

**VOL. 14 NO. 185** 



WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
AT YOUR DOORSTEPS © 0886484201 / 0777007529
WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
MONDAY TO FRIDAY  Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription
at the end of the month.  Hurry and book now!

### CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

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

**BUYING** DATE **SELLING** MONDAY 21, OCTOBER 2024 L\$191.5583US\$1.00 L\$192.8689/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.

# **French Version Inside**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 **PRICE LD\$50.00** 

### Read! Read! Read!

The Management of The NEW DAWN is proud to introduce a new column titled: "AS I SEE IT" with Professor Tom Kaydor, Jr., PhD on contemporary issues in Liberia.

Read this informative and educative column every Monday; you will enjoy it.

# tongloe suggests Sent Buller Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe



**Support Your Family Beyond Borders with MoMo.** 



to MoMo it in LRD or USD









Leone



















# Continental News

# Murder, rape and torture allegations hit lvory Coast student union \$100 (£77) per month for my room," explains Jose Aristide,

on the powerful Student and anonymous. School Federation (Fesci).

Déagoué, which took place in alleges. On other occasions she

ll student unions in both illicit sites but that Ivory Coast are being everybody was too afraid to speak Ashut down, the out."You wouldn't have believed government has announced, you were in a university in an feared them." after the killing of two organised country," said a former students which is being blamed student who has asked to remain Security Council said it had

"I was threatened by Fesci Several Fesci members have many times, they tried to rape been arrested in connection me," she tells the BBC. "My with the murders of Khalifa boyfriend tried to stand up for me, Diomandé and Zigui Mars Aubin and he was beaten up," she

"but they were forcing me to pay \$250 per month."There was no other option. Everyone

On Thursday, Ivory Coast's carried out a series of raids on universities in Abidjan and the central city of Bouaké in which more than 100 machetes and grenades were seized.

They also found and expelled 5,000 undeclared residents at university campuses across Abidjan, Bouaké and Daloa. When the student union ban was announced that same day, people celebrated.

One lecturer tells the BBC he welcomes the ban, saying he hopes it will bring some peace to the campuses.

Originally set up in the 1990s as a student body, Fesci soon became an antigovernment protest group, and has long been suspected of involvement in organised crime.It has also served as a springboard into politics for some.Former Fesci leaders include Guillaume Soro - a rebel leader-turned-prime minister, and Charles Blé Goudé - a former youth minister who was accused then acquitted of massive human rights violations during postelection violence that happened a decade ago.BBC



August and September.

authorities say.

Students tell the BBC it was

says she had to pay Fesci members An underground tunnel used to leave her alone. She says she is for torturing people and a still traumatised, and has not set brothel were found during foot on the campus since dropping investigations at Félix- out after her ordeal eight years Houphouët-Boigny University ago."I don't know how it lasted so in the main city of Abidjan, the long but now I feel relieved for the victims," she adds.

Extortion was common, say an open secret that Fesci ran students."I was supposed to pay

### 'We are poisoning ourselves': Ghana gold rush sparks environmental disaster

polluted river in Ghana was so thick and discoloured that an artist was able to use it as paint to depict the environmental devastation caused by the illegal gold mining that has spread like wildfire in the

Mercury is increasingly being used to extract gold by miners digging on a massive scale in forests and farms, degrading land and polluting rivers to such an extent that the charity WaterAid has called it "ecocide".

"I could actually paint with the water. It was so bad," Israel Derrick Apeti, better known as Enil Art, told the BBC.

He and his friend Jay Sterling visited the Pra River around 200km (125 miles) west

Tater from a that he had decided to contribute to the campaign through art."What is art for?" he said, adding: "On our way to the river, I just thought I could perhaps paint with the polluted water. It just came to me like that. So, we got there, I tried it and it worked out."

Communities along the river resource-rich West African one of the biggest in Ghana lamented to Apeti that the water was "once so clean that you could see the fish and crocodiles that lived in it", but it had been transformed "into a yellowishbrown body of water". Ghana's music stars have also thrown their weight behind the campaign.

Black Sherif - who hails from Konongo town in the Ashanti region, which has been badly affected by the illegal mining stopped his set at The Tidal Rave Concert in Accra earlier this month to show a video of the devastation. Truth Ofori, who was part of Black Sherif's set, then sang



# Mozambique opposi<sup>,</sup>

prominent Mozambique opposition figure has been shot dead in the capital, Maputo, along with an official from the same party.

Elvino Dias was the attorney for Venâncio Mondlane, who ran for president of Mozambique representing political party Podemos in an election 10 days ago.

Dias died with fellow Podemos official Paulo Guambe when gunmen attacked their car. "They were brutally assassinated [in a] coldblooded murder," said local rights group the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD)."The indications [are] that around 10 to 15 bullets were shot, and they died instantly," said the group's director, Adriano Nuvunga. Another organisation, the Mais Integridade election watchdog, said the killings were designed to intimidate anyone demanding transparency in the polls.

One of the victims, Dias, died instantly, but witnesses say the other, Guambe,

he lawyer for a succumbed to his injuries hours later, and allege that police blocked his evacuation by an ambulance that had arrived at the scene to assist them. Witnesses also allege that the police engaged in censorship and intimidation, preventing them from recording the violent scene, confiscating and damaging several phones.

The police have denied any wrongdoing, and say they will take all necessary measures to elections, he led several prevent any acts of vandalism, elections court cases against violence, or public disorder in the election commission, and coming days."Naturally, we he won.

condemn the heinous crime and assure that we are taking all measures to clarify the case," police spokesman Lionel Muchina said on Saturday.

Tributes have been paid to Dias, described by the Carta de Moçambique news site as a "shrewd lawyer, intrepid, with the tough fibre of a fighter".

"Elvino was a good, peaceful man," said Zenaido Machado, of Human Rights Watch.

"Last year, during local

point about the environmental catastrophe unfolding because of "galamsey".

This is the term used by country - including the forested regions famous for their cocoa farms, as well as their vast gold to search for gold. deposits.

exporter, and the secondbiggest cocoa exporter.

mining. The police responded by detaining dozens of protesters accused of holding an illegal gathering. They were later released as anger grew over the arrests.

The hashtags the Gold Coast. #stopgalamseynow and #freethecitizens were used to galvanise young people across Ghana and the diaspora, particularly in Canada and the UK, to voice their

of the capital, Accra - to make a a patriotic song called "This is our home", while Stonebowy used his set to perform "Greedy Men", which targeted those behind galamsey. The devastation has locals to describe the illegal been caused by the fact that the mining taking place at nature of illegal mining has thousands of sites around the changed - previously, young unemployed men dug with picks and shovels, or their bare hands,

They also relied on panning -The West African state is the the washing of sediment through a world's sixth-biggest gold sieve so the gold settles at the bottom.

But Chinese businessmen - who Demonstrators recently first moved to Ghana around 18 took to the streets of Accra to years ago - have made it a more demand that the government sophisticated industry. They are take action to end the illegal accused of ignoring environmental concerns and taking to heart an age-old saving: "There is no land in Ghana which doesn't have gold, even in the top soil. Ghana is gold."Indeed, during colonial times the country was known as

Some local businessmen and politicians are widely suspected to have joined them in what has been dubbed "the mad gold rush", buying out cocoa farms and turning them into illegal mining concerns. Apeti told the BBC sites. BBC



By Thomas Buberl

The Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, headed by Resident Bishop Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr., seems to be caught between the scissors. Whether to ratify or embrace regionalization (same-sex marriage) and enjoy huge financial support from the church's global gay community or to disaffiliate and forfeit the tempting dollar of gay Methodists worldwide, it is a decision of money vs. morality in the Methodist Church.

In public, Bishop Quire and other leaders of the Liberia Annual Conference are opposed to ordaining gay bishops and gay pastors. But personally, he is against having an independent church or aligning with the Way Forward Commission that vehemently opposes the practice of homosexuality or officiating gay marriage in the United Methodist Church.

This divide is hurting the Liberia Annual Conference, particularly United Methodists across the country, who sense a strange doctrine surfacing in the church that is totally against their cultural and moral values and the principles of the Holy Bible that they strongly uphold. What should they tell their children both in church and at home if there were an officiating gay marriage in a local church?

United Methodists in Liberia are between the rocks and the high places in making decisions that may affect the church's future. They need sober reflection and sincere guidance, which seem not to be forthcoming from the bishop they look up to amid more questions than answers.

While uncertainty looms, the stigma surrounding the Liberia Annual Conference and United Methodists is growing bigger and wider by the day, accompanied by serious public embarrassment. The prolonged vacuum is leaving room for rumors and innuendos, particularly when Bishop Quire seems not to be coming clear on a situation that is set to change the face of the United Methodist Church in Liberia forever.

The Liberia Annual Conference members are losing trust in the Bishop and his cabinet about whether the LAC should maintain the status code or regionalize. Bishop Quire has not been able to satisfy their doubts and suspicions. They are demanding explanations and clarifications that are not forthcoming.

As if this was not enough, pastors who appear to be vocal against | homosexuality in the church are being replaced even before an annual conference, as it is traditionally done.

There are too many conflicting signals coming from Bishop Quire | The key will be to develop a clear vision of the regarding this situation despite his professed opposition to same-sex marriage and the ordination of gay bishops and gay

The Liberia Annual Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Samuel Quire, needs to act or come clear on this to ease the psychological and traumatic pains United Methodists across Liberia are being subjected to.

