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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024	L\$192.3745/US\$1.00	L\$194.1498/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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Lawmakers in Dog fight

Flashback of Lawmakers at the Capito

-Lawmakers disrupt session in dog fight, defying decorum



Nimba loyalty shifting?



VP Koung

Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

-As Senator PYJ congratulates candidate Nya D. Twayen

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Continental News

More than 150 killed as heavy rains pound Tanzania

At least 155 people have died in floods and landslides in Tanzania following heavy rains caused by El Niño, the prime minister has said. Kassim Majaliwa warned that the rains killed, 236 had been injured. "The heavy El Nino rains, accompanied by strong winds, floods, and landslides in various parts of the country, have caused significant damage." These include loss of life, destruction of crops,

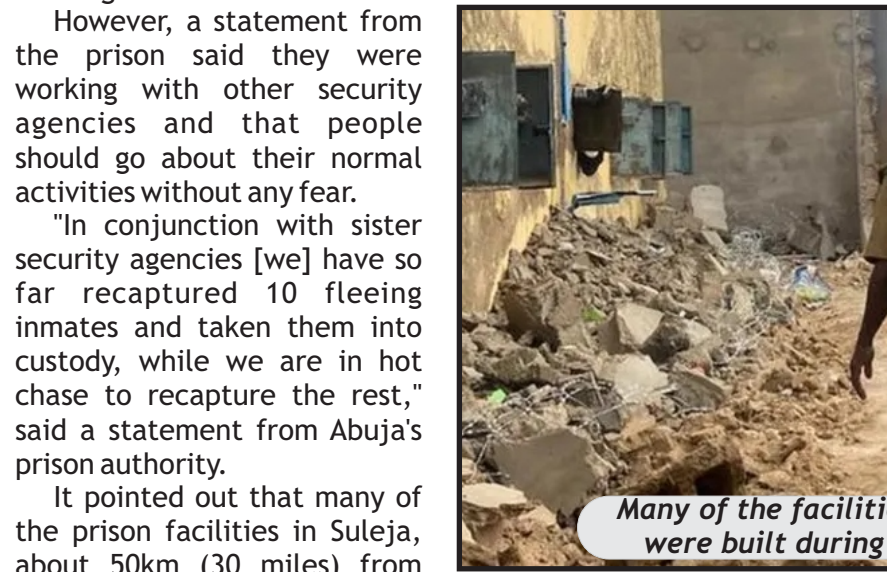


Many thousands have had to leave their homes, such as these people in the Coastal region earlier this month

might continue into May, and urged families to leave flood-prone areas. About 200,000 people and more than 51,000 households were already affected by the disaster, he added. Heavy rains have also swept through neighbouring Kenya and Burundi, causing a humanitarian crisis in the region. Giving a report to Tanzania's parliament on the situation in his country since January, Mr Majaliwa said that in addition to the 155 people homes, citizens' property, and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and railways," he added. A resident in northern Tanzania's Siha district told the BBC that his home had been destroyed. "I have nothing left, everything has been wiped away," he said. In Kenya, President William Ruto has ordered the army to help with recue operations, as heavy rains pounded large parts of the country, including the capital, Nairobi, where homes in some slum areas have been swept away, along with furniture and other

Prisoners escape after rain damages Nigeria prison

More than 100 prisoners have escaped from a jail near Nigeria's capital after heavy rain damaged part of the facility where they were housed, as well as the perimeter fence. According to the authorities, 118 inmates originally fled the Suleja Prison but 10 have been re-captured. A manhunt has been launched to find the others. The identity of the prisoners is unclear at this point but there are fears that some might be dangerous. However, a statement from the prison said they were working with other security agencies and that people should go about their normal activities without any fear. "In conjunction with sister security agencies [we] have so far recaptured 10 fleeing inmates and taken them into custody, while we are in hot chase to recapture the rest," said a statement from Abuja's prison authority. It pointed out that many of the prison facilities in Suleja, about 50km (30 miles) from



Many of the facilities in Suleja prison were built during the colonial era

goods. More than 10 have died in Kenya this week, bringing the death to at least 45 people since March, the Red Cross said. In Burundi, heavy rains have displaced nearly 100,000 peoples. BBC Weather's Chris Fawkes says that one of the biggest drivers of the rains is the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). The IOD - often called the "Indian Niño" because of its similarity to its Pacific equivalent - refers to the difference in sea-surface temperatures in opposite parts of the Indian Ocean. During a positive phase, the waters in the western Indian Ocean are much warmer than normal and this can bring heavier rain regardless of El Niño. However, when both a positive IOD and an El Niño occur at the same time, as was the case last year, the rains in East Africa can become extreme. One of the strongest positive IOD patterns on record coincided with one of the strongest El Niño patterns in 1997 and 1998, with severe flooding reported. These caused more than 6,000 deaths in five countries in the region. BBC

according to officials. At the time Islamist fighters said they carried out the attack to free some of their members. More than 5,000 inmates have escaped during prison breaks in Nigeria since 2020. Many Nigerian prisons are overcrowded and lack basic amenities, although authorities say they are working to fix the issues. Many inmates have never been convicted of any crimes - they can wait for their trial to start for years on end. One prison recently said that up to 70% of its inmates were awaiting trial. BBC

Hundreds of villagers killed in Burkina Faso army revenge attack

More than 220 civilians, including at least 56 children, were massacred by Burkina Faso's military in a single day this year, Human Rights Watch says. In the attacks on 25 February, the army killed 179 people in Soro village and 44 others in the nearby Nondin village, an HRW investigation found. HRW termed the mass killings "among the worst army abuse" incidents in the country in nearly a decade. Burkinabè authorities have not commented on the report. Last month, public prosecutor Aly Benjamin Coulibaly appealed for witnesses to identify the group behind the mass killings. He put the preliminary death toll at 170. Villagers who survived the attack told HRW that a survivors added. In both villages, the soldiers also shot at those who attempted to hide or escape, witnesses said. The mass killings are believed to be retaliation by the military, which accused the villagers of aiding armed Islamist fighters. They followed an attack by Islamist fighters on a nearby military camp in the the northern Yatenga province. A survivor was quoted as saying that before the shootings, the soldiers accused the residents of failing to cooperate with them by not informing them of the movements of the Islamist fighters. "The massacres in Nondin and Soro villages are just the latest mass killings of civilians by the Burkina Faso military in their counterinsurgency operations," said Tirana Hassan, executive director of Human Rights Watch. The Sahel country is ruled by a military junta, which seized



