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**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, MARCH 08, 2024	L\$191.5154/US\$1.00	L\$193.4388/US\$1.00

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

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# Continental News

## President of Kenya Unveils Green-Powered Mega Data Center in collaboration with the UAE, Setting Stage for Kenya as a Global Digital Hub

In an unprecedented move that positions Kenya at the forefront of the global digital economy, His Excellency President William Ruto has unveiled a green-powered mega data center in collaboration with the UAE. The center, a joint venture between EcoCloud and G42, will have an initial capacity of 100 MW, but with the potential to build up to 1 Gigawatt, setting a new standard for sustainable data centers. This initiative is not just



Samoei Ruto has proudly witnessed the MoU signing between EcoCloud and G42, a pioneering project destined to revolutionize the digital landscape not just in East Africa, but across the globe. Powered by the untapped potential of Kenya's 10 gigawatts of geothermal energy, the mega data center is the first of its kind in scale and ambition, heralding a new era of green energy-driven digital infrastructure. Strategically located in Kenya's geothermal-rich region, the EcoCloud-G42 Mega Data Center is planned to

have initial capacity of 100 MW, but with the potential to build up to 1 Gigawatt, setting a new standard for sustainable data centers. This initiative is not just an investment in technology but a bold statement of Kenya's commitment to harnessing renewable energy for technological advancement. By leveraging the earth's heat, the project dramatically cuts fossil fuel dependence, slashes carbon emissions, and stands as a beacon of environmental stewardship. The collaboration between EcoCloud, a trailblazer in data center development, and G42, the leading UAE-based technology conglomerate, marks a significant leap in Kenya's journey toward becoming a digital hub. This strategic partnership underlines a shared vision for fostering a robust digital infrastructure that not only

accelerates the country's digital transformation but also fortifies its position as a leader in technology-driven development. This strategic agreement was signed by Eng. Amos Siwoi, CEO of EcoCloud and Peng Xiao, Group CEO of G42, leading the UAE delegation, in the presence of His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya and Dr. Salim Ibrahim Binahmed Mohammed Alnaqbi, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Kenya.

This partnership is not just about erecting a digital infrastructure; it's a foundation for a comprehensive ecosystem that includes cloud services and artificial intelligence, catering to the vibrant and youthful population of Kenya. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between these giants extends beyond infrastructure, aiming to usher in an era of cloud computing and AI services. This initiative promises to unlock unprecedented economic opportunities, stimulate innovation, and drive the digital economy forward, making Kenya the center of technological innovation in Africa and a competitive player on the global stage.

## Empowering vulnerable women: African Development Bank financing bolsters economic inclusion in Togo

Some 45 kilometres from Lomé, in the village of Aného, a transformative initiative is reshaping the lives of vulnerable women like Adjoa Agbomassi. Following her successful treatment from obstetrical fistula, Adjoa now stands proudly by her vegetable stalls, a testament to the success of the Project to Support the Financial Inclusion of Vulnerable Women in Togo (PAIFFV).

"Before, I struggled to sustain my business. Now, with the project's support, I've expanded my operations, attracting more customers and securing a stable income, thanks to the loan from the Project to Support the Financial Inclusion of Vulnerable Women," says Adjoa, reflecting on her journey to financial independence.

Approved by the African Development Bank in 2016, the PAIFFV stands as a cornerstone of Togo's socioeconomic development agenda, designed to uplift vulnerable groups, particularly disabled women, survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation, and single mothers.

With a total investment of \$2.08 million, the project received \$531,024 in funding from the African Development Fund, the African Development Bank Group's concessional window, and \$1.32 million from the Transition Support Facility, the Bank's instrument targeting countries in fragile and conflict situations. The government of Togo contributed \$225,685 in counterpart funding.

The project aims to empower vulnerable women and enhance their role in economic activities by prioritizing small producers, recognizing their indispensable contributions to agro-pastoral production.



She points out, "Today, I can pay my children's school fees, deal with things that crop up in the family, and have no problems repaying my loan."

Adjoa's story echoes across Togo, where thousands of women have found solace and empowerment through the PAIFFV initiative. Launched initially in the Maritime and Kara regions and later expanded to the Savanes region in 2022, the project has exceeded expectations, reaching over 13,500 women with 15,251 loans disbursed.

With over \$990,248 (around 600 million CFA francs) disbursed to women entrepreneurs, the project has facilitated the creation of 8,072 micro- and small businesses, boasting an average profitability of 26.5 percent. Each enterprise has also helped to generate 1.2 jobs, fostering economic growth and stability within local communities.

Implemented between 2016 and 2022, PAIFFV aligned with the Bank's strategies, including two of its "High 5" operational priorities, namely "Feed Africa" and "Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa," and the government's plans to reduce social disparities.

It has also contributed to combating unemployment, particularly among Togolese women and young people. According to the government, women remain disproportionately affected by humanitarian crises and natural disasters, underscoring the urgency of inclusive interventions.

In partnership with the Togolese government, the African Development Bank continues to champion gender equality and inclusive finance through various projects. These interventions include capacity-building initiatives, rebuilding the markets in Lomé and Kara, agricultural transformation projects and youth employment programmes.

## Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) and Investee Company Infinity Power Win Big at 2024 Bonds & Loans Awards

Africa Finance Corporation (www.AfricaFC.org), the continent's leading instrumental infrastructure provider, received the prestigious Sovereign, Supra & Agency Treasury & Funding Team of the Year Award at the 2024 Bonds, Loans & ESG Capital Markets Africa Awards in Cape Town yesterday, while AFC's investee company Infinity Power Holdings was awarded M&A Deal of the Year.

Since 2014, the Bonds & Loans Awards has been recognising the most innovative and ground-breaking deals from sovereign, corporate and financial issuers and borrowers, celebrating outstanding achievements and highlighting significant contributions to the development of capital markets across Africa. An exhaustive selection process examines deal size, tenor, structure, and distribution; a borrower's accessibility to finance; and focuses particularly on deals demonstrating high quality execution, accessing new pools

of liquidity, innovative structuring, and opening-up of new markets. The Sovereign, Supra & Agency Treasury & Funding Team Award recognises AFC's expertise in the global capital markets through the successful execution of several strategic funding transactions in the last year. Notable deals closed include a US\$625 million syndicated loan from a consortium of lenders, a EUR50 million loan facility agreement with Italy's Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo (CRP), a US\$350 million long-term line of credit with the African Development Bank (AfDB), a US\$300 million facility from the Export-Import Bank of China, and support to the Arab Republic of Egypt as guarantor on a private placement offering of JPY75 billion of 5-year

Samurai bonds. The success of the transactions demonstrates global investor confidence in AFC's strong credit profile and ability to deliver de-risked and transformational infrastructure projects that propel Africa to its rightful place on the global stage.

AFC's investee company, Infinity Power Holdings, won the M&A Deal of the Year, recognising the company's successful acquisition of Lekela Power BV, Africa's largest wind platform, by AFC alongside partners- Infinity WorldWide, the principal sponsors of Infinity Power Holdings; Masdar, the renewable energy company of the Government of the United Arab Emirates; and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



# 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 for all of Elohim Adonai's Creations.

## The Enforcement of Economic Crime Laws in Liberia- A Path Toward Self-Sufficiency:

Liberia, a country on the West African coast, has been grappling with the issue of economic crimes, especially during the years of the Civil War.

The pressing concern today is not the lack of laws to deal with economic criminals, but rather the lack of zeal and conviction to enforce them.

The precedent of referring these crimes to international bodies takes away the national autonomy to deal with them, portraying Liberia as ungovernable without foreign intervention.

This discourse argues that Liberia does not require an international crime court for the prosecution of alleged economic criminals, rather, it must leverage existing laws and enforcement mechanisms to rectify the situation.

Liberian laws are robust enough on their own to address the crimes in question. Numerous affluent laws for economic crimes exist in Liberia, providing the legal structure necessary to address the issue domestically.

With sufficient evidence and investigation, these laws can successfully apprehend, challenge, and prosecute individuals who commit economic crimes in Liberia.