We caution that failure to take a definitive stance on this matter could drag the once enviable image of the UMC as an institution of inspiration and hope into the mud with unimaginable consequences, as is being indicated with police going to quell protests at churches.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission. Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 / +231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

# Gay stigma is hurting United Methodists! Europe and the Polycrisis

ENEVA - Every historical period is defined by its own challenges. After World War II, Europe had to find a way to end the recurring and relatively independent crises linked to market cycles, domestic politics, and great-power competition that had torn it apart for decades. It met this challenge by building stable nation-states and effective welfare systems in a context of strong European and international frameworks.

Since the turn of the century, Europe has been confronting a new challenge: responding to a highly complex polycrisis, comprising a broad set of interlinked crises. Many of these crises could, on their own, prove catastrophic, owing to self-reinforcing and cumulative processes, such as climate-change tipping points and the snowball effect of public debt.

But none is unfolding in a vacuum. On the contrary, today's interconnected crises compound and reinforce one another. For example, a demographic crisis destabilizes the welfare state, undermining economic wellbeing, which in turn fuels social and political disruption. A significant and lasting decline in social and political cohesion can contribute to other kinds of crises, such as the current crisis of liberal democracy, while hampering states' ability to respond to still other threats, like climate change.

The general failure to address the escalating polycrisis effectively has contributed to a sense of impending doom among a European public that feels increasingly powerless. But the existential threats we face, from armed conflict to catastrophic climate change, can be overcome - not by "taking back control," as populist political leaders promise, but by learning to control what is not yet controlled.

Our political, financial, and international institutions tend to be wired for the cyclicalcrisis management of the past, making them ill-suited to respond to the current polycrisis, which demands both robustness and flexibility. Europe faces an added challenge here: its institutions, which depend on consensus, consistency, and compromise, struggle to cope with narrow, complex, and diverse interests.

But just as Europe is the most in need of institutional transformation to meet today's existential challenges, it is also particularly well equipped to achieve it, thanks to its considerable experience evolving through crisis and balancing solidarity with freedom. future, deepen cooperation in key areas, and devise a new organizational framework.

Start with vision. Europe needs an explicit strategy for tackling the polycrisis that synchronizes time horizons to improve shortterm crisis management (essential to break self-reinforcing crisis mechanisms) and establish shared long-term objectives (essential to maintain momentum).

Smaller, more autonomous, and more flexible units should be responsible for implementing this vision, in collaboration with independent actors - often from civil society - that specialize in building consensus, developing long-term strategies, and monitoring their implementation and effects. A culture of decisiveness and accountability is essential.

The vision's longer-term component should

reflect generational ambition. India has a roadmap for becoming a developed economy by 2047, a century after independence. China plans to achieve "national rejuvenation" by 2049, the centennial of the People's Republic. Europe should anchor its own strategy in 2045, 100 years after it started anew following the horrors of WWII. In devising this new vision, Europe should learn from others' strengths; for example, America's capacity for strategic thinking, exemplified by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's work researching and developing emerging technologies.

The second imperative is to build robust new frameworks covering three critical elements of European security: finance, defense, and social welfare. The new financial architecture must aim to increase investment in Europe in order to boost productivity and support technological innovation in critical sectors. Given its smaller investor base and structural fragmentation, this will require Europe to get better at efficiently allocating capital and mobilizing savings. Completing the capital markets union should be the main task of the new European Commission.

As for defense, the Ukraine war has exposed Europe's existing architecture as shaky and slow. A new framework - capable of handling continent-wide procurement, supporting interoperability between security forces, and giving Europe a technological edge - is badly needed.

Likewise, the new design for social welfare must be coherent, fiscally viable, and responsive to the needs of modern societies. In recent decades, Europe has allowed liabilities and funding gaps to grow in a range of areas including health care, housing, education, and energy - owing to a lack of consensus concerning what the modern welfare state should look like. Given that safeguarding the European way of life is essential to long-term social solidarity, this cannot continue.

The third key imperative for Europe as it faces polycrisis is to devise a new organizational pattern, based on flexibility, adaptability, and subsidiarity. Issues need to be tackled at the level where they unfold. Global challenges such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, artificial intelligence, and financial stability demand more structured international cooperation and regulation.

Challenges that should be handled at the EU level include updating Europe's economic model, boosting productivity and competitiveness, and handling trade policy. Nation-states, for their part, must foster solidarity and, together with local communities, handle concrete policy implementation. Public-private cooperation is also essential, in order to leverage businesses' experience, know-how, and institutional capacity for adaptation, risk management, and crisis response. The new organizational model should look more like a net than a chain, because a net's strength is the sum of its knots, while a chain is only as strong as its weakest

Europe cannot afford to delay action until after the next shock. If we are to weather the polycrisis, we need strategic reflection, collective leadership, and out-of-the-box thinking today, guided by the shared ambition of "Refounding Europe" by 2045.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2024.www.project-syndicate.org

By Ambroise Fayolle

### Investments in Nature Will Decide Our Future

UXEMBOURG - It is easy to think of humans as existing separately from nature. But the greatest threats to humanity come from crises affecting nature, not least climate change, biodiversity loss, and rampant pollution. We cannot address any of these until we stop taking nature for granted and start investing more in it.

"Nature-positive" investments in marine conservation, sustainable land management, water security, and afforestation could deliver around 30% of the emissions abatement needed to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius - the target enshrined in the Paris climate agreement. Moreover, such investments not only improve our resilience to climate change; they also would help to prevent future pandemics.

Ahead of the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia, this month, we must remember that the crises affecting nature also pose structural risks to the global economy, our collective well-being and prosperity, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Fully 55% of global GDP is highly or moderately dependent on nature.

In Cali, delegates from nearly 200 countries will discuss how to accelerate action to protect 30% of the planet's land and maritime areas, reduce pollution, and restore degraded ecosystems by 2030. One of the key obstacles to meeting these ambitious targets is financing. Not only do we currently invest far too much in activities that harm nature and make our problems worse; we invest only one-third of what is needed to meet the 2030 targets for climate, biodiversity, and land degradation.

To scale up nature-positive investment, we need to do four things. First, we must build more effective public-private partnerships between countries and public development banks, as well as with nature organizations, companies, and private-sector financial institutions. This would help de-risk investments, prepare projects, and deliver impact at scale for climate, nature, and inclusive economic development. Second, we need to revive and mainstream regenerative practices and stewardship of biodiversity, particularly in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors.

Third, we need common principles, standards, and disclosure mechanisms to track nature-positive finance and its impact, and to disclose more information on the nature-related footprints, dependencies, and risk exposure of companies and financial institutions. Finally, to take nature into consideration in all policies and investment decisions, we must decrease the flow of financing to activities that are harmful to nature.

Multilateral development banks will play a key role in scaling up green investments. Institutions like the European Investment Bank are already stepping up support for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of nature with the launch of common principles for tracking nature-positive finance. Such information is essential for measuring and incorporating nature into multilateral lenders' operations, as well as informing other investors about what constitutes a nature-positive investment. Partnerships and joint efforts to put these principles into practice are ongoing.

At the European level, the EIB is working closely with the European Commission to support the implementation of the European Union's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy worldwide. We strive to ensure that all the projects we finance cause "no loss" of biodiversity, and we are factoring biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into all our activities.

Moreover, because one of the biggest challenges in scaling up nature-positive investments lies in structuring projects, we are providing advisory services to help nature-restoration and biodiversity initiatives get off the ground. In Morocco, the EIB advised and lent €100 million (\$109 million) to preserve and restore more than 600,000 hectares of forest. In Ivory Coast, we are gearing up to support sustainable cocoa farming in which forests are preserved, rather than cut down. And to support marine conservation, we are working with partner institutions on the very successful Clean Oceans Initiative, which is ahead of schedule in providing €4 billion for projects to limit plastic waste.

Innovative financial instruments that transfer risk can help mobilize more public and private finance for such investments. The EIB-financed Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, for example, provides finance and technical assistance for sustainable agriculture and forestry around the world, and the EcoEnterprises Fund supports pro-biodiversity businesses in Latin America. The EIB is also exploring a new investment in a fund that supports afforestation, forest management, and conservation projects in the region. At COP16, we hope to build on such initiatives to scale up financing for nature.

We urgently need to reduce the flow of finance to activities that harm nature. Doing so is central to overcoming the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. www.project-syndicate.org

### OPINION

By Mariana Chilton

**NEW DAWN** 

# The Destructive Legacy of Mass Starvation

HILADELPHIA - In the year since Hamas's October 7, 2023, terrorist attack, Israeli forces have killed an estimated 41,200 Palestinians, including 16,700 children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. But a recent letter in The Lancet puts the true death toll in Gaza much higher, at more than 186,000, when counting those killed as an indirect result of the conflict.

Severe food shortages are certainly a contributing factor. Israel's blockade and devastating bombing campaign have prevented the entry and delivery of humanitarian aid. As a result, the United Nations World Food Program found that 96% of Gaza's population is facing acute food insecurity, with more than two million people at crisis levels of hunger or worse. This is forced starvation, a well-known tactic of genocide - and one with which Americans are all too familiar.

Many Americans first learn about such cruelty in elementary school. Textbooks explain how, in the early nineteenth century, the US military began systematically displacing indigenous people to steal their land. That effort involved tactics intended to cause starvation - from slaughtering millions of buffalo to forcing these communities onto tiny plots of land - to weaken their resolve. Even so-called safe zones were attacked, such as when the US military massacred about 300 Lakota people at Wounded Knee in 1890.