A military convoy with over 100 soldiers descended on the villages, survivors said (file photo)

military convoy with over 100 soldiers descended on Nondin village, about 30 minutes after Islamist fighters passed nearby. The soldiers went door-to-door, ejecting residents from their homes. "They then rounded up villagers in groups before opening fire on them," the report added, citing witness and survivor accounts. They arrived in Soro, about 5km (3 miles) away, an hour later, also gathering and shooting at villagers, the power in a coup in 2022, promising to end the insurgency. The violence has however continued to escalate, with more than a third of Burkina Faso controlled by jihadist groups. International and human rights groups including the European Union and UN have accused Burkina Faso of serious human rights violations in its fight against insurgency, including the indiscriminate killings and forced disappearances of dozens of civilians. BBC

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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 tone 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 Rachel Glennerster

The Pandemic Financing Developing Countries Need

CHICAGO - Pandemic preparedness was on the agenda at last week's Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, held in Washington, DC, a little over four years after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Millions of people died, and billions of dollars were spent in the intervening period, but some important lessons of the pandemic remain unlearned.

One glaring example is that low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are still unable to invest in medical countermeasures before they are approved. The United States and the United Kingdom employed this "at-risk" strategy to great effect during the COVID-19 crisis. LMICs need the same opportunity.

When a pandemic strikes, governments must act swiftly and invest heavily in technological solutions that may be unproven. Expanding vaccine production when medical trials were ongoing, rather than waiting for regulatory approval, proved critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. The US and the UK, in particular, made early and substantial investments in developing and producing vaccines, securing doses at-risk. In exchange for bearing much of the risk of technological failure, these countries were first in line when the vaccines were found to be effective - a boon for their own citizens. But these investments also helped other countries by accelerating vaccine development and production.

At the time, I was working in the UK government, running analyses showing the cost-effectiveness of at-risk investment. America's Operation Warp Speed, for example, which cost \$13 billion as of December 2020, paid for itself if it shortened the pandemic by just 12 hours. Moreover, increased investment in production capacity could have sped up global vaccination efforts by a year, saving an estimated \$1.75 trillion.

We clearly need to do better when the next pandemic strikes. This could move forward even without a coordinated global investment - a daunting challenge. Instead, our analysis showed that it would have been cost-effective for individual countries, including LMICs, to invest at-risk in expanded vaccine production during COVID-19. Vaccines would have been made available faster, fewer people would have died, and economies would have recovered sooner. (That said, high-income countries can and should take the lead in research and development spending, which does benefit from coordination.)

I spent much of the spring and summer of 2020 trying but failing to persuade LMICs to follow the UK's lead; most of these countries did not purchase vaccines at-

risk. A World Bank working paper found that 60-75% of the delay in COVID-19 vaccine deliveries to LMICs was attributable to their signing purchase agreements later than high-income countries. While it is undoubtedly difficult to do something new in a crisis, conversations with various stakeholders revealed two problems: politicians feared being accused of corruption if the vaccine failed, and institutions like the World Bank could not provide loans to purchase a vaccine that did not exist yet.

To overcome these problems, multilateral development banks (MDBs) must establish financing mechanisms to enable at-risk purchases in a pandemic, as well as mechanisms for high-income countries to de-risk these loans. Unlike the vaccine donations and pledges during COVID-19, which were too little too late, these measures would actually provide LMICs with sufficient resources to respond to the next pandemic.

When LMICs need to purchase vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics at the scale required to fight a pandemic, MDBs are their only realistic source of finance. But current procurement rules prevent purchasing these countermeasures at-risk. The rules must therefore be revised to allow for such purchases, in recognition of the unique challenges of a global health crisis. MDBs can also coordinate with stakeholders to create model procurement contracts and establish indemnity and liability frameworks to streamline processes and minimize delays.

High-income countries can help by guaranteeing these loans in case the vaccine candidates fail. This would reduce the financial risk for LMICs and alleviate politicians' concerns about their potential liability. In exchange for this relatively modest burden on their balance sheets, high-income countries can facilitate significant investments that promise substantial global health benefits and large economic returns. During COVID-19, many of us in the UK government recognized that this was one of the most effective ways to use our limited aid money and even proposed such a measure, to no avail.

COVID-19 taught us that developing novel mechanisms in the midst of a pandemic is practically impossible. International policymakers must establish the necessary frameworks now to ensure that LMICs can purchase medical countermeasures at-risk in the next pandemic in order to shorten its duration and improve equitable access to health care. As our work at the University of Chicago's Market Shaping Accelerator shows, any delay risks millions of lives and trillions of dollars.

OP-ED

By Sania Nishtar

Fifty Years of Immunization Success Call for 50 More

GENEVA- There is a good chance that you know one of the 154 million people who over the past 50 years have been saved from a preventable death by routine immunization. You might even be one. In fact, surveying the past half-century, it is hard to identify a public-health tool that has had a more positive impact than vaccination, or one that has done more to promote global health equity.

Routine immunization programs, once the purview of the wealthy world, now exist in every country, owing to the landmark commitment that the World Health Organization's member states made in 1974 to establish what is now known as the Essential Programme on Immunization. Initially, the EPI focused on ensuring universal access to vaccines against tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, and measles - all preventable child killers. Today, 84% of children globally are immunized against these six diseases, compared to only 5% in 1974.