Hence, the need for international Crime Court intervention seems unnecessary and an overreaction.

Moreover, it is important to understand that various countries, spanning continents such as Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, confront their economic crimes internally without requiring the intervention of international entities.

They are steadfast, and courageous and show immense willpower in enforcing their laws, focusing on holding the accused culprits accountable.

Consequently, Liberia must draw from these global practices and instill a culture of rigid adherence and enforcement of laws within its own legal framework.

Furthermore, the economic crimes committed during the Liberian Civil War were indeed a violation of the Liberian laws and it affected the Liberian people.

Therefore, it seems both reasonable and

justifiable that the people affected by these crimes have the right to see justice served under the same laws that have been violated.

The Boakai-Koung Government of Liberia must realize that it is their responsibility to enforce these laws on their own soil, without external aid.

Dependence on international agencies undermines the image of the nation, presenting it as susceptible and feeble.

Persuading international actors to enforce Liberian law portrays the country as ungovernable without external support.

In this respect, Liberia's dependence on the international community reflects an impression of a frail and unprotected country.

This dependence stagnates the growth of independent, national responses to international crimes, and consequently stunts Liberia's development as a sovereign nation.

The time has come for the Boakai-Koung Government of Liberia to break away from this practice of dependency and instead, stand firm to enforce Liberian laws on Liberian public figures who violate these laws.

While Liberia has had its share of challenges with economic crimes, the solution does not lie in transferring these crimes to the international courts.

Rather, the key to addressing this issue lies in the effective implementation and enforcement of its own laws.

The Boakai-Koung Government should prioritize the training and orientation of the appropriate bodies to enforce these laws effectively, and more importantly, encourage the cultural change towards greater national accountability and autonomy.

It is high time that Liberia ceased to portray itself as a nation that is ungovernable without external aid and instead fostered its reputation as a strong, independent nation capable of handling its internal issues.

It is through this resilience and willpower that Liberia can truly establish itself as an autonomous, self-governing nation.

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# OP-ED

By - Nadia Calviño,  
Kristalina Georgieva,  
and Odile Renaud-Basso

## The Economic Power of Gender Equality

**N**adia Calviño is President of the European Investment Bank. Kristalina Georgieva is Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Odile Renaud-Basso is President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

LUXEMBOURG - It is hard to find a word that is more relevant to the world's greatest challenges and policy priorities than "inclusion," the theme of this year's International Women's Day. Inclusive, green economic growth that benefits all of society is an essential component of sustainable prosperity, social cohesion, competitiveness, and geopolitical stability. Supporting a "just transition" that includes all members of our societies is crucial to ensuring that climate action and the digital transformation lead to a more sustainable and secure world.

Gender equality and equal rights are not just a matter of equity; they are also of paramount economic importance. Research from the International Monetary Fund suggests that narrowing the gender gap in labor markets could increase GDP in emerging markets and developing economies by almost 8%. The gains from fully closing the gender gap would be even higher, lifting GDP in those countries by 23% on average.

Simply put, diversity and an equal role for women in the economy, in decision-making, and in policy debates bring better results. Mobilizing all available talent maximizes productivity and competitiveness, which will be crucial for addressing climate change and promoting global prosperity. It is especially important at a time when the combined effects of the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine threaten to reverse many of the achievements we thought we had secured.

With four billion people around the world voting in elections this year, there is no better time to highlight the large, positive impact that gender equality has on all societies. For example, research by the European Central Bank suggests that a one-percentage-point increase in female managers at a firm leads to a 0.5% drop in carbon dioxide emissions.

Similarly, the European Investment Bank has found that firms led by women have higher environmental, social, and governance (ESG) scores. Likewise, IMF research shows that such firms are also more profitable, and that greater gender balance on bank boards is associated with greater financial stability and better performance. These findings suggest that the greatest challenges of our time cannot be addressed without inclusion - throughout organizations and at the top.

There has been clear evidence of progress. More and more women today are starting businesses, despite having less access to financing. World Bank data for 71 countries show that, in 45 of them, women represent an increasing share of "sole owners" of companies.

How might we build on this progress? A study by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development demonstrates that blended-finance programs can help women entrepreneurs to access more credit and expand their businesses.

Given that women make or influence 80% of consumer-product purchase decisions, firms must take women's views and experiences into account if they want to sell more of their goods. Women also tend to be more environmentally conscious, which helps to explain the growing customer demand for green financial services. Globally, one in three consumers reports that she would pay a premium of as much as 25% for sustainable financial services.

This points to yet another reason that inclusion is good for business: research shows that more women on corporate boards correlates positively with the disclosure of CO2 emissions. Women now control 40% of global wealth, and they want to invest in a sustainable future. Some 74% of women report being interested in increasing the share of ESG investments in their current investment portfolios, compared to 53% of men. Firms that fail to make room for women overlook an opportunity to outperform their competitors.

Over many centuries, women have developed strategies for dealing with unequal situations, and this has made us especially valuable to organizations that want to change the world.

Owing to our historical experience of exclusion and inequality, we are more likely to recognize the need for change and to consider the impact of a company's operations or policy decisions on others. By the same token, countries with higher female representation in parliament are more likely to ratify environmental treaties and adopt policies that address climate change.

Women's talent is a driving force behind economic progress and an essential part of the solution to climate change. Women already lead some of the world's most influential financial bodies and play a growing role in the political arena. Now women must lead the shift to a more inclusive and sustainable growth model. We have a unique opportunity to advance inclusion, to inspire similar commitments from others, and to shape the future for the better.

Nadia Calviño is President of the European Investment Bank. Kristalina Georgieva is Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Odile Renaud-Basso is President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

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## Lord, so dis whole money bisnay wah happened na?

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father,

*Da whatin we hearing so? Is it true da de people say ley money weh Kountry Giant say him lee inside our village cash box da lie? Hmm, ley people mon look inside da cash box good, good oo.*

*What you mean my son, you wan tell we say de people lie?*

*Ah, Father da orlor one too big for my mouth oo. Me I only say de people who can be looking behind dis stealing bisnay and be telling people who do wah mon look inside good, good. Aaa my name oo.*

*Wait oo, you ay look leh you know something, bor you na wan talky.*

*Bor Father you too ya. You na hear de thin de people talking here. They say on dis day de Kountry Giant say dis amount of money was in leh cash box. From da time to de time de Papy too came plenty can happen between there.*

*Um, ay look leh you making small sense there oo my son.*

*Look leh me put it dis way Father. Leh say leh man geh 100 dollar in him cashbox. Few days before him travel, him tell him manager meaning him wife da him geh 100 dollar in him cash box on da day him told him wifey. Two days later, him pekin go to the cashier and take five dollar there to pay for candy. The next day him daughter go and take ten dollar to buy shoes, so on and so on.*

*Imagine de day de manager go look inside de cashbox na, de money na correct. Him woman go to de cashier and asked say on dis day how much my husband lee in de cashbox?*

*De cashier too loka de record and say, on dis day da de money weh wor in de cashbox. She na ask him between de time my husband say dis money here wor in de cashbox and de time I com ask you, anybody come take money from inside? She na ask. Then ley people say her husband lie, him na lee da kina money inside him cashbox.*

*So, Father, da de whole story behind dis money bisnay here oo. So whatin make de Village elder them who wor judging de case between de man and him woman first, first na ask de cashier if somebody take money from de place after her husband told her about de balance in de cashbox?*

*You see whatin i talking here Father, becus dis thin da law bisnay na com inside na. The Kountry Giant say on dis day da de money we had inside. De Papay too com say few days later, da dis one me I see inside.*

*Then de chief them too instead of them asking de cashier people what happen from da time to dis time, dey just go ask say how much wor inside on dis day?*

*Hmm, my son, de thin you talking make plenty sense becus, it possible that after ley man fini talking somer him people could go behind him and do their own thin. Ehn you know they able to do da one there.*

*So, da leh thin there so, Kountry Giant talk him own, de Papay talked him own. Bor de chief them na ask de cashier them de righ question. Da de thin da bring dis long hauling here and there.*

*I see...*

*Yes, Father. If de chief them wor coming to ask de people them dis question long time we fini catching de doer of dis act.*

*My son, ley thin sef hard to talk.*

*Yes, ooh Father. Da de thing me I say, ley man talked him own, de Papay talked him own, so, we mon ask de cashier them what happened. They mon talk something, they na innocent.*



## ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, UNAIDS CALLS FOR PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH



On this International Women's Day, UNAIDS is calling for the protection of women's rights to protect their health.

