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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024	L\$191.5579/US\$1.00	L\$193.4870/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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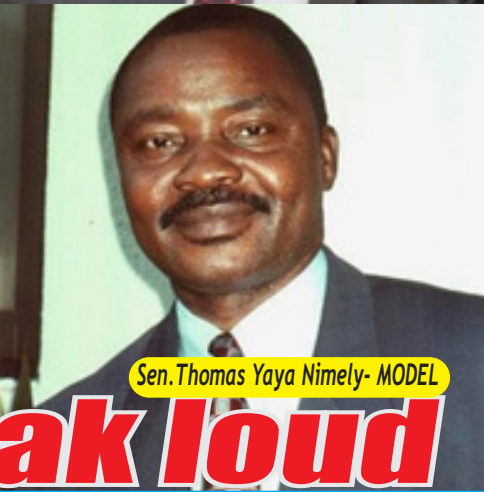


Sen. Prince Y. Johnson-INPFL

A new gang against War Crimes Court?



Former Pro-Tempore Chie



Sen. Thomas Yaya Nimely- MODEL

-As PYJ, Nimely, and Chie speak loud



Chief Justice Yuoh

Yuoh struggling with health issues

-Missing at Supreme Court opening

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Continental News

Gunmen Seize 15 Children From School in Nigeria

Nigerian army troops patrol near LEA Primary and Secondary School Kuriga where world. Armed gangs have since targeted schools for kidnap ransoms, resulting in at least



students were kidnapped in Kuriga

Armed men broke into a boarding school in northwestern Nigeria early Saturday and seized 15 children as they slept, police told The Associated Press, about 48 hours after nearly 300 students were taken hostage in the conflict-hit region.

School abductions are common in Nigeria's northern region, especially since the 2014 kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls by Islamic extremists in Borno state's Chibok village shocked the

1,400 abducted since then. The gunmen in the latest attack invaded the Gidan Bakuso village of the Gada council area in Sokoto state about 1 a.m. local time, police said. They headed to the Islamic school where they seized the children from their hostel before security forces could arrive, Sokoto police spokesman Ahmad Rufa'i told the AP.

One woman was also abducted from the village, Rufa'i said, adding that a police tactical squad was deployed to search for the students. The inaccessible roads in the area, however, challenged the rescue operation, he said. "It is a remote village (and) vehicles

cannot go there; they (the police squad) had to use motorcycles to the village," he said.

Saturday's attack was the third mass kidnapping in northern Nigeria since late last week, when more than 200 people, mostly women and children, were abducted by suspected extremists in Borno state. On Thursday, 287 students were also taken hostage from a government primary and secondary school in Kaduna state. The attacks highlight a security crisis that has plagued Africa's most populous country. Kidnappings for ransom have become lucrative across Nigeria's northern region, where dozens of armed gangs operate. No group claimed responsibility for any of the abductions. While Islamic extremists who are waging an insurgency in northeastern Nigeria are suspected of carrying out the kidnapping in Borno state, locals blamed the school kidnappings on herders who had been in conflict with their host communities before taking up arms. Nigeria's Vice President Kashim Shettima, meanwhile, met with authorities and some parents of the abducted students in Kaduna state Saturday and assured them of efforts by security forces to find the children and rescue them.

Mass Kidnappings of Nigerian Students Leave Parents in Shock and Despair

Rashidat Hamza is in despair. All but one of her six children are among the nearly 300 students abducted from their school in Nigeria's conflict-battered northwest.

More than two days after her children — ages 7 to 18 — went to school in remote Kuriga town only to be herded away by a band of gunmen, she was still in shock Saturday.

"We have never seen this kind of thing where our children were abducted from their school," she told an Associated Press team that arrived in the Kaduna state town to report on Thursday's attack. "We don't know what to do, but we believe in God."

The kidnapping in Kuriga was only one of three mass kidnappings in northern Nigeria since late last week, a reminder of the security crisis plaguing Africa's most populous country. A group of gunmen abducted 15 children from a school in another northwestern state, Sokoto, before dawn Saturday, and a few days earlier

200 people were kidnapped in northeastern Borno state. It was in Borno's Chibok town a decade ago that school kidnappings in Nigeria burst into the headlines with the 2014 abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls by Islamic extremists, shocking the world.

No group claimed responsibility for any of the recent abductions. But Islamic extremists waging an insurgency in the northeast are suspected of carrying out the kidnapping in

Borno. Locals blame the school kidnappings on herders who are in conflict with the settled communities.

Among the students abducted Thursday were at least 100 children aged 12 or younger. They were just settling into their classrooms at the government primary and secondary school when gunmen "came in dozens, riding on bikes and shooting sporadically," said Nura Ahmad, a teacher.

The school sits by the road just at the entrance of Kuriga



A woman prays for the kidnapped LEA Primary and Secondary School students in Kuriga

Muslims Spot Ramadan Crescent Moon in Saudi Arabia

Officials saw the crescent moon Sunday night in Saudi Arabia, home to the holiest sites in Islam, marking the start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan for many of the world's 1.8 billion Muslims.

The sacred month, which sees those observing abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset, marks a period of religious reflection, family get-togethers and giving across the Muslim world. Seeing the moon Sunday night means Monday is the first day of the fast.

Saudi state television reported authorities there saw the crescent moon. Soon after, multiple Gulf Arab nations, as well as Iraq and Syria, followed the announcement to confirm they as well would start fasting on Monday. Leaders also shared messages of congratulations that the month had begun.

However, there are some Asia-Pacific countries like

provide safe humanitarian and relief corridors," the king said. Meanwhile, inflation and high prices of food around the world since the pandemic began continues to pinch. In Saudi Arabia, the kingdom had been urging the public to watch the skies from Sunday night in preparation for the sighting of the crescent moon. Ramadan works on a lunar calendar and moon-sighting methodologies often vary between countries, meaning some nations declare the start of the month earlier or later.

However, many Sunni-dominated nations in the Middle East follow the lead of Saudi Arabia, home to Mecca and its cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims pray toward five times a day.

In Iran, which views itself as the worldwide leader of Islam's minority Shiites, authorities typically begin Ramadan a day after Sunnis start. Already, the office of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced Ramadan will start on Tuesday,



Members of the Palestinian Astronomical Society and Waqf team use a telescope to look for a crescent moon ahead of the Muslim

Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, that will begin Ramadan on Tuesday after failing to see the crescent moon. Oman, on the easternmost edge of the Arabian Peninsula, similarly announced Ramadan would begin Tuesday. Jordan will also begin Ramadan on Tuesday.

This year's Ramadan comes as the Middle East remains inflamed by the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. That's raised fears that the conflict may spark unrest far beyond the current borders of the war. Saudi King Salman specifically pointed to the Israel-Hamas war in remarks released to the public after the Ramadan announcement. "As it pains us that the month of Ramadan falls this year, in light of the attacks our brothers in Palestine are suffering from, we stress the need for the international community to assume its responsibilities, to stop these brutal crimes, and

according to the state-run IRNA news agency. During Ramadan, those observing typically break their fast with a date and water, following the tradition set by the Prophet Muhammad. Then they'll enjoy an "iftar," or a large meal. They'll have a pre-dawn meal, or "suhour," to sustain themselves during the daylight hours. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar; the month cycles through the seasons and the months in the Gregorian calendar.

Muslims try to avoid conflict and focus on acts of charity during the holy month. However, the war in the Gaza Strip is looming large over this year's Ramadan for many Muslims.

The war began on Oct. 7 with Hamas' attack on Israel that killed around 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage. Israel responded with a grinding war targeting the Gaza Strip that so far has seen more than 30,000 Palestinians killed and an intense siege of the seaside enclave

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, and Isaac T. Settro of the United States of America.

The Proposed Liberia Economic Crime Court: A Potential Tool for Justice or a Political Farce?

They Are Two True and Great Sons of Liberia Who Believe in the Social and Economic Justice of Every Liberian and Humanity in General:

It is an age-old argument, as timely as it is timeless, that the rule of law is a fundamental determinant in the sustenance of any functional democracy; it is critical in ensuring order and justice within society.

Is it a viable mechanism for ensuring accountability in the realm of economic crime? As the political drama unfolds in Liberia, the proposed establishment of the Liberia Economic Crime Court brings this debate into sharp focus.