Israeli forces are taking a similar approach in Gaza. They bombed - using US-made weapons - a humanitarian safe zone, killing at least 40 people living in tents. The military has also targeted health-care and aid workers, killing more than 1,000 of them, including seven World Central Kitchen team members who were attacked while delivering food.

To understand the consequences of these policies of expansion and domination, one need look no further than the United States. Genocide is a historic trauma - perhaps best understood as a "soul wound" - among indigenous people that still reverberates. The establishment of the reservation system, the scant provision of food, and other acts of ethnic cleansing in the nineteenth century eroded indigenous sovereignty.

That legacy can be seen in today's subpar housing, inadequate health care, and underfunded education programs for America's impoverished indigenous communities. Likewise, the Native American boarding school system, spurred by federal assimilation policies, harmed tens of thousands of children, leaving them more vulnerable to depression, suicide, and addiction, which can be passed down from generation to generation.

Moreover, rates of food insecurity among indigenous communities in the US have hovered around 25% for many years, but reached as high as 77% for the Navajo (who call themselves the Diné), and more than 90% for the nations of the Klamath River Basin in southern Oregon. By contrast, 13.5% of US households were food insecure in 2023, according to a report by the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, and that rate is even lower among white Americans, at 10%.

While researching food insecurity among women and children in the US over the past quarter-century, I have interviewed many Black women and women of color about their struggles to feed their families. Time and again, they provided insight into not only the previous year, but also their childhood experiences of violence and deprivation. Often, their parents and their grandparents faced poverty; some even reported five generations' worth of hardship. These trajectories are shaped by America's history of slavery and genocide, which triggered cycles of racism and discrimination that continue today. The original harms are woven into American family life through lower wages for people of color and racially discriminatory health-care, welfare, and foster-care policies.

The US government can and should make some immediate fixes, such as reinstating the temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit and offering universal school meals (both of which provided vital support for American families during the COVID-19 pandemic), as well as improving access to health care. But while these steps can lower overall levels of food insecurity, they cannot address the inequities that lead women and children of color to experience higher rates of hunger.

The mothers I interviewed want policymakers to address the root cause of hunger in the US: the exposure to racialized and gendered violence in the family and community, which can be traced back to America's legacy of slavery and genocide. The US government has not atoned for its past sins, and until it returns land and pays reparations, these original traumas will remain unhealed, and unequal food security will persist.

To witness the starvation and suffering in Gaza today is to be reminded of the enduring consequences of America's divisive history. The unbearable trauma should force US policymakers to ask how to end this cruelty and begin making amends. As in Gaza, an immediate "ceasefire" would be a good start. But then the more difficult and more urgent task is for the US government to divert the money being spent on bombs to social programs that will provide food, education, and health care for all.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2024.www.project-syndicate.org





### What do you expect when you elect broke men and women to public office?

### -The case of the Liberian Legislators

he Liberian electorates are amazing people. Each election year, they reshuffled broke men and women into public offices and yet expect them to act differently from the previous bunch.

They have turned politics, once a noble vehicle used to make rules and laws to manage human society properly, into a casino where broke men and women entered, dreaming of hitting the jackpot overnight.

These broke men and women see the National Legislature as an easy path to acquiring fast wealth. So, while there, they see bribery and corruption as opportunities to achieve their desired goals. Make no mistakes; these people are applauded in some quarters of Liberian society.

Believe it or not, every country gets the kind of leadership it deserves. When the electorates are not well informed and don't know what they want, they elect crooks and criminals who have no respect for the rule of law and think they can get away with impunity at any time.

In nearly all cases, they do get away with impunity. People walk away with crimes while the institutions established to prosecute them stare helplessly. This is why bribery and corruption at the National Legislature continue to soar.

Nevertheless, bribery remains a crime under Liberian law and is a corrupt practice that undermines democracy-something which has seen many officials here placed under sanctions and US travel bans.

For example, Chapter 12 of the Penal Code of Liberia established the following conduct as "offenses against Government Integrity": (1) bribery, which includes unlawfully rewarding public servants, unlawful compensation for assistance in government matters, trading in public office, and political endorsement.

Now, one would expect that the 47 elected members of the House of Representatives who allegedly violated this law on Thursday when they received advanced payments of US15,000 each in bribe money or as an inducement to sign a resolution for the removal of House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa would face immediate criminal investigation as being recommended by Human Rights Lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe.

However, because the institutions established to bring these alleged perpetrators to justice are weak, the prospect of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) launching an investigation, for example, remains remote.

This is why corruption continues to be endemic in Liberia. It is within both the public and private sectors of Liberian society.

Scandals and allegations, including-but not limited to-manipulation of contract bidding, looting of state coffers, and the misappropriation of development aid by government officials, have continued to cast a dark cloud on the country. Interestingly, these leaders have no idea how their spinless behaviors affect the lives of ordinary citizens in all aspects of life.

For instance, Liberia's 78% US visa denial rate can also be attributed to the country's endemic corruption, which affects growth and infrastructure development.

The lack of direct investment into the country can also be attributed to increasing bribery allegations at the first branch of government and at every level in the Liberian Government.

Lack of investments and high unemployment have ranked Liberia amongst the 10th poorest countries in the world despite its abundance of rich natural resources.

A few years from now, Liberians will once again go to the polls to elect a new set of leaders. There, they will once again choose popularity over competence and integrity.

So, what do you expect in return when you elect broke men and women to high-profile public offices? Or when you choose popularity over competence and integrity?

### Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2024.www.project-syndicate.org

### **Gol Must Meet the AU 10% Funding Benchmark for the Ministry of Agriculture**

n my doctoral dissertation, I argue and recommend that the African Union "(AU) should focus on agricultural productivity, value addition and provision of safe drinking water to address the extreme hunger, malnutrition, water, hunger, and poverty issues on the continent" (Kaydor, 2024, p. 1). The Republic of Liberia, Africa's first independent Republic, has about 5.2 million citizens (LISGIS, 2023), the country suffers from hunger and malnutrition after 177 years of independence. The Liberia Agriculture Census (2024) was recently conducted using digital technology for the first time. The census covered all Agriculture-related activities such as crop production, livestock rearing, forestry, poultry, and Aqua Culture (LIGIS, 2023). Quality data in the agricultural sector is vital for informing effective public policy making and accelerating efforts toward sustainable development within Liberia.

The agriculture sector is the primary livelihood of about 40 percent of Liberia's population (World Bank, 2021). It accounts for about 36 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (World Bank, 2022). This sector not only provides income for a large portion of households engaged in rice, cassava, rubber, oil palm, cocoa, sugarcane production among others, but also it is a key to addressing the pressing food security and nutrition challenge in the country where nearly 40% of the population suffers from undernutrition or malnutrition as of 2022 (The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2023). The 50x2030 Initiative as it is named, seeks to close the Agricultural Data Gap and it is a multi-agency partnership amongst the World Bank, FAO, and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for data smart agriculture to strengthen national agricultural data systems in fifty countries by year 2030. The program assists countries to produce agricultural survey data necessary to monitor international, regional and or national data (Agenda 2063; CAAD, 2003). The GoL officially launched the 50x2030 Initiative in May 2023 in partnership with FAO, World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) among others.

The current Liberian Government led by H.E. President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has Agriculture as one of its national development priorities. The campaign mantra  $\,$  that brought the government to power, The ARREST Agenda, has an "A" that stands for Agriculture at the beginning. In a country where about 40 percent of the population lives on agriculture, there is no doubt that the government needs to invest in the sector to be able to address the acute unemployment question and spur an inclusive economic growth in the country. Agricultural revolution needs to be taken seriously and quantum investment needs to be done in the sector led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). However,  $\,$  the 2024 budget for the Agriculture Sector in Liberia is US\$8.83million that is 1.2%. This falls short of the requirement of the African/Union's requirement as enshrined in the "Maputo Declaration" developed in 2003. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) servs as the framework for action for agricultural transformation across Africa since 2003. As an AU initiative, CAADP supports member states in increasing investment and productivity in the agricultural sector. The aim is to achieve agricultural growth rates of more than 6 per cent as a means of promoting food security and economic development.

The AU commits to Transforming African Agriculture by 2025. This timeline coincides with Liberia's new budget cycle for 2025. The CAADP is an Agenda 2063 continental initiative that aims to help African countries eliminate hunger and reduce poverty by raising economic growth through agriculture-led development. Through the CAADP, African governments agreed to allocate at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture and rural development, and to achieve agricultural growth rates of at least 6% per annum. Underlying these investment commitments are targets for reducing poverty and malnutrition, increasing productivity and farm incomes, and improving the sustainability of agricultural production and use of natural resources. It also supports countries to enhance resilience to climate variability through development of disaster preparedness policies and strategies, early warning response systems and social safety

Some national policymakers have argued that Liberia has several actors in the agricultural sector and that the AU requirement should not only apply to the MoA. Even with such argument, the Agriculture Sector is 1.2% of the original National budget (MFDP, 2024, P.XV). However, the AU requirement is specific. It applies to Agriculture Ministries on the continent. If the government wants to argue that donors are many in this sector, it must allocate at least 10% to the Agriculture Sector in the National Budget. Now that the GoL is about to begin the official formulation of its 2025 National Budget by the National Legislature in November after the submission of the draft at the end of October 2024 by MFPD, it is expected that the Boakai led Government will allocate not less than 10 percent of the national budget to the Ministry of Agriculture specifically as required by the African Union or simply allocate 10% of the budget to Agriculture Sector in general.