The world is way off track to meet the gender, equality and HIV targets that are part of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the current rate of progress, it will take an estimated 300

years to end child marriage, 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace, and 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments.

In addition, around the world at least five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family. One in three women worldwide experience sexual or gender-based violence.

Women who experience violence are more at risk of acquiring HIV. This risk is heightened for the 600 million women and girls who live in the world's conflict-affected countries, facing an increased danger of sexual violence. And in the majority of the world's poorest countries, the debt crisis is squeezing out investment in education, health, and social protection, particularly hurting women and girls.

Women are further threatened by the organized pushback against women's rights. "Today, women's hard-won rights are under a globally coordinated, ruthless attack. Those facing the most vicious attack are already the most marginalized women," said Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "The injustices faced by women are not natural disasters to prepare for, like hurricanes or storms. They are man-made, and, as such, we can unmake them."

The good news is that across the world, women and girls are leading struggles for equality and rights. Women are standing up against oppression in their homes, workplaces, and communities. Women's movements are providing direct support to

women and girls who face violence, and marching and striking for equality. To protect women's rights, it is vital to support and resource these community organizations, civil society groups and women's organizations—the frontline defenders of those rights.

Like justice, health is never given, it is won.

UNAIDS' call this International Women's Day, is to protect women and girls' health, protect women and girls' rights. In doing so, the world will end AIDS, and will overcome the inequalities driving it.

### UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Learn more at [unaids.org](https://unaids.org) and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

## OP-ED

By UN Secretary General

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024 "invest in women: ending the patriarchy requires money on the table"

8 March 2024

The fight for women's rights over the past fifty years is a story of progress.

Women and girls have demolished barriers, dismantled stereotypes and driven progress towards a more just and equal world. Women's rights were finally recognised as fundamental and universal human rights. Hundreds of millions more girls are in classrooms around the world. And pioneering leaders have smashed glass ceilings across the globe.

But progress is under threat. And full equality remains light years away.

Billions of women and girls face marginalization, injustice and discrimination, as millennia of male domination continue to shape societies. The persistent epidemic of gender-based violence disgraces humanity. Over four million girls are estimated to be at risk of female genital mutilation each year. Discrimination against women and girls remains perfectly legal in much of the world. In some places, that makes it difficult for women to own property, in others, it allows men to rape their wives with impunity.

Meanwhile, global crises are hitting women and girls hardest. Wherever there's conflict, climate disaster, poverty or hunger, women and girls suffer most. In every region of the world, more women than men go hungry. In both developed and developing countries, a backlash against women's rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights, is stalling and even reversing progress.

New technologies - which have such potential to dismantle inequalities - too often make matters worse. That can be because of unequal access, algorithms with baked-in bias, or misogynistic violence - from deep fakes to targeted harassment of specific women.

At our current speed, full legal equality for women is some 300 years away; so is the end of child marriage. This rate of change is frankly insulting. Half of humanity can't wait centuries for their rights. We need equality now. That means accelerating the pace of progress. And that relies on political ambition, and on investment - the theme of this year's International Women's Day.

We need public and private investment in programmes to end violence against women, ensure decent work, and drive women's inclusion and leadership in digital technologies, peacebuilding, climate action, and across all sectors of the economy. We must also urgently support women's rights organizations fighting against stereotypes, battling to make women's and girls' voices heard, and challenging traditions and cultural norms. Currently they receive a paltry 0.1% of international development spending. That must change.

Investment may sound far removed from women's everyday lives. But it takes investment to give schoolgirls the same opportunities as schoolboys. It takes investment to provide digital education and develop skills. It takes investment to provide the childcare that enables caregivers, who are mainly mothers, to do paid work outside the home. And it takes investment to build inclusive communities and societies with the full participation of women and girls of all backgrounds.

Putting money behind equality is the right thing to do, but it also makes financial sense. Supporting women to enter formal labour markets grows economies, boosts tax revenues and expands opportunities for all.

Securing the investment we need in women and girls requires three things. First, increasing the availability of affordable, long-term finance for sustainable development, and tackling the debt crisis strangling many developing economies. Otherwise, countries simply won't have the funds to invest in women and girls. We need immediate action to provide breathing space for countries with unbearable debt repayments looming, and to encourage multilateral development banks to leverage far more private finance at affordable costs. Over the long term, we must reform the international financial architecture and make it far more responsive to the needs of developing countries.

Second, countries must prioritise equality for women and girls - recognising that equality is not only a matter of rights but the bedrock of peaceful, prosperous societies. That means governments actively addressing discrimination, spending on programmes to support women and girls, and ensuring policies, budgets and investments respond to their needs.

Third, we need to increase the number of women in leadership positions. Having women in positions of power can help to drive investment in policies and programmes that respond to women and girls' realities.

I am particularly proud that since early in my tenure - and for the first time in history - we have equal numbers of women and men in senior management across the entire United Nations system.

Equality is overdue. Ending the patriarchy requires money on the table - it's time to cough up.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Ganta Methodist Hospital lacks ambulance

### -as aggrieved staffers end go-slow

Ganta, Nimba County, March 7, 2024 - The Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta City, Nimba has been without ambulance services for over a year now.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Ganta, Nimba County, March 7, 2024 - As aggrieved workers of the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta City, Nimba County resume work following

ambulance services for over a year now.

Mr. Zormonway the situation has constrained pregnant women and sick people to transport themselves from far and near locations to access the hospital.

He accused Rider, a non-

ambulance service was controlled by the hospital, while Rider has been responsible for maintenance.

Mr. Zormonway said the hospital needs at least US\$2,759 to restore the ambulance services.

He appealed to community residents, county lawmakers, local administration and national government for support to enable the faith-based hospital provide efficient services to the public and save lives.

According to the administrator, the hospital's budgetary support has been very low, so he is appealing for increment in the operational budget.

He disclosed that the hospital facility, headed by the United Methodist Church health department alongside with partners trained staffers but both the locals and the government should take the



Hospital Administrator Mr Allen Zormonway

a go-slow in demand of salaries and benefits, the hospital is said to lack ambulance services.

Administrator Mr Allen Zormonway told The NEW DAWN correspondent that the hospital has been without

governmental organization that operates under the Ministry of Health of failure to repair the only vehicle was being used as an ambulance despite a written agreement to perform maintenance services.

He explained that the

▶ CONT'D page 7

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

### -GSA nominee discloses

A lot of public offices in Liberia continue to operate from rented or leased private properties, putting financial burden on the state.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Monrovia, Liberia, 7 March 2024: General Services Agency (GSA) Director General-designate Galakpai Wozie Kortimai has disclosed that the Liberian government owes land and building owners over US\$1.7 million for rental services.

Appearing before the Senate Committee on Autonomous Agency chaired by Bong County Senator Johnny Kpehe on Tuesday, 6 March 2024, Mr. Kortimai promised to verify the figure provided to him if confirmed by the Senate.

He said over the years, the government has failed to settle most of its financial obligations to land and building owners whose properties have been used for public services.

According to him, this has put the GSA in an embarrassing situation, adding that if confirmed, his leadership will lobby with the 55th Legislature to allocate the funds in the budget for Fiscal Year 2024 to settle the debt.

"The General Services Agency controls housing and public properties and is responsible for the custody and management of all GOL-owned and leased lands and buildings," he added.

"The Government of Liberia has over the period not been able to settle most of its obligations to land and building owners in the tone of approximately US\$1,795,950 and this figure will be verified by our leadership when confirmed. This has put the GSA in an embarrassing situation," Mr. Kortimai said.

Highlighting his plans for the next 100 days, Mr. Kortimai promised to first establish a task force to identify and recover government vehicles, plates, and other essential assets that are wrongly in use by private or public entities and individuals.

