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

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Gov't rebukes Weeah

-Demands for 38 EPS officers in appropriate

NTAL throws former officials under the bus



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Continental News

Kenyan leader signs disputed housing levy into law

Kenya's President William Ruto has signed into law a controversial bill, paving the way for the government to legal framework. However, MPs amended and approved the bill last week despite objections from opposition legislators.

The levy, which had been

took the government to court arguing successfully that it unfairly singled out Kenyans in the formal sector who get a regular monthly salary. In order to address the issues raised by the court, the new law now extends the levy to other workers and now requires non-salaried Kenyans in the informal sector to pay the levy.

It is not clear how the government will collect the money from those in the informal sector.

The new law also establishes the Affordable Housing Fund, which is intended to manage the money the government will get from the levy. The authorities say the deduction will not be backdated to include the money that would have been paid had the scheme not been suspended. President Ruto is aiming to construct 200,000 affordable housing units every year and hopes to create more than 600,000 jobs. The opposition has threatened to take this new law to court, alleging the government ignored concerns of Kenyans over the increasing tax burden. BBC



President William Ruto is hoping to provide affordable houses to low income-earners through the new levy

continue collecting a housing levy of 1.5% of a worker's monthly pay.

The levy is intended to pay for the construction of affordable housing for poorer Kenyans.

But it sparked an outcry from the opposition and a large section of the population who feel burdened by a raft of new taxes.

The law had been held up in the courts.

A judge had stopped the deductions citing lack of a

mentioned in Mr Ruto's manifesto for the 2022 election, was part of a finance law adopted last June that also doubled the sales tax on fuel. A new higher health insurance levy is also due to come into effect soon.

The government has argued that it needs to increase its revenue from taxation in order to reduce the budget deficit and pay for public services. The authorities had begun deducting the 1.5% housing levy from peoples' pay from last July. But, amid public anger, one activist

Police raid South Africa parliament speaker's home

An elite unit of South Africa's police has raided the Johannesburg home of the speaker of parliament, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, over corruption allegations.

She has been accused of soliciting bribes in return for awarding contracts when she served as defence minister.

"The Speaker steadfastly upholds her strong conviction of innocence," said a statement from parliament.

The police unit was acting on behalf of state prosecutors who have been carrying out an investigation. He statement from parliament said that the police "conducted a search and seizure procedure" at Ms Mapisa-Nqakula's residence, adding that she "welcomed the investigators into her home, co-operating fully" during the five-hour search.

The 67-year-old veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle became speaker in 2021. Before that, she served as defence minister for seven years.

During her time in that post,

Ms Mapisa-Nqakula allegedly made several demands for money, amounting to \$120,000 (£96,000), from the owner of a company to secure a tender to transport army equipment back to South Africa from elsewhere on the continent, the Business Day newspaper reports. Cyril Ramaphosa became president in 2018 on a pledge to tackle corruption in the country. His predecessor, Jacob Zuma, was accused of overseeing a huge effort to divert state resources, charges he denies.

Ms Mapisa-Nqakula herself believes that "corruption poses a significant threat to the principles of democracy and good governance", parliament said. "Therefore, she is profoundly disturbed by such allegations."

In a brief statement, the National Prosecuting Authority confirmed the search operation, but gave no other details and did not say when or whether any charges would be brought. BBC



Customers withdraw millions after cash machine glitch

Ethiopia's biggest commercial bank is scrambling to recoup large sums of money withdrawn by customers after a "systems glitch".

The customers discovered early on Saturday that they could take out more cash than they had in their accounts at the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE). More than \$40m (£31m) was withdrawn or transferred to other banks, local media reported.

It took several hours for the institution to freeze transactions. Much of the money was withdrawn from state-owned CBE by students, bank president Abe Sano told journalists on Monday.

News of the glitch spread across universities largely via messaging apps and phone calls.

Long lines formed at campus ATMs, with a student in western Ethiopia telling BBC

time. More than 38 million people hold accounts at CBE, which was established 82 years ago.

Ethiopia's central bank, which serves as the financial sector's governing body, released a statement on Sunday saying "a glitch" had occurred during "maintenance and inspection activities".

The statement, however, focused on the interrupted service that occurred after CBE froze all transactions. It did not mention the money withdrawn by customers. Mr Sano did not say exactly how much money was withdrawn during Saturday's incident, but said the loss incurred was small when compared to the bank's total assets. He stated that CBE was not hit by a cyber-attack and that customers should not be worried as their personal accounts were intact. At least three universities have released statements advising students to return any money not belonging to them that



More than 38 million people hold accounts at Commercial Bank Ethiopia

Amharic people were withdrawing money until police officers arrived on campus to stop them.

The student, who attends Jimma University Institute of Technology, said he "did not believe it was true" when his friends told him at around 01:00 local time (22:00 GMT) that it was possible to withdraw large amounts from ATMs, or transfer the money using the bank's app. Another student, at Dilla University in southern Ethiopia, said a number of his peers retrieved money from CBE between midnight and 02:00 local

they may have taken from CBE.

Anyone returning money will not be charged with a criminal offence, Mr Sano said.

But it's not clear how successful the bank's attempts to recoup their money has been so far.

The student from Jimma University said on Monday he had not heard of anyone giving the money back, but said he had seen police vehicles on campus.

An official at Dilla University said bank employees were on campus collecting money that some students were returning voluntarily. BBC

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EDITORIAL

The powerful few hate war and economic crimes court

Liberia seems to be heading on a path where a few handfuls of individuals who terrorized the entire population with arms, committing mayhem and killing thousands of civilians, including women and children, believe that they can still hold the country hostage with the barrel of the gun, against current calls for the establishment of war and economic crimes court to punish them for their deeds.

The few handfuls of citizens, predominantly warlords, some of whom are in the legislature, believe that they can shield themselves from accountability through court and have begun to issue threats of returning to the bush if such court comes into being and they were summoned to appear.

In their state of mind, they owe the population no explanation for the carnage they committed during the brutal civil war and should be business as usual, or they should continue to have their will.

But clearly, the rebel generals and leaders need to be told brutally that time has caught up with them, and their days are numbered to appear before an international criminal court to account for atrocities they committed against innocent and peaceful citizens.

They seem to be living in utopia, believing that they can challenge both the people of Liberia and the international community to escape justice while their victims continue to wallop in pain and tears with justice eluding them. No! There has to be a bus stop, and we believe now is the right time.

For obvious reasons, disbanded INPFL and MODEL rebels' leaders, Senators Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba County and Thomas Yaya Nimely of Grand Gedeh County, are beating the war drum the loudest, raining threats and kicking against the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia because they are afraid of their past deeds.

All 98 individuals listed for prosecution by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report should know that President Joseph Nyuma Boakai is not the author of the report but is demonstrating leadership by doing what the report says: the need for accountability, not a witch-hunt, as some quarters are claiming.

The character or mark of a good leader is to stand and speak for the majority. President Boakai has embarked upon this fearlessly amid threats from those who see themselves in the mirror, saying that they cannot survive the war crimes court because their deeds are overwhelming.

The souls of fellow citizens who were murdered in cold blood in Kpolokpaila in Bong County, Mahed River in Grand Cape Mount County, Voinjama, Lofa County, Grand Bassa, and Sinoe counties, and other areas across Liberia are still crying for justice. Not only Liberia but the entire world is listening to the cries daily, while those who tormented them to death through summary executions and massacres live comfortably in impunity with no remorse for their actions.

One thing is sure. However, they are not in the majority, and their empty threats cannot scare away the international community that is resolved to bring justice to Liberians and put impunity to an end.

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COMMENTARY

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

Why Have Developing Countries Soured on Multilateralism?

NEW HAVEN - Multilateralism is waning, and one of the world's leading multilateral institutions, the World Trade Organization, is in crisis, because the United States has been blocking new appointments to its dispute settlement mechanism's Appellate Body since 2018. In the run-up to the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference last month, some optimists hoped to see progress on specific issues, such as an agreement not to impose tariffs on digital commerce, but expectations were generally low.

The pessimists were right. India led the charge against extending a moratorium on e-commerce tariffs, and only a last-minute deal prolonged it for another two years. After that, it is expected to expire. India and its allies celebrated the outcome as a victory. For the first time in years, the culprit undermining the WTO was not the US but developing countries (including Indonesia, South Africa, Brazil, and others).

True, what happened with digital commerce is characteristic of the usual conflicts that play out during trade negotiations. Free trade always produces winners and losers. Digital commerce may be in the interest of businesses in advanced economies as well as consumers and businesses in low- and middle-income countries; users of an app, game, or other software product made in a different country may pay lower prices in the absence of tariffs. But domestic producers will reliably demand protection from imports, and governments will see tariffs as a promising way to boost revenues.

