraint le nouveau ministre de la Défense, le major général à la retraite Prince C. Johnson III, à démissionner. Le non-respect des droits des hommes et des femmes en armes est un grave préjudice à l'État, comme nous l'avons vu dans le cas de l'ancien ministre Brownie Samukai.

Le ministre Johnson III a fait ce qu'il fallait en démissionnant immédiatement, car c'est la première fois dans l'histoire récente que la célébration de la Journée des forces armées a été annulée de force en raison du mécontentement des soldats, exprimé par leurs épouses.

Nous ne savons pas ce qui attend le commerce de notre nation avec la nomination d'un acteur pour arbitrer entre les différents acteurs et concurrents du secteur. Y aura-t-il fair-play et transparence ? Ce ne sont là que quelques-unes des questions qui taraudent l'opinion publique alors que le ministre Modad se rend quotidiennement au travail.

Il est important que le gouvernement cultive et maintienne un environnement commercial équitable, mais aussi très concurrentiel, afin d'attirer les investissements étrangers directs qui ont échappé à l'économie au cours des six dernières années.

Cela ne sera possible qu'avec la mise en place de politiques propres à stimuler l'économie et à attirer davantage d'investisseurs pour une concurrence et une croissance saines.

Nous soulevons ces préoccupations, non pas que nous ayons quelque chose de spécifique contre le ministre Amin Modad, mais pour que les compromis et les intérêts personnels soient mis de côté afin que les bonnes choses soient faites pour le bien général du pays, qui a un urgent besoin de viabilité économique.



# Français

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## Le parti UP clarifie le

“L’UP n’a pas ce genre de caractère. Nous sommes une institution politique civile. Nous sommes allés là-bas pour assumer une responsabilité”, a-t-il soutenu.

“J’étais en colère quand l’un d’eux a dit qu’il ne savait pas d’où provenait la signature alors qu’il me voyait, moi, le président du parti”, a-t-il souligné. Il a précisé que, selon leur tradition, chaque fois qu’un dirigeant prend la tête d’une entité, le président du parti et d’autres sympathisants

se rendent sur place pour lui souhaiter bonne chance.

Le président Tarpeh a ajouté qu’il se trouvait au port de Monrovia lorsqu’il a reçu un appel l’informant que M. Kanneh prenait ses fonctions et qu’ils avaient besoin de sa présence pour honorer l’occasion.

Il a déclaré que lui et plusieurs autres responsables se sont rendus sur place pour présenter une lettre à la direction de l’institution informant que le président Boakai avait nommé quelqu’un.

## Manifestation ou attaque terroriste ? – La saga récente de Bea Mountain



lettre niant leur implication dans la récente manifestation violente, accusant des citoyens de l’extérieur de la communauté d’accueil d’en être responsables.

“Actuellement, il n’y a pas eu de nouvelles demandes depuis la dernière manifestation relative aux questions de travail. Nous n’avons donc pas vu cette autre manifestation venir. Ce n’est qu’après la manifestation que nous avons vu une lettre faisant d’autres demandes qui ne sont pas sur la table”, a déclaré Serhan Umurhan, de la BMMC.

Alors, que contient l’accord de développement minier de la BMMC ? Bea Mountain Mining Corporation a conclu un accord de développement minier avec le gouvernement du Liberia en septembre 2013. En vertu de cet accord, la société est autorisée à mener des activités d’exploration et d’exploitation minière sur une superficie de 537 kilomètres carrés.

Cependant, l’article 10.2 de l’accord stipule que si la société a l’intention d’exercer ses activités sur une propriété privée, elle doit négocier avec les propriétaires fonciers privés.

La récente manifestation a débuté à Matambo, une ville située dans la zone de l’accord de développement minier de la société, où celle-ci a mené des activités d’exploration d’or. Cependant, à Matambo, le gisement se trouve à proximité du village, nécessitant ainsi la relocalisation de ce dernier. Début 2023, la BMMC a conclu un accord de bail foncier avec la communauté de Bangoma pour 3000 acres de terres à Matambo. Avant de conclure le bail, la société a facilité l’arpentage des terres de Bangoma et a financé le traitement de l’acte coutumier. Le bail est d’une durée de cinq (5) ans, renouvelable pour cinq (5) autres années. Dans le cadre de la contrepartie, les parties ont convenu d’un plan de relocalisation. Contrairement au bail, la communauté a demandé à l’entreprise d’acheter des terres supplémentaires à une autre ville pour procéder à la relocalisation. Tous les documents ont été signés. La communauté était représentée par son avocat, Me Sinufu Sheriff. L’ensemble du processus (détermination du site de relocalisation, conception des maisons et indem

La récente manifestation survenue sur le site de la compagnie minière Bea Mountain, dans la ville de Kinjor, située dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount à l’ouest du Liberia, laisse de nombreuses questions sans réponse.

