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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024	L\$192.3669/US\$1.00	L\$194.1433/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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VOL. 14 NO. 62 THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 PRICE LD\$40.00

# Budget Discrepancy?

**P11**



Former House Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers

**-Former Speaker alarms**



Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Mr. Jeety)

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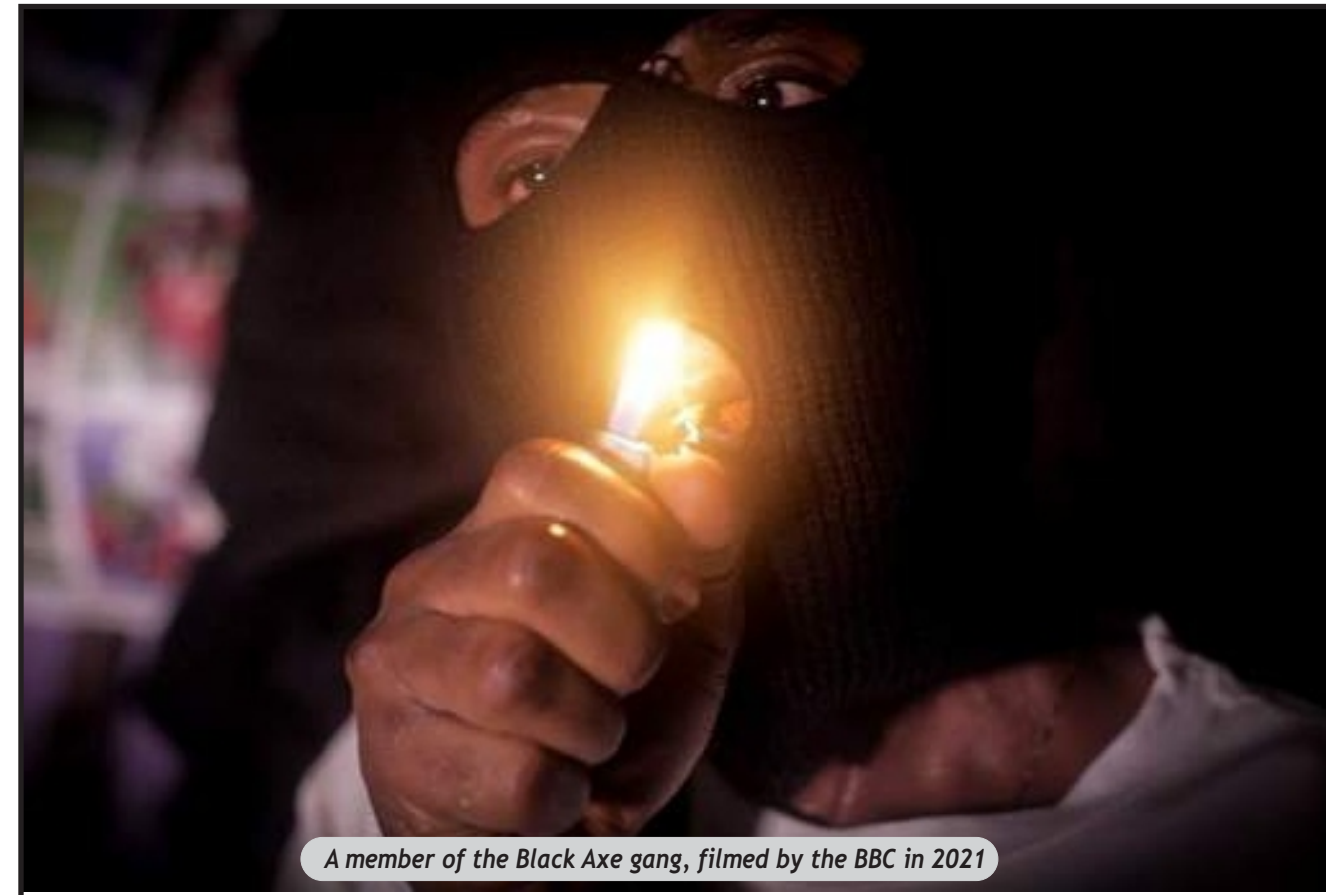
# Continental News

## Germany detains alleged Nigerian mafia members

German police have arrested 11 Nigerian men suspected of being in a mafia group who orchestrated large-scale dating scams.

laundering, the force added. The statement said: "Using false identities, the fraudsters for example signalled their intention to marry and in the course of further contact repeatedly

Nigerian citizenship and are aged between 29 and 53. They were detained on Tuesday in raids across the region of Bavaria following a



A member of the Black Axe gang, filmed by the BBC in 2021

The Black Axe gang was involved in "multiple areas of criminal activity" globally, Bavarian police said in a statement. In Germany, the organisation focuses on romance scams and money

demand money under various pretexts." Globally, the gang's main areas of operation were "human-trafficking, fraud, money-laundering, prostitution and drug-trafficking". The arrested suspects all hold

police probe that lasted more than two years. A 2021 BBC investigation of Black Axe unearthed evidence that the group had infiltrated politics in Nigeria and ran a killing operation spanning the globe. BBC

## Botswana rejects UK's asylum deal proposal

Authorities in Botswana say they recently received proposals from the United Kingdom to send asylum seekers to the southern African nation. However, Gaborone rejected the deal.

In a bid to address increased illegal migration, the United Kingdom turned to proposals of sending asylum seekers to Africa, a deal which some British lawmakers say will benefit the host nations.

To date, Rwanda is the only African nation that has agreed to the U.K.'s proposals.

The deal is scheduled to start in 10-12 weeks, according to Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Officials in Botswana say Sunak's government attempted to extend a similar deal to the southern African nation as the one struck with Rwanda.

British authorities reached out, but Botswana could not commit to "hosting people not knowing what the end game

tracked into the system, and citizens even encouraged to host them in their homes," Relontle added.

British authorities say the number of migrants crossing the channel in small boats has soared in recent years as people continue to flee war, the effects of climate change and economic uncertainty.

Official data shows that 45,774 migrants arrived in Britain in 2022 on small boats. The figure dropped to 29,437 last year as the government cracked down on people smugglers and reached an agreement to return Albanians to their home country.

Jonathan Portes, a professor of economics and public policy in the U.K., says under the Rwanda arrangement, some deserving asylum-seekers will be turned away.

"There is a general view that the small boats crisis needs to be resolved, [as] that it is very dangerous and unacceptable for people to be arriving in such numbers across the channel, but

## Central African Republic mourns victims of river boat disaster

Central African Republic President Faustin Archange Touadera declared three days of national mourning on Monday for victims of a river boat disaster, one of the country's deadliest. Authorities have said 58 bodies were retrieved from the Mpoko River in the capital Bangui after the vessel capsized on Friday as it was taking people to the funeral of a village chief. The wooden boat was carrying more than 300 people, some standing, according to witnesses and videos on social media. Search operations are continuing and the provisional death toll could rise.

A government spokesman on Saturday announced an inquiry would be opened to establish the causes and responsibility.

He also said a support system would be set up for victims' families. Video images on social media showed people trying to swim to the bank and others rescued by fishermen in dugout canoes known as pirogues and nearby sand dredgers before rescuers arrived.

River transport is a key way of getting around the Central African Republic due to the poor state of the roads.

Whaler boats are common in central Africa but are often dilapidated, overcrowded and also used to carry goods and cattle. In 2015, a river barge was destroyed in a fire after the engine exploded, leaving 100 people missing in the Ubangi River. The United Nations ranks Central African Republic as the second least-developed country in the world. A civil war broke out in 2013, losing intensity in 2018. But the country is still plagued by bouts of violence by rebel groups or over its resources which include gold and diamonds. VOA



Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Eric Keabatswe Masisi is pictured during a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on January 21, 2020.

would be," Lemogang Kwape, the country's foreign affairs minister, told VOA.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) NGO Working Group, an umbrella of civil society organizations, supports Gaborone's position on the U.K.'s asylum proposal.

Kutlwano Relontle, UPR's program manager, says the coalition "calls on the government of Botswana and other countries to distance themselves from this controversial U.K. program, which appears to be aimed at protecting only some of those who are fleeing their countries on the basis of fear of persecution, and not others."

"We noted that in the case of the conflict in Ukraine, those seeking asylum were fast-

that does not mean that the majority of the population want to send people, particularly people who would have a claim to refugee status, to Rwanda," he told VOA.

The economics and policy expert said he is not surprised that Botswana turned down the U.K.'s proposal, particularly after it came under heavy criticism from the U.N. and other human rights groups.

Britain has already paid Rwanda 220 million pounds as part of the agreement to host the deported asylum seekers. Sunak's government has also agreed to pay the East African nation an extra 150 million pounds over the next three years, and 120 million pounds once the first 300 asylum seekers have been resettled, according to the National Audit Office, NAO. VOA



A general view of a wooden whaleboat on the Congo River, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on March 31, 2024.