While these issues are typical, developing countries' opposition to an extended digital-tax moratorium is emblematic of a deeper problem: namely, the growing impression that the WTO has nothing to offer them anymore. The assumption is that it unilaterally serves the interests of big businesses rather than of the average person in a low- or middle-income country.

But is this true? In fact, recent research shows that poverty reduction in the past three decades has been more likely in developing countries that are well integrated into the international trade system - as measured by the number of signed trade agreements and access to large, lucrative export markets. In this sense, the multilateral trade system has indeed benefited the developing world.

International integration is particularly important for smaller economies. Unlike India and China, countries such as Thailand, Kenya, and Rwanda cannot fall back on large domestic markets. No wonder opposition to trade deals so often comes from larger developing countries such as India, Indonesia, and Brazil. They can afford to turn their back on international trade if the terms of the proposed deal are not enticing enough.

But even these countries appreciate the benefits of participation in global trade. India, for example, used the closing of the Ministerial Conference to reaffirm its

commitment to negotiation and multilateralism, in principle. The question, then, is why developing countries have such a negative view of the WTO specifically.

Their dissatisfaction dates back to 1995, when the WTO succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. At the time, developing countries felt that they had just been pressured into signing a trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) agreement that would yield big payoffs for multinational corporations without offering many benefits to their own populations.

Another ongoing source of tension is agriculture, where developing countries traditionally have a comparative advantage. Existing trade agreements continue to permit high-income countries to subsidize local producers and impose tariffs on imports. Various other rules, escape clauses, and notification requirements have created de facto loopholes that only countries with abundant resources are able to exploit.

For example, fishing subsidies (another area of major contention) are permitted under certain conditions. But monitoring fishing stocks to prove that such conditions are being met is prohibitively expensive for most developing countries. They therefore have good reason to complain that international trade rules are biased against them.

Looking ahead, a potentially bigger issue concerns advanced economies' efforts to link trade agreements to labor and environmental standards, such as through the European Union's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). While well-intentioned, advanced economies must recognize that their efforts to address climate, labor, and human-rights issues could have serious distributional consequences, potentially coming at the expense of many developing countries.

This is especially true of climate change. Low-income countries may have the most to lose from the consequences of climate change, but they are understandably reluctant to impede their own growth to fix a problem caused by richer countries' past sins. Combine these concerns with high-income countries' push toward "friend-shoring" (which implies more trade among rich countries, given the current geopolitical map), and today's world starts to look even more like one where advanced economies are pitted against developing ones.

Ironically, the obvious way to avoid such division is to revive multilateralism. Now more than ever, the challenges we face are global in nature, and thus call for global solutions. But shared objectives, by definition, must account for the concerns of developing countries. That is what successful multilateralism has always demanded.

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.

OP-ED

By Todd G. Buchholz,
Michael Mindlin

Big Tech Shocks Electric Utilities

SAN DIEGO - If John D. Rockefeller were around today, he'd be screwing a Google Nest - the pioneering smart thermostat - into the wall of his home. The notoriously thrifty oil baron would have jumped at the chance to save on his monthly energy bill.

Traditional energy companies, from ExxonMobil (the direct descendent of Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company) to local utilities, have begun to embrace Big Tech, brimming with both hope and trepidation. Will companies like Google, Amazon, and Meta put the meter reader and his bosses out to pasture? Who wins if they do?

Big Tech has already shown a propensity to disrupt. Just 25 years ago, a "googol" - the inspiration for the search engine's name - was an unfathomably large number, a cloud was a billowing puff in the sky, and 5G was the row in which you parked your car at the garage. In the intervening decades, tech companies have upended industries both at the enterprise and retail levels.

Consider pharmacies, which relied on the patience of shoppers to wait days for a prescription and stand in queues to retrieve them. Now companies like Hims & Hers will confidentially overnight drugs to calm your nerves, grow your hair, or put you in the mood. Meanwhile, One Medical, which Amazon purchased last year, offers 24-hour on-demand virtual care and same- and next-day appointments - quite a feat considering the average wait time to see a physician in major American cities is more than three weeks. No wonder the profit margins of brick-and-mortar drugstores have fallen, plunging Rite-Aid into bankruptcy.

Just as the world needs better access to medical care, it also needs more efficient and reliable power. Too many people are sitting in the dark too often, and for too long. Even in developed countries like the United States, the average duration of a blackout doubled between 2013 and 2021, from 3.5 hours to more than seven hours, while their frequency jumped by nearly 20%. Not surprisingly, Americans are taking a dimmer view of their local utilities, with 71% saying they would switch providers, while businesses complain that power outages cost them \$150 billion per year.

That doesn't mean utilities deserve all the blame. In the US, local and state politicians and regulators dictate profits and prices, while delaying capital upgrades. The US Department of Energy spends around five years assessing a new project before approval, leaving roughly 2,000 gigawatts of annual capacity waiting in the queue.

Fast-growing trillion-dollar tech companies cannot afford to lose power, so they are taking matters into their own hands. Amazon's clean-energy portfolio, which comprises solar and wind projects in more than 20 US states and 27 countries, is now big enough to power 7.2 million American homes each year. In Nevada's Blue Mountain geothermal field, Google is partnering with clean-energy start-up Fervo to power the tech behemoth's data centers by tapping the heat trapped below Jurassic rocks.

Unlike a utility saddled with old plants that need to be decommissioned, tech companies can start anew. The average age of an oil-burning steam-turbine plant in the Midwest is pushing 70 years. In fact, Whiting, Wisconsin, runs a hydropower facility built in 1891 - 40 years before actor Boris Karloff was hooked up to lightning-conducting electrodes in the original Frankenstein.

Although self-interest motivated tech companies to create new power supplies, they have their sights set on residential consumers. Fortunately, Big Tech is already welcome in the home. Amazon evolved from delivering brown boxes of books to answering questions with Alexa and recording doorbell activity with Ring cameras.

Google recently merged Nest Renew, its service to help users optimize their electricity usage, with the software business OhmConnect to align the energy consumption of households across the country. The new company, Renew Home, will pay people to lower their thermostats and turn off their lights during peak hours or even, when combined with artificial intelligence-enabled weather forecasting, before lightning storms strike.

Executives at traditional electric utilities should respond to these free-wheeling, free-spending technical wizards by rewatching *The Godfather, Part II*, and heeding mob boss Michael Corleone's advice: "keep your friends close, but your enemies closer." At the same time, they should focus on communicating better with their customers. Has your utility ever sent you a newsletter, a movie link, or a dozen roses? Or does it come to mind only when you have a complaint, whether about the lights going off or a meter reader skulking in the backyard?

Lastly, utilities should work with Big Tech to boost efficiency. A few weeks ago, Southern Company announced a deal with Samsung SmartThings to create an innovation laboratory aimed at prodding communication among smart refrigerators, dishwashers, and garage-door openers in an effort to save power. In San Diego, the utility company Sempra is partnering with Fermata Energy so that electric vehicles can sell their battery power back to the grid when demand peaks.

OPINION

By David Miliband

Sudan's Descent into Violence Must Not Be Ignored

NEW YORK - On March 8, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Sudan during the holy month of Ramadan. It also urged all parties to the conflict to ensure the rapid and safe delivery of humanitarian assistance and to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law, including to protect civilians.

The violent conflict, which erupted last April following a standoff between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a powerful paramilitary group, has since engulfed more than half the country. Nearly a year later, the Security Council's push for a ceasefire and the free flow of aid is an essential step forward, following increasingly urgent calls for an immediate halt to the fighting from the African Union and UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Now, policymakers must translate words into action.

The situation in Sudan is catastrophic. Half the population - 25 million people - are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

According to the UN World Food Programme, nearly 18 million people are facing acute hunger - more than double this time last year - and must make impossible decisions to feed themselves, while nearly five million (equivalent to the population of Ireland) are on the brink of famine. Since the conflict began, more than eight million people have been displaced. In December, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a determination that war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing were occurring in Sudan, evoking ominous echoes of the Darfur genocide.

Given these conditions, it comes as no surprise that Sudan topped the International Rescue Committee's Emergency Watchlist for 2024. The conflict has devastated agricultural production, while the weaponization of humanitarian aid has restricted the flow of food and medicine to the country. Moreover, the near-total destruction of the health-care system has led to the spread of preventable diseases, while the banking system's paralysis has triggered economic collapse.