He promised to respond to quick impact renovations by Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions that may require GSA

intervention.

"Secondly, we will set up a technical team headed by a legal professional from the GSA to promptly conduct an assessment of properties leased to the Government which will give us informed judgment on default, lease agreement, and actual amount owed to these property owners," he continued.

He promised a centralized renovation of Government of Liberia (GoL)-owned and leased buildings to enable the government to minimize costs.

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## House wants army, Police out of Bea Mountain

Capitol Hill, Monrovia, March 7, 2024 -The House of Representatives has requested the Executive to, with immediate, withdraw military and police personnel from concessional sites across the country.

This followed last Thursday's (February 29, 2024) brutal crackdown by Liberian National Police of aggrieved protesters in the operational site of Bea Mountain Mining Company in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County that left at three persons feared dead, and several other sustaining injuries.

By Bridgett Milton

Capitol Hill, Monrovia, March 7, 2024 -The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of States has forwarded request from the House of Representatives to the Ministry of National Defense and the Liberia National Police to withdraw state security personnel from the operational site of Bea Mountain Mining Company in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County.

A communication from the Minister of State Sylvester M. Grigsby, to members of the House of Representatives on Thursday, March 7, 2023, says the directive has been forwarded to the Liberia

Mountain in Kinjor, Gola Konneh District, he took keen note of number of officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Police Emergency Response Unit.

The lawmaker further observed that personnel of the AFL and the LNP were behaving like contractors for the company, doing hard labor work.

"They came to this country, they say they are investors but they are not; they came here to suppress us", he added.

He said on February 14, a group of peaceful citizens constellated at the company's gate to stage a peaceful protest, expressing their disappointment in the management about alleged bad labor practice or pattern, but unfortunately, on the said day his people were belabored by the



National Police and the Ministry of National Defense for action.

Members of the House of Representatives voted to recall officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Liberia National Police from Bea Mountain Concession Company and all other concessional areas across the country.

The House made the decision following a communication from Grand Cape Mount County district# 2 Representative, Mohammed Dosii, requesting the indulgence of his colleagues to ensure the immediate pull out of AFL and ERU personnel at the facilities of the company.

According to Rep. Dosii, upon his visitation and communities' engagement in his constituency at Bea

military and the Police.

At least three persons were feared dead and several others reportedly injured on Thursday, February 29, 2024 during protests against the operation of commercial gold mining company Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC). The protests which turned bloody, took place in Tawore District, Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County.

The Liberia National Police (LNP) had earlier denied report of deaths, but subsequently confirmed there were two 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.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## UL & Sharda University induct Joint Commission

Through partnerships with other universities outside Liberia, the University of Liberia continues to seek opportunities for collaboration for mutual benefits.

By Lincoln G. Peters

The University of Liberia (UL) and Sharda University (SU) of India on Thursday, 7 March 2024, inducted a Joint Commission between the two institutions following a historic signing ceremony on Capitol Hill in Monrovia, Liberia.

Students, among others. The President of the University of Liberia Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., and his counterpart from Sharda Group of Companies/ Sharda University of India, Dr. Ashok Daryani, signed for their respective institutions during the commissioning ceremony.

University has become one of the leading centers of education, research, and innovation in Delhi, and the University of Liberia believes, as demonstrated through the progress made, that more can be achieved in the partnership it has with Sharda.

Sharda has multiple companies under its control that are involved with High Tech, Medical Science, and Agriculture, among other vital investments.

The induction of the UL-Sharda Joint Commission followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding in India two years ago.

The program induction ceremony brought together officials from both universities.

During the program, the University of Liberia represented by its President Dr. Julius S. Nelson signed on behalf of his institution while Sharda University President for International Relations Dr. Ashok Daryani signed on behalf of his university and exchanged files.

In June 2022, the University of Liberia entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sharda University of India to establish a partnership leading to collaboration.

The MoU between both

▶ CONT'D page 11



The induction of the UL-Sharda Joint Commission is a result of a memorandum of understanding entered into in India in 2022 for knowledge transfer, faculty and administrative staff collaboration, and student exchange, among a wide range of issues.

The commissioning ceremony was held in the Auditorium of the UL Capitol Hill campus and brought together authorities from UL and Sharda, Faculty, Staff, and

Through partnerships with other universities outside Liberia, the University of Liberia continues to seek opportunities for collaboration because it places a premium on the academic freedom of creative thinking, sourcing opportunities for students and researchers to continually work where academic excellence thrives in the search of truth and knowledge and where research and teaching are cherished.

Over the years, Sharda

## Journalism schools asked to teach conflict sensitive and election reporting

Monrovia, Liberia, March 7, 2024 -The Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (CECPAP) in Liberia is calling for inclusion of conflict sensitive and election reporting in curriculum of higher learning institutions teaching Mass Communication and Journalism in the country.

Executive Director Charles Crawford said such courses will help build the capacities of journalists in the two areas, emphasizing the need for schools of Mass Communication and Journalism to prioritize the idea of embedding the two courses into their respective curriculums

Monrovia, Liberia, March 7, 2024 -The Executive Director of the Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, (CECPAP), Charles Crawford is calling for inclusion of conflict sensitive and election reporting into the curriculum of higher learning institutions teaching mass communication and Journalism in the country.

In a press release Thursday, Mr. Crawford said such courses will help build the capacities of journalists in the two areas, emphasizing the need for schools of Mass Communication and Journalism to prioritize the idea of embedding the two courses into their respective curriculums.

conflict sensitive reporting, he notes, "Our one world is now engulfed with conflict. There is conflict all over the place and these conflicts must be reported to the public as they happened. But, he wondered, how can a Liberian journalist effectively report on conflict related issues when he or she does not have the fundamental training in conflict sensitive reporting?"

Regarding election reporting, the CECPAP boss said given the critical nature of election reporting during electioneering period, the teaching of election reporting in schools will help Liberian journalists to better understand the dynamics and challenges of campaign during

elections.

Mr. Crawford stressed the need for the inclusion of conflict sensitive and election reporting into curriculums of institutions involved in molding the minds of journalists to be given serious consideration.



CECPAP Executive Director Charles Crawford

## War Crimes Court puts Senate in turmoil

Start from page 11

resolution and not a bill or a petition.

At the same time, River Gee County Senator, Jonathan Boye-Charles Sogbie informed the body that there are different kinds of resolutions.

He named them as simple, concurrence, and joint resolutions. As such, he inquired which of these resolutions the Senate had received from the House of Representatives.

He explained that a simple resolution affects one house of the legislature; a concurrence resolution affects both houses; and a joint resolution is decided by both houses at once.

But Pro-Tempore Karnga-Lawrence clarified that it is a simple resolution.

Meanwhile, three members of the Liberian Senate are opposing the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia.

The opposing Senators are immediate past Pro-Tempore Albert Chie of Grand Kru County; Prince Y. Johnson of Nimba County; and Thomas Yaya Nimely of Grand Gedeh County, respectively. Johnson and Nimely are former Liberian warlords, while former Pro-Tempore Chie was placed on U.S. sanction last December for his alleged involvement in significant

## Ganta Methodist Hospital lacks ambulance

Start from page 6

facility as their own and provide support.

According to him, a recent training exercise has provide the administration and staff more knowledge and experience how to engage community dwellers, including lawmakers and national government for support and to take ownership of the facility, as it serves the people.

He said the new development agenda of the hospital focuses on sustainability and growth and administration has put in place a thrice-yearly meeting to closely keep confronting challenges on the

table.

"The gathering also helped us to see how to make the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church can become active contributors towards the hospital", Mr. Zormonway explained. He noted that the United Methodist Churches and families don't want the hospital to close its doors to the public, as their goal is to continuously provide healthcare services to the citizenry. Besides serving the people pf Liberia, the Ganta United Methodist Hospital treats patients from neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast. Editing by Jonathan Brown

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

Start from page 6

Mr. Kortimai also vowed to put in place a proper mechanism to ensure that GOL properties, especially vehicles are not used by public officials as personal properties.