Selon certains rapports, des manifestants auraient été armés de fusils à canon unique de fabrication locale et de cocktails Molotov, ce qui soulève la question de savoir s’il s’agissait d’une simple manifestation ou d’un acte de terrorisme.

Au moins deux personnes ont été confirmées mortes et plusieurs autres blessées lorsque des manifestants, armés de fusils à canon unique de fabrication locale, de cocktails Molotov et de gourdiens, ont attaqué la ville de la concession, incendiant une école, un poste de police et du matériel de l’entreprise.

Selon la direction de l’entreprise, ils n’avaient aucune revendication en suspens à faire valoir avant la manifestation.

La BMMC a déclaré n’avoir reçu aucune pétition ni doléance de la communauté avant la manifestation violente.

Des sources indiquent que la manifestation a commencé à Matambo, une autre communauté où la BMMC effectue actuellement des travaux d’exploration.

Ces mêmes sources affirment que la principale raison de la manifestation, entre autres, serait le retard présumé dans la relocalisation des habitants de la zone, un point que l’entreprise aurait clarifié lors de plusieurs réunions avec les parties prenantes. Les autorités affirment que, contrairement aux précédentes manifestations menées par la communauté d’accueil concernant la main-d’œuvre et exigeant que la BMMC respecte son accord de développement minier signé en 2013, la dernière manifestation a eu lieu avant que les manifestants ne puissent présenter leurs revendications. Les manifestants ont utilisé des cocktails Molotov pour incendier le poste de police, l’école et certains équipements de l’entreprise. Ils ont érigé des barrages routiers et ont affronté les forces de sécurité dans ce qui a été perçu comme un jeu du chat et de la souris, au cours duquel des balles réelles ont été tirées. Lundi, les chefs traditionnels locaux et les citoyens de Kinjor ont écrit une

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## Des problèmes en vue

accueillie par certains membres du parti au pouvoir, l’Unity Party, qui n’ont pas signé la résolution.

Richard Koon, représentant de la circonscription électorale n° 11 du comté de Montserrado, et Emmanuel Dahn, représentant indépendant de la circonscription électorale n° 7, ont soutenu qu’il ne fallait pas adopter la résolution pour le moment.

Selon eux, ils ont besoin de temps pour retourner auprès de leur population et entendre son avis sur la question.

“Il serait préférable de nous accorder au moins une semaine pour retourner auprès de nos concitoyens que nous représentons afin d’entendre ce qu’ils ont à dire sur cette question”, a déclaré le représentant Koon.

Parmi les neuf représentants du comté de Nimba, d’où vient le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, seul le représentant Taa Wangba a signé la résolution.

Les autres se sont opposés à la résolution visant à créer un tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques.

Le sénateur Prince Yormie

Johnson (PYJ) est un homme politique libérien, un fervent opposant au tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques, et un parrain politique de longue date du comté de Nimba.

Sa défense brutale de ses compatriotes de Nimba contre des ennemis présumés pendant la crise civile libérienne a fait de lui le “parrain politique” du comté.

Depuis 2005, les candidats qu’il a soutenus à la présidence ont remporté le plus haut siège du pays, et il domine également la politique locale dans le comté de Nimba, riche en votes.

Comme le sénateur Johnson, ses fidèles n’apprécient pas l’appel à la création d’un tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques.

Il a soutenu la candidature du président Boakai à la présidence en 2023, mais les deux hommes ne sont pas d’accord sur la création d’un tel tribunal au Liberia.

La résolution visant à créer un tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques est parrainée par Yekeh Y. Kolubah, représentant de la circonscription électorale n° 10 du comté de Montserrado, et d’autres membres de la Chambre des représentants.