More than a half-million displaced people have sought refuge in South Sudan, itself one of the world's poorest countries. On a recent visit, I heard heartbreaking stories from Sudanese refugees. Asma, a mother of two, traveled more than 400 miles from the capital, Khartoum, with her children, who were set to start university last year. She left because, confronted with increased fighting, she "didn't have a choice." Maban, the border county where I met Asma, is hosting 220,000 displaced people - more than four times the original population. And at least 1,500 Sudanese continue to cross into South Sudan every day.

Worse still, the conflict in Sudan has become internationalized: a wide range of competing African interests have taken sides, as have Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, while Russia's Wagner Group has reportedly armed the RSF. This type of conflict, which threatens to become the new normal, are likely to last nearly four times as long as a conventional civil war involving only in-state actors. Such a complex geopolitical picture complicates diplomacy.

One potential solution is the idea of "African solutions to African problems," which in practice means that the AU, not the Security Council, would manage African crises. But this approach, to the extent that it has been implemented, has not resolved the conflict in Sudan. African leaders should be able to lead, but they must not be left to fend for themselves.

Now that the Security Council has spoken, it must implement practical measures to slow, and ultimately stop, the fighting. Its resolution should serve as a wake-up call for policymakers to intensify joint efforts, especially because the conflict is spreading faster than diplomacy can respond.

This includes measures to protect civilians and the infrastructure on which they rely, such as hospitals. So far, the conflict has significantly disrupted Sudan's health system. The World Health Organization has verified 58 attacks on health-care facilities since the fighting began, while finding that 70% of hospitals in conflict-affected states are non-functional, owing to violence and shortages.

There is also an urgent need to facilitate the full flow of humanitarian aid through the most direct routes. Given the current access constraints in Sudan, this will require new and innovative ways of calling attention to the various obstacles, which could in turn lead to more effective diplomatic solutions. The IRC, for example, has proposed the creation of a new Independent Access Organization to improve reporting on impediments to access and encourage global, regional, and national policymakers to act.

More funding is equally crucial. At a UN pledging conference last year, donors committed less than half the amount needed to fund the humanitarian response in Sudan and neighboring countries hosting refugees. In 2024, nearly 25 million people in Sudan will need aid. But, to date, the \$2.7 billion and \$1.4 billion funding appeals, launched by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Refugee Agency, respectively, are far from meeting their targets. The refugee burden on other countries, including the Central African Republic, Chad, and Ethiopia, is increasing the risk of regional destabilization.

Sudan's experience over the past few years has demonstrated how quickly a country can succumb to violence. Three years ago, a civilian government took power. Now, the country is a hellish war zone. According to the International Crisis Group, Sudan is at the edge of a precipice, with Khartoum - the country's economic and political center - "an unrecognizable shell." Without more aid for Sudan and its neighbors, instability will spread. Courageous political leadership is needed to halt the slide. But policymakers must act quickly to prevent the power vacuum in Sudan from becoming a wider threat.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

National Bar secretary chides lawmakers

The Liberian National Bar Association criticizes legislators here for enacting what it terms "conflicting laws" in the country.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, March 20, 2024 - The Secretary-General

and ready to work with the Legislative branch, which has the lawmaking authority to do a lot more.

cannot be questioned, then the people who consumed the law must be involved in the lawmaking process. And because the people are not involved, that is why we see conflicts of law," he argued.

Cllr. Varmah also blamed national government for the severe decline in the rule of law in the country.

He noted that the Executive, Judiciary, and Legislature must collectively contribute to ensuring that the judiciary's function is productive and efficient.

The LNBA executive expressed concern about the constant issue of corruption in the Judiciary, noting that the only way to address this is to have a consultative meeting with justice actors and the executive branch of government to see how corruption can be eradicated or minimized in the Judiciary.

He praised Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court for Montserrado County, for being efficient and productive in dispensing the law without fear or favor.

For her part, Judge Golda A. Bonah Elliott of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court for Montserrado County, delivering her opening address for the March A.D. 2024 Term,

▶ CONT'D page 7



for the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) Cllr. Borno M. Varmah has accused lawmakers on Capitol Hill of legislating and enacting what he describes as conflicting laws across the country.

Cllr. Varmah questioned the lawmaking abilities of legislators who he believes continue to enact conflicting laws in the first Branch of government.

Speaking here on Monday, March 18, 2024, at the formal opening of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court for Montserrado County, he said the LNBA seeks and is willing

According to him, the legislature always enacts laws that conflict with existing laws because the people who consume the laws are not part of the process.

"We observed over the years that the process of lawmaking has become questionable by the fact that there is a conflict of law legislated and enacted by the legislature," Cllr. Varmah expressed.

"The Supreme Court has said the authority that the Legislature has to make law cannot be questioned by anyone. And so if that authority

Liberian border guards arrest gas leaving for Guinea

Liberian border security has confiscated dozens of gallons of gas being smuggled by black marketers into neighboring Guinea.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Ganta, Liberia, March 20, 2024 - The Liberian Immigration Service border patrol unit assigned in Nimba County has arrested over sixty gallons of gasoline from various by-pass routes leading into neighboring Guinea. The gas was arrested near the Ganta Main Border adjacent to the St. John River while being smuggled to Guinea.

Border Patrol Commanders Amos Smith and Williams Paye Borbor arrested the gas from various motorcyclists, who Guineans allegedly contacted to transport the commodity into Guinea.

The NEW DAWN gathered that over five drums of gas leave Ganta for Guinea daily, which has created shortage in the county.

Besides, trucks loaded with rice leave the Ganta Main Border daily for Guinea for sale by business people.

Recently, truckloads of rice were clandestinely taken out of the Freeport of Monrovia in a cartel presided over by port security officers. The Management of the National Port Authority has investigated and suspended several guards at the port.

A few days ago, Joint Security officers assigned at the Ganta Main Border were engaged in a scuffle over bribes offered by Guinean traders to enable them to cross the border

from Liberia with their goods.

Report says most business owners in Ganta are involved in transporting rice and gas into Guinea for sale.

Some of the Guineans told our correspondent that Liberian commerce inspectors and border security levied huge taxes on goods leaving the country.

The NEW DAWN gathered that a gallon of gas is now being sold in Ganta for one thousand Liberian Dollars. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Representative Kogar receives huge endorsement for senate

The heat is on in Nimba in finding a replacement for Vice President Jeremiah Koug, who left the Liberian Senate last year following his election in November 2023 on the rescue ticket of President Boakai. Nimba District#5 Representative Samuel G. Kogar, who has declared his intention for the senate, is receiving huge endorsement from his kinsmen to represent them at the county level.

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County

Nimba County, Liberia, March 20, 2024—Nimba County District#5 Representative and senatorial hopeful Samuel G. Kogar has received huge endorsements from the youth, women, and elders of Lesonnon Chiefdom to contest for the senate in the pending senatorial by-election slated for April.

The citizens describe Representative Kogar as one of the leaders who has brought pride to Nimbaians and the entire country in terms of representation in the House, among other things.

The pending senatorial by-election is intended to fill a seat in the Liberian Senate, created by the election of ex-Senator

chiefdoms that make up the district.

He said Kogar provided two million Liberian dollars to the district's education sector and women's organization in fulfillment of a promise made during the 2017 election.

He also noted that Representative Kogar has personally implemented a series of developments in his district, including, but not limited to, the construction of a police station in Buutuo, the first time since the Liberia National Police assigned Police officers there, nurse quarters, a guest house alongside Garlay Town Hall, and N'yor Diaplay Youth Center in Diaplay town.

He also mentioned the construction of Ganyeinglay Town Hall in Ganyeinglay Town, the



Jeremiah Kpan Koug as Vice President of the Republic on the ticket of the now-ruling Unity Party of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. Former Senator Thomas Grupee has also joined the race for the senate in Nimba.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend, following a huge endorsement ceremony in chiefdom, Mr. Cyrus Konah, who chaired the petition process, said their decision is based on the level of good representations Kogar has done for Nimba that they can boast of.

Mr. Konah described the lawmaker as a leader without borders, noting that he would generally do his best for Nimbaians and Liberians if elected to the Senate.

He recounted that Representative Kogar has fulfilled several promises and continues to develop his district by implementing campaign promises and providing three Kia Motor trucks to all three

lighting of 58 towns that make up electoral District# 5 at the cost of US\$46,000, the installation of a ferry at Buutuo crossing point, the Tuazama Intellectual Center in Bahn City, and financial aid to students from the county in various Universities and colleges across Liberia, among other things.