The central questions underlying this debate: Could this court effectively clamp down on the alleged economic crimes orchestrated by government officials? Or will it just be another political farce?

The magnitude of economic crime, often synonymous with corruption, in Liberia, is disturbingly high, especially within the government corridors.

Therefore, several pacts pose the rationale for the need to form a court specifically targeting such severe economic crimes. The goal seeks not only to try the alleged perpetrators but also ideally, to serve as a deterrent from future felonious exploits.

This arises from a moral premise that those bestowed the honor to serve should do so with utmost integrity, truthfulness, and transparency. More specifically, the focus seems firmly fixed on top echelons, the 55th Legislature, President Boakai, and Vice President Koung.

For the proposed Liberia Economic Crime Court to serve its intended purpose, its bureaucracy must stringently adhere to the principles of due process.

We believe that officials who have been accused in the TRC Report and other Audit Reports, and officials who may be accused very soon via Audit Reports of alleged economic crimes must be accorded fair, impartial, and speedy trials, and the innocent should be shielded from unjust sentencing. In contrast, the guilty should be held accountable for their actions, irrespective of their political or social standing.

However, in a brutal reality check, the

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effectiveness of the Liberia Economic Crime Court might not be as definitive as it has appeared in newspapers or the news. Though essential theoretically, the jury is still out regarding its practical impact.

Liberians have seen and know that impunity among high-ranking government officials and potential undue political interferences have historically undercut Liberia's justice system. Whether this court can isolate itself from these systemic issues to a significant extent, will determine its effectiveness.

It is imperative that the Liberian populace trust the court proceedings and not perceive them as mere political circuses cashing in on the anti-corruption rhetoric.

If President Boakai and Vice President Koung, Speaker Koffa, Protemp Lawrence, and members of the 55th Legislature genuinely have nothing to hide, particularly in the Commercial Banking in Liberia, they should unequivocally support this initiative, subject their actions to scrutiny, and not seek sanctuary under immunity clauses.

They ought to demonstrate their commitment to fighting corruption through their actions rather than public pronouncements. As Liberians, we say that, If the Court can impartially dispense justice and foster a culture of accountability and good governance within Liberia's upper echelons, then the country stands a chance at turning around its corruption woes.

It also signifies the bigger picture, that the judiciary can assert its independence even amidst overwhelming political pressures, hence reinstating its legitimacy. We believe that a properly structured and fairly administered Liberia Economic Crime Court could potentially be a powerful mechanism for fighting economic crimes and reigniting faith in judicial processes.

We see stiff resistance, political interferences, and systemic issues remain challenges to be overcome for the Court to function as the beacon of justice it is intended to become. We believe that, nevertheless, Liberians can continue to hope for justice while remaining vigilant on this vital democratic journey.

OP-ED

By Zhang Jun, Tomas Casas-K

Understanding China's Political Economy

SHANGHAI - As China grapples with enormous challenges - including an imploding property sector, unfavorable demographics, and slowing growth - doubts about the future of the world's largest growth engine are intensifying. Add to that China's geopolitical rise, together with deepening tensions with the United States, and the need to understand China's political economy is becoming more urgent than ever.

A recent book by MIT's Yasheng Huang - *The Rise and Fall of the EAST: How Exams, Autocracy, Stability, and Technology Brought China Success, and Why They Might Lead to Its Decline* - can help. Huang unpacks the "EAST" heuristic from the historical record of the last two and a half millennia, especially the last 40 years, to arrive at a clear conclusion: China must make radical changes if it is going to realize its full development potential.

Huang argues that the seeds of China's decline were planted as far back as the sixth century, with the implementation of the stifling Keju civil-service examination system. In his view, this system provides an answer to the historian Joseph Needham's "grand question": Why did imperial China, with its profound scientific and technological advantages, fail to launch its own Industrial Revolution long before Europe did?

Before the Keju system was introduced, China was producing some of history's most transformative inventions, such as gunpowder, the compass, and paper. But Huang's empirical research suggests that Chinese creativity peaked between 220 and 581, during the rather chaotic Han-Sui Interregnum. "The first wave of technological stagnation in China," Huang observes, "coincides with the end of China's political fragmentation."

The *Rise and Fall of the EAST* does seem to overstate some aspects of the historical record, in order to offer a "cleaner" narrative than might be warranted. For example, a dataset of prime ministerial resignations forms the basis of Huang's conclusion that, with the introduction of Keju, checks and balances between emperors and their bureaucrats disappeared in favor of a "symbiotic relationship." The result is an almost linear narrative of decline. But that is difficult to square with the Qing dynasty's "industrious revolution," during which China's population more than doubled and its share of global GDP reached one-third.

Huang can also be extremely perceptive, however, such as when he challenges David Landes's judgment that the state kills technological progress. Instead, Huang argues that "China's early lead in technology was derived critically - and possibly exclusively - from the role of the state." Quoting the Nobel laureate economist Douglass North, he writes: "If you want to realize the potential of modern technology, you cannot do it with the state, but you cannot do without [the state], either."

But what kind of state? In Huang's view, autocracy "has deep roots in China because of its near-immaculate design, absence of civil society, and deep-seated values and norms." But China's tendency toward "unitary rule," he writes, is fundamentally cultural, with the "causal direction" of autocracy running "from culture to politics, not the other way around."

Similarly, many modern Chinese scholars blame China's waning fortunes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on conservative Confucian ideology, which lacked any spirit of discovery or impetus for risk-taking. Huang even suggests that, in times when Buddhists and Daoists represented a larger share of prominent historical figures, relative to Confucians, novel ideas were more likely to flourish.

But there are reasons to believe that China's state structures and policy preferences are not just cultural in origin, but also - or perhaps rather - the result of deliberate institutional arrangements. For example, China's business organizations are famously run by domineering laoban, or bosses. In any case, a narrow focus on China's top-down structures can obscure the bottom-up nature of many aspects of Chinese political and economic life.

As Huang notes, the Chinese political economy is characterized not only by control, but also by autonomy. While China has benefited from state management, in the form of deliberate, top-down policies (exemplified by the government's Five-Year Plans), private initiatives that are bottom-up and chaotic (such as entrepreneurial activity) have also proved vital to its development. Understanding the balance between control and autonomy is essential to any assessment of the challenges China faces, from unleashing "animal spirits" to implementing institutional reforms.

The *Rise and Fall of the EAST* also considers why China has so far managed to avoid what he calls "Tullock's curse" - the instability or conflict caused by the bad and misaligned incentives that define autocratic successions. But it might have benefited from a deeper analysis of another phenomenon explored by the economist Gordon Tullock: rent-seeking.

Any country's economic- and human-development trajectory is determined largely by whether the elites use their power to create or to extract value. Some degree of rent-seeking is probably unavoidable. One might dismiss the "robber barons" of nineteenth-century America as amoral, but the Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Carnegies, and others played a pivotal role in making the US the world's most prosperous country. Likewise, the tech monopolies created by the likes of Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg continue to exemplify American innovation.

OPINION

By Ulrich Volz, Rebecca Ray

Making Climate Finance Affordable

BOSTON/LONDON - Emerging-market and developing economies (EMDEs) will need an estimated \$2.4 trillion in climate investment annually to meet climate goals, according to the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance, with \$1 trillion coming from external sources. Achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require even more financing: an increase of \$3.5 trillion in new investments annually by 2030. These are daunting figures. But they are also nonnegotiable.

Raising trillions of dollars in new external finance would be difficult at the best of times. It is even trickier when the world is facing an escalating debt crisis. After examining newly available data on 108 EMDEs, the Boston University Global Development Policy Center found that more than half - 62 countries - are already at high risk of debt distress. Moreover, an additional 33 countries are severely constrained in their ability to access capital markets, owing largely to poor economic-growth prospects following the COVID-19 pandemic, advanced-economy interest-rate hikes, and below-investment-grade bond ratings.

The vast majority of EMDEs are thus facing debt distress or prohibitively high borrowing costs. But these are precisely the countries that are most in need of financing to meet climate and development goals. Of these 95 countries, 83 have higher needs for investment in climate-change mitigation (lowering emissions) or adaptation (building resilience against extreme weather events) than the typical (median) country. And 73 of them have more potential to expand their national protected areas, either on land or in their coastal waters, than the typical country.