But progress has been hard won. After rapid gains in immunization coverage throughout the 1980s, momentum was lost in the 1990s. The main issue was that lower-income countries lacked the resources and infrastructure needed to sustain immunization programs. Moreover, vaccine markets were fragmented and dysfunctional: countries depended on a few manufacturers, and uncertain demand deterred new entrants.

That is where Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, came in. The organization was established in 2000 to harness the strengths of the public and private sectors. By forging new partnerships, the thinking went, Gavi could improve access to vaccines against a wider range of infectious diseases in lower-income countries and marginalized communities.

In the decades since, Gavi has helped protect more than one billion children and halve childhood mortality in 78 countries, while delivering significant economic benefits. Meanwhile, most of the countries that Gavi supports have continued to increase funding for vaccination efforts, putting such programs on a more sustainable footing and creating an entry point for other health services.

The 50th anniversary of EPI is a fitting moment to celebrate the millions of lives saved through routine immunization, and the health workers who have devoted considerable effort, often in the most demanding environments, to realize the EPI's goals. But it is also an opportunity to reflect on what still needs to be done. According to our estimates, around one in ten children in lower-income countries have not received any routine vaccines. These "zero-dose" children are often in poor communities affected by conflict and displacement, in countries with extremely fragile health systems that provide no access to primary care.

Continued progress will depend on our ability to reach these marginalized communities. That is why, since taking over as CEO in March, my main priority has been ensuring that Gavi's work is informed by and grounded in the needs and experiences of the communities and countries that we serve.

At a time when violent conflict, geopolitical tensions, and climate change are dominating the headlines, the EPI's anniversary should also serve as a reminder that we can still achieve world-changing results when we work together. Every vaccination offers hope for a better, healthier future. And as we stand on the cusp of a new era for immunization, there is reason for optimism.

Since 2022, for example, a record number of people are protected by the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which protects against the main cause of cervical cancer. Moreover, we have the ambitious goal of immunizing 86 million girls against HPV in Gavi-supported countries by the end of 2025. And this week, three more African countries will join Burkina Faso and Cameroon in rolling out the world's first-ever malaria vaccine - a development that would have seemed impossible just a few decades ago.

The future of vaccines appears to be even brighter. It is possible that, before the end of the decade, there will be a new vaccine against tuberculosis - one of humanity's oldest scourges. Looking further ahead, we could even see vaccines delivered through dissolvable microarray patches instead of syringes.

In the half-century since the WHO instituted the EPI, the world has shown a remarkable capacity to come together on the crucial issue of vaccination. At this moment of deepening political polarization and global fragmentation, we must commit to another 50 years of changing the world for the better.



Lord, so dis whole money bisnay wah happened na?

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father,

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

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

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

Wait oo, you ay look leh you know something, bor you na wan talky. Bor Father you too ya. You na hear de thin de people talking here. They say on dis day de Kountry Giant say dis amount of money was in leh cash box. From da time to de time de Papy too came plenty can happen between there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes, Father. If de chief them wor coming to ask de people them dis question long time we fini catching de doer of dis act. My son, ley thin sef hard to talk.

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



Republic of Liberia
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

P.O Box 10-9010
1000 Monrovia-10, Liberia



COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

JOB VACANCIES AT THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI)

The Board of Directors of the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), under the chairmanship of the Honorable Minister of Agriculture (MOA), announces the following JOB VACANCIES AT THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI) located in Suakoko, Bong County.

- **Director General (DG)** (a five-year tenure position which may be renewed based on satisfactory performance on the job). The salary is attractive and offers fringe benefits, including accommodation and transportation on the CARI campus.
- **Deputy Director General for Research and Programs (DDGRP)** (a five-year tenure position). Salary is attractive in addition to accommodation on the CARI campus.

Qualification & Requirements for DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG)

- Must hold a Ph.D. in Agriculture or a closely related discipline from a recognized university with not less than ten years of distinction and experience in administration, management, and coordination in an agricultural organization.
- Should also have no less than five years of successful experience as Head of a Research Program Unit in an agricultural research institution or academic program in an agricultural college or university or coordinator of agricultural development project(s).
- Distinguished research contribution as evidenced by at least ten peer-reviewed scientific publications with at least five publications in the last five years.
- Proven ability to write research grant proposals to attract internal and external funding to support research activities.
- Ability to organize, direct, and coordinate research activities within a research institute, agricultural college, or university.
- Good knowledge of the agencies in the relevant Sectors and the ability to interact with top management in other institutions and agencies.
- Ability to translate policy decisions into action programs.
- Good interpersonal relations with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Must have served in research, academic or related reputable research institution at a Senior Research/ Management level.
- A proven track record in planning and managing human, financial, and physical resources.

Qualification & Requirements for Deputy Director General for Research and Programs (DDGRP).

- Must be a Ph.D. holder in agriculture or closely related disciplines from a recognized university.
- Not less than eight years of experience in agricultural research, including at least three years of successful experience as Head of a Research Program Unit in an agricultural research institution or academic programs in an agricultural college or university.
- Distinguished research contribution as evidenced by at least five peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- Ability to write research grant proposals to attract internal and external funding to support research activities.
- Ability to organize, direct, and coordinate research activities within a research institute or an agricultural college or university.
- Good knowledge of agencies in the relevant sectors and the ability to interact with top management in other institutions and agencies.
- Ability to translate policy decisions into action programs.
- Good interpersonal relations.
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the critical role of agricultural research in addressing the global development challenges of poverty, food and nutrition security, climate change, and environmental degradation.

Application MUST include:

- ❖ Application Letter
- ❖ Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- ❖ Names and Address of three (3) confidential referees
- ❖ Academic diplomas/certificates
- ❖ Vision Statement for the advertised position (maximum of 1,500 words)

Application should be emailed to januetah@moa.gov.lr no later than Monday, May 10, 2024, at 16:00 GMT. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Qualified females are especially encouraged to apply.