At the same time, the GSA Director General-designate said if confirmed, he will reintroduce

the Department of National Financial Management which will be responsible for recording all purchase vouchers being prepared by various Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions. "This department if granted, will ensure that proper accounts of all GOL materials purchased and also minimize the disparities in purchasing vouchers," he concluded.

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# Français

## L'ancien chef rebelle se dit prêt à affronter le tribunal pour crimes de guerre

L'ancien chef rebelle, désormais sénateur du comté de Grand Gedeh, Thomas Yaya Nimely, s'est déclaré prêt à faire face à un éventuel tribunal pour crimes de guerre et crimes

dit confiant dans son innocence concernant les crimes de guerre. Il a déclaré être prêt à se présenter devant un tribunal pour crimes de guerre s'il est établi, car il en sortira libre.

Cependant, son collègue, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson

Samuel Doe en 1990.

Lors d'une conférence de presse donnée le mercredi 6 mars 2024 dans son bureau au Capitole, le sénateur Nimely a déclaré que si le gouvernement libérien souhaite faire de la création de tribunaux pour crimes de guerre et crimes économiques une priorité, cela lui est égal. Cependant, il pense que l'administration devrait plutôt s'attaquer en premier lieu à la situation économique difficile du pays et à la pauvreté.

Selon lui, pendant la guerre civile libérienne des années 90, le peuple de Grand Gedeh a été pris pour cible et tué par l'ancien président Charles G. Taylor. Ils ont donc cherché refuge en Côte d'Ivoire et, en 2002, M. Taylor les y a poursuivis.

"Personne n'était là pour aider notre peuple, les Ivoiriens ne nous ont pas aidés, nous avons dû nous battre nous-mêmes. J'ai dû défendre mon peuple et riposter", a-t-il expliqué.

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai envisage sérieusement de créer des tribunaux pour crimes de guerre et crimes économiques et a déjà discuté avec l'ancien procureur pour les crimes de guerre, le Dr Alan White.

Le Dr White a été procureur en chef du Tribunal spécial pour



économiques, se disant innocent des atrocités commises pendant la guerre civile au Liberia.

Le leader de l'ancien mouvement rebelle "Mouvement pour la Démocratie au Liberia" (MODEL), le sénateur Thomas Yaya Nimely du comté de Grand Gedeh, se

du comté de Nimba, s'oppose farouchement à la création du tribunal, menaçant de déclencher une nouvelle vague de terreur si jamais il devait comparaître devant une telle instance. Le sénateur Johnson est le leader de l'ancien mouvement rebelle "Front Patriotique National Indépendant du Liberia" (INPFL) qui a capturé et tué le président

▶ CONT'D page 9

## Pas de place pour les plaintes : le nouveau ministre des Mines promet d'agir.

Le nouveau ministre libérien des Mines et de l'Énergie, Wilmot Paye, lance un avertissement aux mineurs illégaux en déclarant qu'il n'est pas venu au ministère pour se plaindre, mais pour agir vigoureusement contre les activités illicites.

Le ministre Paye a pris ses fonctions récemment, suite à sa nomination par le président Boakai et sa confirmation par le Sénat libérien.

Le ministre nouvellement nommé, Wilmot Paye, a averti les mineurs illégaux qu'il n'est pas venu à ce poste pour faire des excuses, mais pour agir en conséquence afin de protéger le secteur.

S'exprimant après sa prise de fonction officielle, M. Paye, un fidèle du parti au pouvoir, Unity Party, a déclaré que son arrivée au ministère n'était pas une erreur, mais un choix judicieux pour respecter les promesses contenues dans le programme "ARREST" du président Boakai, visant à prendre des mesures critiques pour améliorer le secteur minier du pays.

"Le président ne m'a pas

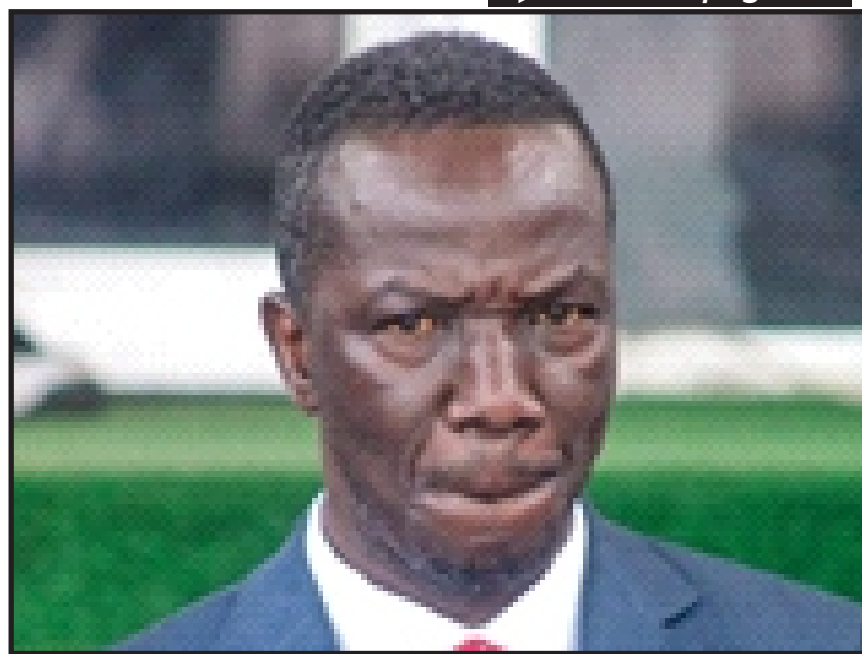
envoyé ici pour me plaindre ou pour trouver des excuses, mais pour prendre des mesures cruciales qui permettront le bon fonctionnement de ce secteur. En tant que ministre des Mines et de l'Énergie, nous ne nous plaindrons pas, mais nous serons tenus d'agir", a-t-il souligné.

Il a déclaré qu'il était temps que le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie devienne plus proactif et fonctionne efficacement, non seulement pour gagner la confiance des investisseurs étrangers, mais aussi des communautés qui accueillent

directement les concessionnaires et qui sont les plus touchées.

"Alors que les investisseurs potentiels viennent ici pour obtenir des accords de développement minier, ne font absolument rien pour démarrer l'exploitation et restent assis sur les droits accordés par ces accords, en attendant un avenir prévisible où les travaux pourraient commencer, nous ne nous plaindrons pas, mais agissons conformément à nos accords de développement minier qui protègent notre peuple."

▶ CONT'D page 9



## 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

## Starts from page 8 **L'ancien chef rebelle se**

la Sierra Leone soutenu par l'ONU en 2006. Ce tribunal a jugé et condamné l'ancien président libérien Charles Taylor, qui purge actuellement une peine de 50 ans à La Haye, pour avoir aidé et encouragé les rebelles du RUF en Sierra Leone.

Cependant, le sénateur Nimely souligne que l'administration Boakai, à peine deux mois au pouvoir, devrait plutôt se concentrer sur la réduction des prix des produits de première nécessité, tels que la nourriture et l'essence, avant d'envisager la création de tribunaux pour crimes de guerre et crimes économiques.

Il soutient que le gouvernement doit répondre aux besoins du peuple et qu'il ne pourrait se lancer dans une telle démarche qu'à sa quatrième année au pouvoir, car le faire maintenant ne ferait que créer des troubles dans le pays.

“Je n'ai pas peur du tribunal pour crimes de guerre, qu'ils m'emprisonnent ou non, je mourrai quand même, mais j'y irai et j'en ressortirai libre”, a-t-il dit avec bravade.

Lundi, les membres de la Chambre des représentants ont signé une résolution soutenant la création de tribunaux pour crimes de guerre et crimes économiques au Liberia, conformément aux recommandations de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation visant à poursuivre les personnes ayant commis des crimes odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité, y compris des crimes économiques pendant les

troubles du pays.

Cependant, le sénateur de Grand Gedeh rétorque que tous les membres de la Chambre ne sont pas capables de lire et d'écrire, et il allègue que certains d'entre eux ont reçu 1 000 dollars américains chacun en guise de pot-de-vin pour apposer leur signature à la résolution.