A key problem is that investments in, say, protecting nature do not necessarily boost short-term economic growth. Instead, they build long-term resilience - including a greater ability to withstand extreme weather events like hurricanes and droughts - thereby making future crises less likely. This includes future debt crises: climate vulnerability and nature loss can undermine debt sustainability, and climate change increases sovereign risk and the cost of capital.

To break the cycle of environmental and economic crises, and move toward a new cycle of sustainable growth, countries must invest now. That is why any strategy for addressing climate change and delivering on the SDGs must include measures to lower barriers to new finance, including targeted debt relief and more creative financing arrangements.

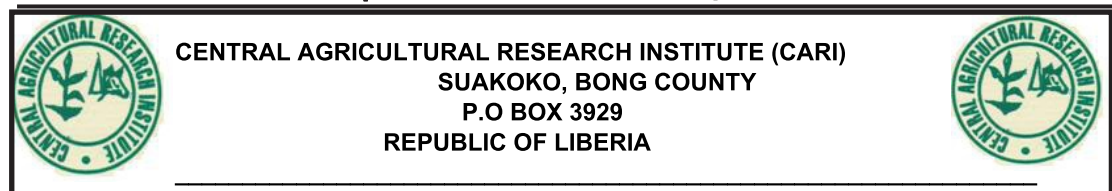
Debt relief is unavoidable. An ambitious debt-relief initiative akin to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank established in 1996, should be created to provide meaningful debt relief for the dozens of countries facing full-blown sovereign-debt crisis.

For this to work, all creditors must actively participate. To understand why, consider that at least half of the total external sovereign debt stock in 27 debt-distressed countries - many of which are low-income countries or small island developing states - is owed to multilateral creditors. This means that, even if all bilateral and private debt were canceled, some of the world's most vulnerable countries would remain weighed down by debt.

Major creditors must also take steps to reduce the cost of capital for certain types of investments, such as those that advance climate goals. To this end, many proposals have already been put forward. For example, Sustainable Future Bonds may allow for longer repayment terms and lower interest rates, making them better suited for investments with longer-term payouts.

Multilateral development banks (MDBs) also have an important role to play in providing EMDEs with easier access to capital. For example, they can raise the threshold for countries to access concessional lending, pursue capital increases that support higher lending, and work with governments and the private sector to reduce and share risks.

Making financing for climate action and conservation affordable is among the most urgent challenges confronting the world. The solution is clear: a combination of targeted debt relief, credit enhancements, and MDB reform. But so far, there has been a lack of will to implement it. If this does not change soon, we will learn firsthand that the costs of inaction far outweigh the costs of prevention.



CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI)
SUAKOKO, BONG COUNTY
 P.O BOX 3929
 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Project Title: **Smallholder Agriculture Development For food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS)**
 IFB NO.: **CARI/NCB/003/24**

March 11, 2024

Invitation for Bid

The Government of the Republic of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) Project has received grants from the Global Agriculture food security Program (GAFSP) of the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank Fund of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to finance the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) for Agriculture activities in Liberia.

Therefore, the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) now invites sealed quotations from eligible bidders for **Agri- Equipment** The needed Agri-Equipment are as follow:

Specification & Quantities

No.	Description	Quantity	Bid Security
LOT #1.	GPS	3 pcs	Bank Guarantee
	Drones	1 pc	
	Bag Sawing Machines	2 pcs	
	Power Tillers	2 pcs	
	Compact weeding machines	5 pcs	
	Sprayer (motorized)	1 pcs	
	Sprayer (manual)	16 pcs	
	Tower tiller footer	3 pcs	
LOT #22.	Tractor	1 pcs	Bank Guarantee
	Tractor Bush Hall	1 pcs	

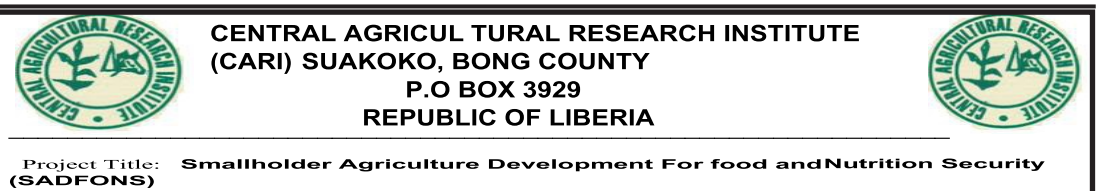
The Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Agro -Equipment for CARI's SADFONS Project, 2024.**

Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures specified and approved by the PPCC, and is opened to all eligible bidders. A complete set of Tender documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders at the **CARI's Sub -office, Ministry of Agriculture Annex, (PMU), old LPRC Road, Japan Freeway**, from February 23 - March 22, 2024, Monday to Friday, from 8:00am -4:00pm, at a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty -five (25) USD**.

Tenders must be delivered to the **Main Office of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Suakoko, Bong County**, at or before **March 22, 2024 by 1:00pm**. Tenders shall be valid for a period of **90 days** after the deadline of Tender submission. All Tenders must be accompanied by a **Bid Security (Bank Guarantee)** as described in the bidding document. Late Tenders will be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the **Main Conference Room of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Suakoko, Bong County, Liberia**, on **march 22, 2024 at 1:00 pm**.

For any further clarification, please contact:
 Project Focus Person
 P.O Box 3929
 Central Agricultural Research Institute,
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 Republic of Liberia
 Email Address: josephwoah@gmail.com macarthur404@yahoo.com
 0886888621/0770464860

SIGNED BY: MACARTHUR PAUL
 PROJECT PROCUREMENT OFFICER
 0770464860/0886874863



CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI) SUAKOKO, BONG COUNTY
 P.O BOX 3929
 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

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Therefore, the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) now invites sealed quotations from eligible bidders for **Small Tools** The needed Tools are as follow:

Specification & Quantities

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
1.	Regular hoes	100 pcs	Bid Security Declaration
2	Pin axes	100 pcs	
3	Cutlass	100 pcs	
4	Diggers	100 pcs	
5	Garden line (diameter 2-18 mm)	50 pcs	
6	Garden line (diameter: 5mm)	50 pcs	
8	Dekameter (100 m)	12 pcs	
9	Wheel barrows (tubeless tires)	10 pcs	
10	Sickle (harvest knife)	100 pcs	
11	Files	10 pcs	
12	Rain boat	120 pcs	
13	Rain suit	120 pcs	
14	Rakes	50 pcs	
15	Nusery Plastic (Transparent)	2 rolls	
16	Fernnor (wenron Material)	16 pcs	
17	Empty bags (50 kg & 100 kg)	400 pcs	
18	Empty bays (25 kg)	600 pcs	
19	Tampoline (40mm x 50 mm)	20 pcs	
20	Solar dryer (5m x15m)	1 pc	
21	Screen	9 rolls	
22	Mash wire	5 rolls	
23	Rubber buckets	16 pcs	
24	Scale (Small digital scale)	9 pcs	
25	sieve	20 pcs	
26	Tub (rubber)	24 pcs	
27	Bowl (small rubber bowl)	16 pcs	
28	Watering cans	50 pcs	
29	Multipurpose PH Meter	3 pcs	
30	Sawing thread	50 rolls	
31	Envelopes (for packaging)	100 pks	
32	Zip bag (for vegetable)	200 pcs	
33	Grinder	5 pcs	
34	Hand Drills	5 pcs	
35	shovels	100 pcs	

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 Central Agricultural Research Institute,
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 Email Address: josephwoah@gmail.com; macarthur404@yahoo.com
 0886888621/0770464860

Signed: MacArthur G. Paul
 Procurement Officer
 0770464860

A bidder will be selected under **National Competitive Bidding Method** and procedures described in this bidding document in accordance with the provisions of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission Act (PPCA) of September 2010 and its accompanying Regulation.

All interested bidders can obtain a copy of the bid documents from the procurement unit of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), for a non-refundable fee of **\$25.00 USD** beginning **23rd February 2024 to 22nd of March 2024** from **9: 00 AM to 4: 00 PM** Monday to Friday daily.