The Terms of Reference for each position can be found on the Ministry of Agriculture website at <https://www.moa.gov.lr> and its official Facebook page: Ministry of Agriculture Liberia—MOA Liberia.

The Ministerial Complex
Tubman Boulevard
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia
Republic of Liberia



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CALL FOR APPLICATION

RECRUITMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE EPA

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EPA

Job Title	Executive Director/CEO		
Division/Department	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA		
Assignment	The Executive Director/ Chief Executive Officer of the Agency who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Agency.		
Location	Monrovia, Liberia		
Reports to	The Board & National Environment Council(The Council)	Duration:Seven (7) years	2024-2030

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia was established by an act of the Legislature on November 26, 2002 and published into hand bill on April 30, 2003 to serve as the regulatory Institution of the Government of Liberia for the sustainable management of the environment and its natural resources. The EPA operates on three basic legal Instruments: The National Environmental Policy (NEP), The Environmental Management and Protection Law of Liberia and the Act Creating the Environmental Protection Agency. The Act creating the Agency provides the legal mandates and authority to manage coordinate, monitor and supervise in consultation with relevant line Ministries, Agencies and organization, and other relevant stakeholders for the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

The national Policy Council referred to as " the Policy Council" is mandated by the law establishing the EPA as the ultimate body responsible for policy formulation and directions for the purpose of this Act; set priorities for national goals and objectives for the protection of the environment; promote co-operation among Line Ministries, local authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations engaged in environmental protection programs and the public; approve the Audited Report and Accounts of the Agency as provided for under Section (48) of this Act.

Accordingly, Section 16 of the EPA Act provides that, there shall be an Executive Director who is a person with wide environmental knowledge and recognized comment to sustainable management of the environment, appointed by the President from a list of three names recommended by the Council, except that the President may appoint an interim Executive Director pending the formation of the Council.

Section 24 through 27 of the Act also provides for the setting up of sub-national structures including County Environment Committees and District Environmental Committees for the purpose of decentralization of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This process involves shifting some of the decision-making power and responsibilities from the central government to local authorities or regional offices. This approach aims to improve environmental governance, enhance efficiency, and address environmental issues more effectively at the local level.

It is in this regard that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia through its National Environment Policy Council requests the services of a competent individual with wide environmental knowledge and recognized comment to sustainable management of the environment to work and serve as the Executive Director/CEO of the EPA.

The Executive Director/CEO will be responsible for the following:

- The Executive Director shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency and shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Agency;
- By general supervision and control of the Board, the Executive Director shall be responsible for the management of funds, property and business of the Agency and for the administration, organization and control of the staff of the Agency;
- The Executive Director shall, from time to time, keep the Board and the Policy Council informed of the progress and activities of the agency;
- The Executive Director shall serve as secretary to and be responsible to the Board.

Functional Competencies:

- An Environmental professional, and administrator with over 10 years of experience and with a wide range of expertise in environmental management, administration, development and program management and environmental policies, laws and regulations.
- Excellent and effective communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to clearly formulate positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public.
- Have a considerable knowledge of research and environmental governance.

QUALIFICATION

Education:

- Ph.D., Master's Degree or Law degree in Environmental Management, Environment and Resources Climate Change, Environment Land Resources, Sustainable Development, Public Policy, Development Studies, and related Social Sciences Experience.
- Not less than Ten (10) years of documented experience of working in related field of study in regions across the world, especially in Liberia and West Africa.
- Knowledge of capacity development, and Policy Analysis.
- Documented social skills and networking capabilities is an advantage; Experience in management and organizational development.
- Experience of working in fragile states and/or post-conflict countries.
- Excellent ability to communicate clearly in written and spoken English.

MUST BE A LIBERIAN

Other Skills

- Excellent team player with good interpersonal skills
- Ability to manage workload with minimum supervision
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- Ability to accommodate additional demands at short notice
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Proactive mindset

Addressed ALL application package to:

Attention:National Environmental Policy Council

or through email epaedrecruitment@gmail.com indicating in subject area "Recruitment of the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of the EPA" Closing date for submission of Expression of Interest (EOIs) is 4PM, May 3rd, 2024. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in the EOI will be considered for evaluation and selection. The application package must include a Cover letter, Resume and copy of educational certificates.



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GOL welcomes 2023 Human Rights Report on Liberia, but -New administration disassociates from 2023 Human Rights Report on Liberia

By Kruah Thompson

Thursday, April 25, 2024 in Monrovia, Information Minister Jerolinmek Matthew Piah welcomed the report but stressed that most of the issues mentioned therein

country's human rights situation during the year 2023, it reveals a troubling trend for Liberia, particularly as the Boikai administration strives to garner international partners and donors' attention for investment. Minister Piah further underscores government's responsibility to addressing ongoing concerns and improve human rights conditions in the country.

Meanwhile, as mandated by the United States Congress every year since 1977, the U.S. State Department annually examines, tracks, and documents state of human rights in nearly 200 countries and territories around the world. The collection of these reports are backed by international instruments, given the State Department the right to carry out its operations. However, these reports, known as the Human Rights Report (HRR), are drawn from a variety of credible, fact-based sources, including reporting from government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and media.

Minister Piah stresses that the Boakai Administration intends to consider the report's findings seriously and address human rights concerns accordingly. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Monrovia, Liberia, April 26, 2024 - The Government of Liberia says it welcomes the U.S. Department of State's



Min. Jerolinmek Matthew Piah

2023 Human Rights Report on Liberia, but notes that many of the issues outlined in the report occurred under the Weah administration.

The U.S. Government recently released its 2023 Human Rights Report on Liberia, which highlighted significant abuses, including arbitrary or unlawful killings, torture, harsh prison conditions, lack of judicial independence, and restrictions on freedom of expression. Giving the government's response at MICAT regular press briefing on

happened during President Weah's tenure.

"It is important to note that the report covers 2023 and while it is true that the government is continuity, there was a different regime in 2023." He noted. According to him, as a government, they are under obligation to address some of the issues highlighted, but they would consider the report's findings and contents to take the appropriate actions.