President Boakai, though is not an agriculturist, spent most part of his life and career in the agricultural sector. Therefore, It is no surprise that Agriculture became the first letter in his ARREST Agenda. While donors continue to heavily invest in this sector, the government needs to match such support and harness same with national budgetary allocation. This investment in Agriculture could ensure food sufficiency in Liberia, a country with a suitable climate and soil for agriculture. Donors could scale down their support at any time, but the Government needs to take full ownership of this sector. The 2024 National Agricultural Development Plan (NADP) developed by the MoA is a welcomed initiative, though it excludes other sectors like sugarcane. According to that Plan, Liberia needs not less than US\$717. Million for the Ministry to meet government's desired target in the agricultural sector over its six years governance

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### MORE HEADLINE NE

### hief Cyril damns rebel lawmakers Boakai Movement calls for audit Veteran Liberian politician Chief Cyril Allen frowns at but they have been stabbed in

members of the House of Representatives for ridiculing that the back by the uneducated, who body publicly.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

onrovia, Liberia, October 20, 2024—The National Patriotic Party (NPP) Chairman Emeritus, Chief Cyril Allen,

mixed-colored clothes only to impress their constituents.

Chief Allen continues that this kind of people were elected on tribal lines, and they lied to their people to have them elected as representatives.



frowns at members of the House of Representatives for ridiculing are high school dropouts, and the House publicly.

over the weekend in Monrovia, thus causing the country and its Chief Allen noted that the citizens serious House of Representatives is embarrassment. allegedly composed of uneducated lawmakers and lawmakers in the House of the right things done in the challenges because they sit

they wear sharp-nose shoes and who want to serve their country,

He adds that most of them the rest obtained fake degrees Speaking in an interview from unrecognized institutions,

He points out that the good honorable members who want Representatives face serious interest of the Liberian people. among people who don't According to him, the understand legislative uneducated group of processes. However, he notes representatives does not mean that there are more qualified well for Liberia. He notes that and well-educated Liberians

are seriously embarrassing the country by dishing out money during elections to the detriment of ordinary citizens yearning for good leadership.

On Thursday, October 17, 2024, the Capitol was a scene of drama when a group of lawmakers signed a resolution to remove Speaker Koffa from office. They accused him of serving as legal counsel for major concessionaires in Liberia, a move they claimed violated the Constitution. The lawmakers came from various political parties, including the ruling Unity Party and the opposition Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), to which Speaker Koffa belongs.Rep. Nyan Flomo (District #2, Nimba County) read the petition outside the Capitol Building after pro-Koffa lawmakers led by Rep. Marvin Cole of Bong County shut down the chamber. The situation took a surprising turn when one of the dissenting lawmakers, Rep. Luther Collins (Gbarpolu County), confessed that he and other signatories were bribed with US\$25,000 each to support the resolution, with US\$15,000 paid upfront or in advance.

Displaying a large sum of cash in a video, Rep. Collins said he joined the group only to expose

CONT'D page 7

# lot on Capi

Montserrado County Electoral District#1 Representative, Rugie with no alternative, he Yatu Barry rescinds her decision to have joined last week's Thursday coup plot by some 48 lawmakers to unseat Speaker Fonati Koffa.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Representative, Rugie Yatu Barry representatives, who signed allegedly reverses her previous the resolution, has allegedly consent to a resolution reportedly withdrawn her signature from Electoral District #1 signed by 47 members of the House the document. of Representatives to remove According to the New the resolution void of Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Capitol Building in Monrovia disciples of Jesus Christ, who issues at the 55th Legislature, turned chaotic with pro and anti- handed Christ over to the particularly the House of lawmakers locked in fight to Romans to be put to death for Representatives. remove current Speaker Koffa.

Representative Barry is one of the later regretted and returned procedural issues at the House, rebel lawmakers, who signed the the silver, it was rejected. Left resolution to bring the Speaker down. Few hours after signing of the resolution, news broke among some of the lawmakers that each of them was allegedly induced with US\$25,000, but an initial amount of US\$15,000 was released to each of the coup plotters in a "pay-to-play" fashion to remove the Speaker, an action they blamed on Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah and President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, as masterminds

behind the plot to get Koffa

out.But since news of "pay-to-play"

has taken over the country, stirring

mixed reactions in the public, 21, 2024 - Montserrado Judas Iscariot's style along County Electoral District#1 with three of those

30 pieces silver. However, he She laments policy and

committed suicide, the Bible Speaking in a news says. conference over the weekend in her district, Representative onrovia, Liberia, October Representative Barry, in a Rugie Yatu Barry confirmed signing the resolution to remove Speaker Koffa but clarifies that her intent was not influenced by cash.The Montserrado County Representative said she signed Testament of the Holy Bible, cash/money influence to On Thursday, the grounds of the Judas Iscariot, one of 12 address policy and procedural



A pro-Boakai Conscious Movement is calling on President Joseph Boakai to audit three government institutions for suspected corruption.

By Lewis S. Teh

Conscious Movement (BCM), involved in corrupt practices.

(MPT) as being among interaction. institutions should be audited sentiment among Liberians, who solutions." are increasingly frustrated with the government.

being managed. So, an audit of government promised to rescue us

connectivity. So, an audit will help onrovia, Liberia, us identify the bottlenecks and October 21, 2024 The ensure that funds allocated for head of Boakai these projects are used effectively.

And we also need accountability Richlue Burphy, calls on into the alleged US\$22 million that President Joseph Boakai to was used by Minister Roland immediately commission an Giddings to rehabilitate our major audit for three governmental corridor, ensuring the President no institutions that he suspects are car get stuck in the mud promise,' he adds. He says the Ministry of Posts He names the National and Telecommunications has Disaster Management Agency struggled to provide reliable postal (NDMA), the Ministry of Public services in a country where Works (MPW) and the Ministry of connectivity is essential for Posts and Telecommunications economic growth and social

"In this digital age, we cannot immediately. Addressing a news afford to have a communication conference over the weekend, system that is outdated and Mr. Burphy clarified that his call inefficient, as such, an audit will for an audit is not politically-shed light on the challenges facing motivated but reflects a broader this ministry and help us find

According to him, he remains steadfast in his advocacy for Outlining his reasons for transparency adding, "This is not urging the President to take about politics; this is about the action, Burphy noted, "The future of our country. We cannot people of Liberia deserve to afford to be complacent while our know how their resources are people suffer because this



these agencies will not only and it is a must." provide transparency but also His call for transparency and government."

areas of concern that he believes to fighting corruption. warrant immediate attention, Also, his call comes at a time adequate support.

"We saw families displaced, Southeastern road corridor.

hindered by poor and bad road Jonathan Browne

restore public trust in our accountability comes in the wake of growing concerns from the public He highlights several key over the government's commitment

pointing to the NDMA's handling when the country is being of recent flooding incidents confronted with numerous across the country, where many challenges, including infrastructure citizens were left without deficits, disaster preparedness, and communication inefficiencies.

The Unity Party, during it's homes destroyed, and yet the opposition life which historically response from the NDMA was positioned itself as a champion of slow and inadequate. We need to the people and good governance, is understand why this happened now facing serious pressure to and how we can prevent it in the address these pressing issues headfuture," he states. He also points on. The NDMA, an entity of at the Public Works Ministry, government tasked with which has been criticized for its coordinating disaster responses and failure to complete critical management across the country, infrastructure projects on time faces criticism for perceived especially, rehabilitation of the ineffectiveness during recent natural disasters. Similarly, the MPW "Our roads are in disrepair, has been scrutinized for delays in and access to basic services is infrastructure projects. Editing by

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### **Gov't to increase Judiciary's budget** Deputy Minister Sanoe said the government has agreed to He disclosed that the proper

increase budgetary allotment to the Judiciary in the next fiscal year to strengthen access to justice and the rule of

By Kruah Thompson onrovia, October 21, 2024: The Government of Liberia has agreed to prioritize

He detailed that it is also intended to strengthen access to justice and the rule of law across Liberia. "We received [a] series of calls from Her Honor, Chief Justice of the Supreme



access to justice by increasing Court of Liberia, Sie-A-Nyene the budgetary allotment of the G. Yuoh, urging [the] Judiciary in the coming fiscal government to prioritize

for Public Affairs Daniel Sanoe judiciary," Sanoe said. says the aim is to calm Chief judiciary receives.

access to justice by increasing Deputy Information Minister budgetary allocation for the

Over the weekend, Minister Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh's Sanoe informed reporters that frustration over the limited President Joseph Nyuma budgetary allotment the Boakai has agreed to Chief Justice Yuoh's call.

authority has been instructed to act in the coming fiscal year.

Recently, Chief Justice Yuoh urged President Boakai and his governing Unity Party (UP) to prioritize access to justice for Liberians.

The Liberian Chief Justice expressed frustration over the judiciary.

Chief Justice Yuoh suggested that without sufficient funding, the aspirations of the three branches of government to maintain peace and uphold the rule of law in Liberia would not be achieved.

But Minister Sanoe disclosed that President Boakai has heard her call and has instructed the rightful authority to act."We are aware that the rule of law, and access to justice are important pillars under the arrest agenda. Therefore, we hear the justice minister's appeal for budget increment," Sanoe explained.

He indicated that President Boakai takes the concerns raised by the judiciary seriously, and the President hopes to work with the bench to address them.