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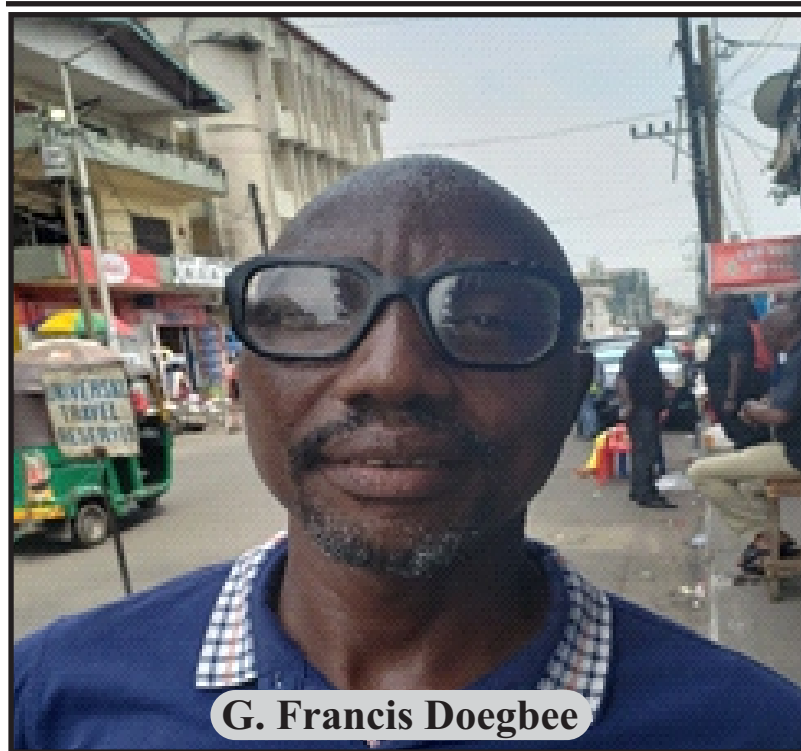
# LIBERIANS

# 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 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.

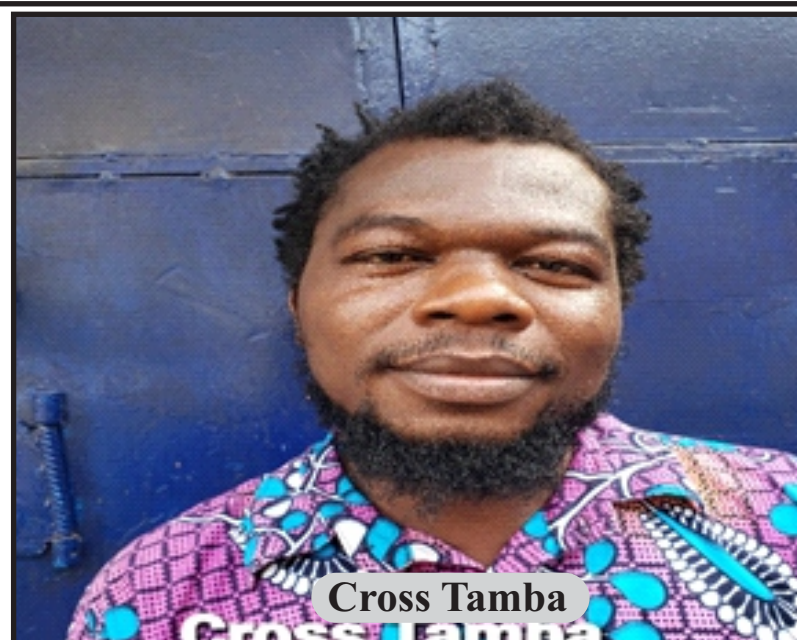
"For me, it was very unfair; George Weah is not an ordinary man in Liberia, especially in Africa at large, because the role he played in maintaining the peace in the just-ended election. He played an important work in maintaining the peace in Liberia by showing to the world that he is too democrat and 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."

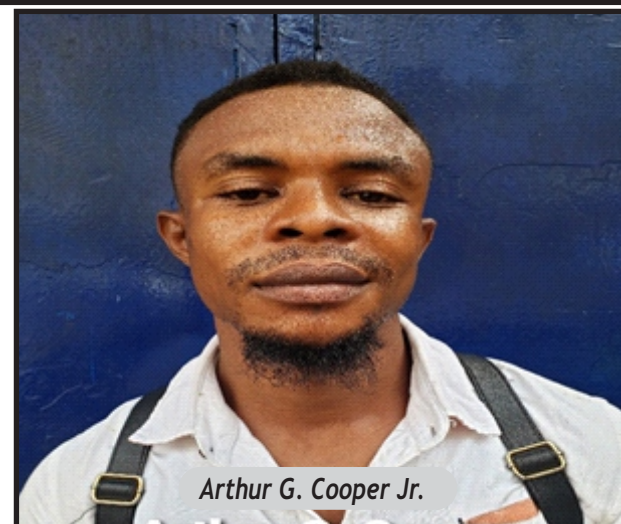
"You know, whether they like it or not, President Weah served the country and by protocol he is a VIP. So, when President Boakai will give instruction to his colleagues to stop Weah from using the VIP lounge, I believe it's a witch-hunt like the way President Boakai is witch-hunting people that were 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."