While the 2023 Human Rights Report found no significant changes in the

Sen. McGill seeks US\$1m for C.H. Rennie Hospital

Senator advocates for budgetary increment for local hospital.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Margibi, Liberia, April 26, 2024 - Margibi County Senator Nathaniel F. McGill wants C.H. Rennie Hospital in Margibi included in the 2024 National Budget and its budget increased to one million United States Dollars.

In his communication to plenty Thursday, April 25, 2024, Senator McGill stressed an urgent need to include the hospital in the current National Budget because its crucial services to the public.

He notes that the C.H. Rennie Hospital is the only government referral hospital in central Liberia which was tragically gutted by fire in 2021. He recalls that in 2023, the government of former President Weah conducted a ground-breaking ceremony and allocated Eight Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$800,000) to initiate reconstruction, which is estimated to cost Six Million United States Dollars

(US\$6,000,000). Unfortunately, there is no allocation in the 2024 national budget for the hospital's reconstruction. "The significance of C.H. Rennie Hospital cannot be overstated, as it serves not only the residents of Margibi County but also those from lower Montserrado, Bong, and Grand Bassa counties." He notes.

The Margibi Senator continues that the absence of a functioning referral

hospital in the central region has left that community vulnerable and without access to critical healthcare services.

In this light, he urges the Liberian Senate to consider allocating at least One Million United States dollars (US\$1,000,000) towards the C.H. Rennie Hospital, noting that the funding would be instrumental in commencing the process of reconstructing this vital healthcare facility and restoring essential medical services to the people of central Liberia.

▶ CONT'D page 11



VP Koung Commissions Four New LWSC-Procured Sewage and Water trucks

-Embraces Privatization as Key to Rapid Economic Growth

Office of the Vice President, Thursday, April 25, 2024-Liberia's Vice President Honorable Jeremiah Kpan Koung has commissioned four government-procured sewage and water trucks at the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation reiterating the need to privatize some functions of state-owned enterprises for the greater good of the public.

Speaking Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the commissioning ceremony held at the Sub-Office of LWSC, in Fiamah, Sinkor, VP Koung said with his background in business, he believes that privatizing the distribution component of LWSC and LEC will bridge the daunting challenges currently faced by the two entities.

He opined that unless this is done, the provision of Safe drinking water and affordable electricity as envisaged by the government will never reach the

manage.

According to VP Koung, the privatization of such components of state-owned enterprises would address the challenge of huge indebtedness to these SOEs by some members of the public.

He cited the Private-owned Jungle Energy Power Incorporated in Nimba which manages the distribution of electricity in that county as a clear success story of his proposal to privatize certain aspects of State-owned entities including LEC and LWSC.

Meanwhile, Vice President Koung has recommended the construction of a solar power plant at the facility of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation to alleviate the electricity challenge currently being faced by the Corporation.

His recommendation comes in the wake of a negotiation between LEC and LWSC for the supply of constant electricity to enable LWSC to adequately pump water constantly through its system to the public.



ordinary Liberians.

"I am one of those who believe LWSC and LEC will never impact the public appropriately unless the distribution components of the two entities are privatized", the Liberian Vice President asserted.

In his proposal which he noted is being reviewed by lawyers, the LWSC and LEC should only be limited to the generation and transmission of water and power respectively.

He furthered that, the distribution aspects of these entities should be given to private-owned companies to

Speaking earlier LWSC Managing Director Muhammed Ali in his overview at the commissioning ceremony put the cost of the four trucks to over Nine Hundred Thousand US dollars.

He said the process of acquiring the trucks was through a satisfied procurement process under the previous LWSC administration.

Mr. Ali described the provision of the trucks as timely adding, that this would alleviate the mounting challenges faced by LWSC in the provision of safe drinking water and addressing the poor sewage system in the country.

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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

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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

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Beyond The Resolution Standing up Liberia's War Crimes Court

By : P. Alphonsus Zeon

Introduction February 8, 2006, David Crane, chief prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone appeared before the Subcommittee on Africa Global Human Rights and International Operations, a committee of the International Relations, United States House of Representatives. Crane asked Congress to push Nigeria to surrender former Liberian exiled President Charles Taylor to the Special Court to answer to war crimes charges. But Crane had much to advise the United States Government about moving forward in Liberia: "First, hand Charles Taylor over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for a fair trial. This takes him out of the local and regional dynamic that is West Africa. This has to happen first and now, or the rest of my suggestions and recommendations and the one you are considering for Liberia's future will be a waste of time, money, and effort. "Second, tie any financial and political support to good governance in Liberia."

"Third, encourage the new administration in Liberia to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called for in the earlier peace accords." And "fourth, within the next few years or so, another hybrid war crimes tribunal needs to be established to account for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Charles Taylor and his henchmen from 1990 to 2003 in Liberia."

With 68 members of Liberia's 103-member 55th Legislature signing the resolution for the establishment of the war crimes court for Liberia, we are at the last point of Crane's roadmap for Liberia.

Taylor's Appearance At Taylor's trial in The Hague, his lawyer, Courtney Griffiths put to the former NPFL leader, "So, Mr. Taylor, you have the prospect of another trial in Liberia, yes?" Taylor : "Yes, that's the, yes, that's the regime change. So, we will throw out, you get your pick. If we miss him in the Sierra Leonean court, I will try to get him in Liberia. The whole point. They may as well just shoot me."

Liberia cannot have an effective and successful war crimes trial without Taylor, the leader of the biggest and original warring faction and unarguably, the most atrocious. Taylor's appearance before the Liberia war crimes court presents complications and we have to bear that in mind from the onset. Will the British authorities agree to release him to answer to extra charges relating to his role in the war in Liberia? That would mean releasing him to come back home! Or will his trial take place in his detention facility in the UK? That would mean having judges, court staff, lawyers and witnesses in the detention facility. Aside just the security implications of these people moving in and out of the detention facility, how will ordinary people have access to the trial?