Parallèlement, l'ancien chef rebelle appelle le président Joseph Boakai à rappeler le surintendant Alex Grant, récemment nommé par le président.

Il révèle que le peuple de Grand Gedeh proteste contre la nomination, et que le président ne devrait pas imposer quelqu'un que le peuple ne veut pas.

Le sénateur Nimely propose à la place que, puisque le président Boakai souhaite voir M. Grant travailler au sein de son gouvernement, il pourrait le nommer ministre adjoint ou à un autre poste ministériel. Il insiste cependant sur le fait que le président devrait le rappeler de son poste actuel de surintendant car la population n'est pas disposée à travailler avec lui.

Selon le sénateur Nimely, M. Grant, ancien législateur du comté, a été un jour lié à la disparition d'un magistrat électoral à Grand Gedeh, ce qui a provoqué de graves conflits en 2021 et continue d'agiter le comté. “Que le président nomme quelqu'un qui saura unifier le comté, quelqu'un que la population acceptera et avec qui elle pourra travailler. Il y a beaucoup de jeunes gens dynamiques dans le comté, titulaires de licences et même de masters, qui sont prêts à travailler”, recommande-t-il par ailleurs.

## Starts from page 8 **Pas de place pour les**

Il a déclaré qu'il serait énergique, indiquant qu'il était injuste pour lui de rester assis en tant que ministre, alors que les minéraux et les ressources naturelles du Liberia sont épuisés pour des redevances de 3 à 5%.

M. Paye a noté que le Liberia lutte pour sa survie, alors qu'il se trouve assis sur un vaste potentiel de ressources naturelles, ajoutant que les investisseurs illégaux ne seront pas autorisés à occuper et à saper le secteur.

Il a promis de s'engager de manière proactive et de revoir les accords de concession dans tout le pays, ce qui constitue une priorité politique clé du programme “ARREST” du président Boakai.

“Notre objectif est de revoir tous les accords de concession, tout en vérifiant si les conditions spécifiées dans ces accords de développement minier (ADM) sont respectées, et d'identifier les lacunes à

prendre en considération pour d'éventuels amendements.”

Selon lui, les secteurs minier et énergétique ont atteint un point de crise, risquant des urgences économiques et sécuritaires nationales. Il y aura donc des efforts robustes pour revoir les permis et restaurer la dignité du secteur minier.

Auparavant, l'ancien ministre Gesler E. Murray avait déclaré que sa tâche, dans le cadre du manifeste du programme “PRO-POOR” de l'ancien président George Manneh Weah, consistait à transformer le secteur minier en le rendant plus dynamique, en tant que l'un des principaux contributeurs à la croissance et au développement économiques du pays. M. Murray a noté que, tout au long de sa gestion efficace de la supervision du ministère face à de nombreux défis, le secteur s'est considérablement amélioré. Il a rappelé au ministre Paye la tâche qui l'attend, tout en l'exhortant à être plus vigoureux.

## **Les États-Unis s'engagent à soutenir la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques au Liberia**



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

On estime que plus de 250 000 Libériens ont péri, des millions d'autres ont été déplacés et des biens d'une valeur de plusieurs millions de dollars ont été détruits pendant le brutal conflit civil libérien qui a duré plus d'une décennie.

Beth Van Schaack, ambassadrice américaine chargée de la justice pénale internationale, a déclaré que son gouvernement se réjouit de collaborer avec tous les Libériens pour faire du tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques une réalité.

Plus de 20 ans après le retour de la paix dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest ravagé par la guerre, des divisions subsistent parmi les Libériens quant à la création du tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques.

Les responsables des crimes de guerre et économiques commis pendant le conflit civil au Liberia, ainsi que leurs fidèles, recherchent l'impunité. Cependant, d'autres

Libériens exigent la justice pour dissuader les futurs massacres insensés de personnes innocentes et la destruction de l'État à des fins égoïstes.

Certains anciens chefs rebelles du Liberia se sont retrouvés à la tête du pays et ont tenté de faire chanter les efforts visant à établir la responsabilité en instillant la peur qu'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques replonge le pays dans l'instabilité.

Cette semaine, environ 40 députés libériens de la Chambre des représentants ont signé une résolution en faveur de la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques.

Si cette résolution se traduit par une loi et est adoptée par les deux chambres législatives, elle soutiendra le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai dans sa quête de création d'un tel tribunal.

Suite à la signature de la résolution par les représentants, l'ambassadrice Van Schaack a déclaré que c'était un privilège et un honneur de rencontrer le président Boakai, après son engagement à établir un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques au Liberia.

L'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia a publié cette information sur sa page Facebook le mercredi 6 mars 2024, à la suite de la rencontre de l'ambassadrice Van Schaack avec le président Boakai.

L'ambassade a indiqué que lors de sa

## **Le Libéria doit 1,7 million de dollars US pour des services de location**



De nombreux bureaux publics au Libéria continuent de fonctionner dans des propriétés privées louées ou cédées par bail, ce qui représente un fardeau financier pour l'État.

Le directeur général désigné de l'Agence des services généraux (GSA), Galakpai Wozie Kortimai, a révélé que le gouvernement libérien doit aux propriétaires fonciers et immobiliers plus de 1,7 million de dollars US pour des services de location.

S'adressant à la commission sénatoriale des agences autonomes, présidée par le sénateur du comté de Bong, Johnny Kpehe, le mardi 6 mars 2024, M. Kortimai a promis de vérifier le chiffre qui lui a été fourni s'il était confirmé par le Sénat.

Il a déclaré que pendant des années, le gouvernement n'était pas parvenu à s'acquitter de la plupart de ses obligations financières envers les propriétaires fonciers et immobiliers

dont les biens étaient utilisés pour des services publics.

Selon lui, cela a mis la GSA dans une situation embarrassante. Il a ajouté que s'il était confirmé, son équipe ferait pression sur le parlement pour qu'il alloue des fonds dans le budget de l'exercice 2024 afin de régler la dette.

“L'Agence des services généraux contrôle les logements et les biens publics et est responsable de la garde et de la gestion de tous les terrains et bâtiments appartenant à l'État et loués par celui-ci”, a-t-il ajouté.

“Le gouvernement du Libéria n'a pas été en mesure de s'acquitter de la plupart de ses obligations envers les propriétaires fonciers et immobiliers, à hauteur d'environ 1 795 950 dollars US, et ce chiffre sera vérifié par notre direction une fois confirmée. Cela a mis la GSA dans une situation embarrassante”, a déclaré M. Kortimai.

En soulignant ses plans pour les 100 prochains jours, M. Kortimai a promis de créer tout d'abord un groupe de travail chargé d'identifier et de récupérer les véhicules gouvernementaux, les plaques d'immatriculation et autres biens essentiels utilisés à tort par des entités privées ou publiques et des particuliers.

Il a promis de répondre aux demandes de rénovations à impact rapide des ministères, agences et commissions qui pourraient nécessiter l'intervention de la GSA.

“Deuxièmement, nous mettrons en place une équipe technique dirigée par

# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

# Liberia's Problems

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

This caused the death of Samuel K. Doe. Democracy cannot flourish on sycophancy. We call on the new designated Minister of Justice to be like Louise Arthur Grimes and James A. A. Pierre, both of whom were Attorney General's/Ministers of Justice of the country at different times. The Attorney General/ Minister of Justice who is the chief Legal Adviser to the president and you have to be candid with the president and other heads of ministries and agencies as was Louise Arthur Grimes or James A. A. Pierre were. We have read their opinions when they served in that position, hence we know what we are wrong about. Today the Law School at the University of Liberia and the Judicial Institute are named in their honor.

We saw president Weah abusing the appointing power of the president and we are witnessing that power being abused by President Boakai. We have written interminably on the subject over the past few weeks, but this abuse continues unabatedly. Even our good friend in the Senate (Senator Francis S. Dopoh, II) spoke recently during an interview at a local radio station. He especially mentioned the appointing of the Commissioners at the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA). According to him, Commissioners are appointed by the Board of the LRA.