Sealed bids must be delivered to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) Office, Suakoko Bong County, no later than **1:00 pm 22nd March 2024**. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder who choose to attend or their representatives on **22nd March 2023 at 1:00 pm** in the main conference room of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Suakoko, Bong County.

For any further clarification, please contact:
 Project Focus Person
 P.O Box
 Central Agricultural Research Institute,
 Suakoko, Bong County,
 Republic of Liberia
 Email Address: josephwoah@gmail.com; macarthur404@yahoo.com
 0886888621/0770464860

SIGNED BY: MACARTHUR PAUL
 PROJECT PROCUREMENT OFFICER



CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI)
SUAKOKO, BONG COUNTY
P.O BOX 3929
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



Project Title: **Smallholder Agriculture Development For food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS)**

IFB NO.: **CARI/NCB/004/24**

March 11, 2024

Invitation for Bid

The Government of the Republic of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) Project has received grants from the Global Agriculture food security Program (GAFSP) of the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank Fund of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to finance the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) for Agriculture activities in Liberia.

Therefore, the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) now invites sealed quotations from eligible bidders for **Agri-Chemicals**The needed Agri-Chemicals are as follow:

Specification & Quantities

No.	Description	Quantity	Bid Security
1.	Insecticide (Hitcel Broad Spectrum)	100 liters	Bid Security Declaration
2	Broad Spectrum samagra	100 liters	
3	Insecticide (Broad Spectrum)	100 liters	
4	Fungicide (Broad Spectrum) Mancozeb or its equivalent	100 cans	
	Fungicide (broad Spectrum) Liquid, high protection	100	
5	Furidan (Nematicide)	50 kg	
6	Urea	150 bags	
7	Natural Nematicide	50 bags	
8	Fertilizer NPK	150 bags	
9	Limestone	100 bags	
10	Manure	1000 bags	

The Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Agro Chemicals** for CARI's /SADFONS Project,2024.

Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures specified and approved by the PPCC, and is opened to all eligible bidders. A complete set of Tender documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders at the **CARIS' Sub office, Ministry of Agriculture Annex, (PMU), old LPRC Road, Japan Freeway**, beginning February 23-March 22, 2024 Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm, at a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty-five (25) USD**.

Tenders must be delivered to the **Main Office of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Suakoko, Bong County**, at or before **March 22, 2024 by 1:00pm**. Tenders shall be **valid for a period of 90 days** after the deadline of Tender submission. All Tenders must be accompanied by a **Bid Security Declaration**. Late Tenders will be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the **Main Conference Room of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Suakoko, Bong County, Liberia**, on **March 22, 2024 at 1:00 pm**.

For any further clarification, please contact:

Project Focus Person
 P.O Box 3929
 Central Agricultural Research Institute,
 Suakoko, Bong County.
 Republic of Liberia
 Email Address: josephwoah@gmail.com; macarthur404@yahoo.com
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No data on Liberia's stage of poverty

-UN says

Like many developing nations, Liberia grapples with poverty as a persistent obstacle to progress and development. The lack of data to tell the stage of poverty in Liberia poses a further challenge for sustainable solutions.

By **Kruah Thompson**

Monrovia, Liberia, March 11, 2024: The United Nations says implementing sustainable solutions and tracking progress over time is challenging due to the lack of data to tell the stage of poverty in Liberia.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Liberia Country Representative, Comfort Lamptey, spoke of the increasingly challenging task to implement sustainable solutions and track progress over time.

Speaking during the observance of International Women's Day in Congo Town on Friday, 8 March 2024, she said this is due to the lack of data to tell the

cycle of poverty and exclusion. In response to this pressing issue, she called on the Government of Liberia to invest in getting gender data that will aid its international partners in alleviating poverty from across the country.

"So, one of the first things we need to do as a call to action is to invest in getting gender data to aid partners in addressing poverty in Liberia," she noted.

For her part, UN Resident Coordinator Christine Umutoni concurred with her counterparts, emphasizing the importance of supporting women's organizations. She called for investment in programs to end violence against women, and promote women's inclusion and leadership in



stage of poverty in Liberia. The International Women's Day celebration is an occasion dedicated to honor women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. During the celebration, Madam Lamptey underscored how this data gap exacerbates inequalities and undermines the rights and well-being of marginalized communities, particularly women and girls who often bear the brunt of poverty's impact.

She indicated that the absence of data on poverty not only hinders efforts to combat poverty but also obstructs the monitoring and evaluation of existing initiatives meant to empower women across the country. Liberia, like many developing nations, grapples with poverty as a persistent obstacle to progress and development. However, without accurate and up-to-date data, policymakers and organizations struggle to formulate targeted interventions and allocate resources where they are most needed.

Madam Lamptey said without accurate information, the voices of marginalized groups in the country may be overlooked, perpetuating a

economies, digital technologies, peacebuilding, and climate action. Recalling her father's advocacy for girls' education, she urged every young girl not to succumb to discrimination, fear, or any pressure that might lead them into drugs or prostitution. At the same time, she called upon women at the table to raise their voices and advocate for girls' education and empowerment.

In addition, Setta Saah Fofana, the National Coordinator of NACCEL, emphasized the importance of collective strategies to achieve women's empowerment, acknowledging the progress made in women's representation and empowerment in Liberia.

Meanwhile, The celebration also recognized individuals for their contributions. Madame Teanneh Brunson was honored as the best public servant, Korpo Howard as the most influential woman of the year, and Madam Oretha Thomas as the most dedicated staff at the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Red Cross celebrates women's leadership and service to humanity

While the world observed International Women's Day on 8 March 2024, there were suggestions that solutions that empower women are how many of the crises confronting the world which include poverty and climate change can be addressed.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, March 11, 2024: In honor of International Women's Day,

to society by delivering vital services to communities across Liberia. Red Cross Secretary General Mr. Gregory T. Blamoh

endeavors.

Mr. Blamoh stated that the LNRCS has been a champion of the vital role of women in humanitarian efforts, a commitment underscored by the formal launch of the LNRCS Women Forum in September 2022. "The Liberian Red Cross remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting and uplifting women, ensuring their voices are heard, their rights are respected, and their contributions are recognized," said Mr. Blamoh. He further said they were inspired by the global resolve to enhance women's representation and achieve gender parity by 2030.

The LNRCS Secretary General added that the Red Cross Women's Forum embodies the spirit of empowerment, resilience, and inclusion. Mr. Blamoh said through the Women's Forum, the LNRCS is steadfast in its dedication to nurturing women's leadership, fostering gender equality, and promoting inclusivity in all facets of its operations. He concluded that together they stand united in their pursuit of a more just, equitable, and inclusive world.



the Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) extends celebrated women across Liberia and beyond, recognizing their indispensable contributions to the service of humanity.

The day was observed under the theme: 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.' This year's theme resonates deeply with the LNRCS' mission of supporting women to thrive and contribute meaningfully

spoke during the celebration, saying the Red Cross celebrates the achievements of women within and outside the Red Cross.

He commended their unwavering dedication, courage, and compassion in the face of adversity.

He explained that from volunteers to staff members, community leaders to frontline responders, women continue to be the driving force behind humanitarian

Nimba University refutes sex for grade claim

Authorities of Nimba University in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, have dismissed reports of faculty offering grades for sex as baseless.

Sanniquellie, Nimba County, Liberia, March 10, 2024: The administration of Nimba University in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, dismisses a report of faculty demanding sex and money for grades as false and misleading.

In an interview with The NEW DAWN on Thursday, March 7, 2024, in Monrovia, the university's Communication Director, Rev. Alastair Zoreg, clarified that such alleged practices do not exist at the institution.

Rev. Zoreg also denied the writing of blank checks by the University president, Dr. Jesse Noah Mongrue, and the withdrawal of 80 million Liberian Dollars at any time from the University's account at the Central Bank of Liberia.

He also denied report of more than 80 students being placed on probation for failure to attain a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00,

noting that grade sheets for the semester ended have not been released to students.

Also speaking, the university's faculty chair, Theophilus G. Younquoi, said Nimba University is a new institution committed to upholding moral values and ethical principles.

"We do not believe in any act that may malign the institution; if we were involved in sex for

grade, we wouldn't have 80 students on probation. We are a reputable institution trying to instil values needed in society tomorrow", Mr. Younquoi said.