Value of War Crimes Court

Like Taylor, other key players in the Liberian civil war believe, "they may as well just shoot" us. The war crimes court is not just about arrest, trial and conviction. It will help Liberians understand why and how things happened and the roles of individuals. This goes to the very heart of reasserting the foundation for stability and peace. And that war crimes accountability is also "bread and butter issue." Liberians have the attitude of "let bygone be bygone." The growing lawlessness in the country draws its strength from war time impunity. And both undermine any viable investment that will provide jobs that put food on the table of families. The Government of Liberia, activists and international partners need to explain this link between justice and "bread and butter." Not many of the Liberian people know this. Seventy four percent of respondents in the University of California and Berkley School of Law survey in Liberia in 2011 stated that to build peace, it was necessary to unite the tribes, educate the youths, reduce poverty, provide social services and address land ownership issues. They did not believe that prosecution for war crimes would build peace. Authorities have to make the link that justice is inextricably linked to poverty reduction. If people are made to believe that a war crimes court cannot bring peace, the court may not attract support from local communities. This may affect the work of the court, including lack of community support for witnesses. This is true, because if 78 percent of the respondents in the same Berkley survey considered themselves victims, and still don't believe prosecution is the solutions for peace, we have work to do.

"More than 80 percent of respondents in the 2016 Catholic Relief Services survey felt that people who suffered grave injury during the war did not receive justice through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Half of respondents 49.7 percent believed that post-war reconciliation failed to achieve its objectives." We must not be misled by the silence in the enduring tension. There is a difference between silence and peace. People can be silent and not have peace. "Respondents were evenly split on whether Liberia is at risk of once again descending into large-scale violent conflict with 50.6 percent believing "high to very high risk" and 43.7 percent for "no to low risk", according to the CRS survey.

Statutory and Constitutional Review As activists woo people to prosecution, the work has to begin, identifying and reviewing all statutes and potential constitutional provisions that run counter to the establishment of the war crimes court. Amend and repeal them. And then seek judicial interpretations for constitutional provisions. If Liberia truly wants to institute a process for justice, the foundation upon which the court would rest must be just. There is one argument that Article 66 of the 1986 constitution of Liberia vests in the Supreme Court the "final arbiter of constitutional issues and shall exercise final appellate jurisdiction in all cases whether emanating from courts of record, courts not of record, administrative agencies, autonomous agencies or any other authority, both as to law and fact except cases involving ambassadors, ministers, or cases in which a county is a party . In all such cases, the Supreme Court shall exercise original jurisdiction. The Legislature shall make no law nor create any exceptions as would deprive the Supreme Court of any of the powers granted herein." By establishing the war crimes court, the Legislature, by that very act, may not have acted unconstitutional, because Articles 34(e) provides that the Legislature shall constitute courts inferior to the Supreme Court, including circuit courts, claims courts and such other courts with such prescribed jurisdictional powers as may be deemed necessary for the proper administration of justice throughout the Republic." Article 65 of the Constitution also provides that "the Legislature may from time to time establish such subordinate courts" which "shall apply both statutory and customary laws in accordance with the standards enacted by the Legislature."

Where the argument gets delicate is whether by creating an appeals chamber of the war crimes court, in which case the Supreme Court of Liberia, will not exercise final appellate jurisdiction, the Legislature

would not have created "any exceptions as would deprive the Supreme Court of any of the powers granted herein"? And whether the war crimes court would be deemed an "inferior" or "subordinate court" to the Supreme Court of Liberia, howbeit with its own exclusive appeals chamber as the "final arbiter"? And still, whether as a hybrid court applying both domestic and international laws, it would be legal to consider the court a subordinate court, in the face of the established principle that international law holds primacy over domestic law?

The Legislature would also need to review and amend the Judiciary Law-Title 17-Liberian Code of Laws Revised. This statute was published June 20, 1972. Section 17.1 "Qualifications for admission to Bar" requires that "a person applying for admission to the Bar as an attorney must be a citizen of this Republic, have attained the age of twenty-one years, and be examined and licensed to practice as prescribed in this chapter." What this provision means is that no one can practice law in Liberia who is not a Liberian. There is no gain in asserting that foreign lawyers will play a larger role in Liberia's war crimes court, either as judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers and investigators.

The Legislature will need to repeal statutes like "An Act to Grant Immunity from Both Civil and Criminal Proceeding against All Persons within the Jurisdiction of the Republic of Liberia From Acts or Crimes Committed During the Civil War From December 1989 to August 2003." This Act was published on August 8, 2003. The statue passed by the Taylor administration, giving warring faction amnesty from prosecution is clearly a perpetrator's law deeply rooted in protecting themselves. That statute must go down, because it cannot stand in the face of Liberia's domestication of the Geneva Convention and other international humanitarian laws.

Court Statute

Once lawyers have completed a desk review of statutes and constitutional provisions, drafters may now be informed of the range of legal implications to begin drafting the statute. As a hybrid court, Liberia's leaders should have a fair representation of international actors in the drafting of the statute. The statue will need to establish the competence of the court, define the crimes, jurisdictional issues—personal, territorial and temporal and concurrent. Define the structure of the court—composition and number of chambers.

The number of chambers will help speed up cases. So, Liberia may want a chamber deal with cases relating to violations by a faction. This allows for cases to roll simultaneously. The Special Court for Sierra Leone had two trial chambers with one appeals chamber. Drafters may need to decide the issue of reparation. The Special court for Sierra Leone did not provide for victims fund, because there was nothing to recover from perpetrators to pay victims. In the Taylor trial, for example, Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp had said "analysis of bank records led investigators to identify \$375 million in offshore accounts traceable to Taylor. Rapp : "Well, I mean, it's a hard thing to put a complete finger on, but we've got accounts where during the course of his presidency at least \$375 million flowed out of those accounts that were directly in his name; he was using that according to our evidence to continue the war of atrocities in Sierra Leone and we believe there is evidence that that money has not disappeared." Taylor's wealth, according to Rapp, could serve this purpose.