Mr. Konah said history records the senatorial hopeful as the longest-serving representative for the people of Nimba since the county was created in 1964.

Responding, Representative Samuel Kogar accepted the endorsement from the citizens including motorcyclists and promised to impact their lives positively, if elected to the senate.

According to him, his leadership will promote unity and peace among Nimbaians, taking development to 19 administrative districts of the county. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Press Statement of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia (NTAL), addressing the recent press releases by Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson, Sr., Former Secretary General and Mr. Isaac Seh Kamara, Former President, Bomi County and disqualified Presidential Candidate at the 65th National Delegates Convention in 2018, Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia

Issue on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, @ the Headquarters of National teachers' Association of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Members of the National Executive Committee, the Representative Council, the National Secretariat and the hardworking teachers and education workers, we bring you greetings and appreciate you for the level of commitment, dedication and invaluable services to the education sector of our beloved Country, Liberia.

Members of the press, we want to use this occasion to address the general public on issues concerning the sequential press releases of Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson, Sr. and Mr. Isaac Seh Kamara, who are former Secretary General and County President of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia. As we address the media today, we will present critical information that are needed for public consumption, with the sole purpose of uncovering some of the misinformation and administrative malpractices of these individuals who think that they are capable of ridiculing the NTAL.

To our serviceable teachers and education workers in media land, including those who are in remotest parts of Liberia struggling to educate this generation of inspirational leaders, we plead your indulgence to listen attentively as we drill you through with information appertaining to their inactions and misconducts at the level of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia – NTAL.

On February 8, 2024, Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson, Sr., the former Secretary General of NTAL and Mr. Isaac Seh Kamara, Former President of Bomi County – NTAL delivered simultaneous press statements against the National Teachers' Association of Liberia – NTAL stating the following:

1. That the past government, through the Ministry of Education, conspired with the NTAL to get at him (Johnson)
2. That the national president, Mrs. Mary W. Mulbah Nyumah was offered a blue jeep in November 2020 by an unknown donor in order to compromise advocacies against the LEAP school.
3. That the national president, Mrs. Mary W. Mulbah Nyumah pushed the NTAL constitution aside and decided to usurp the office of the Secretary General.
4. A demand by Mr. Isaac Seh Kamara, calling for all NTAL's accounts to be frozen, pending a comprehensive audit before the end of March, 2024, and
5. That the National President, Mrs. Mary W. Mulbah Nyumah violated the Constitution of NTAL, and is illegally operating as National President of NTAL.

Given these claims, we the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the Representative Council (RC) in full attendance have jointly assembled at the National Headquarters to deliver this press conference to inform the public through the media and our hard working teachers and education workers that Mr. Isaac Seh Kamara and Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson, Sr. statements are misleading and have no substance of truth. Mr. Johnson's assertion as the current Secretary General of NTAL is a total disaster. And in this open manner, we consider such act as a serious impersonation and total disregard to the teachers and education workers of Liberia. We want to reemphasize that after thorough investigation, Mr. Johnson was found guilty and dismissed by the 66th National Delegates Convention, held in Voinjama City, Lofa County on December 28 - 30, 2022 on several counts, which include the following:

1. Refusal to prepare documents, such as meeting minutes, programs, etc. as required by the laws of the NTAL
2. Refusal to take instruction from the National President and the Representative Council (RC);

3. Taking decisions without consultation (eg. Sending delegates to represent NTAL, without the approval of the National President of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia. Mannerless approaches to Council and the National president.

Let this also be known that Mr. Johnson is not a due payer; instead, he was hired and fired after four warning letters on December 6, 2014; February 18, 2020, and March 5, 2021. He was also issued four suspension letters on August 27, 2012 (2 months), March 5, 2021 (1 month), July 9, 2021 (3 months) and February 17, 2022 (indefinite suspension). His service was finally terminated in line with Article 5.5.1., letters L, M & P of the December 29, 2022 amended Constitution, under the title: Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary General.

Article 5.5.1, letter L states that: "The Secretary General shall Prepare reports, documents, and provide all relevant information at all meetings of the Association as/and when required".

Article 5.5.1, M states that: "The Secretary General shall be subjected to the terms and conditions of service provided by the National Executive Committee." And letter P says, "His/her appointment shall be terminated based on proven misconduct pursuant to the DECENT WORK ACT OF 2014.

Members of the Press, the decision to suspend Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson, Sr. met the consensus of the Representative Council. And this decision was approved by the 66th National Delegates Convention. Article 3.2.1 letter I under the title: "Activities during the course of the National Delegate Convention of the Constitution states that there shall be a National Delegates Convention to be convened every four years. It shall be the highest decision making body for all matters pertaining to the association. Its decision shall be deemed to be final and binding. In reference, Letter I states that: "The appointment or termination of the Secretary General and all senior staff of the Association shall be rectified".

We want to reiterate that Mr. Johnson's dismissal is backed by documents, which we have in our possession. At no time did the entity pay him off, because he was warned severally, received suspension letters and was suspended for time

indefinite that led to his dismissal. Moreover, as a law-abiding institution, never did we burglarize the office of the Secretary General; rather, the Court ordered that the office be turned over to the National Teachers' Association of Liberia.

In a related development, we are also using this medium to inform you about the Isaac Seh Kamara's situation at the National Teachers' Association of Liberia. Mr. Kamara is parading the media landscape, inciting our teachers and education workers, due to his ineptitude and corruptibility while serving as President of Bomi County NTAL Branch. Mr. Kamara is currently indebted to the organization in the tone of 80,000LD, which he promised to have paid before 65th National Delegates Convention that was held in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County in 2018. This money was borrowed to help him to settle his mother's medical bills, but said amount has not been paid which led to his disqualification to contest as national president during the 65th National Delegates Convention which was a set criterion by the electoral body. How can such a person demand a reputable institution for audit, when it's often stated that "he, who comes with equity, must come with clean hands?" Is he a real advocate or he's trying to gain sentiment from the hardworking teachers of Liberia? Can such an individual reconcile the teachers and education workers of Liberia? Unfortunately, he can't, because he's incapable of echoing the voices of teachers and education workers of Liberia. How is it even possible for such an individual to call for audit of the accounts of NTAL?

Members of the press, all operations of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia are guided by the Bylaws and Constitution. According to Article 7.4.1, under the caption Auditors/Audit: "The Auditors shall work with the Finance Committee and the Secretary General. The report of the external audit shall be confidential until it is discussed by the NEC and the Representative Council. External Auditors shall be approved by the National Delegate Convention".

Interestingly, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kamara were part of the 65th National Delegate Convention which implies that they are aware of the audit.

From the above mentioned, we think that this is a serious disservice to the teachers and education workers of this country and we therefore caution our members and all our partners not to make business with them as they are no longer in the positions they claimed to be holding.

In this vein, we like to appreciate our teachers and education workers for their hard works and not being misled by these falsehoods that have the sole will of tarnishing the professional image of our noble NTAL.

Solidarity Forever!

Thanks and may God bless our NTAL.

RESOLUTION OF THE 66TH NATIONAL DELEGATES CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF LIBERIA

Whereas in her 66th National Delegates Convention in the Auditorium of the Voinjama Free Pentecostal Mission High School in Voinjama City, Lofa County from Tuesday, December 28 2022 to Friday, December 30, 2022 discussed, deliberated and concluded on the following resolved to wit:

That the amended constitution of the NTAL be used to guide and protect the organization and its members.

That all officials elected at the district, county and national levels are legitimate and recognized leaders up to the next convention, unless in the case of constitutional misconduct by anyone, the law has to take its course.

That the strategic plan for 2023 to 2026 presented to this National Delegates Convention be used for the period.

That the National Executive Committee hires an auditing firm for the purpose of auditing the National Teachers Association of Liberia financial records for the next four years.

That the SAAR Insurance Company prints the medical slips three months in advance and make sure sufficient copies are done and delivered on time.

That the SAAR Insurance Company does not increase the premium being deducted from teachers and educational workers' salaries until government increases their salaries. Said action should be executed in consultation with the National Teachers' Association Leadership.

That the National Teachers' Association of Liberia Credit Union Cooperative Society (NTALCUCS) be accountable to the National Teachers' Association of Liberia as the mother body.

In accordance with **Article III** of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia Constitution under **Duties** states that the Secretary General and other Senior Secretarial staff appointments or termination can be ratified by the National Delegates Convention. Therefore, the Secretary General of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia, Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson Sr. is been terminated of his position as Secretary General of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia.

That all Senior Secretariat Staff of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia are hereby relieved of their posts to reapply to National Executive Committee to be ratified by the Representative Council of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia.