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# EDITORIAL

## Boakai's budget downplays education

The first national budget submitted by the Executive to the 55th Legislature for FY2024 leaves much to be desired with education relegated under agriculture, roads, health, and energy.

This means the nation's badly challenged educational system will remain so for a long time. It is quite unfortunate for a President that campaigned with a promise to rescue Liberia in totality.

As we write, Liberia is still hugely indebted to the West African Examination Council (WAEC), the sub-regional body that administers annual exams for students in Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. The country has defaulted in paying its dues, which is in the tune of several hundred thousands, if not millions.

This liability is negatively impacting the country's representation at the subregional level with adverse effects on decisions being made for the body.

This is happening so when public universities, colleges and tertiary institutions across the country are beset with serious financial challenges that are negatively impacting not only their operations and programs, but students' learning processes.

For instance, junior lecturers at the State-run University of Liberia refused to return to class at the beginning of the current academic semester in demand of salary and benefits, which delayed resumption of classes.

As if being insensitive, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's first draft national budget to the legislature prioritizes agriculture, roads, health, and energy, instead. The government is mute on whether it will maintain payment of WASSCE fees for 12th graders across the country, initiated by its predecessor.

Besides, thousands of volunteer teachers in public schools are yet to be placed on by payroll by the Ministry of Education that runs schools in dilapidated structures all over Liberia with students sitting on bare floors to write lessons.

Such poor learning environment, especially public schools are no doubt, some of the contributing factors to dismal performance of students besides dissatisfied and unqualified teachers.

Many Liberians had anticipated thought that the "Rescue Government" would have given equal priority to the nation's education, as it is doing for other key sectors. Unfortunately, this seems not to be the case, as evidence from the draft national budget indicates.

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# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## The Key to Transforming African Health

**N**EW DELHI - Despite the relentless stream of bad news from around the world, there are still reasons for optimism. One notable example is the renewed push to localize pharmaceutical production in Africa, demonstrating how even catastrophic events like a pandemic can lead to positive, unforeseen outcomes.

The COVID-19 shock underscored the critical need to fund public-health systems and expand access to essential technologies and preventive and therapeutic drugs, and should have served as a wake-up call for policymakers and publics worldwide. But once the virus was brought under control, wealthy countries reverted to the policies and practices that had made the initial pandemic response so unequal.

No part of the world has suffered more from these extreme global inequalities than Africa. African countries were the last to receive COVID-19 vaccines, having been crowded out by vaccine-hoarding wealthier countries and denied access to the technologies necessary for domestic production. Although Africa accounts for 18% of the world's population, the continent received only 3.3% of all administered vaccines by the end of 2021. By the end of 2022, its share had barely increased to 5.5%.

Even before COVID-19, Africa was already grappling with the global neglect of major epidemics such as Ebola, Zika, and monkeypox, as well as endemic diseases like sleeping sickness. One of the biggest obstacles to tackling these health crises is the continent's dependence on imported drugs. Despite bearing one-quarter of the global disease burden, only 2% of medical research is conducted in Africa, and more than 90% of the continent's vaccines and 70% of its medicines are imported. Moreover, of the roughly 375 pharmaceutical manufacturers operating in Africa, just 15% are locally owned, and most of these companies focus on formulations rather than the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) crucial for drug production.

Fortunately, the bitter experience of COVID-19 appears to have catalyzed a much-needed policy shift. During the pandemic, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laid the groundwork for inter-governmental cooperation by bolstering collective regional responses under extremely difficult conditions. More recently, several African governments and international organizations have launched initiatives to boost local pharmaceutical production and promote innovation across the continent.

The African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, backed by the African Development Bank, is a prime example. This initiative aims to bolster the continent's technological capabilities by expanding access to knowledge, building skills, and expanding product pipelines. The Foundation has pledged to invest up to \$3 billion over the next decade to develop pharmaceutical products in Africa, thereby reducing the continent's dependence on imports.

Another example is the Medicine Patent Pool's mRNA technology transfer program, supported by the World Health Organization and the United Nations. The goal of this initiative, which operates from its South African hub at the Cape Town-based biotechnology company

Afrigen, is to develop the necessary technological capacity and technical know-how to enable 15 low- and middle-income countries to manufacture mRNA vaccines. Initially focused on COVID-19 vaccines, the program has since expanded to other diseases prevalent across Africa, as well as more affordable cancer treatments.

These initiatives face significant challenges, especially their reliance on voluntary technology transfers, which have proven to be very limited in scope. To access essential knowledge and force multinational companies (MNCs) to share their technologies, African countries must expand their use of compulsory licensing, in line with their own patent laws and the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

Notably, the mRNA hub in South Africa has already faced legal challenges from Moderna, itself a beneficiary of US government subsidies and patent sharing. This underscores the importance of ensuring that the ongoing negotiations for a global pandemic treaty include specific provisions addressing compulsory licensing.

That said, access to knowledge alone is not enough. Given that production processes require specialized expertise, comprehensive education programs and skills training are crucial to establishing a sustainable foundation for innovation and production in Africa. This requires a broader regional effort, which African governments appear to be considering.

Another major obstacle is competition from large pharmaceutical companies. Novartis, which has previously initiated patent disputes in countries like India, has already announced its intention to achieve a fivefold increase in patient outreach in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2025. For localization efforts to succeed, it is crucial to emphasize local ownership and ensure that the benefits are not monopolized by Big Pharma. In any case, MNCs can be unreliable partners, as is evident from Moderna's recent decision to put on hold its planned investment in vaccine production in Kenya because reduced demand makes commercial profitability less likely.

Given that Africa's rich genetic diversity makes it a veritable treasure trove of genomic data, the risk of knowledge and data theft is a pressing concern. While the African CDC's Pathogen Genomics Initiative was celebrated as a major achievement when it was launched in 2019, there are now valid concerns that the pandemic treaty could make these data globally accessible, potentially benefiting large pharmaceutical companies in rich countries without ensuring fair compensation for Africa. Tellingly, foreign powers are already squabbling over who should control access to this invaluable database.

The challenges confronting African countries' efforts to take control of their health-care destiny are immense. Their determination to localize drug and vaccine production is a promising start.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

# Jeety feeds 4,000 on his birthday





# USAID LIBERIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-24-00002
- ISSUANCE DATE:** April 22, 2024
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** May 21, 2024 at 11:59 pm
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Energy-Infrastructure Specialist
- MARKET VALUE:** \$45,350.00 - \$ 72,566.00, FSN- 11  
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment for the purpose of automatic tax withholding.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** Five-Year Period of Performance with the possibility to renew in accordance with ADS 309. Personal services contracts are subject to the five-year limitation in accordance with FAR Part 17. In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J, Cooperation Country Personal Services Contracts (CCNPSCs) are of a continuing nature and expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts, each not to exceed the five year limitation in the FAR. Start date is pending security and medical clearances.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** This solicitation is available for Cooperating Country Nationals (CCNs). CCNs are individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Non-Liberian citizens must possess a valid Liberian work permit in compliance with host government laws and regulations prior to application. The Embassy cannot sponsor applicants for work permits.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access approved by the U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officer at post.

**11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

**A. Basic Function of Position**

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will report to the Infrastructure Team Lead of the Economic Growth Office (EGO) at USAID/Liberia on administrative and management issues; and as a senior-level advisor and technical expert, he/she will exercise significant independent judgment on matters of policy and technical direction and will make decisions to ensure successful program implementation. Moreover, he/she may be required to provide policy analysis and options on energy, infrastructure, service delivery, and utility management issues as requested by senior Mission management and other US Government officials through Mission management.

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will also represent USAID, as requested and appropriate, at meetings with senior Liberian officials and technical counterparts donors, non-governmental organizations, and implementing partners.

Infrastructure and utility service delivery in general, and energy supply in particular, is a binding constraint to social and economic development in Liberia, as such, service delivery is critical to achieving the Mission's development objectives. The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist must be a proactive, forward-leaning, results-oriented professional that will actively work across Mission technical teams to provide leadership and technical input on energy and infrastructure needs to achieve the Mission development objectives and strategic vision. The position will provide technical expertise and support policy dialogue and coordination for the USAID/Liberia technical offices and Mission leadership. This includes providing requested technical advice in energy and infrastructure sector development issues and policies in Liberia to the Mission Director, Deputy Mission Director, and other Office Directors, as requested. The position will support the Team in maintaining a comprehensive knowledge of current energy and infrastructure sector issues as well as maintaining professional working relationships with Government of Liberia (GOL) officials, the United States Government (USG) interagency, other donors, key implementing partners, and local leaders.

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will be asked to assimilate, analyze, and respond to rapidly changing circumstances and help guide the implementation of Agency and Mission strategies, and will serve as the lead on the Mission's Power Africa activities to achieve optimal results. He/she will be expected to bring state-of-the-art technical practices to Liberia's country-specific development context.