Recently, some of the University's students accused the administration and the teaching staff of demanding sex for grades, while male students alleged that lecturers constantly ask for money.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Ex-Chief Justice's family cries for justice

-A Supreme Court opens

Family of former Chief Justice and murder convict, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott has expressed hope for justice and freedom for their family members. According to the family, they anticipate hearing by the Supreme Court of Liberia into an appeal filed against the guilty verdict and judgement of Criminal Court 'A'.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 10, 2024 -The family of former Chief Justice and murder convict Gloria Musu Scott has expressed hope for justice and freedom for their family members as they anticipate hearing an appeal filed against the guilty verdict and judgment of Criminal Court 'A.'

Former Development Superintendent of Maryland County Nathaniel Toe has termed the indictment and subsequent guilty verdict against Justice Gloria Musu Scott and family members products of political manipulation and machination.

Speaking on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, edition of the Hott Morning Live on Hott FM, Mr. Toe said the shady events that characterized the investigation, trial, and post-verdict startling revelations are enough proof that Justice Scott was a target of

in the United States about a month ago. Among them, he said that the investigation findings didn't suggest the crimes mentioned in the indictment. Still, heavy hands interfered and insisted that Cllr. Scott and her family are charged as such.

Toe said the revelations by ACP Dennis and the suspension and fining of former Solicitor General Nyanti Tuan for breaking jury rules are enough reasons why Cllr. Scott and three other family members should not even be in jail by now because the charges were politically motivated, manufactured, and "criminally" placed in both the police charge sheet and the indictment.

He wondered why politicians were chasing Mr. Dennis everywhere and forcing him to sign an investigation report that he, Dennis, as Chief Investigator, did not agree with.

This, he said, is another confirmation that Justice Scott is a



persecution and not necessarily a prosecution.

His recent assertions are similar to several public appearances in which he has repeatedly drawn attention to strange happenings around Cllr. Scott and her family, before, during, and after their trial in the lower court.

Many of callers on the show agreed with Mr. Toe that Cllr. Scott and their family are actually the victims who have dramatically been turned into perpetrators, and the family should feel vindicated by the recent revelations of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Monroe Dennis that the investigation findings in the Charloe Musu murder case did not suggest the charges levied against the defendants.

It may be recalled that the Head of the Police Investigation Team, ACP Monroe A. Dennis, made many shocking revelations on a local radio station (Hott FM)

victim of a political witch-hunt and a target of a wicked plot and concocted theories of lies and fabrication.

Justice Scott and three members of her family are remanded at the Monrovia Central Prison, awaiting a hearing into an appeal filed before the Supreme Court following a guilty verdict handed down by what the family calls a compromised jury at the Criminal Court 'A' in November 2023.

Mr. Toe told his audience that the question of a possibility of intrusion into the former Chief Justice's residence was a major contending issue during the murder trial because investigators of the Liberia National Police ruled out any possibility that anybody could intrude into the house, a conclusion that defense lawyers vehemently resisted through evidence, including expert testimonies, insisting that there were many possibilities of intrusion and that the murder was committed by an intruder on the night of February 22, 2023.

Français

L'équipe de Boakai chargée de la lutte contre la corruption sous le feu des critiques

Les efforts du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai en matière de lutte contre la corruption sont considérés par certains critiques comme du simple spectacle visant à attirer des miettes de la communauté internationale pour soutenir son gouvernement.

Le vendredi 8 mars, la présidence a publié les noms de 15 personnes, qu'elle a qualifiées d'équipe centrale, chargées de suivre et de mettre en œuvre le décret n° 126 portant création du Bureau de recouvrement d'avoirs.

Cependant, les discussions sur plusieurs stations de radio locales vendredi soir ont révélé

Robertson, vice-présidente ; M. Alexander Cuffy, membre, conseiller spécial ; M. Martin Kollie, membre, militant de la bonne gouvernance ; M. Ahmed Dempster, membre, EFFL Emmanuel Gonquoi, membre et défenseur ; Dr. Ranny B. Jackson, membre, expert en politiques publiques ; et Mme Angel Andrews, membre, représentante des jeunes.

Le reste de l'équipe est composé de Mme Victoria Moinsmah, membre du milieu des affaires ; M. George Moore, membre de la sécurité ; John Mulbah Gblee, membre de la sécurité ; et M. Trocon Martin Allen, membre représentant du secteur privé de l'Agence des services généraux, représentant de la police nationale du Liberia et représentant du ministère de la Justice.

Un message nuisible sur les réseaux sociaux, prétendument écrit par l'ancien vérificateur général John Morlu, décrivait le président Boakai comme suivant les traces de ses prédécesseurs.

“Le décret visant à créer un groupe de travail de recouvrement d'avoirs dès le départ n'est qu'une posture de la part de JNB visant à gonfler l'espace dans le seul but

▶ CONT'D page 9



L'équipe de 15 personnes chargée du recouvrement d'avoirs du président Joseph N. Boakai a été placée sous une intense surveillance du public quelques heures seulement après son annonce vendredi.

plusieurs “secrets cachés” de personnes siégeant au sein du groupe de travail, de son président, Edwin Kla-Martins, à d'autres membres de l'équipe.

Les autres membres de l'équipe sont Mme Maima

Pas de données sur le niveau de pauvreté au Liberia selon l'ONU

À l'instar de nombreux pays en développement, le Liberia lutte contre la pauvreté, obstacle constant au progrès et au développement. L'absence de données pour évaluer le niveau de pauvreté au Liberia complique davantage la mise en place de solutions durables.

Les Nations Unies déclarent que la mise en œuvre de solutions durables et le suivi des progrès dans le temps sont entravés par le manque de données sur le niveau de pauvreté au Liberia.

Comfort Lamptey, Représentante de l'Entité des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes (ONU Femmes) au Liberia, a évoqué la difficulté croissante de mettre en œuvre des solutions durables et de suivre les progrès au fil du temps.

S'exprimant lors de la Journée internationale de la femme à Congo Town le vendredi 8 mars 2024, elle a attribué cette difficulté à l'absence de données permettant d'évaluer le niveau de pauvreté au Liberia.

La Journée internationale

de la femme est une occasion dédiée à célébrer les réalisations sociales, économiques, culturelles et politiques des femmes.

Lors de la célébration, Mme Lamptey a souligné comment ce manque de données exacerbe les inégalités et porte atteinte aux droits et au bien-être des communautés marginalisées, en particulier les femmes et les filles qui subissent souvent de plein fouet les impacts de la pauvreté.

Elle a indiqué que l'absence de données sur la pauvreté entrave non seulement les efforts de lutte contre la pauvreté, mais aussi le suivi et l'évaluation des initiatives

existantes visant à autonomiser les femmes à travers le pays.

Comme de nombreux pays en développement, le Liberia lutte contre la pauvreté, obstacle persistant au progrès et au développement.

Cependant, sans données précises et à jour, les décideurs et les organisations peinent à formuler des interventions ciblées et à allouer des ressources là où elles sont le plus nécessaires.

Mme Lamptey a déclaré que sans information précise, les voix des groupes marginalisés

▶ 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'équipe de Boakai chargée**

d'obtenir quelques miettes de la communauté internationale pour soutenir son gouvernement", peut-on lire dans le message.

Dans le message présumé, M. Morlu aurait soutenu que le nouveau régime utilise les mêmes tactiques appliquées par le prédécesseur de Boakai, M. George Manneh Weah, avec l'accord Elton destiné à attirer Bretton Wood.

Une source proche de M. John Morlu a déclaré à ce journal dimanche que l'ancien vérificateur général avait nié être l'auteur d'une critique aussi dommageable de l'équipe de recouvrement d'avoirs de Boakai.

Cependant, les détails de la position en coulisses de Morlu ne sont pas disponibles. Pourtant, les rumeurs dans certains milieux suggèrent que certains éléments pourraient ne pas se sentir à l'aise de l'avoir trop près du président.

Dans le message, Morlu aurait soutenu qu'"A Kla Martin, un protégé de [l'ancien Solliciteur général libérien sanctionné Cllr. Saymah Syrenius] Cephus ne peut pas être le messie pour recouvrer les richesses volées dispersées

non seulement au Liberia mais aussi en Amérique, en Europe, en Asie et dans d'autres parties de l'Afrique."