We would like to share with you sections in the Revenue Act published September 21, 2013, on appointments. Part IV: Commissioner General and two Deputy Commissioner Generals (Deputy Commissioner General for Administration Affairs (DCGAA) and Deputy Commissioner General for Technical Affairs (DCGTA). These three are appointed by the president with the consent of the Liberian Senate. Read section 19 of the act.

### Section 22 appointment of other staff

1. The Board after a competitive process and recommendation of the Commissioner General shall appoint the commissioners of the authority in accordance with the procedures defined by the Authority's HRMP. There are five commissioners in this category (Commissioner of Custom (CC), Commissioner of Domestic Tax (CDT), and Commissioner for Legal (CL), Commissioner for Internal Audit (CIA), and Commissioner for General Services (CGS).

2. The Commissioner General shall appoint other management below the level of commissioners, technical and general staff.

If President Boakai really appointed Assistant Commissioner, then Senator Dopoh is correct. This was another misstep of the President.

We would zero on other missteps of the President.

1. When it comes to Autonomous Agencies that have established Boards, you first appoint the Board Members followed by the heads of the institutions, not the other way around. Contrary, the heads are being appointed before the board, this is not best practice universally because the heads report to the boards. It is the boards that receive the heads and introduce them to the staff of the institutions.

2. The functions of the Board of Directions of Autonomous Agencies: The formulation of policies and directions of the management of the agencies/corporations shall be vested in the Board of Directors which are composed of statutory members as may be described in the act and members from the private sectors. The Acts establishing some of these Agencies give the Board of Directors to either appoint directly or vet names and submit a list to the President from which heads and deputies are appointed by the President. Some of these appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate. We see individuals appointed by the President without confirmation as required functioning as heads. Two cases in point are the National Port Authority and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation. In the case of National Port Authority, the amended act of the Public Authorities Law to create the National Port Authority (NPA), Chapter 6, reference section 56-Executive Officer reads "Board shall select the Executive officer/Managing Director who shall be the highest executive of the NPA on such terms and conditions as the board may think fit." If there is an amendment to this act, we were unable to find it.

In the case of the LWSC, the amended act approved December 28, 2017, and published January 2, 2018, Section 88.7 Managing Director reads: "1. Appointment. The Managing Director shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Liberian Senate, based on recommendations from the Board of Directors. The Managing Director shall receive such salary as shall be established by the Board and approved by the President. Section 88.8 Deputy Managing Directors. Appointment. All Deputy Managing Directors shall be appointed by the President with consent of the Liberian Senate, upon recommendations of the Board of Directors. The Deputy Managing shall receive such salary as shall be established by the Board. Read the amended acts. This makes us wonder, what those around the President are doing. Are they not reading these acts and advising the president before these appointments are made? It is equally unfortunate, and it beats our imagination that we have such competent men and women around the President and these missteps are happening and the various subcommittees of the Senate are not picking up these missteps. What is the purpose of these hearings, if they cannot pick up simple things? The members of the various subcommittees know very little about the institutions they are chairing or member of. This lackadaisical attitude of theirs and lack of knowledge about these institutions is destroying our democracy. One reason for the confirmation is to checkmate the presidency.

1. Problem #3 Egocentricity Our political leaders' egocentric attitude is causing serious problems for the country. We can say that this attitude is responsible for the lack of development for over the 176 years of our existence. Just look at the National Budget for the past six years from 2015/2016 to 2021/2022. The lion share of the allotment is allocated to the Legislature and the Executive. The National Budget gives worth to the political actors, who have the constitutional mandate to distribute the wealth and resources of the country. Very little is allocated for education, health, road, water, sanitation, agriculture, security, electricity and other basic necessities of



everyday survival of the population. Any country that spends more than 30% of its national budget to pay recurrent costs cannot solve the basic needs of its population.

We call on the legislative and the executive to introduce a program/project-based budget. Project based budgets are easy to monitor and follow weekly or monthly. It would be a good idea to allocate US\$100.00 million for the ARREST Agenda for this budget year and in future, allocate US\$50.00 million plus any excess of US\$700.00 million to finance the ARREST Agenda. If we really want development, this is the way to go. Today, everyone goes to Rwanda and praises the development in that country. It is developed because the political leaders are sacrificing and making allocations for the government's agenda. They are not taking home monthly US\$7,500.00 or riding US\$45,000.00 or US\$75,000.00 or getting 500 gallons of fuel per month, which is equivalent to US\$2,500.00. For a country to develop, the politicians must make sacrifices. It is a shame that our political leaders are the highest paid officials in West Africa if not in Africa and yet our country is among the least developed. How can we explain this to our children?

### Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

Over the past four (4) weeks, the LEC has been in the news, and we would like to add our voice to the debate. First you need to know that the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) was created after the Public Utility Act was amended in 1973. We are not aware of any amendment to the 1973 act creating the LEC. In the 1973 act of the LEC, there is a Chairman of the Board and the Executive Officer. Section 85.4 reads "Board of Directors functions-formulation of policies and direction of management of the corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of a Chairman, minister of finance, planning and economic development, justice and five members from the private sector. The Chairman

of the Board shall be responsible for the overall direction of the corporation. Members of the Board except for the Chairman, may receive a salary to be established by the board and subject to the approval of the president."

Section 88.5 Executive officer reads "The operational responsibilities for the implementation of the programs and policies of the corporation shall be conducted by a Managing Director, who shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the senate. The Managing Director shall receive salary as shall be established by the board, subject to approval of the president. It has been alleged that some individuals at the LEC have contracts, but these contracts cannot supersede the act creating the LEC. Secondly, salaries of the Managing Director need to be approved by the president. The act says the chairman shall not receive salary. In the case of the Managing Director, it is mandatory that they get a salary but the Chairman. And it is unlawful to serve as Chairman and Managing Director or Executive Officer at the same time under this act. The positions of Chairman and Executive Officer/Managing Director at the LEC are not TENURE POSITIONS.

It is alleged that the LEC waived US\$4.0 million owed by her partner LIBENERGY. It is a fact that LIBENERGY entered a contractual agreement with the LEC to manage and sell energy in the southeastern counties (Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Maryland). This energy comes from CL Energy of La Cote D'Ivoire as per the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between the Government of Liberia and Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) on one hand and the CL Energy on the other. This is not free energy CL Energy is supplying to Liberia. After selling energy over a period of ten months (March 2023-December 2023) the ARREARS OWED by LIBENERGY to LEC is alleged to be US\$4.00. It is alleged that LEC management WAIVED the US\$4.00 million LIBENERGY owed the LEC, while it is alleged that the government and LEC owed CL Energy US\$17.00 million for energy already used in Liberia. In addition, it is also alleged the LEC Management reviewed the contract agreement which was signed in March 2023 between the LEC and LIBENERGY and was renewed for additional fifteen (15) years. The question is what was the basis for the renewal and extension after failing to pay the US\$4.00 million of energy already owed? This energy coming from the CL ENERGY is not free. And CL ENERGY has not and will not waive the amount to LEC if the Government of Liberia owed CL ENERGY. Considering the present operations of the LEC, it is necessary to review the current management team and if necessary, make some changes as well as appoint a new Board of Directors.

The government of Liberia should institute an Audit of the LEC and her partner (LIBENERGY) immediately. MR. Rudolph Merab-Illegal Logger?

A story appeared in the Daily Observer on February 2, 2024, written by James Harding Giahye, caption "Joseph Boakai nominates Rudolph Merab, an Illegal Logger and a critic of regulation and conservation effort to head the Forest Development Authority (FDA)." But was the Merab Brothers who had a company(ies) operating in Western Liberia illegal? Let us look at the period the writer mentioned in the story from 1991-2000. During this period, the country was governed by two different governments at different times. The National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government of Liberia during this period governed 90% of the territory of the country including Western Liberia (Ghapolu, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount Counties) the operational areas of the company owned by the Merab Brothers. As you are aware, there is no port for shipping logs in Western Liberia. The Merab Brothers registered their company both with NPRAGL and the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia, which has a port facility. The company pays taxes to both governments. Do you, the readers, call these illegal operations? We must be careful when we write. Get all the facts and do your analysis before writing. We leave you with these words, the power of the pen and education without wisdom is dangerous and what we need in our age is wisdom, even more than knowledge. Given the power of the pen and education conferred by science can give a new degree of wellbeing to all mankind, but without wisdom, they can bring only destruction.