He noted that President Boakai is committed to building a strong judiciary.

### **Former LBA official wants** Commerce Minister post

Madam Kpukuyou has worked with several international organizations in Liberia, including the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the World Bank, and the British Embassy.

By Kruah Thompson Madam Leelai M. Kpukuyou has Africa. launched a bid to replace former recently.

support from the Bong County West African States. Legislative Caucus and other Commerce Minister.

During the show, Madam Liberia. Kpukuyou thanked the Bong endorsement.

She revealed that she's Initiative. making all efforts to get the

awards for contributing to onrovia, October 21, empowerment and 2024: Liberian entrepreneurship. She was Business Association recognized as one of the top women limited budgetary allotment to (LBA) former Secretary-General entrepreneurs and CEOs in West

Also, Madam Kpukuyou was Commerce Minister Amin Modad commissioned by the United Nations following his resignation Development Program to lead a Tripartite delegation to the World Kpukuyou, a prominent Trade Organization, International daughter of Lofa and Bong has Monetary Fund, International recently surfaced in the news Labour Organization, African Union, receiving endorsement and and the Economic Community of

She has also worked with several Liberians in her bid for international organizations in presidential appointment as Liberia, including the United Nations Development Program, the United She appeared on the Super Nations Mission in Liberia, the World Morning Show on state Bank, the British Embassy, and broadcaster ELBC recently. several other diplomatic missions in

Madam Kpukuyou is the Chief woman legislative caucus for the Executive Officer of the African Youth And Women Empowerment

Speaking on the sidelines of the president's attention and soon occasion, Madam Kpukuyou pledged she will be announced as the to decentralize commerce services

### **CDC blames UP on Speaker removal plot**

Starts from back page

sting at the legislature in which the ruling party heads the Senate, and an opposition party leads the House of Representatives," the statement said.

The CDC notes that such balance is an established feature in mature democracies. It suggested that it must be ensconced and maintained in the crucible of legislative politics if the country is to pursue and achieve critical public interests and goals germane to the fight against corruption.

The CDC enjoined all members of the national opposition community the responsibility to support its call to rally to the defense of Speaker Koffa."As members of Liberia's opposition sworn to uphold the public trust by keeping the Government's

feet to the fire, the surest way of upholding such public trust is to maintain legislative parity in the crafting of the National Budget and the oversight of budget execution," the opposition party noted.

It contended that Liberians in 2023 voted for this outcome to ensure the ruling party did not have the numerical advantage to control both Houses of the legislature.

"Let us not, as members of the opposition community, countenance the illicit ageold and die-hard practice of exerting the influence of the 'imperial presidency' to subvert the electoral wishes of our people for legislative equilibrium by illegally wasting public money on lawmakers. This moment requires our collective outrage!"

To the CDC lawmakers whose

signatures were seen on the resolution to unseat the Speaker, the CDC called on them to submit to the party's mandate and the wishes of its partisans to stand with the Speaker.

"To the extent, there are differences and divergences of viewpoints or perspectives impinging on the supposed actions or behavior of the speaker or his performance, we must repair to the institutional mechanisms of the CDC Legislative Caucus and the National Executive Committee to address such matters," the statement continued.

The CDC believes it should never be a party to restoring the historical gargoyle of the imperial presidency by undoing itself.To address these grave national concerns, the CDC said it will convene a major meeting on Monday, October 21, at noon at its headquarters. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.



possible replacement for position.

She cited her qualifications revenue. and 18 years of business experience.

She last served as a consultant across the country. to the Office of Liberia's Foreign

several certificates in project explained. management and international trade facilitation.

have equipped her for this Commerce and Industry. position.

She has received multiple

the across the counties and strengthen SBEs to increase government

> She stated that this will mitigate the many constraints SBEs face

"If I am given the opportunity to Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti. serve, I will do a nationwide She earned a master's in consultation, and I will ensure that public administration and a people don't have to leave from rural bachelor's degree in Liberia to come to Monrovia to do management and sociology, with their business registration," she

Meanwhile, Madam Kpuyuon during her radio appearance Madam Kpukuyou believes received praise from callers that her academic credentials participating in the program. They and extensive knowledge in both called on President Boakai to local and international trade nominate her as Liberia's Minister of

### Starts from page 6

him, he has no intention of audit of the House", Rep. supporting the Speaker's Collins explained. removal.

illegally remove the Speaker. that Liberia is retrogressing This is the money and Rep. daily because of [James] Kolleh took US\$200 from Lawmakers' actions, noting it; Hon. Thomas Fallah and VP that neighboring countries Jeremiah Koung have sponsored in the sub-region are moving

### **Chief Cyril damns rebel lawmakers**

their corrupt plan. According to this. They are against the

But Chief Allen, an "Lawmakers that signed to elderly statesman, laments

forward, while Liberia lags behind in terms of development. Political pundits term actions of about 47 out of 103 lawmakers who signed the resolution calling for the removal of Speaker Fonati Koffa as being insensitive to the plights of the Liberian people. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## ran

Un prêtre catholique a été détenu à Monrovia pour emmener la jeune fille au parc son implication présumée dans un viol

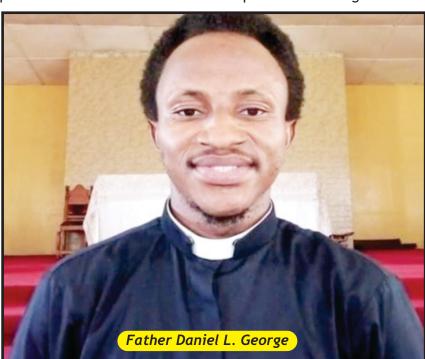
OCTOBER 21

prêtre d'accusation datée du 15 c a t h o l i q u e octobre 2024, l'accusé George

en détention provisoire à la catholique Christ the King. prison centrale de Monrovia

libérien, Daniel L. aurait commis ce crime le 8 mai George, âgé de 32 ans, est 2024 dans l'enceinte de l'église

La police révèle également



à Monrovia.

L'accusé George, prêtre communauté d'Old Road. associé à la paroisse Christ police nationale libérienne que prêtre associé. le 12 octobre 2024 et accusé

pour avoir prétendument que le prêtre Daniel L. George a violé une mineure de 16 ans agressé sexuellement la victime à son domicile dans la

D'après la police, la mineure the King dans la et sa famille sont membres de communauté de Gay Town, l'église catholique Christ the Old Road, a été arrêté par la King où l'accusé exerce en tant

L'enquête révèle que le de viol statutaire, qu'il prêtre, l'accusé George, avait aurait commis sur sa gagné la confiance des parents de la victime et avait l'habitude Selon une feuille de téléphoner à sa mère pour

sportif Invincible près d'Old Road, avec le consentement de celle-ci.

Cependant, la mère a commencé à se méfier de ce comportement et a interdit à l'accusé de continuer à emmener sa fille dehors. Elle a également informé un autre prêtre, le père Patrick, de ne plus laisser l'accusé George rendre visite à sa fille à domicile.

Lors d'une interview avec la police nationale libérienne, la victime raconte qu'en mai 2024, alors qu'elle se trouvait à l'église Christ the King, George lui a dit qu'il avait des photos pour elle chez lui.

Elle poursuit en expliquant qu'il lui a alors demandé de l'accompagner pour les récupérer, mais elle lui a dit qu'elle devait d'abord voir sa mère. Toutefois, il a insisté et l'a convaincue qu'elle ne resterait pas longtemps chez lui.

La victime raconte qu'une fois chez lui, elle s'est assise dans le salon pendant que l'accusé George était dans sa chambre. Soudain, il lui a demandé d'entrer pour l'aider à trouver les photos, ce qu'elle a

"Immédiatement après être entrée dans sa chambre, il m'a poussée et je suis tombée sur le lit; il m'a déshabillée et a eu des relations sexuelles avec moi. En

CONT'D page 9

### Le gouvernement libérien lance des démolitions pour la construction de ponts aériens concernées coopèrent.

Tubman, près du Complexe ministériel à Congo Town, et SKD. Ces opérations visent à préparer la construction des tout premiers ponts aériens du pays, un projet destiné à infrastructures urbaines.

Pilotée par le ministère des Travaux publics, cette initiative prévoit la démolition de structures se trouvant sur le tracé des futures infrastructures. Bien que présentée comme une avancée majeure pour le développement du pays, cette opération s'accompagne de frustrations et de pertes pour de nombreux résidents et occupants illégaux.

Abraham Rahim Bility, ministre adjoint chargé de la planification, des programmes et de la recherche au ministère des Travaux publics, a indiqué

e gouvernement que l'objectif est de démarrer les récalcitrants : « Vous devez a travaux de construction au début partir volontairement, sinon officiellement de l'année 2025. Il précise que les nous utiliserons nos machines lancé les travaux de occupants concernés ont été pour procéder à votre démolition sur le boulevard informés bien à l'avance des évacuation. » démolitions à venir.

« Les propriétaires de biens géométriques des ponts à la jonction du boulevard privés ont été indemnisés, et aériens sont en phase finale et nous avons demandé aux la construction débutera en occupants illégaux de se reloger février 2025. Ce projet de manière volontaire. Faute de s'inscrit dans le cadre d'un quoi, ils seront évacués par une accord signé en 2021 entre le désengorger le trafic et à équipe d'intervention », a gouvernement libérien et moderniser les déclaré M. Bility. Il ajoute que la China Railway, avec un démolition a déjà commencé et financement assuré par la

Il avertit néanmoins les

Selon lui, les plans que la majorité des personnes République populaire de



# ditorial

### Un pont pour l'intégration régionale : une initiative à saluer de la CEDEAO!

Un projet de construction d'un pont de 15 millions de dollars entre le Liberia et la Côte d'Ivoire se profile, avec pour ambition de renforcer l'intégration et les échanges commerciaux, non seulement entre ces deux pays, mais au J sein de toute la région de la CEDEAO, et même au-delà.