Le message ajoutait également qu'"A [Alexander] Cuffy, dans le rapport de la GAC sur l'RIA, accusé de corruption multiple à la FIU, n'est pas non plus un messie."

Le message continuait en disant qu'un Dr. Ranny B. Jackson, avec sa main tachée par les fonds de développement du comté de Bong, ne pouvait pas être un messie dans ce combat.

"Ils n'ont pas l'intégrité, l'éducation, l'exposition et la compétence nécessaires pour mener ce combat. On ne peut pas mettre en place une équipe sérieuse dans le simple but de satisfaire les besoins en matière d'emploi, sans compétence, expérience, éducation et exposition", aurait déclaré M. Morlu dans le message.

Cependant, alors que de nombreux experts tentent de vérifier si le message provenait de M. Morlu, dans un contre-message du Dr. Rennie Jackson, il accuse M. Morlu de diffamation tout en révélant que M. Morlu gagnait 25 000 dollars américains par mois pendant son passage à la Commission générale d'audit.

Starts from page 8 **Pas de données sur**

du pays risquent d'être négligées, perpétuant ainsi un cycle de pauvreté et d'exclusion.

En réponse à ce problème urgent, elle a appelé le gouvernement libérien à investir dans la collecte de données ventilées par sexe afin d'aider ses partenaires internationaux à réduire la pauvreté dans tout le pays.

"Ainsi, l'un des premiers éléments d'appel à l'action est d'investir dans la collecte de données ventilées par sexe pour aider les partenaires à lutter contre la pauvreté au Liberia", a-t-elle souligné.

Pour sa part, Christine Umutoni, Coordinatrice résidente des Nations Unies, a abondé dans le sens de ses homologues, en insistant sur l'importance de soutenir les organisations féminines.

Elle a appelé à des investissements dans des programmes visant à mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes et à promouvoir l'inclusion et le leadership des femmes dans l'économie, les technologies numériques, la consolidation de la paix et l'action climatique.

Rappelant le plaidoyer de

son père pour l'éducation des filles, elle a exhorté chaque jeune fille à ne pas succomber à la discrimination, à la peur ou à toute pression qui pourrait les conduire à la drogue ou à la prostitution.

Dans le même temps, elle a appelé les femmes présentes à élever la voix et à plaider pour l'éducation et l'autonomisation des filles.

En outre, Setta Saah Fofana, Coordinatrice nationale du NACCEL, a souligné l'importance des stratégies collectives pour parvenir à l'autonomisation des femmes, tout en reconnaissant les progrès réalisés en matière de représentation et d'autonomisation des femmes au Liberia.

Parallèlement, la célébration a également permis de rendre hommage à des personnes pour leurs contributions. Madame Teanneh Brunson a été honorée en tant que meilleure fonctionnaire, Korpo Howard en tant que femme la plus influente de l'année et Madame Oretha Thomas en tant que personnel le plus dévoué du ministère du Genre, de l'Enfance et de la Protection Sociale.

Réunion stratégique tripartite CEDEAO-UEMOA-UE sur l'INDICI



Les Commissions de la CEDEAO et de l'UEMOA, ainsi que les délégations de l'UE à Abuja, Ouagadougou, Bruxelles et Accra, de même que les agences spécialisées de la CEDEAO, se sont réunies à Accra les 7 et 8 mars 2024 pour la réunion tripartite CEDEAO-UEMOA-UE afin de programmer et mettre en œuvre l'Instrument de voisinage, de développement et de coopération internationale 2021-2027 pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Ce mécanisme de coordination tripartite a été créé par les trois organisations pour consolider leur cadre de consultation et de coopération pour une meilleure mise en œuvre de l'Instrument de voisinage, de développement et de coopération internationale de l'UE au niveau de la CEDEAO et de l'UEMOA. Plus précisément, cette réunion stratégique permettra de faire le point sur la programmation et la mise en œuvre du programme indicatif pluriannuel (PIP) 2021-2027 ; de discuter de la mise en place d'un système efficace de pilotage, de mise en œuvre et de suivi de l'INDICI pour la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest ; d'échanger des vues sur les conclusions et les décisions de l'examen à mi-parcours de l'INDICI ; de veiller à ce que les priorités de la région soient effectivement prises en compte dans la programmation des plans d'action annuels ; et

d'identifier les goulets d'étranglement et les défis dans la programmation et le suivi de l'INDICI. Dans son discours d'ouverture, M. Jonas CLAES, chargé d'affaires à la délégation de l'UE au Ghana, a exprimé sa gratitude à la CEDEAO et à l'UEMOA pour leur engagement à soutenir le processus de programmation et de mise en œuvre du programme indicatif pluriannuel 2021-2027 pour l'Afrique. Il a également indiqué que la réunion permettrait d'identifier les goulets d'étranglement dans le processus en cours et de formuler des recommandations visant à avoir un impact positif sur les citoyens de la région, principaux bénéficiaires des programmes.

M. Arnaud Cédric KIEMA, Directeur de la Coopération de la Commission de l'UEMOA, a souligné l'importance de maintenir ce cadre de dialogue entre les Commissions de la CEDEAO et de l'UEMOA et l'UE, qui permettra aux trois organisations de présenter leur vision commune pour la réussite de la mise en œuvre de l'INDICI au profit des populations de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

M. Jérôme Boa, Directeur des Relations Extérieures de la Commission de la CEDEAO, a indiqué que la réunion permettrait de passer en revue les actions déjà entreprises au titre des plans annuels 2021, 2022 et 2023 et du programme indicatif pluriannuel (PIP), qui s'élève à 11,6 milliards d'euros pour la période 2021-2027.

L'hôpital Méthodiste de Ganta manque d'ambulance



Hospital Administrator Mr Allen Zormonway

Alors que le personnel mécontent de l'hôpital Méthodiste Uni de Ganta, dans la ville de Ganta, au comté de Nimba, reprend le travail après un mouvement de grève perlée pour réclamer des salaires et des avantages sociaux, l'hôpital serait confronté à un manque de services d'ambulance. L'administrateur, M. Allen Zormonway, a déclaré au correspondant de The NEW DAWN que l'hôpital est privé de services d'ambulance depuis plus d'un an. M. Zormonway a souligné que cette situation contraint les femmes enceintes et les malades à se déplacer eux-mêmes de loin pour se rendre à l'hôpital. Il a accusé Rider, une organisation non gouvernementale opérant sous la tutelle du ministère de la Santé, de ne pas avoir réparé le seul véhicule servant d'ambulance, malgré un accord écrit prévoyant des services de maintenance. Il a expliqué que le service d'ambulance était géré par l'hôpital, tandis que Rider était responsable de l'entretien.

M. Zormonway a indiqué que l'hôpital a besoin d'au moins 2 759 dollars américains pour rétablir les services d'ambulance.

Il a lancé un appel aux habitants de la communauté, aux législateurs du comté, à l'administration locale et au

gouvernement national pour qu'ils soutiennent l'hôpital confessionnel afin qu'il puisse fournir des services efficaces à la population et sauver des vies.

Selon l'administrateur, le soutien budgétaire de l'hôpital a été très faible. Il a donc plaidé pour une augmentation du budget de fonctionnement.

Il a révélé que l'établissement hospitalier, dirigé par le service de santé de l'Église Méthodiste Unie en collaboration avec des partenaires, forme du personnel qualifié, mais que la population locale et le gouvernement devraient s'approprier l'établissement et lui apporter leur soutien.

Selon lui, un exercice de formation récent a permis à l'administration et au personnel d'acquérir plus de connaissances et d'expérience sur la manière de mobiliser les habitants de la communauté, y compris les législateurs et le gouvernement national, pour obtenir leur soutien et s'approprier l'établissement, car il sert la population.

Il a déclaré que le nouveau programme de développement de l'hôpital se concentre sur la durabilité et la croissance. L'administration a mis en place des réunions trimestrielles pour discuter ouvertement des défis rencontrés.

"Ces réunions nous ont également permis de voir comment la Conférence annuelle du Libéria de l'Église Méthodiste Unie pouvait devenir un contributeur actif à l'hôpital", a expliqué M. Zormonway.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Will the raiding of ghettos put an end to Liberia's illicit drugs problem?