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."



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

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# I'm not afraid of war crimes court

Former rebel leader, now Senator Thomas Yaya Nimely of Grand Gedeh County, says he is prepared to face a war and economic crimes court if established because he is innocent of atrocities that were committed during Liberia's civil war.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 6, 2024 - The leader of the defunct rebels Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), Senator Thomas Yaya Nimely of Grand Gedeh County, is optimistic about his innocence of war crimes here, saying that he is prepared to face a War Crimes Court if established because he will

not help us; we were left to fight for ourselves. I had to stand for my people and fought back", he explained.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai is seriously contemplating establishing a war and economic crimes court and has already held discussions with former war crimes Prosecutor Dr. Alan White.

Dr. White served as Chief

heinous crimes and crimes against humanity, including economic crimes, during the nation's turmoil.

But the Grand Gedeh Senator rebuffs that every member of the House has the ability to read and write, so some of them, he alleges, received US\$1,000 each as a bribe and affixed their signatures to the resolution.

Meanwhile, the ex-rebel leader calls on President Joseph Boakai to recall Superintendent Alex Grant, who was recently nominated by the President.

He reveals that the people of Grand Gedeh are protesting the nomination, and the President should not be the one to force someone on the people that they don't want.

He suggests that since President Boakai is pleased to have Mr. Grant work in his government, he could appoint him as an Assistant Minister or a Minister, but he should recall him because the people are not willing to work with him.

According to him, Grant, a former lawmaker of the county, was once linked to the disappearance of an electoral magistrate in Grand Gedeh, which brought serious conflict in 2021. Until now, there is still noise in the county.

"Let the President appoint someone who will unify the county, someone who the people will accept and work with. There are lots of young and vibrant people in the county who have BSc and even Master's degrees that are willing to work", he further recommends. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Prosecutor for the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone in 2006 that tried and found guilty Ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is presently serving a 50-year sentence in The Hague, for aiding and abetting RUF rebels in Sierra Leone.

However, Senator Nimely notes that the Boakai administration is barely two months in power and should instead focus on reducing the prices of basic commodities such as food and gasoline, among others, before thinking of bringing War and Economic Crimes courts to the country now.

He further argues that the government needs to address the needs of the people, and by its fourth year in power, it could embark on such an endeavor, but doing so now will spark noise in the country.

"I'm not afraid of War Crimes court; whether they jail me or not, I'll still die, but I'll go there and walk back freely," he brags.

Members of the House of Representatives on Monday signed a resolution supporting the establishment of War and Economic Crimes courts for Liberia, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to prosecute people who committed

# U.S. to make War, Economic Crimes Court work

Over 250,000 Liberians were estimated to have died, millions more were displaced, and properties worth millions of dollars were destroyed during Liberia's brutal civil conflict that lasted for over a decade.

Monrovia, Liberia, ravaged West African Country, there March 7, 2024: U.S. remains division among Liberians on whether to establish the war and economic crimes court. Ambassador-at-Large Beth van Schaack says her Those responsible for war and government looks forward to economic crimes during Liberia's civil