Portée par la Commission de la CEDEAO et financée par la Banque africaine de développement, cette initiative place les populations au cœur de son action. Elle vise à faciliter une coopération accrue, des échanges commerciaux plus fluides et, pourquoi pas, des unions interethniques entre citoyens libériens et ivoiriens.

Pour un pays comme le Liberia, confronté à des défis en l matière de connectivité routière, ce projet représente une véritable bouffée d'oxygène. Il promet de dynamiser les j échanges commerciaux entre les deux pays, tout en renforçant les liens tribaux, culturels et économiques qu'ils partagent depuis longtemps.

Nous saluons la vision de la CEDEAO, qui fait de l l'intégration régionale par la connectivité une priorité. Ce projet ne contribuera pas seulement à rapprocher les pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, mais aussi à supprimer des barrières l économiques, tout en favorisant la libre circulation des biens et des services.

Cependant, le Liberia doit s'assurer de ne pas manquer cette opportunité cruciale. Comme l'a souligné Chris! Appiah, directeur intérimaire des Transports à la CEDEAO, le gouvernement libérien n'a pas encore envoyé d'ingénieurs pour collaborer avec leurs homologues | ivoiriens sur la supervision des travaux.

Il est primordial que le Liberia ne prenne pas de retard dans ce projet historique, qui profitera aux générations à venir. L'augmentation des échanges régionaux est un rêve nourri de longue date, et ce pont pourrait être la clé pour p le réaliser.

Le président Joseph Boakai doit voir dans ce projet une l opportunité stratégique pour renforcer les relations avec la Côte d'Ivoire, un voisin francophone essentiel. De même, le ministère des Travaux publics doit dépasser les querelles internes et se concentrer sur l'essentiel : l'avancement du ¦ projet de pont, un intérêt commun pour les deux nations.

Le lancement des travaux est prévu pour novembre, avec une durée d'exécution de deux ans. La société chinoise SHAANXI Construction Engineering Corporation LTD a été sélectionnée pour mener à bien les travaux. Alors, pourquoi ce retard du Liberia ? La lenteur reste incompréhensible.

Le gouvernement libérien doit agir sans délai et soutenir pleinement la CEDEAO pour garantir le démarrage de ce projet essentiel, qui représente une avancée majeure vers l'intégration régionale et le développement des échanges transfrontaliers.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission. Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 / +231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

### f'rançais Starts from page 8 Un prêtre catholique a

juin 2024, l'accusé George est parents après s'être forcé à menacer", raconte-t-elle.

"C'est ainsi qu'il m'a forcée à avoir des relations sexuelles agressée physiquement, lui a avec lui dans le salon de ma arraché le couteau, lui causant mère et a répété sa menace une blessure au poignet gauche. avant de partir. À cause de cela, je suis restée éloignée de chambre et m'a appelée. l'église pendant trois mois. Le Pendant ce temps, l'infirmière dimanche 6 octobre 2024, je suis est revenue, et alors que allée à l'église parce que ma j'essayais d'ouvrir le portail, il a mère a insisté. Elle a demandé à de nouveau menacé de nous une autre dame (Jessica) de tuer toutes les deux. Je suis m'accompagner à l'église", retournée vers lui et il a eu des rapporte la police.

lorsqu'elle est arrivée à l'église, remarqué que j'étais mal à elle a évité tout contact avec le l'aise et s'est précipitée pour prêtre, mais celui-ci n'a cessé informer ma mère (Mme Kebben de l'appeler, jusqu'à ce que Whesseh)", ajoute-t-elle. Jessica le remarque et l'informe que l'accusé la cherchait.

chez elle.

entré dans la cour de ma maison. entrer dans la cour. Je tenais un Je lui ai demandé de partir, mais couteau en pelant une orange, il a refusé et a commencé à me et lorsqu'il s'est approché, je l'ai averti de rester à l'écart et Elle affirme que le prêtre a l'ai menacé de le tuer. Mais à ce menacé de tuer sa mère, moment-là, l'infirmière affirmant qu'il avait déjà des (Patience Sumo) était partie personnes assignées à son acheter un médicament bureau pour la tuer, et que si elle (Flaggy) pour moi, donc il n'y refusait d'avoir des relations avait personne d'autre dans la sexuelles avec lui, sa mère serait maison sauf l'accusé George et moi", explique-t-elle.

Elle précise que le prêtre l'a

"Ensuite, il est allé dans ma relations sexuelles avec moi. La police ajoute que L'infirmière (Patience) a

La victime poursuit en expliquant que sa mère est Elle a refusé de le rejoindre entrée dans la cour et a surpris et a quitté l'office pour rentrer l'accusé George, qui tentait de se cacher, mais elle l'a attrapé "Le mercredi 8 octobre 2024, et a appelé l'administrateur de dans l'après-midi, l'accusé l'église avant de signaler ses

### George est venu chez mes activités présumées à la police.

Starts from page 8 Le gouvernement libérier résidents expriment leur partir, mais sans aucun soutien. démolitions. Edmund Kerkulah, aller », regrette-t-elle. un barbier local, déplore la

de rue, partage la même Chine au Liberia.

Chine. Cependant, plusieurs déception. « Ils nous ont dit de mécontentement face à ces Maintenant, je ne sais pas où

Malgré ces oppositions, le perte de son commerce sans directeur de la communication compensation adéquate. « Le du ministère des Travaux gouvernement aurait dû nous publics, Benjamin Myers, aider à repartir, même s'il nous estime que cette opération a informés à l'avance. Ce matin, marque une étape clé pour le ils sont arrivés avec des développement du Liberia. Il machines et ont détruit mon souligne que la démolition salon », confie-t-il, visiblement ouvre la voie à la construction des ponts aériens, tout en Hawa Kanneh, une vendeuse saluant le soutien continu de la



## L'Europe et la polycrise

ENÈVE - Chaque période historique est définie par de réflexion stratégique de l'Amérique, ses propres défis. Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, illustrée par le travail de recherche et de 『l'Europe a dû trouver un moyen de mettre fin aux développement sur les technologies! crises récurrentes et relativement indépendantes liées aux émergentes de l'Agence des projets de cycles du marché, à la politique intérieure et à la recherche avancée de la défense (Darpa). concurrence des grandes puissances qui l'avaient déchirée pendant des décennies. Elle a relevé ce défi en construisant Le deuxième impératif consiste à mettre en des États-nations stables et des systèmes de protection place de nouveaux cadres solides couvrant sociale efficaces dans le contexte de cadres européens et trois éléments essentiels de la sécurité internationaux solides.

Depuis le début du siècle, l'Europe est confrontée à un financière devra accroître les investissements nouveau défi : répondre à une polycrise extrêmement en Europe afin de stimuler la productivité et complexe, composée d'un large éventail de crises de soutenir l'innovation technologique dans interdépendantes. Nombre d'entre elles pourraient, à elles des secteurs critiques. Compte tenu de la seules, s'avérer catastrophiques, en raison de processus taille réduite de sa base d'investisseurs et de cumulatifs et d'autorenforcement, tels que les points de sa fragmentation structurelle, l'Europe devra bascule du changement climatique et l'effet boule de neige améliorer l'efficacité de l'allocation des de la dette publique.

Aucune de ces crises, cependant, ne se déroule dans le vide. Au contraire, les crises interconnectées d'aujourd'hui s'aggravent et se renforcent mutuellement. Par exemple. une crise démographique déstabilise l'État-providence, sapant le bien-être économique, qui à son tour alimente les perturbations sociales et politiques. Un déclin significatif et durable de la cohésion sociale et politique peut contribuer à d'autres types de crises, comme la crise actuelle de la démocratie libérale, tout en entravant la capacité des États à répondre à d'autres menaces encore, comme le changement climatique.

L'incapacité générale à faire face efficacement à l'escalade De même, la nouvelle conception de la de la polycrise a contribué à créer un sentiment de catastrophe imminente dans le public européen, qui se sent de plus en plus impuissant. Mais les menaces existentielles auxquelles nous sommes confrontés, des conflits armés au changement climatique catastrophique, peuvent être surmontées, non pas en « reprenant le contrôle », comme le promettent les dirigeants politiques populistes, mais en apprenant à contrôler ce qui ne l'est pas encore.

Nos institutions politiques, financières et internationales ont tendance à être structurées pour la gestion des crises cycliques du passé, ce qui les rend mal adaptées pour répondre à la polycrise actuelle, qui exige à la fois robustesse et flexibilité. L'Europe est confrontée à un défi supplémentaire : ses institutions, qui dépendent du consensus, de la cohérence et du compromis, peinent à faire face à des intérêts étroits, complexes et diversifiés.

Toutefois, si l'Europe a bien besoin d'une transformation institutionnelle pour relever les défis existentiels d'aujourd'hui, elle est aussi particulièrement bien équipée pour y parvenir, grâce à l'expérience considérable qu'elle a acquise en traversant des crises et en conciliant solidarité et liberté. Pour cela, il lui faut développer une vision claire de l'avenir, approfondir la coopération dans les domainesclés et concevoir un nouveau cadre organisationnel.