That the 66th National Delegates Convention hereby endorses the impeachment of seven (7) National Executive Committee Members (former) who were impeached by the Representative Council of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia on April 21, 2022 in persons of:

Mrs. Margaret H. Flomo – Immediate Past President.

Mr. Daniel Darba – Non-Teaching Staff Coordinator.

Mrs. Alberta F. Cooker- Assistant Non-Teaching Staff Coordinator.

Mr. Ericson W. Boakai – Public School Principals Representation.

Mr. A. Dargbay Johnson – Private School Principal Representative.

Mr. James S.K. Miller – Vice President – North Central Region.

Mr. Brown K. Bardee - Vice President – Southeastern Region.

That the construction of the headquarters project continues for the next four years.

That the 67th Delegates Convention will be hosted in Pleebo City, Maryland County.

That a National Advisory Board be established at the District, County and National levels of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia.

Done this 30th day of December, 2022 in the City of Voinjama, Lofa County

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA dialogues with business community

Liberian tax authorities meet with members of the business community here to encourage them to fully comply and boost revenue.

-to foster revenue growth

[Monrovia, March 18, 2024]: The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has convened its first quarterly multi-stakeholder engagement, bringing together members of the business community to enhance collaboration and drive economic and revenue growth.

A press release from the LRA says under the stewardship of the new Commissioner General, James Dorbor Jallah, the engagement served as a

partnership between the LRA and the business sector, Commissioner General Jallah encouraged frank discussions on sectoral challenges to facilitate targeted solutions. He underscored the significance of these engagements in providing revenue predictability for the LRA, which is essential for sustainable fiscal planning and national development.

During the interactive session, business leaders voiced concerns regarding delays in goods clearance,



platform for various stakeholders, including shipping lines, APM Terminal, Medtech Solutions, Customs Brokers Association, and the Fula Business Association, to come together and address pressing issues affecting the business landscape.

Addressing the event last Thursday in Sinkor, Commissioner General Dorbor Jallah emphasized the importance of unity of purpose among business actors in contributing to Liberia's development agenda through diligent tax compliance.

He reiterated the LRA's commitment to regular engagements, highlighting the need for transparent and proactive contributions from the business community to stimulate genuine economic growth, which will impact revenue collection.

Acknowledging the strategic

cumbersome procedures, and escalating shipping line fees. In response, LRA Customs Commissioner Saa Samoi reaffirmed the authority's dedication to collaboration, pledging to address the highlighted challenges in tandem with relevant stakeholders.

The multi-stakeholder engagement, spearheaded by the Customs Department of the LRA, aims to proactively tackle obstacles hindering business operations and foster an enabling environment for growth and development.

Such dialogues are pivotal in strengthening LRA and business community partnerships, driving revenue growth, and propelling Liberia's development trajectory forward. Press Release

Start from page 5 National Bar secretary chides lawmakers

said during the December A.D. 2023 Term, there were three hundred and fifty (350) hearings in matters pending before the court.

According to her, most of these hearings centered on the disposition of law issues, motions for an investigative survey, divorce, and related matters, including child custody and Summary Proceedings against Magistrates.

Judge Elliott admonished lawyers to file their legal memorandum for the disposition of law issues and do the filing

before the date of the hearing.

She noted that this will enable the court to make determination on the law issues on the day of the hearing instead of postponing any ruling for a subsequent date.

The judge recounted that at the opening of the December A.D. 2023 Term of the court, she promised to dispense justice expeditiously and fairly to ensure that rights are timely adjudicated, as required by the Constitution. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Les passeports diplomatiques libériens suspendus

Le ministère des Affaires étrangères libérien a ordonné la restitution immédiate de tous les passeports diplomatiques et de service et annonce la suspension immédiate du règlement révisé sur les passeports mis en place par le gouvernement précédent.

détenteurs de passeports diplomatiques, officiels et de service d'une validité supérieure à deux ans devront les restituer au ministère des Affaires étrangères à partir du mardi 19 mars 2024.

La date limite de restitution de ces passeports est fixée au 18 avril 2024, a-t-elle ajouté.

Mme Beyslow Nyanti a

national, la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beyslow Nyanti, a annoncé que le gouvernement du Liberia suspendait immédiatement le règlement révisé sur les passeports de juillet 2023.

Lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme, tenu le lundi 18 mars 2024 à Monrovia, Mme Nyanti a indiqué que la réinstauration du règlement sur les passeports de mars 2016 prendra effet immédiatement.

En outre, la ministre avertit que tous les citoyens libériens et non-libériens inéligibles aux passeports diplomatiques, officiels et de service, quelle que soit leur période de validité, doivent restituer leur passeport au ministère des Affaires étrangères, ajoutant que le non-respect de cette consigne entraînera l'annulation immédiate de ces passeports.

“Les personnes en possession de plusieurs passeports diplomatiques, officiels et de service se verront retirer immédiatement les passeports supplémentaires. Celles qui ont des raisons justifiables de détenir

également annoncé la suspension du règlement révisé sur les passeports institué par l'ancienne administration Weah en juillet 2023.

Afin de répondre aux préoccupations de sécurité

▶ CONT'D page 9

Mulbah K. Morlu à la tête d'un nouveau groupe politique et partisan de la Cour Pénale Spéciale pour le Liberia

Mulbah K. Morlu, ancien président du CDC (Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique), est réapparu sur la scène politique en tant que président d'un nouveau groupe nommé Solidarité et Confiance pour un Nouveau Jour (STAND).

En froid depuis longtemps avec l'ancien président George Manneh Weah avant de quitter le CDC, Morlu a promis de devenir un fervent défenseur de la justice pour les victimes de guerre et les crimes contre l'humanité au Liberia.

“Puisque vous m'avez donné le mandat de vous mener dans ce combat, nous voulons vous assurer que nous ne craignons aucun ennemi dans la quête de la justice que vous méritez”, a-t-il déclaré le dimanche 17 mars 2024, au parc sportif PHP nouvellement construit dans le centre de Monrovia.

“Moi, Mulbah K. Morlu, j'ai accepté votre demande de devenir votre président. Je ne suis ni contre le UP ni contre le CDC. Au contraire, je chercherai la justice pour vous”, a déclaré Morlu dans

un discours d'acceptation lors du lancement officiel du groupe dimanche dernier.

Pour Morlu, le rassemblement historique de milliers de Libériens au “Parc de l'Unification” pour lancer STAND marque le début d'une ère nouvelle. “La signification de cet événement est profondément liée à l'histoire tragique de ces côtes sablonneuses, où des membres haut placés du régime déchu de William R. Tolbert ont été appréhendés, retenus et exécutés sans pitié sur les ordres du sergent-chef Samuel K. Doe”,

a-t-il déclaré.

Le président Morlu a révélé qu'après le meurtre et la décapitation du président Doe et de plusieurs de ses associés, la violence s'est poursuivie, plongeant le Liberia, autrefois paisible, dans un état de terreur, de mort, de destruction et de chaos inimaginable.

En conséquence, il a souligné que le tissu moral du Liberia a subi une profonde altération, à la différence de tout autre pays d'Afrique de

▶ CONT'D page 9



Éditorial

Les puissants redoutent le tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques

Le Liberia semble s'engager sur une voie où une poignée d'individus qui ont terrorisé la population entière avec des armes, semant le chaos et tuant des milliers de civils, y compris des femmes et des enfants, pensent toujours pouvoir prendre le pays en otage par la force des armes, face aux appels actuels à la création d'un tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques afin de les punir pour leurs actes.

Cette poignée de citoyens, principalement des chefs de guerre, dont certains siègent au parlement, pensent pouvoir échapper à la justice par le biais d'un tribunal et ont commencé à proférer des menaces de retour dans la brousse si un tel tribunal venait à être créé et s'ils étaient convoqués à comparaître.

Dans leur esprit, ils ne doivent aucune explication à la population pour le carnage qu'ils ont commis pendant la brutale guerre civile et devraient pouvoir continuer comme si de rien n'était, ou imposer leur volonté.

Mais il faut dire clairement aux généraux et chefs rebelles que le temps les a rattrapés, et que leurs jours sont comptés pour comparaître devant une cour pénale internationale afin de répondre des atrocités commises contre des citoyens innocents et pacifiques.

Ils semblent vivre dans une utopie, croyant qu'ils peuvent défier à la fois le peuple libérien et la communauté internationale pour échapper à la justice, alors que leurs victimes continuent de se lamenter dans la douleur et les larmes, la justice leur échappant. Non ! Il doit y avoir une limite, et nous pensons que le moment est venu.