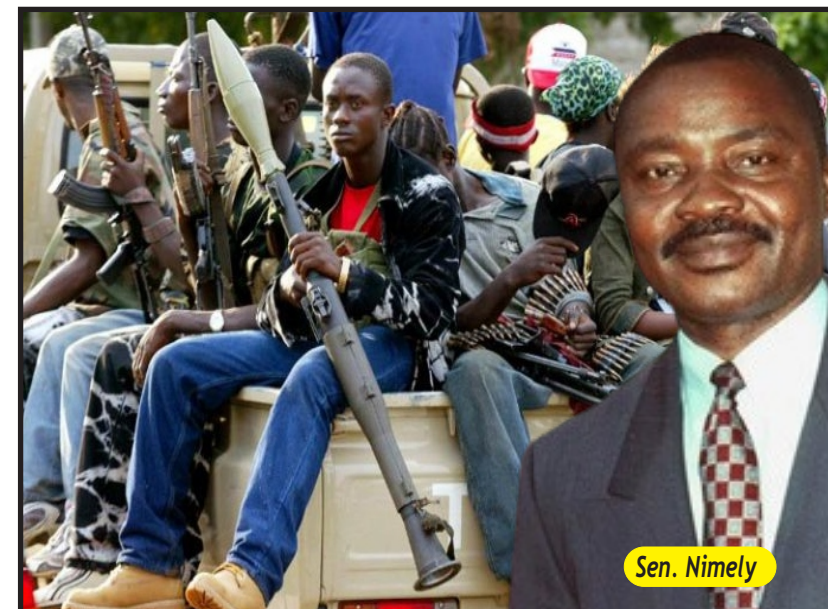


President Boakai with U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Beth van Schaack

working with all Liberians to conflict, as well as their loyalists, are make the war and economic seeking impunity, but other Liberians crimes court a reality. are demanding justice to deter future

Over 20 years since peace senseless mass killings of innocent was restored to the war-

▶ CONT'D page 10



Sen. Nimely

walk out a free man.

However, his colleague Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba County is vehemently opposed to the court's establishment, threatening that he has supporters ready to unleash another round of terror if he, PYJ, is taken before such a court.

Sen. Jonshon is leader of the defunct rebels Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) that captured and killed President Samuel Doe in 1990.

Addressing a news conference on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in his office at the Capitol, Senator Nimely said if the government of Liberia wants to make the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Courts a priority, that's okay. Still, he thinks the administration should rather first rescue the country from economic hardship and poverty.

According to him, during the Liberian Civil War in the 90s, the people of Grand Gedeh were targeted and killed by former President Charles G. Taylor, so they sought refuge in Ivory Coast, and in 2002, Mr. Taylor pursued them there.

"No one was there to help our people; the Ivorians did



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA )  
MONTSERRADO COUNTY)

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

BEFORE HER HONOUR: GOLDA A. BONAH-ELLIOT.....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN RE: The Intestate Estate of Eugenia Stevenson and the late Benjamin Wordsworth by and thru their Administrator, William Wordsworth and Attorney-In-Fact, Marjann W. Bakar of the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

International Petrol Line Incorporated, by and Thru its CEO, Musa A. Sheriff and all other Officers of the Corporation, acting under its Authority, of 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor, City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....DEFENDANTS

PETITION FOR THE  
CANCELLATION OF  
LEASE AGREEMENT

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GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO CITES THE ABOVE-NAMED PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSELS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. COUNTY, R.L., ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024, AT THE HOUR OF 12:00 /A. M./P.M/NOON/. FOR A PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE. TRIAL MEMO REQUIRED WITH THE NAMES OF WITNESSES AND THE SCOPE OF THEIR TESTIMONY. ALL EXHIBITS WILL BE MARKED DURING THE HEARING.

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GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT, THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, A. D. 2024

COURT'S SEAL:

RANDOLPH B. SNEH  
ASSISTANT CLERK OF COURT\CIVIL LAW COURT  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONT. CO., R. L.

BEYOND LAW CHAMBERS  
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COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANTS FOR THEMSELVES  
DEFENDANT/COUNSEL

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## Wilson Tarpeh welcomes audit

**--But**

Prof. Wilson Tarpeh headed the Environmental Protection Agency during the regime of the Coalition for Democratic Change which failed to audit the previous regime despite public demands.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Tuesday, 5 March 2024.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) former boss Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh says he welcomes an audit of the EPA but encourages that the process includes the period before his administration and

Prof. Tarpeh headed the EPA as Acting Executive Director during the regime of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) which failed to audit the previous regime despite public demands.

It is not clear why during the

his predecessor, Prof. Tarpeh for inciting violence.

The management also reinstated the consultants who received payment and refused to complete or report as per the terms and conditions of their contracts.

The new Acting Executive Director of the EPA vowed to audit his predecessor Prof. Tarpeh and his administration.

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

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

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

He indicated that regular



(EPA) former boss Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh

all projects associated with these terms.

"I welcome audit, encourage comprehensive audit to also include the period before me and all projects associated with these terms," he said

CDC regime Prof. Tarpeh did not push for an audit of the EPA following his appointment to head the agency.

In another development, the new EPA management under Dr. Emmanuel Urey-Yarkpawolo has reinstated all those dismissed by

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