Implications for home soil trial Liberia should now begin assessing the implications of hosting the court in country. In many instances, local prejudice against a criminal court may inform its relocation. The Taylor trial had to be moved to The Hague. The Security Council passed a resolution under Chapter VII of its charter, determining that the presence of former President Taylor in the sub-region was an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace of Liberia and of Sierra Leone. If 78 percent of respondents in the Berkley survey consider themselves victims and yet 74 percent do not see prosecution as a panacea for peace, we cannot be sure they will support a war crimes court. In Rwanda, the Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had to be moved to Arusha, Tanzania. However, having the court on the home soil gives it greater access to ordinary people and deepen their awareness of the issues and the message.

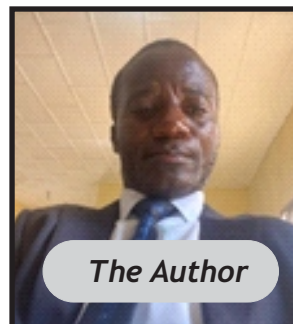
Security The other questions are about the security. Whether Liberia would exclusively depend on the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to provide security in case supporters of indictees get rowdy. And whether it would be the Liberia National Police (LNP) that will carry out arrests? Does Liberia need a dedicated and more neutral and capacitated force to guarantee stability for the time of the court's operations? Does that force need a status of forces agreement to define in clear terms its role?

Establishing a war crimes court is a meticulous process and takes considerable time. The Government of Sierra Leone together with the United Nations set up the Special Court in 2000. The Court began operations in 2002. In Rwanda, the court was set up in 1994 and heard its first case of Jean-Paul Akeyesu after 3 years.

Witness Protection Testifying in war crimes courts carries severe implications for protection, especially in trials involving suspects of tremendous political and military support. To build a good case against suspects, prosecutors need credible witnesses. In many cases, fear of reprisal attacks impacts evidence gathering, mainly attracting witnesses. And there can be a good number of them. Ninety-four witnesses testified against Taylor alone in the war crimes trial in The Hague. Long before the court's establishment, preparation of indictment, the Government of Liberia needs to begin asking other countries that could be willing to host potential witnesses who may have fears of reprisal for resettlement. The number of people to be resettled may grow depending on the number of indictees and the witnesses to testify against them. Added to the witnesses, are their families. Host nations will have to consider support for the resettled and a host of other issues, including whether witnesses and family members with skills can be permitted to work.

Detention Facility The last point is detention. Liberian authorities will have to make the decision whether those who may be found guilty will serve sentences in country or in other countries. A full review of the prison facilities in Liberia will need be done to inform that decision. With the already poor prison conditions and the overcrowded facilities, Liberia may need to build additional detention facilities well equipped enough to avoid jail breaks or make arrangements with countries that have had similar trials and built prison facilities to move convicts.

About the Author Poliyon Alphonsus Zeon is a member of Liberia's Supreme Court Bar. He holds an LLB from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia, Monrovia. He holds two relevant certificates, one in International Criminal Law from the International Law Institute, Kampala, Uganda and the other in Implementing Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Boston, USA. As a journalist of more than 15 years, he covered the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague from 2008-2010.



The Author

Nimba loyalty shifting?

Should the National Elections Commission (NEC) confirm Nya Twayen's win in Nimba by-election, discussions could now shift to who is really in charge of Nimba now that Senator Prince Johnson's voice was not adhered to by a majority of the voters.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 26, 2024: Nimba County's long-serving 'political godfather' Senator Prince Yormie

not adhered to by a majority of the voters. Johnson has over the years relied on his war-time brutal 'defense of Nimba County' as his trump card to wield political support against his

resulted in the conduct of by-elections in Nimba and Grand Counties.

Nimba by-election is caused by the election of sitting Senator Jeremiah Koug as Liberia's vice president, while the Grand Gedeh representative by-election is caused by the death of representative-elect E. Madison Gwion.

Nimba County has an average of 307, 254 registered voters, which makes the county to remain one of Liberia's 'vote-rich' counties.

Before the voting day, The NewDawn gathered that Senator Prince Johnson and Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koug were going separate ways in supporting candidates of their choice.

"Welcome aboard, my son. The task ahead is significant. Nimba has elected you to join me as the operational Senator," Johnson wrote on his Facebook page Thursday.

"Given your respectful and organized nature, I believe that together, we can enhance Nimba's progress. I urge everyone to refrain from spreading tribal messages as they have the propensity to derail our progress as a county by diverting our focus," he said.

He called on his people to prioritize peace, love, and unity in Nimba and throughout Liberia.

"I pledge my full support in working with our new Senator. Together, success is assured. Congratulations Senator and thank you Nimba" he noted.

Similarly, the daughter of Nimba County Senatorial candidate, Samuel Kogar, Ms. Tabitha Humanitarian Kogar wrote on her official Facebook page, Thursday, appreciating the people of Nimba for voting and congratulating Mr. Tawayen.

"Losing is never easy, and I can only imagine how disappointed and discouraged you guys are feeling right now. Lastly, if we can't be Senator today, we can become Senator, Vice President, and President in the future," she wrote.



Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

VP Koug

Johnson has congratulated the ruling Unity Party (UP) senatorial candidate Mr. Nya Twayen ahead of the National Elections Commission (NEC) declaring a winner.

Senator Johnson backed a sitting Nimba Representative as a senatorial candidate against Mr. Twayen but failed to secure victory.

The latest voting trend from Nimba County could point to a gradual shift of political loyalty that Mr. Johnson has enjoyed from his kinsmen for nearly two decades.

Besides winning his senate seat three times for nine years each, Johnson's picks of presidential candidates have always won since 2005.

In the past, his choice of legislative candidates in Nimba have mostly won as well.