Commençons par la vision. L'Europe a besoin d'une stratégie de l'UE comprennent l'actualisation du modèle explicite pour faire face à la polycrise, qui synchronise les économique européen, le renforcement de la horizons temporels afin d'améliorer la gestion des crises à productivité et de la compétitivité, ainsi que court terme (ce qui est essentiel pour briser les mécanismes la gestion de la politique commerciale. Les de crise qui se renforcent d'eux-mêmes) et d'établir des États-nations, pour leur part, doivent objectifs communs à long terme (ce qui est essentiel pour encourager la solidarité et, avec les maintenir l'élan).

Des unités plus petites, plus autonomes et plus flexibles public-privé est également essentielle, afin de devraient être chargées de mettre en œuvre cette vision, en collaboration avec des acteurs indépendants - souvent issus de la société civile - spécialisés dans la recherche d'un consensus, l'élaboration de stratégies à long terme et le suivi de leur mise en œuvre et de leurs effets. Une culture de la décision et de la responsabilité est essentielle.

La vision à long terme devrait refléter l'ambition générationnelle. L'Inde a établi une feuille de route pour devenir une économie développée d'ici 2047, un siècle après son indépendance. La Chine prévoit de parvenir à un « rajeunissement national » d'ici 2049, année du centenaire de la République populaire. L'Europe devrait ancrer sa propre stratégie en 2045, 100 ans après avoir pris un nouveau départ après les horreurs de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

En élaborant cette nouvelle vision, l'Europe devrait s'inspirer des forces des autres, par exemple de la capacité

européenne : les finances, la défense et le bien-être social. La nouvelle architecture capitaux et de la mobilisation de l'épargne. L'achèvement de l'union des marchés des capitaux devrait être la tâche principale de la nouvelle Commission européenne.

En ce qui concerne la défense, la guerre en Ukraine a montré que l'architecture actuelle de l'Europe était fragile et lente. Un nouveau cadre est absolument nécessaire. Il doit être capable de gérer les achats à l'échelle du continent, de soutenir l'interopérabilité entre les forces de sécurité et de donner à l'Europe un avantage technologique.

protection sociale doit être cohérente, fiscalement viable et répondre aux besoins des sociétés modernes. Au cours des dernières décennies, l'Europe a laissé se creuser les dettes et les déficits de financement dans toute une série de domaines - notamment la santé, le logement, l'éducation et l'énergie en raison de l'absence de consensus sur ce que devrait être l'État-providence moderne. Étant donné que la sauvegarde du mode de vie européen est essentielle à la solidarité sociale à long terme, cette situation ne peut plus

Le troisième impératif clé pour l'Europe face à la polycrise est de concevoir un nouveau modèle d'organisation, basé sur la flexibilité, l'adaptabilité et la subsidiarité. Les problèmes doivent être abordés au niveau où ils se posent. Les défis mondiaux - tels que le changement climatique, la prolifération nucléaire, l'intelligence artificielle et la stabilité financière - exigent une coopération et une réglementation internationales plus structurées.

Les défis qui devraient être traités au niveau communautés locales, gérer la mise en œuvre concrète des politiques. La coopération tirer parti de l'expérience, du savoir-faire et de la capacité institutionnelle des entreprises en matière d'adaptation, de gestion des risques et de réponse aux crises. Le nouveau modèle d'organisation devrait ressembler davantage à un filet qu'à une chaîne, car la force d'un filet est la somme de ses nœuds, tandis qu'une chaîne n'est aussi solide que son maillon le plus faible.

L'Europe ne peut pas se permettre d'attendre le prochain choc pour agir. Si nous voulons surmonter la polycrise, nous avons besoin aujourd'hui d'une réflexion stratégique, d'un leadership collectif et d'une pensée originale, guidés par l'ambition commune de « refonder l'Europe » d'ici à 2045.

# ARTICLE

### The Dishonourabl **House of Representatives**

Seltue Karweaye

ike a gripping soap opera, Liberians are witnessing a distressing surge in bribery allegations within the National Legislature. This crucial arm of the Liberian government, entrusted with shaping the country's political landscape and policymaking, has unfortunately become a breeding ground for corruption and a haven for former warlords and government officials. This has given rise to self-centered politicians and individuals of questionable character.

The widespread bribery within the National Legislature not only poses a significant threat to democratic principles and governance effectiveness in Liberia but also hinders socio-economic development. Despite being responsible for legislative duties, many members of the National Legislature have been implicated in various bribery practices, eroding public trust and confidence. Of particular concern is the alleged plot to remove Speaker J. Fonati Koffa through a scheme that reportedly offered US\$15,000 to each of the 48 House members to endorse a resolution for Koffa's removal.

How Legislative Bribery Was Legitimized in Post-Conflict Liberia Liberia's first elected post-conflict government set the stage for a concerning trend of legislative bribery and budget padding. The Legislature's budget skyrocketed from \$9.4 million in 2007 to over \$57 million in 2024. Several concession agreements, amassing a total of \$16 billion in foreign direct investment, were signed into law amidst allegations of bribery ("brown envelopes") being exchanged to secure legislative passage.

In 2007, during the negotiation of the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between the Liberian government and ArcelorMittal, the company donated 100 Toyota Hilux DXD4 double cabin pickups to members of the 52nd National Legislature. President Sirleaf staunchly defended Arcelor Mittal's gesture toward the National Legislature. Following the distribution of the 100 Toyota Hilux DXD4 double cabin pickups to the National Legislature, the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between ArcelorMittal was officially ratified by the Liberian Legislature in May 2007.

The ousting of Edwin Snowe as Speaker of the House of Representatives in 2007 for Unity Party, Alex Tyler, was marred by bribery. Two lawmakers at the time confessed to receiving money to facilitate the removal of Speaker Edwin M. Snowe, Jr. from office. According to a statement from the then-Representative Samuel Bondo of Bong County and Representative Saah Gbollie of Margibi, they each received US\$5,000 with the request that they execute a resolution to remove Speaker Snowe from office.

Koffa's Saga

The recent reports alleging that some members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia received bribes of \$15,000 each to orchestrate the removal of Speaker J. Fonati Koffa raise serious legal and ethical concerns. The alleged misconduct took place while both Speaker Koffa and President Joseph N. Boakai were in Rome, Italy. While I have tried to remain within the ethical and moral boundaries by refraining from attacking individuals and personalities, the House of Representatives at this point needs to heed the word of wisdom and throw in the towel. The public sentiment has never been this volatile against them. This bribery scandal came after the Legislature allotted US\$45,000 for each of the 103 lawmakers to purchase expensive new vehicles, and an additional US\$100,000 for each of the 73 Representatives for the so-called district development funds, despite the extreme hunger in the country, which is comparable to that in Gaza, Syria, and Sudan. In the 2023 Global Hunger Index. Liberia ranks 117th out of the 125 countries with a score of 32.2.

What is most disturbing is the level of impunity and audacity with which this bribery is being perpetrated. Only in Liberia will a sitting representative (Luther Collin of District #2 of Gbarpolu County) go live on Facebook and display over \$15,000 in cash, which he claimed was part of a bribe to remove Speaker Koffa. Collin claimed he was offered \$25, 000 as part of a larger conspiracy to impeach Speaker Kofa, reportedly spearheaded by Vice President Jeremiah Koung and Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah. How these reprobates and scalawags sleep at night, knowing full well that 52.3% of Liberians (2.7 million people) are

multidimensionally poor as a result of their actions and inaction, is baffling. The impact of legislative bribery goes far beyond financial mismanagement; it significantly undermines governance effectiveness and perpetuates systemic inequalities, leading to agitation and calls for breakup and self-determination. Injustice breeds protest and chaos, serving as a recipe for disaster. The current political unrest in Haiti serves as a stark example. Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) is right in calling for the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to swiftly investigate and prosecute those involved in the alleged bribery scandal within the 55th Legislature, which aimed at removing Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Former Budget Advisor and Budget Director Government of Liberia (1971-1974)

# **Bribery is Corruption**

here is plenty talk about how some persons took money to have another person removed from public office. But these same persons who want the person removed were the ones who put the person into high public office, What irony! What dishonesty!! Why did these elected officials act in such a contradictory manner? Is it that they are money driven?

These public officials acted in such a contradictory and dishonest manner because they are money driven just like other officials who make up the powers that be. But there are always good people where there are bad people. So, one of the officials turned whistle blower and exposed the dishonest deed. Now, there is plenty noise about this dishonesty and corruption.

Reliable reports indicate that these corrupt officials got as much as USD25,000 each for efforts directed at the removal of another person from the Legislature. What corruption! Where did the money come? It is definitely not in the National Budget. The Executive Branch of the Government knows about this corruption! Whenever one uses for oneself what belongs to another person, that is corruption. The money given to the corrupt government officials constitutes bribery. The Rule of Law says that that bribery is corruption. The Rule of Law says that bribery is second degree felony. Second degree felony is punishable by imprisonment.

The persons who are violating the Law must bear in mind that the persons who violated the Law from their bases in the National Legislature were not re-elected as seen in the results of the October 10, 2023 Election. The Legislators who are violating the Law now are also not going to be re-elected. If these Legislators were not to face the Justice of the Court, they will face the Justice of the People.