Pour des raisons évidentes, les chefs des rebelles dissous de l'INPFL et du MODEL, les sénateurs Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba et Thomas Yaya Nimely du comté de Grand Gedeh, sont ceux qui battent le tambour de la guerre le plus fort, proférant des menaces et s'opposant à la création d'un tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques au Liberia parce qu'ils ont peur de leurs actes passés.

Les 98 personnes identifiées pour être poursuivies par le rapport final de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation doivent savoir que le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai n'est pas l'auteur du rapport, mais qu'il fait preuve de leadership en mettant en œuvre ce que le rapport préconise : la nécessité de rendre des comptes, et non pas une chasse aux sorcières, comme le prétendent certains milieux.

La marque d'un bon dirigeant est de se lever et de parler au nom de la majorité. Le président Boakai s'est lancé dans cette entreprise sans crainte face aux menaces de ceux qui se voient dans le miroir, affirmant qu'ils ne pourraient pas survivre au tribunal pour crimes de guerre car leurs actes sont accablants.

Les âmes de concitoyens assassinés de sang-froid à Kpolokpaila dans le comté de Bong, à la rivière Mahed dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount, à Voinjama, dans le comté de Lofa, dans les comtés de Grand Bassa et de Sinoe, et dans d'autres régions du Liberia, continuent de pleurer justice. Non seulement le Liberia, mais le monde entier entend leurs cris chaque jour, tandis que ceux qui les ont tourmentés à mort par des exécutions sommaires et des massacres vivent confortablement dans l'impunité sans aucun remords pour leurs actes.

Une chose est sûre. Cependant, ils ne sont pas majoritaires, et leurs menaces vides ne peuvent effrayer la communauté internationale qui est résolue à rendre justice aux Libériens et à mettre fin à l'impunité.

Français

Starts from page 8 **Les passeports diplomatiques**

plusieurs passeports sont priées de contacter le service juridique du ministère des Affaires étrangères pour obtenir des éclaircissements”, a-t-elle précisé.

Elle a indiqué que la délivrance des passeports diplomatiques, officiels et de service serait soumise à des critères d'éligibilité, le ministère des Affaires étrangères prenant en charge les frais de remplacement “gratuitement pour les citoyens”.

Toutefois, pour les personnes résidant à l'étranger, la ministre libérienne des Affaires étrangères a souligné que la directive leur enjoignait de se présenter à l'ambassade ou au consulat du Liberia le plus proche pour obtenir un nouveau passeport.

Reconnaissant la gêne occasionnée par cette mesure, la ministre Nyanti a insisté sur sa nécessité pour la sécurité nationale, exhortant

les personnes concernées à se conformer à la directive afin d'éviter des complications lors de leurs voyages.

Elle souligne l'importance de la coopération de tous les citoyens et résidents pour le respect de la directive, réaffirmant l'engagement du gouvernement à protéger les intérêts de la sécurité nationale.

“Cette suspension du règlement révisé sur les passeports de juillet 2023 reflète les mesures proactives du gouvernement pour faire face aux défis sécuritaires, en mettant l'accent sur le maintien de l'intégrité du système de passeport du Liberia et le renforcement des mesures de sécurité aux frontières.”

Le ministère des Affaires étrangères assure le public qu'il reste déterminé à faciliter un processus de transition en douceur et à fournir l'assistance nécessaire aux personnes concernées tout au long de la procédure de remplacement des passeports.

Starts from page 8 **Mulbah K. Morlu à la tête**

l'Ouest, avec le viol systématique de ses filles, l'exploitation et la conscription forcée de sa jeunesse dans des tueries sans merci, et la destruction de milliards de dollars d'infrastructures précieuses.

Il a rappelé que le processus de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation (CVR) a été lancé, exécuté et achevé dans la poursuite de la vérité, de la réconciliation et de la justice, aboutissant à des recommandations importantes.

Alors que certains piliers de ces recommandations ont été mis en œuvre, Morlu a déclaré que la quête impérieuse de la justice par la création d'un tribunal hybride pour les crimes de guerre afin de poursuivre les auteurs

principaux d'atrocités n'est toujours pas réalisée.

Morlu a souligné que STAND continuera à incarner la conscience collective de la base critique du Liberia, représentant la population marginalisée qui reste exclue de la répartition équitable des richesses de la nation.

“Leurs efforts mèneront à la transformation de notre État-nation par le biais du plaidoyer de la société civile, en le faisant devenir un bastion de liberté et de prospérité économique pour tous”, a-t-il noté.

Il a qualifié le récent incident à Kinjor, dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount, d'arbitraire et d'insensé de la part de la police qui a utilisé des balles réelles contre des manifestants pacifiques.

Le commerce stimulera l'économie de l'Afrique, selon Koffa



Le président de la Chambre du Libéria, Cllr. Fonati Koffa, espère que les dirigeants du continent africain, qui compte 1,2 milliard d'habitants, commenceront à prendre des mesures concrètes pour bâtir une économie résiliente au lieu d'attendre un système parfait pour aller au-delà des discussions et des engagements.

Le président de la Chambre des représentants du Libéria, Cllr. Fonati Koffa, a proposé que pour stimuler la croissance économique de l'Afrique, le continent de 1,2 milliard d'habitants devrait prioriser le commerce intra-africain et les investissements entre ses pays et ses populations. “En tant que dirigeants du continent africain, nous ne devons pas attendre un système parfait, mais passer des discussions et des engagements aux premières mesures concrètes”, a-t-il déclaré lors de la conférence des prix du leadership africain à Addis-Abeba, en Éthiopie. Il a également proposé que les dirigeants africains adoptent l'ouverture des frontières et une monnaie unique et que le continent devrait dépendre du commerce et non de l'aide. Il a plaidé en faveur de l'ouverture des frontières, d'une monnaie unique et de l'exploitation de la technologie comme facteurs clés pour promouvoir le commerce plutôt que l'aide sur le continent. Lors de la cérémonie de remise des 12e prix Personnalités de l'année du magazine African Leadership qui s'est tenue à Addis-Abeba vendredi, Cllr. Koffa a soutenu que pour que les dirigeants construisent des économies africaines résilientes, ils ont besoin de frontières ouvertes, d'adopter, d'investir et d'exploiter la technologie, et d'aller plus vite vers une monnaie africaine unique.

Selon M. Koffa, ces mesures contribueraient à créer des économies africaines résilientes, capables de s'adapter à des défis tels que le changement climatique, les problèmes de sécurité mondiale et les revers démocratiques.

Il a suggéré qu'une Afrique sans frontières, une monnaie unique et la technologie sont nécessaires pour construire des économies africaines résilientes qui puissent anticiper les crises, s'adapter et en tirer des leçons.

Dans le même temps, il a appelé à maintenir la direction et la dynamique même si les Africains devaient changer de cap et faire des choses nouvelles ou anciennes de manière différente. Pour y parvenir, Cllr. Koffa estime que la stratégie consistant à disposer de monnaies régionales avant une convergence à l'échelle du continent semble logique.

“Et je suis sûr qu'il y a de bonnes raisons à cette approche, mais elle est tout simplement trop lente, et nous ratons de grandes opportunités”, a déclaré le président à l'audience. M. Koffa s'est dit préoccupé par la lenteur des initiatives régionales vers une monnaie unique et a souligné la nécessité d'accélérer les progrès pour libérer les opportunités économiques. Ses réserves sur la lenteur de l'initiative de la monnaie unique régionale, en particulier du point de vue de la CEDEAO, découlent du fait que la région occidentale du continent a reporté à cinq reprises le passage à la monnaie unique. “Les grandes économies comme le Nigeria, la Côte d'Ivoire et le Ghana n'ont pas pu remplir les conditions d'inflation”, a-t-il déclaré. “Le Nigeria, qui représentera 65 % de cette conversion, ne se l'est pas encore approprié et n'en a pas pris la direction, et l'Afrique de l'Ouest francophone n'est toujours pas disposée à renoncer à sa dépendance à un système monétaire de l'époque coloniale”, a poursuivi M. Koffa. “Mais nous devons dire qu'une monnaie africaine unique est indispensable pour construire des économies africaines résilientes.”