However, the outcome of this senatorial by-election sees Twayen backed by Vice President Jeremiah Koug the ruling UP projected to win.

Should the NEC confirm this in its final report, discussions could now shift to who is really in charge of Nimba now that Senator Prince Johnson's voice was

rivals. The NEC has not released the final results, but Johnson has already conceded that his candidate Representative Samuel Kogar could not win.

On Thursday, 25 April 2024, the NEC 706 out of 736 polling places in the county, from which UP's candidate Nya Twayen led with 66,616 votes while his rival Representative Samuel Kogar had 37,557 votes.

The final announcement is expected to be released on Friday, 26 April 2024.

Now, many are comparing the Nimba political situation to a biblical story found in First Samuel 18:7 when the women sang as they played and danced, saying, "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousand."

To some, this by-election result could weaken Senator Johnson's political power, while it strengthens the power of his political son and Liberian Vice President Mr. Koug.

On 9 February 2024, the Legislature by Article 37 of the 1986 Constitution, notified the NEC of vacancies in the Senate and the House of Representatives which

Lawmakers in Dog fight

By Bridgett Milton

Capitol Hill, Liberia, April 26, 2024 - Drama erupts here on the floor of the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill after Representatives James Kolleh of Bong County District #2 and Montserrado County District #9 Representative Saah Foko engaged in a dog fight on Thursday April 25, 2024, throwing jibes at each other.

The emotional outbursts constrained Deputy Speaker, the presiding, to throw both lawmakers out of session, which prevented them from participating in Thursday's budget debate.

It all started when Representative James Kolleh raised a concern to Deputy Speaker Fallah, who was presiding in place of Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, that they should amend the agenda for the day after reading the first

that he would not keep quiet because Deputy Speaker Fallah was presiding wrongly.

Kolleh was resolute despite efforts by some of his colleagues to calm him, maintaining that he would not listen until the right thing was done, a defiance that pricks the nerves of Rep. Saah Foko, leading him to demand Kolleh to sit down and stop disturbing, because he was not the only lawmaker in session that could talk or display arrogance in the midst of his colleagues.

Foko's intervention sounded like pouring gasoline on fire, irritating Kolleh further, sending both lawmaker into ranting insults at each other, displaying their vulgar skills and nearly resorted to a fistfight.

But presiding, Deputy Speaker Fallah ceases the atmosphere asks the combating lawmakers to vacate session immediately and never to return for the rest of the day.

However, few minutes after, Rep. Kolleh resurfaces in the Chambers and sat in his seat but was noticed by



Flashback of Lawmakers at the Capito

communication, and instead Deputy Speaker Fallah, who insists if resort to an executive session to discuss matters directly affecting lawmakers.

But the presiding over rules and orders the chief clerk to continue reading by moving to the next communication, something, that stirs up Rep. Kolleh, who defiantly counters

the discourteous Bong County Rep. did not comply accordingly, he could face expulsion.

Since the start of the 55th Legislature, the two lawmakers have carried bad blood for each other, always arguing and throwing insults, not willing to see eye to eye. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 7 Sen. McGill seeks US\$1m

"I trust in your commitment to prioritizing the well-being and healthcare needs of our citizens and hope that you will give due consideration to this request. Your support in this matter would make a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals who rely on C.H. Rennie Hospital for their medical care. I look forward to a positive response from the esteemed members of

the Liberian Senate." He adds. In response, Senate President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, said the Leadership of the senate will take seize of the matter, as it is important, disclosing that they are already having discussions to have money allocated for the hospital, with her as Pro-Tempore, spearheading said discussions. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from back page

Water crisis grips Feetuah

adequate water supply, residents can lead healthier lives, children can attend school regularly, and economic opportunities can flourish", he adds.

As the residents of Feetuah continue to grapple with the

water crisis, it is crucial for stakeholders, both local and international, to come together and support initiatives that promote sustainable water management practices.

Mr. Jutee said by

prioritizing the installation of hand pumps and investing in long-term solutions, we can ensure that every resident of Feetuah has the fundamental human right to access safe and clean drinking water. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Water crisis grips Feetuah

-As residents struggle for access to safe drinking water

Residents of Feetuah town in Bong Country lack safe drinking water, and have resorting to fetching contaminated water from creeks to drink, exposing them to waterborne diseases.

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
Bong, Liberia, April 24, 2024 - In the heart of Sannoyea, Bong County in Central Liberia, the town of Feetuah faces a dire situation as its 2,000 residents

expressed her concerns, stating, "Water is essential for our survival, yet we are forced to walk long distances in search of contaminated water sources. Our health is at risk, and our children are particularly vulnerable to waterborne diseases."

The lack of safe drinking water in Feetuah has far-reaching consequences, affecting not only the residents' health but also their livelihoods and overall quality of life. The town had three handpumps, according to Town Chief, Aaron Foloquah but all have gotten damaged, and they are left with no alternative other than fetching contaminated water from a distance.

Without access to clean water, families struggle to

maintain basic hygiene practices, agricultural activities suffer, and the risk of water-related illnesses looms large over the community.

According to our Bong County Correspondent who visited the town on Wednesday, one crucial solution to address the water crisis in Feetuah is the installation of hand pumps.

Our Correspondent says doing so will reduce their dependence on unsafe water sources and mitigate the risks associated with waterborne diseases. Kelvin Jutee a community-based Health worker emphasized the importance of hand pumps in Feetuah, stating, "Hand pumps are essential for ensuring access to safe drinking water in communities like Feetuah. By constructing hand pumps, we can empower residents to take control of their water supply and safeguard their health."

"The construction of hand pumps in Feetuah would not only improve the residents' access to safe drinking water but also contribute to the overall development and well-being of the community. With



grapple with the scarcity of safe drinking water. The absence of reliable water sources has plunged the community into a state of uncertainty and brought to light the urgent need for sustainable solutions.

Mrs. Siannah Johnson, a long-time resident of Feetuah,

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