**B. Major Duties and Responsibilities**

**Project Management:**

**50% of Time**

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist position serves as a project management specialist on key energy and infrastructure activities, and will:

- Undertake duties of Contracting or Agreement Officer's Representative (COR/AOR) or Activity Manager as needed. Provide input/advice regarding all matters pertaining to proposed, planned, and ongoing activities. Undertake infrastructure and engineering oversight activities as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the Contracting Officer. Provide technical direction to the Implementing Partner (IP) and technical review and concurrence of IP deliverables to the Contracting or Agreement Officer (CO/AO) and keep administrative files and records of these activities.
- Conduct regular site visits for quality assurance/quality control to monitor the progress and implementation of energy and infrastructure activities. Provide field trip reports, both written and photographic, as required to monitor progress and to ensure work is progressing in accordance with established contract requirements, specifications, and engineering practices. Monitor the Implementing Partners' adherence to USAID regulations and requirements, including environmental and safety considerations, as well as branding and marking requirements.
- Prepare performance reports, briefing papers, concept papers, and other periodic documentation for the Mission, USAID/Washington, the interagency as required, and coordinate site visits for high-level visits.
- Liaise with GoL institutions and organizations, including the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Public Works, the Liberia Water and Sewage Corporation (LWSC), and other stakeholders implicated in the implementation of USAID energy and infrastructure programs, updating stakeholders on the implementation and progress of USAID/Liberia and Power Africa activities, and soliciting stakeholder feedback and buy-in as appropriate.
- Review and approve activity reports, vouchers, and payment requests related to assigned activities, noting discrepancies in documentation, and reporting such discrepancies to the Economic Growth Office supervisor and/or Mission authorities.
- Attend required meetings, scheduled events, and conferences related to assigned program and project activities. This may involve interacting with national, county, and district community officials regarding project implementation or completion and modification issues, including inspection, security, maintenance, operations, and logistical support requirements. Frequent interactions with high-level government officials may be required.
- Ensure compliance with USAID 611e requirements by assessing the host country recipient organizations' technical and financial capacity to manage and operate infrastructure constructed by USAID, and work closely with the Mission Environmental Officer to ensure that Mission supported construction projects are in compliance with Regulation 216 requirements.
- Prepare technical documentation including Request for Applications (RFAs), Request for Proposals (RFPs), Statements of Work, Independent Government Cost Estimates (IGCEs), approval memos and other project design and procurement documents as required to develop and approve energy and infrastructure projects and activities, obligate funds, and award grants and contracts in accordance with USAID procurement regulations.
- Serve as the chair or member of various Technical Evaluation Committees (TECs) or Selection Committees to evaluate partner applications and proposals, or evaluate potential candidates for employment.

**Program Management:**

**25% of Time**

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist position serves as an expert on energy and infrastructure development for the Mission and will incorporate service delivery considerations into Mission strategy documents and plans, performing the following functions:

- Lead in developing a comprehensive strategy for USAID interventions in energy and infrastructure.
- Incorporate infrastructure priorities into the Embassy's Integrated Country Strategy (ICS), the USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS), and other UGS strategy documents and agendas to ensure that the Mission is able to accomplish programmatic objectives.
- Work with USAID/Liberia Technical Teams to determine energy and infrastructure needs, incorporating key activities and components into project designs that address critical infrastructure gaps to achieve sector goals; and advise technical offices on USAID Policy and Guidance on the implementation of Energy and Infrastructure activities.
- Design programs and activities which support and improve the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), the Liberia Water and Sewage Corporation (LWSC), and other service delivery institutions, including the development of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve the provision of energy and infrastructure services in Liberia.
- Assist in the preparation of the relevant sections of the Economic Growth Office (EGO) specific Portfolio Reviews, Mission Performance Plan and Reports, and the Operational Plans, as well as, other relevant program documents and reports as needed.

**Knowledge Management and Relationship Development:**

**25% of Time**

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will also serve as the primary point of contact (POC) for the Mission on energy and infrastructure-related topics, building relationships with GOL, donor community, and private sector counterparts. As the Mission POC on energy and infrastructure sector issues, the Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will perform the following functions:

- Serve as the Mission's representative on the Energy Sector Steering Committee meetings and other donor or national dialogues on the energy or infrastructure sectors, and present USAID activities, priorities, and accomplishments.
- Advise GOL counterparts in the development of Liberian regulatory institutions, as needed, and helps them to effectively carry out their mandate; also provides advice to the GOL on energy sector reform, including appropriate models for private sector participation to improve utility management and operations, and development of an enabling legal and regulatory framework.
- Facilitate dialogues between GOL authorities, USG stakeholders, donors, and partners to reach consensus on energy and infrastructure-related activities and transactions; prepare and present reports pertinent to performance monitoring and evaluation, identifying, tracking, and monitoring milestones to evaluate progress.

- Manage outreach efforts with USAID's Development Outreach Coordinator and the State Department's Public Affairs Officer that may include public events, press releases, and close coordination with other USG partners.
  - Liaise with other donors and institutions on energy and infrastructure sector policy reform, brief USAID and Embassy management on issues and discussions, and prepare necessary documents, including USAID's position, and talking points for meetings.
  - Develop and maintain close professional contacts and active dialogue with energy and infrastructure sector peers in other country donor agencies, and various GOL offices which engage in the policy reform issues.
  - Review policies of the GOL that affect the energy and infrastructure sector development including planned or proposed energy infrastructure, energy sector policy reforms, energy tariffs and revenues, and the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation; provide information on implications of these policies and agreements for Liberia and on the effective implementation of USAID energy and infrastructure sector programs.
- a. Supervision controls: None

**12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

**II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION**

- Education:** A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the field of engineering, utility management, business or public administration, energy and/or environmental management, international development, or other related degree.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five years of prior work experience in project management positions analyzing and coordinating programs in the field of energy or infrastructure development, or related areas, such as public-private partnerships, utility management or operations, or energy sector policy.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia (if applicable)
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (Fluent) English, both oral and written.

**III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS**

The Government may award a contract without discussions with offerors in accordance with FAR 52.215-1. The Contracting Officer (CO) reserves the right at any point in the evaluation process to establish a competitive range of offerors with whom negotiations will be conducted pursuant to FAR 15.306(c). In accordance with FAR 52.215-1, if the CO determines that the number of offers that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the CO may limit the number of offerors in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated offerors. The FAR provisions referenced above are available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/browse/index/far>.

The technical evaluation committee may conduct reference checks, including references from individuals who have not been specifically identified by the offeror, and may do so before or after a candidate is interviewed.

Applicants will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Education:** (10 points) Points will be given to candidates with advanced formal education in the required areas, for specialized education in the target areas, and/or for specialized training pertinent to position requirement.
- Prior Work Experience:** (20 points) Points will be assigned for prior experience greater than five years, and/or for experience in the energy sector or infrastructure development, public-private partnerships, utility management or operations.
- Language Proficiency** (pass/fail): Fluent English ability (Level IV Reading, writing, speaking) **will be evaluated through a written test in addition to the in-person or virtual interview.**
- Job Knowledge:** (35 points) Demonstrated knowledge, or the ability to quickly gain such knowledge, of utility and infrastructure management, and service delivery. Demonstrated understanding of the Liberian energy sector, including matters related to rural electrification, renewable resources, donor investment, public-private partnership, and government policy.
- Skills and Abilities:** (35 Points) Demonstrated analytical reasoning skills, proficiency in working with Microsoft suite and other computer applications. Demonstrated ability to communicate technical information in concise written and oral form, and to work effectively with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and private sector counterparts.
- Supplemental Documents:** Please provide a supplement to the application addressing the following areas:
  - USAID representatives must be adept at building productive working relationships and working effectively in teams to accomplish goals. This includes communicating and collaborating with USAID staff, senior government officials, and other stakeholders to address challenges. Please describe an instance where you cultivated a constructive partnership with diverse stakeholders with differing opinions to accomplish a specific objective.
  - The Energy Infrastructure Specialist will design, implement, and oversee USAID programs. Please provide your prior experiences and responsibilities in program design and development. Please detail your involvement in situational or problem analysis and how you determined the best course of action or approach.
- Reference check** - pass/fail

**IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER**

- Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the offer form [AID 309-2](#), detailed current resume or curriculum vitae not to exceed 3 pages providing email address and a daytime telephone number;
- Offerors must submit supplemental documents.
- Offerors must submit three references who are not friends or family members, along with their contact information.
- Offers must be received by the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3, and submitted to the Point of Contact in Section I.
- Offeror submissions must clearly reference the Solicitation number on all submitted documents.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

**V. LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS PRIOR TO AWARD**

- The CO will provide instructions about how to complete and submit the following forms after an offeror is selected for the contract award:
  - Background investigation forms
  - Medical clearance forms
- Ensuring Adequate COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors - Please be advised that, upon award, the contractor will be required to follow the Mission policies and/or directives from the U.S. Department of State regarding COVID-19 requirements.