WATCH OUT FOR PART TWO

# Court auctions CDC headquarters

The former ruling party CDC has lost every right over the property that hosted its party headquarters just less than two months after it turn over power.

Monrovia, Liberia, 7 March 2024: The Civil Law Court in Monrovia has ordered the property hosting the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) headquarters to be seized and sold to raise a targeted amount of US\$54,170.00 and

The court has mandated that the defendant be brought before it to be dealt with according to law unless they pay the sum of money or show the property to the court officers to be sold to raise the judgment amount.

The order came after the court stripped CDC of

its administrators, as well as the intestate Estate of the late Williams Thomas

Bernard represented by its Executory Administrator Archibald F. Bernard, Nancy Freddy Bernard Froomnan, Murary Bernard, Vivian Bernard, Willa Bernard, Leona P. Bernard, and Archibald F. Bernard.

The court said upon receiving money from the sale or otherwise the Judgment Amount, the Sheriff is commanded to pay over to the Plaintiff/Appellee herein named the necessary sum to satisfy the Judgment.

The double writs from the Civil Law Court have evicted the former ruling party from its headquarters in Congo Town following a recent Supreme Court opinion against the CDC.

This eviction of the CDC is a clear embarrassment for a party just from power less than two months ago. But this development could also raise questions about its relations with Archibald F. Bernard, one of the family members in the property case who enjoyed close ties with the CDC during its rule.

ownership of the property which it used as its party headquarters throughout its six-year rule.

The case before the court was filed by Ebrima Varney Dempster for the Intestate Estate of Martha Stubblefield Bernard against the CDC and



L\$13,250.00. The court has further ordered that if its officers cannot find any land, goods, and chattel of the CDC, they are commanded to arrest the corporate officers and administrators of the party as the case may be.

# GSM companies booked right-handed

Start from back page

Gee County.

that a comprehensive report of the restitution to customers be presented to it, after compliance.

Committee Chair Representative Ivar K. Jones of Margibi County district #2, said on February 21, 2024, the body conducted hearing with LoneStar MTN and Orange Liberia, in keeping with the mandate of Plenary to inquire the quality of services being provided as it relates to the communication from Representative Johnson S.N. Williams of District No. 3, River

He said the Committee on Posts and Telecommunications invited LoneStar MTN and Orange Liberia to a hearing on February 21, 2024 in the Speaker's Conference Room at 2:00pm. Besides it also visited the Head Offices of LoneStar

MTN and Orange Liberia on February 23, 2024, to be informed about the methodology the companies have deployed to monitor their networks across the country.

He said during the hearing with the two GSM Companies,

the entities acknowledged the complaint against them and stated that they had some issues with their equipment being used to provide service to southeast Liberia.

According to Jones, the GSM companies informed the committee that their signals were disturbed by interferences, but they are exerting all efforts to address the problem in the southeast.

According to him, the two companies lamented that bad road condition is their greatest challenge in getting equipment to southeast Liberia. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# UL & Sharda University induct Joint Commission

universities seeks to provide an exchange of faculties and administrative staff and, an exchange of scholars at both graduate and undergraduate levels, among others.

Also, the MoU aims at collaborating on research projects, internships, exchange of academic information and materials, and promoting other academic cooperation as mutually agreed among both universities. Dr. Nelson in a special statement said that the implementation of the MoU

requires the commitment and collaboration of both institutions if they must achieve what they are all anticipating.

He said they are happy that today they have inducted and launched a Joint Commission for the forward march of both institutions. "Today is a remarkable and memorable day in the history of the University of Liberia and the Sharda University and Group of Companies of India, as we both sealed, [and] signed an MoU and induct a joint

commission to monitor and report on the implementation of this MoU." For his part, the President for International Relations, Sharda University and Group of Companies, Dr. Ashok Daryani extolled the University of Liberia for the partnership and cooperation. He committed Sharda University to uphold the MoU and its implementation policy, stating that they are more ready than ever before to provide scholarships, and other opportunities to the University of Liberia.

# War Crimes Court puts Senate in turmoil

Some of Liberia's ex-rebel leaders have been elected to top positions, including in the Liberian Senate. They hate war and economic crimes court advocacy, and one of their tactics is to instill fear that establishing the court would return the country to war.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Monrovia, Liberia, 8 March 2024: The Liberian Senate went helter-skelter on Thursday, 7 March 2024 upon receiving a resolution from the House of Representatives for the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court.

The resolution from the House of Representatives surfaced on the Liberian Senate floor Thursday after 40 representatives signed it earlier

leaders have been elected to top positions, including in the Liberian Senate. They hate war and economic crimes court advocacy, and one of their tactics is to instill fear that establishing the court would return the country to war.

While the Senate Secretary was reading the resolution, Maryland County Senator Gble-bo Browne raised a motion for the communication to be sent to both the Committee on Judiciary and National Security to report to plenary in two weeks.



on Tuesday this week to establish a War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia.

Senate secretary Nangbolor F. Sengeh read the resolution after it was received by the Liberian Senate Thursday.

Efforts to establish a War and Economic Crimes Court have received the backing of some lawmakers from the House of Representatives with the signing of a resolution which is hoped could lead to some legislations.

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.

There remains division among Liberians on whether to establish the war and economic crimes court, over 20 years since peace was restored to the war-ravaged West African Country.

Over 250,000 Liberians were killed in the conflict, millions were displaced, and properties worth millions of dollars were destroyed.

But suspects of war and economic crimes and their loyalists are defending impunity, while other Liberians continue to seek justice to deter future senseless civil crises.

Some of those ex-rebel

In reaction to the senator's motion, Bomi County Senator Edwin Snowe and River Gee County Senator Francis Dopoe described the issue of the War and Economic Crimes Court as a national security.

The two senators said this issue should be given key attention, suggesting that the committee's review of the instrument should be reduced to a week instead of two.

Following the proposals, the Liberian Senate became emotionally charged with almost every senator giving diverse views.

The political atmosphere in the Senate led the Senate President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence to call for an executive consultation about what should be done.

A few minutes after their leadership consultation, Pro-Tempore Karnga-Lawrence announced that the resolution should be sent to both the Committees on Judiciary and National Security as proffered earlier by Senator Brown.

Before being sent to the relevant committees, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon sought clarity as to whether the instrument was a bill, a petition, or a resolution.

"I want us to be clear on this. The document sent to this Senate from the House of Representatives, is it a bill or the Legislature is petitioning itself or a resolution?" Dillon asked.

But Senator Brown clarified that what the Senate has received was a

## GSM companies booked right-handed

**-ordered to reconstitute customers' unused credits**

Capitol Hill, Monrovia, March 7, 2024 - The House of Representatives Committee on Posts and Telecommunications has instructed two GSM companies here to reconstitute unused credits of customers' in the Southeast of Liberia

By Bridgett Milton

Following a probe into reasons why Lonestar Cell MTN and Orange Liberia GSM Companies recently provided deteriorating services to is part of several recommendations proffered to Plenary of the House of Representatives on Thursday, 7 March after the body received full insight of challenges that led to the deterioration of services in the networks of LoneStar MTN. He alleged that for the period of two months services of the GSM provider, including voice calls, SMS and internet for most part of the day were unstable and that the company failed to provide information or notification to thousands of



southeast Liberia, House Committee on Posts and Telecommunications has instructed the two GSM companies to reconstitute customers' unused credits in that part of the country. The committee's mandate

On February 15, 2024 during the 11th day sitting of the House, River Gee County district #3 Representative, Johnson N. Williams, complained to the House through a communication about the poor services of LoneStar MTN.

subscribers. However, the House's Committee on Posts and Telecommunications during Thursday's session recommended to the Plenary

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