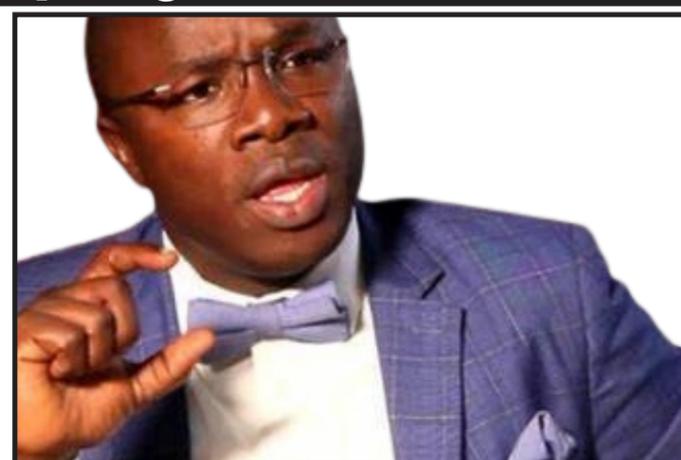
L'autorité des télécommunications du Liberia adopte une réglementation pour protéger les consommateurs

Une nouvelle réglementation vise à contrôler les fournisseurs de services de communication mobile et à soulager les consommateurs.

L'Autorité des télécommunications du Liberia (LTA) a signé lundi le règlement sur la qualité des services, inaugurant des lois de protection des consommateurs qui définiront des attentes mesurables entre les consommateurs et les fournisseurs de réseaux mobiles. La réglementation tiendra les opérateurs de réseaux mobiles (MNO) responsables d'un certain nombre de tâches et définira les responsabilités des consommateurs.

Parmi les dispositions figurent le traitement rapide des plaintes des consommateurs et la restitution des données et des minutes perdues dans les forfaits en cas de défaillance du réseau sans faute du consommateur. Les consommateurs ont également la responsabilité de lire attentivement les conditions générales des contrats qu'ils acceptent.

Les appels interrompus et les connexions retardées sont deux des indicateurs de performance clés (KPI) qui seront mesurés attentivement. Des sanctions seront imposées en cas de non-respect des paramètres définis.



Dans son allocution lors de la signature, la présidente de la LTA a déclaré : « Aujourd'hui, nous faisons un grand pas en avant pour garantir que vos appels téléphoniques soient plus clairs, votre internet plus rapide et votre expérience globale des télécommunications meilleure. »

La LTA a mis près de deux ans pour mener à bien le processus de consultation publique. Ses équipes ont parcouru les 15 comtés du pays, organisant des réunions publiques pour recueillir les expériences des consommateurs, puis les partager avec les fournisseurs de services pour obtenir leur contribution. Le document détaillé est le résultat des contributions de toutes les parties prenantes.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia, The Good Lawyers, and Bad Lawyers

By Hun-Bu Tulay

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"Here, we teach you the laws and if you are lucky to graduate, you would know the laws, but you have a choice to be a good lawyer or a bad lawyer."

When you are on a RESCUE MISSION, you do not act in a way that calls for attraction, because if you do not, your mission might fail or might be delayed. We do not want this RESCUE MISSION to fail or delay, because the people have waited too long, and their lives hang in the balance and waiting on you to RESCUE THEM. They want immediate results and the current Court actions in respect of the tenured officials will delay the Mission. This could have been



avoided. Many of these people have only two years remaining on their tenure; we should have waited. Spending approximately US\$3.00 million just to give jobs to some individuals does not solve our problems.

What Liberians need immediately?

a. **Mysterious Deaths:** Urgent investigation in the death of all those that were killed or who died mysteriously over the past years including the three missing boys. The last government failed to give comprehensive reports on these deaths. The President needs to establish a Special Committee to investigate these deaths.

b. **US\$350,000.00 and US\$650,000.00:** For the Inauguration, it is alleged that the Unity Party gave US\$350,000.00 to the Chairman of the Party for distribution to 17 electoral Districts in Montserrado and the remaining 14 counties; each County should have received US\$5,000.00 for the inaugural celebration in the Counties. And the government of Liberia gave US\$650,000.00 for the Inauguration in Monrovia. Since the inauguration, there have been allegations of corruption or mismanagement of the funds (US\$350,000.00 and US\$650,000.00). Liberians need to see comprehensive reports on how these funds were spent. Liberians need to know whether the funds were used for the intended purposes. The funds were given to two individuals and if we cannot hold them to account for the funds, what hope is there that our ministers and managing directors will be held in the future for corrupt acts or mismanagement? To fight corruption, you start with your friends, relatives, and officials of the government. We recommend that you read the book titled, "From Third World to the First World", the story of Singapore written by Lee Kuan Yew, if you have not already read it.

c. **Uneducated, undisciplined, and drug addicted youth:** Many years ago, one of the country's Presidents William R. Tolbert Jr., referred to the youths as the Precious Jewels of the country, because the youths are the backbone of any nation. They are the future leaders, entrepreneurs, and the employees who will drive the economic and infrastructural development of the country. The role of the youths in economic development is very crucial in any nation. Hence, for any nation to be successful, democracy will largely depend on the caliber of its youthful population. If they are uneducated and undisciplined it will be difficult to have a successful democracy because the uneducated and undisciplined youths are not wise to make informed decisions; they follow public opinions. They would be unable to read and understand the content of what they read and EVIL MEN will explain everything to them in a way they want to and a terrorist or homophobic or nationalist or a tribalist would be born and eventually a nation is destroyed. We are seeing this all-around Africa and many other continents today. We saw this in the 1980s, 1990s and we are seeing it now. A nation that has uneducated and undisciplined youths is a nation that has high illiteracy rate and poverty because the youths are stuck in

vulnerable and informal employment (penpen and kekeh drivers). The youths are frustrated, that is the reason they are turning to drugs. This is where the country is today; its youthful population is addicted to drugs. This has resulted in the increased crime rate in the country. This is driving potential investors away. The government must find an urgent solution to this problem. The government needs to build three rehabilitation centers in Montserrado County and one in each of the other counties. These centers should contain medical facilities and vocational schools.

d. **Roads:** UP promised the people that NO CAR WILL be STUCK on any road after 100 days. We have gone 37 days. We have only 63 days to fulfill this promise. This activity requires funding and yet, we have not completed our budget. This cannot be achieved without budgetary allocation. We are slipping slowly.

e. **Police Actions:** Recent actions of the police on the University of Liberia campus and the Bea Mountain mining (Kenjor) in Grand Cape Mount County speak volume. These actions by the police under your watch do not show a RESCUE TEAM action. In fact, the President, as the Commander in Chief, should have ordered the withdrawal of the AFL from the Bea Mountain operational site immediately upon his inauguration. Something does not seem right. This is another misstep. The question is, are our presidents protecting the company? It is alleged that Sirleaf did and so was Weah. Why does this company get preference when it comes to issues between it and the citizens? Will the Boakai Administration follow suit?

f. **Public universities and colleges:** The Weah Administration made a policy statement for all public universities and colleges TUITION FREE. The question is, will the current administration continue this policy? The President needs to speak to the Liberian people if this policy will continue. The academic Semester should have started a month ago, but without a policy statement on TUITION FREE policy and the way forward without which it would be difficult for the administrators of these universities and colleges to open their doors to the students. The President/government position on this policy is vital for the resumption of the academic semester. The students at the state-run university have started protesting because of the delay in reopening the school. Besides, there are issues outstanding such as the part-time faculty payment, faculty insurance payment, Social Security payment, etc. In addition, there is a serious infrastructural problem at these institutions. All of these were or there are backlogs in payments because the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning decided to take over the University of Liberia Payroll. There has been no rehabilitation of the current infrastructures and because of the free tuition at these public institutions, the enrollment has increased and there is a need to construct new academic buildings to accommodate the student population.



g. **Energy:** This has been a NIGHTMARE in the country, particularly in Monrovia. We need to know why there is less than 8 hours electricity supply in Monrovia and its environs. This outage of electricity is causing serious security problems and burning of homes because the inhabitants are using alternative energy sources which are not safe.

Liberians are concerned whether the RESCUE MISSION will be successful. The RESCUE TEAM needs to focus on solving these problems. NULLIFICATION of the TENURE POSITIONS IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THE ABOVE. JUST MAY BE SOME PEOPLE IN THE INNER CIRCLE OF TEAM WANT TEAM TO FAIL. WE CALL ON THE CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM TO IDENTIFY THEM AND GET THEM OUT OF THE TEAM IF THE MISSION IS TO SUCCEED. The captain of the team is too experienced to allow these MISSTEPS in the government under his NOSE. IF YOU ARE THE MOLES IN THE INNER CIRCLE, LEAVE NOW OR WE WILL FIND YOU AND YOUR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN GLOBAL INFAMY.