**VI. BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES**

As a matter of policy, and as appropriate, a CCNPSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

- BENEFITS:**
  - Foreign Service National Defined Contributions Plan (FSN DCP) – Eligible for this Department of State pension program.
  - Annual Leave – a total of 15 work days (120 hours) for the first three years of employment
  - Sick Leave – Sick Leave is granted as needed.
  - Health Insurance. Is provided under a U.S. Embassy-managed health plan.
- ALLOWANCES** (as applicable):
  - Transportation Allowance
  - Miscellaneous Allowance

**VIII. USAID REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND CONTRACT CLAUSES PERTAINING TO PSCs**

USAID regulations and policies governing CCNPSC awards are available at these sources:

- USAID Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR), Appendix J, "Direct USAID Contracts With a Cooperating Country National and with a Third Country National for Personal Services Abroad," including contract clause "General Provisions," available at <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/aidar>
- Contract Cover Page form AID 309-1 available at <https://www.usaid.gov/forms>. Pricing by line item is to be determined upon contract award as described below:

**Line Item**

ITEM NO (A)	SUPPLIES/SERVICES (DESCRIPTION) (B)	QUANTITY (C)	UNIT (D)	UNIT PRICE (E)	AMOUNT (F)
0001	Compensation, Fringe, Benefits and Other Direct Costs (ODSc) - Award Type: Cost - Product Service Code: R497 - Accounting Info. TBD	1	Lot	\$ TBD	\$ TBD at Award after negotiations with contractor

- Acquisition & Assistance Policy Directives/Contract Information Bulletins (AAPDs/CIBs) for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals available at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/aapds-cibs>
- Ethical Conduct. By the acceptance of a USAID personal services contract as an individual, the contractor will be acknowledging receipt of the "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch," available from the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, in accordance with General Provision 2 and 5 CFR 2635. See <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGES%20Regulations>.
- PSC Ombudsman**

The PSC Ombudsman serves as a resource for any Personal Services Contractor who has entered into a contract with the United States Agency for International Development and is available to provide clarity on their specific contract with the Agency. Please visit our page for additional information: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/personal-service-contracts-ombudsman>.

The PSC Ombudsman may be contacted via: [PSCOmbudsman@usaid.gov](mailto:PSCOmbudsman@usaid.gov)

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Attach importance to rescuing Liberia

-Archbishop Jallah tells Boakai

Liberian Archbishop Dr. Ola W.B. Jallah, urges President Joseph Boakai to tackle poverty in his rescue mission.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 24, 2024—Barely a month after the World Bank's latest report on poverty in Liberia, Archbishop Dr. Ola W.B. Jallah is



poverty, and 2.5 million live in abject poverty.

Archbishop Jallah urges the Government of Liberia to attach importance to the 2023 World Bank Report if poverty must be reduced in Liberia.

"If President Boakai's government must succeed, they should swiftly adhere to the World Bank 2023 report by addressing Poverty as key fundamentals to growing and developing the country", he stresses.

Archbishop Dr. Ola W.B. Jallah, the Presiding General Overseer of the Liberia Annual Conference of Grace Outreach Ministries, told The NEW DAWN that extreme poverty results from a nation's inability to feed its citizens. He indicates a nation that can't feed its people lacks the willpower to improve their living conditions, noting that the crisis here is a result of low salaries and wages given to ordinary people, especially those in the public and private sectors.

He rallied President Boakai to swiftly address poverty and boost economic growth, saying that Liberia needs to get involved in exporting goods and services made in Liberia to the

world market.

Addressing a news conference recently in Monrovia, Archbishop Jallah attributed economic barriers to a lack of price control and high financial requirements placed on goods and services at the National Port Authority (NPA) and other government institutions, which have caused untold poverty.

He urges the government to focus on the Agriculture Sector, stressing, "If the government is serious about reducing poverty and bringing about economic growth and development to the nation, the poor implementation of the country's agricultural and production activities must be a major focus."

He notes the World Bank poverty assessment index indicates a lack of interest in developing policies and programs that could create job opportunities in the private sector for many jobless Liberians past governments, which are some of the reasons for increased poverty here.

According to him, if Liberia is to get on par with other countries in the world in poverty reduction, the government must ensure that foreign companies opening here manufacture goods using at least 50 percent of Liberia's natural resources instead of exporting 100 percent raw materials.

He argues that the exportation of natural resources to foreign land by foreign companies, with locals receiving peanuts, is a serious hindrance to economic growth.

cautioning President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to take the report seriously and help rescue the nation and its people from poverty.

Last Month, the World Bank said in its assessment report that more than one million Liberians live in extreme

Top African leaders attend Ellen's EJS Center Amujae leadership forum om Kigali

Founder of the EJS Center and former President of Liberia, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, alongside H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Amujae Leaders at the Amujae High-Level Leadership Forum in Kigali.

Kigali, Rwanda: On 18 and 19 April, 2024, the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development (the EJS Center) hosted the first Amujae High-Level Leadership Forum since before the COVID-19 pandemic at the Kigali Convention Center in Rwanda with Paul Kagame of Rwanda in attendance and . Sahle-Work Zewde of Ethiopia sharing a recorded message.

In support of the EJS Center's renowned Amujae Initiative, the Forum gathered a broad cross section of attendees, including present and former heads of state; government officials; private sector professionals; representatives from multilateral bodies and NGOs; Amujae Leaders; and the EJS Center's Board. Acting as an opportunity for Amujae Leaders

Amujae leaders for helping to bring about a wave of emerging African women leaders."

The Forum was an opportunity for Amujae Leaders to refine their skills as accomplished women leaders, learn from one another, and exchange insights from their individual leadership journeys. The Forum was an important moment for self-reflection and development for many of the Amujae Leaders, as many have their sights set on running for public office in various elections taking place throughout 2024. Tailor-made sessions for Amujae Leaders running election campaigns provided them with not only the tools to run successful campaigns, but also the confidence to lead a team, develop a coherent message, and listen to people's concerns with empathy.

H.E. President Paul Kagame addressed the Forum and discussed the means by which African nations



Mayor blames Liberia's waste dilemma on failure

By Lewis S Teh

Monrovia City Mayor-designate John Charuk Siafa says the filthiness of Monrovia is as a result of government failure to allocate more funding to the municipal city government.

Mayor Siafa appearing for confirmation hearing before the senate told members of the committee that if Monrovia and its environs must have decent facelift, there's need for adequate budgetary allocation to enable the MCC meet its mandate. "Sustainable waste management", he underscores, "needs proper fiscal support, which the Monrovia City Corporation lacks and contributes significantly to the city's present waste management dilemma."

The mayor is asking for US\$4,430,586 budgetary support from National Government to ensure clean and effective city management, but projects an actual overall budget of US\$11,023,583.

He appeared for budget hearing Wednesday, calling for

more financial allocation for effective and sustainable city management.

According to him, sustainable waste management needs proper fiscal support, which the Monrovia City Corporation lacks, and has contributed significantly to the present waste management dilemma in the capital.

He notes that in the fiscal year 2023 budget, ceiling for GOL direct support to the cleanliness of Monrovia under the clean cities budget was US\$600,000 with a drastic reduction of US\$400,000 in the 2024 fiscal budget.

Mayor Siafa reveals that data collected by the MCC indicates that to clean Monrovia at 45%, the City Corporation needs a total of US\$2.8 Million, only for collection, disposal, and management of waste within the city limits.

He adds that the CLUS project budgetary allocation and payment under the

Government of Liberia last fiscal year 2023 was US\$750,000 rather than the required US\$1.5 million support.

For fiscal year 2024, the ceiling projected for the CLUS project has instead declined immensely to US\$500,000 instead of USD\$ 1.5 Million, as the government's commitment to the project, according to the mayor.

He laments that if government can't live up to its agreed US\$1.5 Million commitment to the counterpart funding, which he considers an error, there would be an imminent possibility for the World Bank to close the CLUS project closure.



to deepen their relationships and connections with one another, the Forum brought together 28 Amujae Leaders from across the continent—many of whom are senior government officials, activists, civil society leaders, development experts, academics, and economists—for a two-day interactive workshop with leadership training exercises and keynote addresses.

H.E., former President of Liberia, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and Africa's first democratically elected woman head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, said, "Just look at the difference that leadership and continuity can do for the sustainability of development," during her opening remarks for the Forum. On the subject of advancing women's leadership, Madam Sirleaf continued by saying, "Let's be realistic. It takes others, it takes colleagues, it takes supporters, it takes mentors, it takes partnership for us to achieve those goals....thank you to all of you

can achieve gender equality in public leadership. Moderated by Binaifer Nowrojee, the incoming President of the Open Society Foundations, the intimate conversation was an opportunity for Amujae Leaders to ask President Kagame how Rwanda achieved the world's leading representation of women in its parliament.