By: Emmanuel Sanor Mars

Col. Abraham Kromah, the new DEA boss of Liberia, has embarked on a robust campaign to raid ghettos and criminal drug cartels operating in Monrovia and its environs. The move is part of a much broader effort initiated by the Government of Liberia under the stewardship of His Excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to curb the spread of narcotic substances in the country. It is anticipated to cover all regions of the country, with the primary goal of eradicating drug trade, including importation, distribution, and consumption, while also ensuring that recovered substance users are rehabilitated and socially reintegrated into society, among others.

Having spent barely a few days in office, Col. Kromah and his DEA team have shown a strong commitment to this cause as well as great enthusiasm, "with recent strings of successes resulting in multiple arrests and significant drug seizures", according to The New Dawn. While the move seems applauding, yet, the country still has a lot more to do from an institutional perspective, especially if the war against narcotic substances must be won entirely, and not haphazardly.

Furthermore, as Col. Kromah and his team go on apprehending more violators of the nation's top anti-drug law recently passed by the 54th National Legislature, which marked a significant turning point in the fight to curb the spread of illicit drugs in Liberia, it is expected that these anti-drug raids and resulting incarcerations will undoubtedly add more stress to an already overwhelmed judiciary system in the country, including overcrowded prison facilities and limited fiscal resources among others. This echoes the need for more policy interventions from the Government - if the raiding of ghettos and drugs cartels should yield the intended outcome.

In view of the foregoing, this article proposes the followings:

1) Judicial reforms and the expansion of prison facilities are needed

If Liberia should win the war against narcotic drugs, judicial reforms are crucial! In this regard, there's a need for the President to establish a fast-track court to arbitrate all suspected cases of illicit, harmful drugs. This must also go in hand with providing such a court with the needed resources (that will include finance, logistics, and manpower) to discharge this function expeditiously and transparently. Likewise, there's also an urgent need for the Government to now begin to expand as well as improve prison facilities throughout the country, and this is particularly crucial if the DEA should go on arresting, incarcerating, and prosecuting more offenders of the nation's anti illicit drugs laws as anticipated.

Without a doubt, the court system in Liberia appears to be greatly overwhelmed by the high volume of unheard cases, including newer ones, with hundreds of accused inmates yet to have their days in court, something that violates their fundamental rights. Similarly, prison facilities across the nation are said to be overcrowded by the huge and growing number of inmates, the majority of whom are pre-trial detainees who are kept in tight cells with poor sanitary conditions - another violation of the laws.

Undoubtedly, this is something that doesn't augur well for the country's fight against illicit drugs. As such, urgent actions are needed now, as doing so would not only symbolize a great deal of commitment on the part of the Government to root out illicit drugs but also ensure speedy trials for the accused, decongest prison facilities and spare the government from breaking the very laws that it ought to enforce and uphold.

Note: A responsible government avoids playing double standards, and that can only happen if the government commits itself to comply with the laws at all times, not sometimes.

2) Institutionalizing Medical & Psychosocial Services is needed to "rescue" substance users

Judicial reforms must go hand-in-hand with unhindered access to robust, affordable, sustainable, and long-term medical and psychosocial services, as these are crucial in terms of rescuing narcotic substance users regardless of their socioeconomic status. While the recent efforts by the joint-ministerial task force set up by H.E. President Boakai to lead the drug rehabilitation program are welcoming, however, the scope and long-term sustainability of these initiatives are of crucial concerns, especially if the war against

narcotic drugs must be won permanently, and not momentarily.

Against this backdrop, the President needs to take another step further by institutionalizing the aspect of the nation's anti-drug fight that focuses on treatment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of recovered substance users. To this end, President Boakai needs to back up his earlier commitment to "weed out" narcotic drugs by formulating a national policy that will cover drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation. Also, as part of the measures, the President should immediately create a Department of Substance Use and Prevention at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital that will focus solely on substance use & prevention by providing cost-free drug prevention and treatment services to substance users and expanding access to these services nationwide.

The department, when created, should provide assessment, diagnosis, treatment, continuing care and recovery, and rehabilitation services to individuals with substance use disorders among others.

3) Expanding Drugs Awareness to Communities, High Schools, and Universities is paramount

Awareness plays a pivotal role in weeding out illicit drugs in any given society, and this is particularly crucial for Liberia, where anti-drug awareness and sensitization programs must be carried out both at the community level and at secondary, tertiary, and vocational institutions by trained and experienced professionals inclusive of the Liberian DEA, the National Police, the Ministry of Health, and other relevant actors. These activities shouldn't just be let alone to private sector actors but must be holistic, involving an all-of-society approach.

Precisely, the purpose of school- and community-based drug awareness and prevention programs is to help prevent, or at least reduce, children's and youths' ingestion of narcotic substances, including alcohol, cocaine, cigarettes, etc. Through awareness, young people can be enlightened about narcotic drugs and their effects. Also, they would be discouraged from engaging in the habit, something that is extremely important if the number of young people being lured into drug abuses on day-to-day basis can be minimized. Thus, the Government must include awareness as part of its short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategy to curb illicit drug trade and consumption.

4) Robust Social Reintegration programs through Skills Training and Empowerment are needed for recovered substance users

Like the previous two, robust social reintegration via empowerment programs is necessary in the fight against narcotic drugs. Precisely, the empowerment programs should seek ways to provide quality, market-demand vocational skills and training to recovered substance users, to help them gain important skills that can be used to earn a living for themselves, their families, and loved ones outside of drug trade and crime life. Through empowerment, recovered substance users would be discouraged from returning to the same old path of substance abuse, which drives them deeper into poverty and inflicts upon them more hunger, suffering, and rejection, something that eventually lures them into committing crimes, etc. In this regard, revamping the Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) and other public TVET institutions throughout the country is something that is worth serious attention among the many policy options available for use.

5) Redeploying the idle labor of drug offenders and other convicts held in detention facilities into productive ventures is crucial for the economy

Without a doubt, implementing judicial reforms, expanding and improving prisons, creating new departments to treat and support substance users, as well as running effective empowerment programs through skills training come with massive costs. As such, this demands that the Government must seek other sustainable ways to afford the rising cost of running these initiatives, rather than relying solely on taxpayers and/or donor support. In this regard, investing in domestic rice production via publicly owned and operated rice plantations offers a viable alternative, wherein the excess of idle labor of inmates in various prison facilities around the country can be tapped into and/or redeployed into this venture to boost rice production for local consumption.



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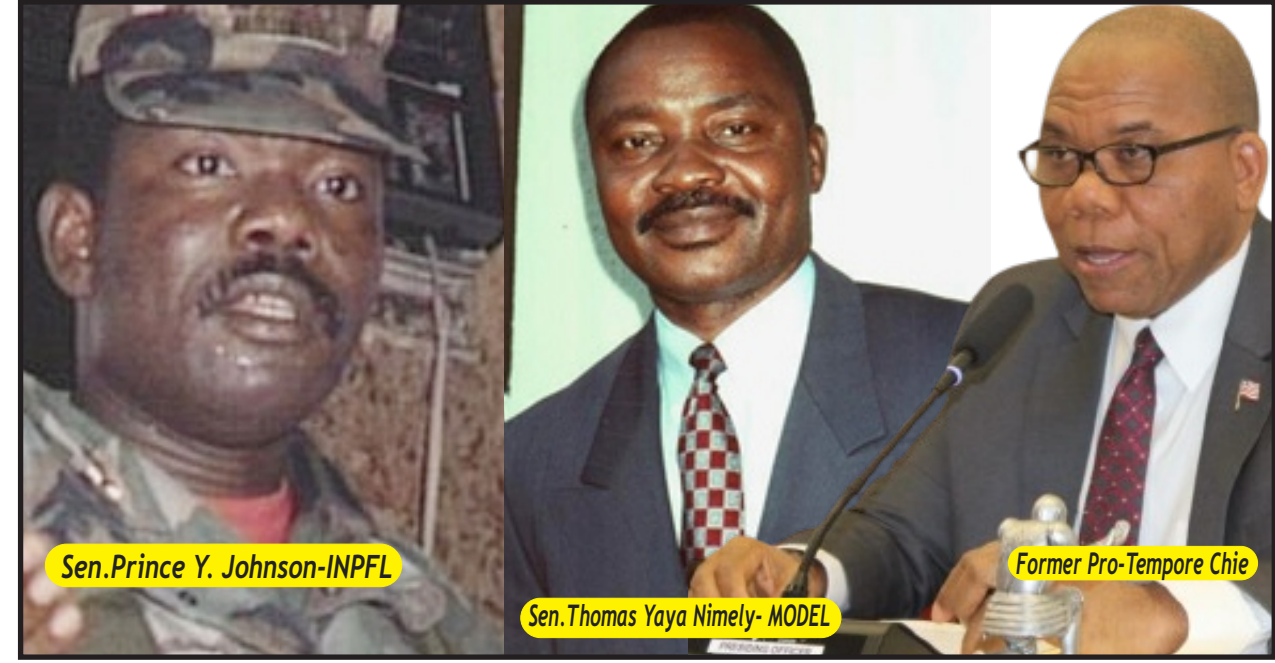
A new gang against War Crimes Court?