We leave you with these words. The people of Liberia have suffered a lot. Not because of the violence of BAD PEOPLE. But because of the silence of Good people. We call on all GOOD PEOPLE NOT TO REMAIN SILENT. REMEMBER IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE SILENCE OF GOOD PEOPLE THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF OVER 250,000 PEOPLE DURING THE PAST LIBERIAN CRISIS.

NTAL throw former officials under the bus

Founded in 1938, the National Teachers' Association of Liberia (NTAL) seeks to assist the government in improving the standard of teachers and workers in the education sector of the country.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, 20 March 2024: The National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL) has categorically condemned allegations levied against the institution by two of its former officials.

Committee (NEC) and the Representative Council (RC) of the NTAL categorically condemn such assertions and describe statements made by the two former officials as misleading and as such [they have] no substance of truth," said the NTAL.

The institution also indicated that the two officials were issued four suspension letters on August 27, 2012 (2 months), March 5, 2021 (1 month), July 9, 2021 (3 months), and February 17, 2022 (indefinite suspension).

Accordingly, the NTAL narrated that Mr. Johnson's service was finally terminated in line with Article 5.5.1., letters L, M & P of the December 29, 2022, amended Constitution, under the title: Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary-General.

At the same time, the NTAL further informed its members about Mr. Isaac Seh Kamara, saying he has been parading the media landscape, inciting teachers and education workers due to his ineptitude and corruptibility while serving as President of the Bomi County NTAL Branch. NTAL accused Mr. Kamara of being indebted to the organization in the tone of 80,000LD, which he promised to have paid before the 65th National Delegates Convention that was held in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County in 2018.

According to NTAL, money was borrowed to help him settle his mother's medical bills, but said amount has not been paid which led to his disqualification to contest as national president during the 65th National Delegates Convention which was a set criterion by the electoral body.

The NTAL wonders how such a person can demand a reputable institution for audit when it's often stated that "he who comes with equity, must come with clean hands?"

How is it even possible for such an individual to call for an audit of the accounts of NTAL? Members of the press, all operations of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia are guided by the By-laws and Constitution." According to Article 7.4.1, under the caption Auditors/Audit: "The Auditors shall work with the Finance Committee and the Secretary-General."

"The report of the eternal audit shall be confidential until it is discussed by the NEC and the Representative Council. External Auditors shall be approved by the National Delegate Convention."

According to the NTAL, Mr. Johnson's assertion is a total disaster. It added that it considers this act as a total disregard for the teachers and education workers of Liberia.

"We want to reemphasize that after a thorough investigation, Mr. Johnson was found guilty and dismissed by the 66th National Delegates Convention, held in Voinjama City, Lofa County on December 28 - 30, 2022 on several counts," the NTAL noted.

The NTAL said the counts on which Johnson was dismissed were 'Refusal to prepare documents such as meeting minutes, programs; and Refusal to take instruction from the National President and the Representative Council.' It also said he was held for taking decisions without consultation (Sending delegates to represent NTAL without the approval of the National President of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia.) The NTAL also accuses Johnson of mannerless approaches to the Council and the National president.

"Let this also be known that Mr. Johnson is not a due payer; instead, he was hired and fired after four warning letters on December 6, 2014; February 18, 2020, and March 5, 2021," NTAL disclosed.



Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, 19 March 2024, the NTAL said assertions by its Bomi County former president Mr. Isaac Seh Kamara, and former Secretary General Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson are misleading and lack any substance of truth.

On 8 February 2024, Mr. Johnson and Kamara reportedly delivered press statements simultaneously against the NTAL. They allegedly stated that the past government, through the Ministry of Education, conspired with the NTAL leadership to get at them in a struggle over position.

They were alleged to have accused NTAL national president Mrs. Mary W. Mulbah Nyumah of being offered a blue jeep in November 2020 by an unknown donor to compromise advocacies against the LEAP school. The two former officials further accused Madam Nyumah of pushing aside the NTAL constitution, violating the institution's constitution and illegally serving as president of the institution. Reacting to the past officials' claims in Monrovia, the NTAL said their assertions were misleading and had no substance of truth. "Given these claims, we the National Executive

Gov't rebukes Weah

Former President George Manneh Weah's recent request for 38 officers of the elite Presidential Protection Service for his personal protection has received a sharp reaction from the Government of Liberia, with the new Minister of Information, Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, terming the request as "totally inappropriate."

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, March 20, 2024 - In a sharp rebuke against former President George Weah's recent demand for additional Executive Protection Service (EPS) personnel, the Minister of Information, Culture Affairs, and Tourism, Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, describes the move as "totally inappropriate."

Minister Piah says President Weah rejected eight EPS officers assigned to him by the Government of Liberia because he (Mr. Weah) does not know them.

Briefing reporters on Monday, March 18, 2024, in Monrovia, he revealed that Mr. Weah had, instead, requested an additional 38 EPS officers for his personal security. Still, the Minister emphasized that there is no legal mandate that

framework for such actions," Minister Piah recalls.

Citing examples, Minister Piah noted that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was initially assigned 15 EPS officers, but several officers withdrew, leaving her with only seven. He further mentioned former Vice President Boakai, now President, who had twelve EPS officers initially, but the Weah government withdrew three of the officers.

Regarding former President Weah's demand for 38 EPS officers, Minister Piah clarified that the EPS leadership had informed him that such a request would not be fulfilled.

He underscored that the assignment of EPS personnel falls under the discretion of the President of Liberia and that attempts to codify this discretion in the transitional act under the Ellen administration were unsuccessful.

He maintains that "the protection of former presidents is a matter of



Mr. Jerolinmek Matthew Piah

compels the government to provide security for former government officials.

The ex-president's rejection of eight EPS officers and the government's refusal to provide him with 38 officers, as requested by Mr. Weah, is making the former ruling CDC uneasy. Mr. Weah's Congress for Democratic Change party has vowed to provide him with security.

The government has clarified that although EPS authorities made recommendations in 2017 to protect past officials, no concrete legislative measures were implemented.

"In 2017, during the transition period, discussions were held to include provisions for protecting former leaders. However, the proposed transitional act did not materialize, leaving no legal

common sense and government's commitment, not legal obligation," urging Liberians not to politicize

matters concerning national security. Piah reveals that there's currently an investigation underway. Before President Boakai took office, they noticed that people were employed within the EPS without going through its rank and files or fulfilling recruitment criteria.

Therefore, he added that ongoing efforts to rectify those irregularities within the EPS will ensure that the elite Presidential unit is cleaned up.

In light of the ongoing investigations within the EPS, the spokesman for the Boakai administration underscores that it is

imperative that no former government official attempts to dictate the allocation of security personnel because they are only trying to do so as a matter of common sense. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Dead bodies' clothes

keep away from grave sites, as people have been deployed to keep those areas tidy and safe.

The Acting Mayor noted residents of Ganta have been living in the city for over 30

years without complaints of dead relatives' graves being looted. Their bodies are desecrated, but rather, this is a behavior from

Monrovia that has been introduced in the provincial city by criminals and drug users, something he promised the city government would not condone.

Dead bodies' clothes put on sale in Ganta

-as criminals loot graves

Criminals in Liberia have gone all out in plying their trade with even dead not being spared, as they break into graves and rob corpses of their belongings and put them on sale.

By Thomas Domah,
Nimba County

Ganta City, Liberia,
March 20, 2024 -
More than 20 graves

which was officially observed as National Decoration Day, to clean graves of dead relatives, especially along the Ganta - Saclepea Highway

markets in Ganta. There have been no arrest made since the incident occurred.

Esther Whyee and Samuel Bartuah, who had gone to show respect to their dead relatives, stood in disbelief when they saw the various graves burst open.

Speaking to citizens, Ganta Police Superintendent Archie Dennis vowed to go after criminals, locally referred to as zogos, who are involved in looting dead bodies' materials, including bones, and smoking them as drugs.

Commander Dennis pledged alongside his officers to continue to make Ganta City crimes freed and foster a good relationship with residents of the commercial city.

The acting mayor of Ganta, Africanus Dolo, confirmed the looting of cemeteries but told reporters that he had paid more young people to help clean the facility.

He said following the incident, he met with zogos in Ganta and warned them to



have been looted at various cemeteries in Ganta City and adjacent areas in Nimba County.

Items looted from various vaults, including shoes and clothes, are being sold in the local market in Ganta and on various streets.

Family members had gone to various burial sites on Wednesday, March 13, 2024,

when they were greeted with shock and frustrations, after observing that corpses had been removed from the caskets in which they were interred, leaving behind empty tombs.

The NEW DAWN gathered that most of the dead bodies' materials looted by criminals are being sold in community

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