Speaking to attendees, President Kagame said, "When we started this process of rebuilding, the thing we discovered we had to do was to change the thinking of our own people," when speaking of the need to advance women's leadership and representation in the country. President Kagame reiterated the change that had to be put in place in order for Rwanda to succeed in its mission of supporting women in public life. The Amujae High-Level Leadership Forum is a milestone moment in the EJS Center's programming—it provides a space for Amujae Leaders to network with one another, engage with the EJS Center, and meet with high-level officials and organizations to advance their own leadership journeys.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Red Cross wants concerted fight against Malaria

*Red Cross urges strong fight against Malaria, a killer disease in Liberia and rest of Africa.*

Monrovia, Liberia, April 24, 2024 - The Liberian Red Cross, in solidarity with global initiatives commemorates World Malaria Day this Thursday, April 25, by spearheading a call to action against the prevalent disease.

populations, particularly children and pregnant women," says Red Cross Secretary General Gregory T. Blamoh.

"As we commemorate World Malaria Day under the theme 'Health Equity, Gender, and Human Rights,' we emphasize

including a cleanup campaign, awareness-raising sessions, and distribution of mosquito nets to over 200 households.

"We must act together to fight malaria and save the lives of pregnant women and children under five who are vulnerable to the disease," emphasized the Red Cross Secretary-General.

"Health and well-being remain a top priority for the Red Cross, and on this occasion, we reiterate our commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight against malaria. We call on the global community to increase attention and allocate more resources to frontline organizations involved in malaria prevention and control."

The Liberian Red Cross is currently working with Plan International Liberia for the provision of over 2,700 pieces of nets under the 2024 mass distribution of insecticide-treated Treated Nets in both River Gee and Grand Kru Counties. The LNRCs with support from the Embassy of Sweden will also distribute 800 pieces of nets in 12 communities in Sinoe, River Gee, and Grand Kru as part of its Green Inclusive and Resilient Liberia (GIRL) Project.

The LNRCs wants calls on all stakeholders, including government agencies, community leaders, and international partners, to join hands in the collective effort to combat malaria and promote health equity, gender equality, and human rights. Press Release



Recognizing malaria as a significant public health challenge, particularly in countries like Liberia, where transmission rates are high, the Red Cross underscores the urgent need for practical interventions to combat this killer disease.

According a press release, statistics from the Red Cross Clinic reveal a surge in malaria cases received in the first quarter of 2024, echoing findings from the County Malaria Profile, which identifies malaria as the leading cause of attendance in outpatient departments and the primary cause of inpatient deaths in Liberia. "The burden of malaria excessively affects vulnerable

the need to address malaria within the broader framework of health equity and human rights. Access to preventive measures such as mosquito nets remains limited in many communities, perpetuating the cycle of transmission. We must take concerted action to bridge these gaps and ensure equitable access to malaria prevention and control measures."

As part of the World Malaria Day celebrations, the Liberian Red Cross will undertake various activities aimed at raising awareness and promoting preventive measures. Two communities in Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties have been identified for a comprehensive intervention,

# UP Candidate Nya leads polls in Nimba

**-As NEC announces preliminary results**

*Liberia's new city Mayor has come to town with blames, arguing that Government's failure to allocate funding has left the oldest West African city in filth.*

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia City Mayor-designate John Charuk Siafa says the filthiness of Monrovia is as a result of government failure to allocate more funding to the municipal city government.

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# Over 50 million lives saved in Africa through expanded immunization programme

Brazzaville, 24 April 2024 - An estimated 51.2 million lives have been saved through vaccines in the African region over the past 50 years. For every infant life saved over that period, close to 60 years of life are lived, a new report by World Health Organization (WHO) finds.

These achievements have been possible under the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), a WHO initiative launched in 1974 as a global endeavour to ensure equitable access to life-saving vaccines for every child, regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic status. The report, which assesses the life-saving impact of vaccines, was released today at the start of this year's African Vaccination Week and World Immunization Week being



marked from 24-30 April under the theme "Safeguarding Our Future: Humanly Possible".

With the continuous support from WHO, UNICEF and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and many others, today most countries in the region provide antigens for 13 vaccine-preventable diseases, up from the initial six when the EPI was introduced.

Notable achievements have been made, including reduction

in measles deaths, with an estimated 19.5 million deaths averted over the last 22 years. The region has also witnessed a sharp decline in meningitis deaths by up to 39% in 2019 compared with 2000. Maternal and neonatal tetanus has nearly been eliminated in the region, and in a historic public health achievement, the African region was declared free of indigenous wild poliovirus in 2022 following years of relentless work to protect every child from the virus. "From disease prevention to eradication, the success story of vaccines is a compelling one. Millions of people are alive and healthy today thanks to the protection vaccines offer," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "We have half a century of momentum and have accomplished so much. Now we must sustain and expand vaccine equity to end the threat of vaccine-preventable diseases." The rollout of new vaccines such as the first ever malaria vaccine, and expansion of existing vaccines, such as for HPV, which protects against the leading cause of cervical cancer, has also set up future generations in Africa with an opportunity to thrive.

"Today we celebrate the monumental advances governments and partners have taken across Africa in the last fifty years to ensure so many more children on the continent are living past their fifth birthday thanks to vaccination," said UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Etleva Kadilli. "Leaders, partners and donors must strive to protect immunization gains in the region, especially in the face of backsliding rates in recent years."

# Jeety feeds 4,000 on his birthday

Starts from back 11

this is something that I am committed to doing until my last breath, or maybe if the government says I should stop," he added.

Jeety's dedication to helping others stems from his humble beginning in India, where he faced many challenges and obstacles that could have easily derailed his path to success.

However, through hard work, determination, and the support of his parents, Jeety was able to overcome these challenges and build a successful business empire across Liberia. The biggest is his newly established state-of-the-art Jeety Rubber factory in Weala, Margibi County.

As a successful businessman, Jeety is using his resources to give back to those who are facing similar struggles. Through his philanthropic gesture, he has

employed several Liberians at his businesses.

At the same time, he called on other business personnel and philanthropists to buttress his effort to create more opportunities for disadvantaged youth and ensure that everyone has access to a better life.

Thousands of ordinary Liberians, most of them at-risk youth and inmates who benefit from Mr. Jeety's hot meals, lauded him for his humanitarian gesture and continuous impact on their lives.

"What I'm doing gives me happiness, to see there's a need to provide food for those in need, those who cannot afford it, especially the disadvantaged youth," he said.

"This I'm doing is God's will, and you do not count God's blessings. This is my happiness, and I'm going to keep assisting the poor and the needy to the end of my life," he added.

# Français

## Le gouvernement Boakai défend la mise à la retraite de 200 agents de l'EPS

Le gouvernement libérien affirme que l'ancien régime a recruté des agents sans suivre les procédures appropriées. Le ministre de

du recrutement des agents sous l'ancien régime dirigé par George Weah.

Selon Piah, l'administration Weah a recruté des agents de l'EPS de manière précipitée et sans respecter les procédures et

agents concernés, qui ont accusé le gouvernement de les licencier illégalement pour des raisons politiques.

Des irrégularités dans le processus de recrutement

Le ministre Piah a affirmé que l'enquête menée par le gouvernement a révélé que plus de 200 agents de l'EPS ne répondaient pas aux critères d'admission. Certains d'entre eux n'étaient pas des citoyens libériens, n'avaient pas l'âge requis ou n'avaient pas le niveau d'éducation nécessaire. D'autres ont présenté de faux certificats.

Piah a souligné que la loi exige que les agents de l'EPS soient des citoyens libériens âgés de 18 à 35 ans et qu'ils aient au moins un diplôme d'études secondaires. Ceux qui ne répondent pas à ces exigences doivent posséder des compétences techniques ou spécialisées.

Le gouvernement appelle au calme et au respect de la loi

Le ministre Piah a exhorté les agents licenciés à suivre des voies légales pour régler leurs griefs plutôt que de recourir à la violence ou aux menaces. Il a rappelé que les agents de l'EPS ne sont armés que lors de

► **CONT'D page 9**



Min. Jerolinmek Matthew Piah

L'Information du Libéria, Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, a justifié la mise à la retraite de plus de 200 agents du Service de protection exécutive (EPS), la garde présidentielle d'élite du pays. Il a déclaré que cette décision était "nécessaire" pour corriger les irrégularités commises lors

les codes d'éthique de l'agence. Cette situation a entraîné une surpopulation de l'EPS et une baisse des standards de professionnalisme.

Le nouveau directeur de l'EPS, Sam Gaye, nommé par le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, a pris la décision de renvoyer ces agents. Cette décision a suscité la colère des

## La situation des droits humains au Liberia reste désastreuse selon le rapport du Département d'État américain

Le rapport du Département d'État américain sur les droits humains au Liberia en 2023 ne note aucune amélioration significative de la situation dans le pays.