They will face the Justice of the people because there is the continuous awareness raising by the people who love the Rule of Law. This awareness raising is transforming the unfair prevailing electoral system into the fair enduring electoral system. It is only through this transformation that persons with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.



ormer Presidential Candidate Cllr. Tiawan Saye and prosecute those found

Gongloe recommends five years' imprisonment for rebel lawmakers who received bribes to remove the Speaker of the House.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Employees and Chapter 12 of onrovia, Liberia, the Penal Law, bribery is October 21, 2024, classified as a second-degree Former Presidential felony, punishable by up to five Candidate Cllr. Tiawan Saye years of imprisonment. The Gongloe is recommending five law unequivocally prohibits years imprisonment for any public servant from lawmakers who allegedly receiving, soliciting, or



received a bribe of US\$15,000 accepting bribes in exchange each to remove House Speaker for official actions or for Jonathan F. Koffa.

Cllr. Gongloe, addressing a Gongloe remains. press conference over the weekend at his private law office in Central Monrovia, commended those he terms as courageous lawmakers who exposed the plot.

He describes it as an unethical, unlawful, and criminal act of lawmakers receiving US\$15,000 each in a conspiracy to remove the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

revelation of this conspiracy necessitates immediate and protecting the interests of the violation of the law. Liberian people.

neglecting their duties", Cllr.

He notes that in this case, the individuals allegedly involved in accepting bribes have directly undermined the principles of good governance and integrity essential for the nation's progress.

The political leader of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) argues that Section 9.1 of the Code of Conduct explicitly forbids public officials from accepting bribes or gifts that According to him, the could influence their professional responsibilities.

Similarly, he indicates that decisive action. He added that Section 12.50 of the Penal Law this act of bravery by the of Liberia categorizes bribery whistleblower exemplifies as a second-degree felony, and integrity and accountability in if proven, these actions public service, demonstrating constitute a grave breach of a steadfast commitment to public trust and a blatant

"I urge the Ministry of "Under Liberian law, Justice and the Liberia Antispecifically Chapter 9 of the Corruption Commission to Code of Conduct for Public promptly initiate a thorough Officials and Government investigation into this matter

culpable, including both the receivers and the givers, to the fullest extent of the law. Bribery in government is not merely a crime; it is a profound betrayal of public trust. Moving forward, we must ensure that whistleblowers are both encouraged and protected, as they play a crucial role in exposing corruption and safeguarding our nation's integrity. Cllr. Gongloe, also former President of the Liberia National Bar Association, says.

He laments that the fight against bribery and corruption is fundamental to building a more transparent and accountable Liberia, saying, "Together, we must steadfastly defend the integrity of our government institutions."

He urges Liberians to reflect on what the money could have achieved for the country's schools and clinics, pointing out that this is one of the reasons he is advocating for eliminating graduation fees from kindergarten to university level in both private and public schools.

"This issue should not be ignored or concealed, as the betrayal of public trust has severe negative repercussions for our people. Consider that each of the 48 members of the House of Representatives received US\$15,000, totaling US\$720,000 or LD 136,800,000 under this criminal conspiracy." He underscores.

Meanwhile, the Liberian integrity torchbearer lauds Representative Luther Collins for exposing the criminal syndicate, adding that the action aligns with his Broom Movement's mission to eradicate corruption in government.

"Representative Collins has set a commendable example for other lawmakers across Africa to follow in exposing such criminal conspiracies wherever they occur." Cllr. Gongloe expresses. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Rebel lawmakers somersault

Grand Bassa Rep. Thomas Goshua has alleged that Speaker Koffa's proposal to audit the House of Representatives has led his colleagues to plot his removal.

By Bridgett Milton onrovia, October 21, 2024: Rebel lawmakers ▼ who engineered a plot to remove House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa have suffered a major setback as some of their colleagues withdrew from the plan.

Last week, several lawmakers withdrew their signatures from the earlier signed resolution to remove Cllr. Koffa as their Speaker.

Those withdrawing their signatures have cited "integrity matter" as reasons for backing off the plan.

Liberia has been rocked by the political uproar on Capitol Hill after lawmakers signed a resolution to remove Koffa while he was out of the country.

Among those who have withdrawn their signatures are Maryland County District #3 Representative Austin B. Taylor, Montserrado County District #1 Representative Rugia Barry, Montserrado County District #5 Representative Priscilla Cooper, and Grand Bassa County District #5 Representative Thomas Goshua.

After 47 members of the House of Representatives signed a resolution last Thursday to remove House Speaker Koffa, the NewDawn newspaper gathered over the weekend that the number dropped to 40 members.

On Friday, 18 October 2024, Grand Bassa County District #5 Representative Thomas Goshua

"As a duly elected representative and member of the House of Representatives, I hereby formally rescind my signature from the resolution seeking the removal of Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa with immediate effect," said Goshua.

Having accomplished the task and understood the circumstances surrounding the resolution, Goshua said he had backed off from the process.

Upon completing his inquiry, Goshau said he realized that the push for Speaker Koffa's removal was largely in response to his bold stance on commencing the House of Representatives audit.

He explained that such an audit had never been conducted for as long as he could remember, describing it as a significant development.

Goshua noted that the proposed audit, which aims to promote transparency and accountability within the House, has generated resistance from certain quarters.

He continued that this resistance is the primary basis for the resolution to remove Koffa.

"In light of this revelation, we as lawmakers, in good conscience, should not support any effort to stifle such an important and necessary step toward good governance," he argued.

"Speaker Koffa's proposal to audit the House is an unprecedented move toward ensuring that the people's



### Starts from page 6

### Lawmaker abandons

development funds from the remove the Speaker." rules of the House of for the record, she did not Legislature," she rescinds. Representatives, among receive any money to do others.Rep. Barry says through she supports efforts to address procedural issues but it doesn't in any way mean displaying what was done at the Capitol Building last Thursday, which should be a place for honorable men and women.

She expresses shock over news about the dishing out of cash among her legislative colleagues. "Now, it has come to my attention that some members of the House are

such thing as removing Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa. The lawmaker states that she has built her integrity all her life and will not allow her character to be dragged in She wants the Liberia Anti

Rugie Barry, Representative of Electoral District #1 my signature from the Browne

the mud.

including removing district for their signatures to petition to effectuate the remova of Hon. Cllr J. Fonati Koffa as budget, and amendment to the However, she maintains that Speaker of the 55th Liberia

> calm and civil amid the fight. "I cal on all sides to take a step back and engage in conversations that wel lead to us doing the business of the Liberian People".

corruption Commission (LACC) to "Therefore, in view of the audit the House of Representatives aforementioned, I, Hon. on allegations of bribery among lawmakers to foster transparency and accountability and further Montserrado County, do hold people accountable for the hereby officially withdraw actions. Editing by Jonathan

told reporters that he joined the rebel lawmakers as a spy after being informed that signatures were being gathered to remove Koffa.Goshua claimed that he planted himself among the lawmakers who were concocting She urges her colleagues to stay such a plan with the knowledge and consent of a couple of his colleagues. He stated that he was tasked with gathering information regarding the number of signatures in support of the speaker's removal and identifying the masterminds behind the movement.

Goshua explained that his role in this matter was purely investigative, intended to collect information on behalf of the

Speaker, and it was not meant to

endorse the effort to unseat Koffa.

representatives are accountable to those they serve," he stated.

Goshua believes that Speaker Koffa has demonstrated exemplary leadership during his tenure, and he continues to have confidence in his vision for a more transparent and accountable legislature.

"While I respect the right of my colleagues to raise concerns, I believe that efforts to address internal grievances must be constructive and solutionoriented, rather than undermining a leader committed to institutional reform," he added.

"The audit proposed by Speaker Koffa is a vital step in ensuring that the institution of the House of Representatives operates in the public's best interest."



# EDE blames UP on Speaker removal plot

The CDC has called on its lawmakers whose signatures September this year, tens of were seen on the resolution to unseat the Speaker to thousands of Liberians do not submit to the party's mandate and stand with Cllr. Koffa. have money to enroll their

2024: Opposition removing Speaker Koffa since The immediate past ruling party Congress for the UP lost the bid for argued that the UP Government Democratic Change (CDC) has Speakership in January 2024," a is struggling to pay Government accused the ruling Unity Party statement dated 20 October workers on time. (UP) of allegedly manipulating under the signature of CDC The CDC also alleged that the UP

onrovia, October 21, third abortive orchestration at economic hardship.



Representatives into ousting said.

House Speaker J Fonati Koffa. The party vehemently "The CDC observes that the lawmakers to oust Speaker coup against the Speaker.

The CDC condemns the alleged condemned the Unity Party, Unity Party's unending quest to abortive attempt by President accusing the ruling party of capture the Speakership at ALL Joseph Nyuma Boakai's Unity allegedly abusing public AND ANY COST betrays its Party administration to resources to bribe lawmakers abhorrence of the critical criminally manipulate into instigating a legislative democratic balance now

The party claimed that since the "The CDC notes that this is the commencement of school

children due to extreme

Government has been unable to make payments for goods and services to Government ministries and agencies.

It also accused the government of not identifying the resources required to increase civil servant salaries to pre-Harmonization levels, if this is ever possible.

In the midst of these allegations, the CDC noted that the dishing out of more than US\$ 1.2 million ... is at best a flagrant disregard and disrespect for public outrage against corruption.

At worst, the CDC described it as a criminal conspiracy worthy of a serious investigation by the Liberia Anti-Corruption members of the House of chairman Atty. Janga A. Kowo Commission (LACC) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

CONT'D page 7