Following its extensive hearing, Liberia's erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) reported that all warring factions in the country's brutal civil conflict were responsible for the commission of gross human rights violations, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, domestic criminal laws, among others.

Monrovia, Liberia, 12 March 2024: What appears to be the formation of a new gang to stall the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes

Chie was placed on U.S. sanction last December for his alleged involvement in significant corruption by abusing his position through soliciting, accepting, and

competent jurisdiction and other forms of public sanctions are desirable and appropriate mechanisms to promote the ends of justice, peace, and security, foster



Sen. Prince Y. Johnson-INPFL

Sen. Thomas Yaya Nimely- MODEL

Former Pro-Tempore Chie

Court is creeping into the Liberian Senate.

During the previous regimes headed by former Presidents George Manneh Weah and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the Senate was reported to have killed initial efforts that sought legislative backing to establish a war and economic crimes court.

That tactic seems to be creeping into the Senate of the 55th Legislature just after some 40 lawmakers from the House of Representatives signed a resolution for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court and sent it to the Senate floor for concurrence.

To hinder legislation, a motion to have it reviewed in some committee room could potentially drag it beyond expectation or even lead to its demise.

And each time that happens, it works in the interest of the opponents of the instrument, like in this case, those seeking impunity for heinous war and economic crimes they committed during Liberia's civil conflict and in peacetime.

Three members of the Liberian Senate are now the loudest opponents of establishing 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

offering bribes.

Under Johnson's command, then-sitting Liberian President Samuel Kanyon Doe was brutally murdered.

In the war that lasted over a decade, over 250,000 Liberians were killed, 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.

At the end of the civil conflict, Liberia established the TRC and heard testimonies of victims of war and economic crimes as well as perpetrators.

Some of those testimonies were horrible, leaving lasting pains in the hearts of many who have been demanding justice for over 20 years since peace was restored here.

The TRC investigation found that a prosecution mechanism is desirable to fight impunity and promote justice and genuine reconciliation.

It said all warring factions - rebels and government forces - are responsible for the commission of gross human rights violations in Liberia, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Criminal Law (ICL), and domestic criminal laws.

The TRC noted that prosecution in a court of

genuine national reconciliation, and combat impunity.

It stated further that the massive wave of gross violations and atrocities that characterized the conflict assumed a systematic pattern of abuse, wanton in their execution, and the product of deliberate planning, organized and orchestrated to achieve a military or political objective.

The factions were accused of disregarding the rights of noncombatants, children, women, and the elderly disarmed or surrendered enemy combatants.

All factions of the conflict systematically targeted women mainly as a result of their gender and committed sexual and gender-based violations against them including, rape of all forms, sexual slavery, forced marriages, and forced recruitment, among others.

All factions and other armed groups were said to have recruited and used children during periods of armed conflicts.

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.

Yuoh struggling with health issues

In September 2022, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh ascended to her current position following her appointment by former President George Manneh Weah in August, replacing retired Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, 12 March 2024: Liberia's Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh is said to be struggling with health issues, which were the reason she was missing at the Supreme Court's opening on Monday, 11 March 2024.

During the ceremony, Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokollie said she was presiding over the Court's opening due to Chief Justice Yuoh's ongoing medical treatment and struggle with illness.

The three branches of Liberia's government graced the opening of the Supreme Court's March 2024 Term.

During the opening, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai delivered an unprecedented brief statement.

The Supreme Court's chaplain, Rev. J. Joel Gould, led a prayer for Chief Justice Yuoh to return and conquer whatever health crisis she is facing.

Chief Justice Yuoh ascended to her position in September

Associate Justice Wolokollie proposed holding a joint consultation among the three branches of government to enhance collaboration and cooperation.

"As we propose earlier that joint consultation be held among the three branches of government, we are particularly concerned with the status of salaries, allowances and benefits of judges," said Justice Wolokollie.

She said it's imperative that a joint consultative meeting with the Legislature and Executive branches of government be held as early as possible to conclude on judges' salaries, allowances, and benefits regarding the implementation of Article 72 of the Liberian Constitution.

Justice Wolokollie suggested that a credible judiciary rests more on financially independent judges.

"We, therefore, will immediately proceed to arrange a sustainable schedule with the other two branches of government for the hosting of a meeting to discuss the issues of judges' salaries," she said.

Responding to the Justice's opening address, Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh and the President of the Liberia National Bar



Chief Justice Yuoh

2022 following her appointment by former President George Manneh Weah in August, replacing retired Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

Liberia's Constitution sets the retirement age of justices at 70, but details about Chief Justice Yuoh's age are not available.

In her opening address,

Association, in separate statements, extolled Associate Justice Wolokollie for the recommendation.

"We appreciate and welcome your call for a tripartite conference where issues affecting the judicial branch, especially the harmonization of judges' salaries across the country, can be addressed," they noted.

"It's our anticipation that this will be looked at as soon as possible."

Start from back page Seven charged for rice

Mark Walker, and an individual identified as Doua.

He said the vehicles involved bear the license plates C-41018, H03612, and C-4342 and are steel plate trucks operated by Foday Kromah of New Georgia, Mohamed Kromah of Jacob Town, and Karlu Sible of Logan Town.

Meanwhile, Scott said that based on the investigation's findings, Robert Teah, Charles

Weah, Zwannah Haines, and Ezekiel Kollie have been charged with criminal conspiracy under Chapter 10.4 and Criminal Facilitation under Chapter 10.2.

Additionally, he said the officers stationed at the Alpha Gate, George Boakai, Michael Johnson, and Abraham Julue, face charges of negligence of duty for failing to prevent the unauthorized entry of trucks into the port premises.

Seven charged for rice theft at NPA

Under new management, the National Port Authority has vowed to take every step to implement President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's ARREST Agenda.

Monrovia, Liberia, 12 March 2024: The National Port Authorities (NPA) said Monday, 11 March 2024, that seven of its employees had been charged

Island, the NPA said it is leaving no stone unturned in implementing President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's ARREST Agenda.

Abraham Z. Tule, Recording Officer.

Mr. Scott explained that on 6 March 2024, the investigation section of the NPA launched an investigation into an alleged theft involving the illicit departure of three trucks loaded with rice from the Monrovia Port.

Scott detailed that the incident occurred through the NPA exit gate Bravo at about 3:22 A.M., and all those involved were apprehended on the Japanese Freeway.

According to the NPA head of Corporate Communication, the initial findings revealed that the officers stationed at the Alpha gate failed to execute their duties adequately, allowing vehicles to access the port area without proper logging procedures.

Scott noted further that it was discovered that Duty Officer Zwannah Haines and Ezekiel Kollie, who were stationed at Bravo Gate, colluded with Shift Commander Robert Yeah and Deputy Commander Charles Weah without the knowledge of the Senior Duty Officer, Major



for collusion and facilitation of the unauthorized exit from the port of three trucks loaded with rice.

The trucks allegedly exited the Freeport of Monrovia through the Bravo gate at about 3:22 A.M. on March 6, 2024.

At a jam-packed news conference held at its national headquarters on Bushrod

Communication Manager Malcolm W. Scott named the suspects charged as Robert Yeah, Shift Commander, Charles Weah, Deputy Commander, and Ezekiel Kollie, Duty Officer.

Other suspects charged are Zwannah Haines, Duty Officer; George Boakai, Gate Commander; Michael Johnson, Gate Drop Officer; and

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