Il dénonce des problèmes graves tels que des conditions carcérales rudes et mettant la vie en danger, un manque

flagrant d'indépendance du système judiciaire et de sévères restrictions à la liberté d'expression.

Le rapport accablant porte sur l'année 2023 et concerne donc la période de gouvernement de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), récemment remplacée par le Parti de l'unité (UP) le 22 janvier 2024.

Il détaille des conditions de détention inhumaines, une corruption généralisée au sein du gouvernement, des violences sexuelles et basées sur le genre répandues, incluant les mutilations génitales féminines.

Le Département d'État

► **CONT'D page 9**



## Éditorial

### Le budget présidentiel relègue l'éducation au second plan

Le premier budget national soumis par l'Exécutif à la 55ème législature pour l'exercice 2024 laisse beaucoup à désirer.

L'éducation se retrouve reléguée derrière l'agriculture, les routes, la santé et l'énergie.

Cela signifie que le système éducatif national, déjà en difficulté, le restera pendant longtemps. C'est regrettable pour un président qui a fait campagne en promettant de sauver le Liberia dans son intégralité.

À l'heure actuelle, le Liberia est toujours lourdement endetté envers le West African Examination Council (WAEC), l'organisme sous-régional qui administre les examens annuels des élèves du Liberia, de la Sierra Leone, de la Gambie, du Ghana et du Nigeria. Le pays n'a pas payé ses cotisations, qui s'élèvent à plusieurs centaines de milliers, voire à des millions de dollars.

Ce passif a un impact négatif sur la représentation du pays au niveau sous-régional, avec des effets néfastes sur les décisions prises par l'organisme.

Cela se produit alors que les universités publiques, les collèges et les établissements d'enseignement supérieur du pays sont confrontés à de graves difficultés financières qui affectent non seulement leur fonctionnement et leurs programmes, mais aussi l'apprentissage des étudiants.

Par exemple, les jeunes professeurs de l'Université du Liberia, gérée par l'État, ont refusé de reprendre les cours au début du semestre en cours, exigeant un salaire et des avantages sociaux, ce qui a retardé la reprise des cours.

Comme s'il était insensible, le premier projet de budget national du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à la législature donne la priorité à l'agriculture, aux routes, à la santé et à l'énergie.

Le gouvernement ne se prononce pas sur la question de savoir s'il continuera à payer les frais du WASSCE pour les élèves de terminale dans tout le pays, initiative lancée par son prédécesseur.

En outre, des milliers d'enseignants volontaires dans les écoles publiques n'ont pas encore été intégrés à la liste de paie par le ministère de l'Éducation, qui gère des écoles en ruines dans tout le Liberia, où les élèves s'asseyent sur le sol nu pour suivre les cours.

Ce piètre environnement d'apprentissage, en particulier dans les écoles publiques, est sans aucun doute l'un des facteurs qui contribuent aux mauvais résultats des élèves, outre le mécontentement et le manque de qualification des enseignants.

De nombreux Libériens s'attendaient à ce que le "gouvernement de salut national" accorde une priorité égale à l'éducation du pays, comme il le fait pour d'autres secteurs clés. Malheureusement, cela ne semble pas être le cas, comme le montrent les preuves contenues dans le projet de budget national.

Nous appelons la nouvelle administration à reconsidérer ses priorités, alors qu'elle entame sa première année de mandat visant à apporter des résultats concrets au peuple libérien, l'éducation n'étant pas une exception.

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# Français

## Starts from page 8 **Le gouvernement Boakai**

missions opérationnelles et que la possession d'armes à feu est temporaire.

Piah a souligné l'importance de maintenir le professionnalisme et le respect de la loi au sein de l'EPS. Il a déclaré : "Comment quelqu'un

qui menace de recourir à la violence peut-il être apte à servir à proximité du président ?"

Le gouvernement Boakai a réitéré son engagement à réformer l'EPS et à en faire une force de sécurité professionnelle et digne de confiance.

## Starts from page 8 **La situation des droits humains**

américain pointe également des lois criminalisant les relations homosexuelles consensuelles entre adultes, toujours appliquées.

Le rapport critique aussi l'absence de mesures sérieuses prises par le gouvernement pour identifier et punir les responsables de violations des droits humains.

Il cite plusieurs cas d'exécutions extrajudiciaires et de torture perpétrés par des agents gouvernementaux.

Le rapport mentionne le cas d'Abraham Hanson Wleh, arrêté, torturé et tué par Abu Konneh, un officier des forces armées libériennes, suite à un présumé cambriolage. Konneh et ses complices sont toujours en fuite à la fin de l'année.

Si la loi libérienne interdit la torture et les traitements

cruels, inhumains ou dégradants, le rapport note des cas crédibles d'abus commis par des agents de l'État.

Il dénonce également des violences physiques perpétrées par des autorités sur des civils pacifiques, y compris des personnes en détention ou cherchant protection. Des cas de viols et d'agressions sexuelles commis par des agents gouvernementaux sont aussi rapportés.

Le rapport pointe enfin du doigt l'impunité qui règne au sein des forces de sécurité et les conditions carcérales déplorables. La surpopulation carcérale, les pénuries alimentaires, l'hygiène insuffisante, la présence de vermine et le manque de soins médicaux entraînent régulièrement des épidémies.

## **La police et les motocyclistes signent un protocole d'accord pour les zones à accès restreint**

La police libérienne et l'association nationale des motocyclistes et tricycles du Liberia (NAFOTAL) ont signé un protocole d'accord (MOU) visant à limiter la circulation des motos sur les principaux axes routiers.

L'accord a été signé le mardi 23 avril 2024 au siège de la police libérienne (LNP) à Monrovia. Son application débutera le 15 mai 2024 sur les artères principales de la ville.

Ce protocole d'accord vise à sensibiliser le public à la sécurité routière, y compris le respect du code de la route et de la signalisation lumineuse.

Le colonel Nelson Freeman, inspecteur général adjoint de la police pour les opérations, a déclaré que le protocole d'accord, conclu le 2 avril 2024, vise à renforcer la sécurité publique. "Cette signature vise à promouvoir une culture de sécurité routière avant la mise en place des zones à accès restreint pour les motos par la police libérienne, à partir du 15 mai 2024", a précisé le colonel Freeman. Ainsi, l'accord prévoit l'interdiction de circulation des motos sur l'axe allant de Freeport au centre-ville de Monrovia, ainsi que dans tout le centre-ville. Cependant, les tricycles, appelés "kekeh" au Liberia,

pourront circuler en ville en empruntant Clara Town, Vai Town, le Vieux Pont par Waterside et le reste du centre-ville, à l'exception des rues Broad et Carey. Le colonel Freeman a également précisé que le tronçon Robert Field - carrefour ELWA, le boulevard Tubman et Paynesville par l'autoroute japonaise jusqu'à Freeport resteront accessibles aux "kekeh" et aux motos. Les "kekeh" pourront également emprunter Jallah Town, contourner le Capitole et revenir en ville jusqu'à la rue Benson.

En cas de violation du protocole d'accord et des restrictions de circulation, le colonel Freeman a indiqué que les contrevenants seront sanctionnés conformément à la loi. "Tout contrevenant au protocole d'accord sera puni. Dans un premier temps, la moto sera saisie par la police et amenée au commissariat central", a-t-il déclaré. "De plus, une amende d'un maximum de deux mille dollars libériens sera infligée. Si la moto n'est pas immatriculée ou assurée, on s'assurera qu'elle le soit avant qu'elle ne soit restituée", a-t-il conclu. Pour sa part, M. John A.F. Kenyor, président de la NAFOTAL, s'est réjoui de la signature du protocole d'accord, soulignant son potentiel pour réduire les accidents de la route et renforcer la sécurité publique.

## **Le vice-président Koung et d'autres boycottent les élections sénatoriales partielles**



Le vice-président du Libéria, Jeremiah Koung, et ses partisans étaient visiblement absents lors de l'élection partielle sénatoriale qui s'est tenue mardi dans son comté natal de Nimba.

En pleine baisse de participation à l'élection partielle sénatoriale de mardi dans le comté de Nimba, le vice-président Jeremiah Kpan Koung, qui a fait campagne pour le candidat du Parti de l'unité au pouvoir, Nya D. Twayen, Jr., ne s'est pas présenté pour voter, tout comme environ 20 partisans du Parti de l'unité du comté.

Cependant, le président national du Parti de l'unité, le révérend Luther Tarpeh, et d'autres étaient dans le comté de Nimba samedi pour clôturer la campagne du candidat Nya D. Twayen, Jr.

Mais l'absence remarquée du vice-président Koung du comté le jour du scrutin soulève des questions parmi les Nimbaïens, en particulier ceux de l'équipe de secours du président Boakai, d'autant plus que le propre parti du vice-président, le MDR, dirigé par le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, a soutenu le candidat du Parti de l'unification du peuple (PUP), le représentant Samuel G. Kogar, sur la base de la tribu.

Le faiseur de roi PYJ, de la tribu Gio, a mobilisé les membres du groupe ethnique Gio, qui sont la plus grande tribu de Nimba, pour voter en faveur du représentant Kogar, un compatriote, contre Nya D. Twayen, Jr. du Parti de l'unité au pouvoir.

L'élection sénatoriale partielle de Nimba a eu lieu le 23 avril 2024, à travers le comté, avec la participation de quatre candidats, dont l'ancien sénateur Thomas G. Grupee.

Le vice-président Koung, qui vote habituellement au Centre de vote de l'Association chrétienne des jeunes hommes (YMCA) dans la ville de Ganta, était visiblement absent. Cependant, son épouse, Madame Koung, et un assistant ont voté au même Centre de vote n°2 à Ganta.

Aucune raison n'a été donnée pour l'absence du président, qui est apparemment pris entre l'enclume et le marteau, hésitant à satisfaire le président Boakai ou son chef politique, le sénateur PYJ.

En outre, le vice-président et environ 20 partisans du Parti de l'unité de Nimba n'ont pas voté lors de l'élection partielle de mardi.

Le vice-président a voté au Centre de vote de l'YMCA de Ganta à deux reprises en tant que candidat à la députation puis en tant que candidat au Sénat avant de devenir vice-président, emmenant avec lui 20 de ses partisans, qui ne se sont pas présentés hier.

Les 20 partisans sont des responsables locaux du Parti de l'unité au pouvoir à Nimba, qui seraient mécontents de la direction du Parti et du MDR en matière d'attribution d'emplois.

Le vice-président Jeremiah Koung utilise les stations de radio communautaires du comté pour faire campagne en faveur du candidat sénatorial du Parti de l'unité, Nya D. Twayen, Jr.

Il y a quelques jours, il a rencontré les chefs et les anciens de Nimba et aurait distribué de l'argent comme incitation à voter pour le Parti de l'unité, comme ils l'ont fait lors des élections de 2023.

Le NOUVEAU JOUR a appris que si le Parti de l'unité devait remporter l'élection partielle de Nimba, cela pourrait compenser l'influence du sénateur faiseur de roi PYJ, qui se présente comme le parrain de la politique de Nimba.

D'autre part, si le représentant Samuel G. Kogar remporte les élections, une autre élection partielle serait en préparation pour pourvoir son siège à la Chambre, mais les experts disent que le vice-président Jeremiah Koung, qui a les yeux rivés sur la présidence pour 2029, pourrait mobiliser d'autres

membres de sa tribu Mano pour ne pas élire un autre locuteur gio, bien que ces derniers les surpassent en nombre. Après l'élection partielle de mardi, l'ethnicité sera un autre sujet brûlant de discussion dans le comté, si le représentant du district n°5, Samuel G. Kogar, remporte le siège au Sénat, ce qui verrait le comté établir un autre record en élisant deux personnes de la même tribu et de la même région au Sénat libérien.

Pendant ce temps, plusieurs centres de vote couverts par le NOUVEAU JOUR lors de l'élection partielle sénatoriale de mardi ont indiqué une faible participation.

"Depuis le début du vote à 8 heures jusqu'à 14 heures avant le début de la pluie qui a commencé à 15 heures, aucun électeur ne s'est présenté pour voter ; certains disent qu'ils n'ont pas reçu d'argent des candidats pour venir voter", explique un membre du personnel local de la Commission nationale des élections.

Plusieurs observateurs locaux et internationaux, dont le Comité de coordination des élections (CCE), Democracy International, EISA ainsi que les médias libériens, ont observé les élections. Le Parti de l'unité au pouvoir et le Parti de l'unification du peuple ont tous deux envoyé des observateurs sur le terrain.

Les candidats Thomas S. Grupee et Armstrong Gobac Selekpoh n'avaient pas de représentants dans les centres de vote.

De 15 heures à 17 heures hier, divers centres de vote étaient pratiquement vides, aucun électeur ne se présentant pour voter.

S'adressant aux journalistes à Radio Kergheamahn 94.5 FM, la présidente de la Commission électorale nationale, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a exhorté les Nimbaïens à sortir et à voter, soulignant que cela leur donnerait le pouvoir d'élire la meilleure personne pour les représenter à la 55e législature, en particulier au Sénat.

"Un problème que nous rencontrons est que certains électeurs se plaignent de ne pas pouvoir obtenir d'argent avant de pouvoir voter ; ne votez pas pour de l'argent. Il s'agit de votre avenir, de l'avenir des enfants et du pays", a-t-elle mis en garde.

Interrogée sur le fait de savoir si la faible participation pouvait être attribuée à un manque d'éducation civique des électeurs, la présidente Browne Lansanah a déclaré qu'une grande sensibilisation avait été réalisée par le biais des stations de radio communautaires du comté avant les élections, donc le problème de la sensibilisation ne devrait pas être en cause.

La Commission électorale nationale a organisé une élection partielle sénatoriale dans le comté de Nimba et une élection partielle à la Chambre des représentants dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, respectivement mardi. Les détails des élections à Grand Gedeh sont encore en cours de publication et des mises à jour fraîches pourraient survenir ultérieurement. Rédaction par Jonathan Browne

# LIBERIANS

# DEBATE

**Topic:** Government's restriction imposed on commercial bikes

*By Naneka Hoffman*

The Liberia National Police has announced restriction of commercial motorbikes from the main streets of Monrovia for public safety purposes. But commercial bike riders are unhappy about the restriction, as they explain to the NEW DAWN, Read their responses as compiled below.



**Patrick Lamie**

restricted from running in Central Monrovia, I agreed with them because they are key stakeholders.

Secondly, if government even says motorbikes shouldn't run on car roads, I agreed with them because it isn't only happening in Liberia.

I have been to Sierra Leone, I've been to Ivory Coast, in the capital city, I didn't see any motorbike running in the capital city, so I agree with the police spokesman."

"I can't go against the government. If the government says motorbikes will be



**Thomas Tamba**

"For this restriction, let the police spokesman and especially the President help us. As for me, I learned trade, so how will I go beg someone to do things for me? I have to feed my family through motorbike, so if the government will be restricting motorbikes from running in Central Monrovia, then government is saying that we will be restricted from running in certain parts of the street in the capital city. How will we survival? How will we help our family? How will I hustle? My friends that are running bikes in the community are thousands and they are not making money, so if I go join them, how will we survival?"

How we will get money? Traffic is not running in the community, so the government needs to find jobs for us before taking us from the street."

"If the police spokesman is coming up with such restriction, stopping motorbikes from running in Central Monrovia, no problem but, let them give us job first, let jobs come in the country. But no job, how will we move from the street? If you go in the community to run your motorbike, you will not get the money you can get in the street. It is from this motorbike I am feeding my family, sending my children to school and paying my rental, so if the government says they are restricting motorbikes from running in Central Monrovia, I will not be able to get



**Nathaniel Saah**

that money to support my children and myself. We the youth are many so, if the government is doing this, not me oh, but someone will be hacking people things in the street more than ever before."

"Well, I don't just want to say that it isn't timely, but I would like to give a recommendation to the government, as it relates to restricting motorbikes. But before I can give that recommendation, let me just say few things: One is the issue of economic impact, motorbikes are bringing [money] to the economy. If you do a statistics, every year you have importation of motorbikes in the country that also brings money to the economy. Secondly, our citizens move from one destination to another, in times it has been helping, so let the government understands this thing first. My recommendation is that if you want motorbikes restricted in the country, you should have the standard. Example, we will reduce taxes on motorbikes and we will ensure that every bike coming in the country has helmet. The restriction placed on

motorbikes isn't timely; that is they should put some deterring measures into place, that is the issue of registration of bikes should be reduced and every motorbike must have helmet, because the government's argument is the risks, so if they put these things in place, then they can come up with it."



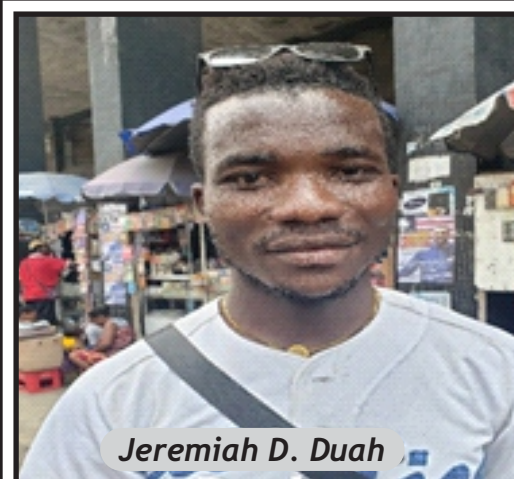
**Ebenezer Momo**



**Mohammed A. Dukuly**

"Yes, it is timely from a security perspective, and looking at the security and the accident rate in the country, it is timely for the motorbikes to leave the street, because the

data analysis about accident rate through police official data, you will realize that most of the accidents that occurred are from motorbikes. We want to save lives and property; we want to have a city where there is free-flow or such a very high security rate, so looking at the rescue mission and they want to redefine course of action for the traffic in Monrovia. So we support that motorbikes should be restricted, not coming in the main street of the city but stopping in some local areas, and move ahead with their daily journey in the traffic.



**Jeremiah D. Duah**

"The government talks about restricting motorbikes from running

in Central Monrovia; for me, nobody is above the law that is the government's decision.

But for me, if it happens, it will bring a lot of noise.

And the restriction the government is putting in place isn't timely.

We all know that it is possible for it to happen, but let the government give us chance, so like the way we put them in power for them to bring investors in the country so that the youth can get job, so the motorbikes can reduce small."

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# Budget Discrepancy?

Ex-speaker Bhofal Chambers discloses that there was a huge discrepancy in his budget during his leadership at the House of Representatives, while his then deputy received more money.

Monrovia, Liberia, April 24, 2024—Former House Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers reveals here that there was a huge budget discrepancy during his leadership. The actual budget he signed did not reflect how much he earned compared to his

that a significant portion of that amount (his budget) was deliberately not attended to by the Ministry of Finance and must admit, as some government officials at that time tried.

“I must say that the Honorable Minister failed to honor his responsibility; he

He notes that what he stood for yesterday at the Legislature helped to keep Liberia alive, safe, peaceful, and stable.

“We stood for the people, we spoke for the people, and we advised the government. Liberia could have been much better.”

The Former Speaker notes that his resolve to put the people first and serve the best interests of the country led a deep state to attempt to fight back, destabilizing the running of the House of Representatives, strangling his office, and banishing him from the state.

The Maryland former lawmaker adds that his only craving or sin was to see Liberia become productive and prosperous, and his past action was to facilitate the process of moving Liberia’s annual budget to more than a billion United States Dollars.

Speaking on the Bea Mountain issue, he said revenue generated per annum from the Bea Mountain Mining Company needs to be disclosed, revenue sharing between the company and the government should be transparent, and value addition must be prioritized.

He cautions that government officials should have no business dealing with Bea Mountain directly or indirectly, saying, “Realizing that the price of gold has significantly zoomed or increased, corresponding benefits revenue-wise must come to the state, workers must have their just salaries and benefits.”

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Former House Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers

deputy, current Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Dr. Chambers said his office was allotted 2,216,399.00 in the 2023 budget, while his then-deputy, Koffa, earned \$4,038,687.00. However, he notes that the budget from which he spoke differed from the 2023 budget published online.

“I was stunned to learn that the budget of the Deputy Speaker of the 54th Legislature was US\$4,038,687.00; in my case, the budget given to my office was US\$2,216,399.00”, he explains.

Dr. Chambers continues

helped to overtly undermine the Office of the Speaker of the 54th Legislature. He may not have been alone; copies of email messages from the former Comptroller General to the CBL to release or clear checks for my office are in my possession.”

Chambers, speaking to this paper on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at his residence in Paynesville, said this was the case with him for the past six years, and he invited the minister along with some senior staff on a few occasions, but there were always promises that were unfulfilled.

# Court orders Boakai to withdraw nominations

Starts from back page time, Chief Justice Yuoh ordered President Boakai's nominations to various positions and institutions withdrawn. She further ordered the Clerk of the Supreme Court to inform all the parties about the court's mandate accordingly. "Their said removal from office before the expiry of their tenure without due process is ultra vires," Chief Justice Yuoh stressed. Chief Justice Yuoh explained that the Supreme Court has held that Article 89 of the Constitution of Liberia (1986), which gives the Legislature the authority to create autonomous agencies, does not contravene Article 56 of the Constitution.

Counselors James N. Kumeh, Arthur T. Johnson, Samuel Y. Zazay, Alexander B. Zoe, and Fredrick L. Gbemie represented the officials

challenging their removals, while Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh, J., and Adolphus Karnuah represented the Government of Liberia. On March 28, 2024, the highest court in the country heard arguments from both government lawyers and the petitioners' lawyers. Justice Minister Tweh argued before the Supreme Court that it's a privilege and not a right for all those holding public offices. He added that the president only nominated individuals who had not been confirmed by the Senate or commissioned by the President, and therefore, it didn't cause those petitioners any injuries.

"If you think [the] government has breached your contract right, what you do is to request for your

benefits and not run to court, "Justice Minister Tweh argued.

In his earlier comments, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's Legal Advisor, Cllr. Bushuben Keita revealed over the weekend that the cabinet had authorized the President to scrap all tenures except those protected by the Constitution--urging him to appoint his trusted lieutenants in those positions.

Cllr. Keita said the cabinet reached the decision at its first meeting on Friday, February 23, 2024.

# Jeety feeds 4,000 on his birthday

Mr. Jeety performed the feeding exercise at the Monrovia Central Prison or South Beach in central Monrovia and other locations in the capital where he usually feeds disadvantaged youths.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh with additional files

Monrovia, April 25, 2024: Indian Businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Mr. Jeety) celebrated his birthday in a unique way this year by feeding over 2,176 inmates.

Mr. Jeety performed the feeding exercise at the Monrovia Central Prison or South Beach in central Monrovia and other locations in the capital where he usually feeds disadvantaged youths.

Mr. Jeety provided hot meals to those in need and also revealed his desire to rehabilitate disadvantaged youth and make a positive impact on Liberian society.

At the Monrovia Central

sachets of water, and cake, among others, while over 700 underprivileged youths were also fed with the same hot meals.

In remarks, Mr. Jeety expressed his passion for helping those in need and his commitment to making a difference in the lives of disadvantaged youth and inmates.

He emphasized the importance of providing support and resources to help these individuals overcome their challenges and achieve their full potential.

“I believe every person deserves a second chance and the opportunity to turn their lives around,” he said.

Jeety maintained, “So, by providing meals and support to those in need, we can help them build a better future for themselves and their communities, and I believe that by investing in Liberian youth.”

“By providing them with the tools



Prison, Jeety fed 1,476 inmates they need to succeed, we can create with hot beans, soup, and rice, a brighter future for everyone, and including the provision of several plates, soft drinks,

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Date: April 19, 2024

### SURVEY NOTICE

The General public is hereby notified that the undersigned registered Land Surveyor has been authorized by Mr. Issac K. Krahe to conduct a sub-division survey of 4 lots (1 acre) of land into two (2) Lots each in favor of David Adjleh Krahe and Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Kamanda respectively. Said survey will be conducted on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:30 am prompt.

The land is situated at Kprokpacon Town, Marshall Road, Opposite Gbason Town Business Inc., Cements and Blocks dealer.

This Survey notice should claim the attention of all adjoining property owners as follows:

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Musa F. Kaba  
Registered Land Surveyor  
Licensed #: 141  
Cell #: 0775700712

## Court orders Boakai to withdraw nominations

**--Says Tenure rights to due process were violated**

The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that removing tenure-serving officials from their offices before the expiry of their tenures without due process is ultra vires (exceeding the authority granted by the executive).

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 25, 2024: Liberia's Supreme Court has ordered President Joseph

Nyumah Boakai to withdraw weeks of hearing a petition for a writ of prohibition filed by several past government officials accused of violating the Code of Conduct by partaking in active politics.



President Joseph Nyumah Boakai

Nyumah Boakai to withdraw nominations he made to various tenured positions, having determined that tenured officials' rights to due process were violated.

Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh read the court's opinion on Wednesday, 24 April 2024. The court's ruling followed

Identification Registry, and Edwina Crump Zackpah, Chairperson of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA).

Additionally, the administration lost to LTA officials Israel Akinsanya, James Gbarwea, Zatowon Titus, Osborn Diggs, and

Liberia National Lottery Authority Director General Reginald Kpan Nagbe.

These officials, the court said, had their rights to due process violated by the administration.

But the full bench of the Supreme Court also quashed and dismissed a petition for the writ of prohibition filed against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by its former boss, Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh.

Tarpeh had been claiming to hold a tenure position and was allegedly removed illegally by the Boakai administration.

However, the Supreme Court ruled that the appointment of Prof. Tarpeh by former President George Manneh Weah without the approval of the Policy Council was an action that erased the legally required process procedure of being an Executive Director.

Delivering the ruling, Chief Justice Yuoh said the alternative writ of prohibition issued by Justice-in-Chambers Yussif D. Kaba is hereby affirmed, and the peremptory writ prayed for by the tenured groups is granted. At the same

▶ CONT'D page 11

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