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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY 22, 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.

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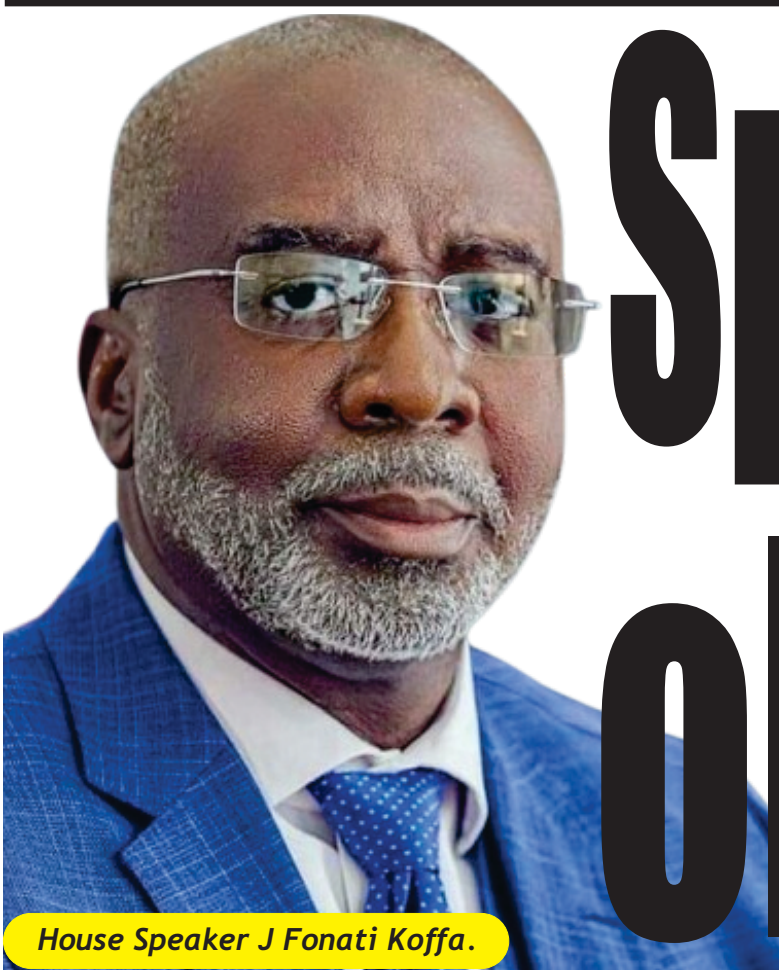
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The Management of The NEW DAWN is proud to introduce a new column titled: "AS I SEE IT" with Professor Tom Kaydor, Jr., PhD on contemporary issues in Liberia.

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House Speaker J Fonati Koffa.

Speaker extends olive branch

P11

I'm not afraid of audit

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Sen Prince K. Moyee

-Senator Moyee denies stake in Speaker's removal

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Continental News

Zambian president sacks top judges who ruled in favour of his rival

Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema has now sacked three top judges he previously suspended over alleged judicial misconduct, drawing further accusations of political interference in the judiciary. The three Constitutional Court judges presided over a presidential petition in 2016 in which they dismissed Hichilema's challenge against

by the presidency said they had been "removed with immediate effect" following a recommendation by the Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC).

"The removal of the judges is in exercise of the powers vested in the President under [the Zambian constitution]," it said. The three judges - Justice Annie Sitali, Justice Mungeni Mulenga, and Justice Palan Mulonda - have not publicly commented on the

Political tensions have been in rising in Zambia ahead of elections in 2026, when Hichilema and Lungu are expected to face each other for a fourth time.

Social and political commentator Laura Miti says informed Zambians are split between those who feel this is a legal but self-serving move by the president and others who back him.

"My view is that the judges misbehaved spectacularly in the presidential petition in 2016. That being true this comes across as the president exacting revenge for their judgment which is highly concerning," she told the BBC.

But Makebi Zulu, Lungu's lawyer in the case, termed the move an "illegality" telling the BBC that "it was executive overreach aimed at interfering with the independence of the judiciary".

"No judge should be disciplined for carrying out their judicial function," he said.

Under Zambia's constitution, all judges, including the chief justice, are appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission and with the approval of the National Assembly. Academic Sishuwa Sishuwa says the "reality is that we will always have the problem of incompetent and

unqualified judges as long as they are appointed and promoted by the executive.

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 Zenaïdo Machado, of Human Rights Watch.

"Last year, during local elections, he led several elections court cases against the election commission, and he won.

Four Turkish refugees sent back home, says Kenya

The United Nation's Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has said it is "deeply concerned" by news that four refugees were returned to Turkey from Kenya. The refugees were repatriated at the request of the Turkish government, Kenya's foreign ministry says. The statement comes after reports of several people being abducted in the capital city, Nairobi, on Friday.

A British national told the BBC he and several Turkish citizens had been abducted by masked men. He said he had been released after eight hours when he showed his alleged abductors a copy of his British passport. In a statement the UNHCR said: "UNHCR urges the Government of Kenya to abide by their international legal obligations, and in particular,

not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. Following the reported abduction, Kenyan law firm Mukele & Kakai said it was acting on behalf of four men who were registered refugees and warned airlines against allowing them to be taken on board. In a letter seen by the BBC, it described them as "victims of political victimisation".

The Kenyan government said it had "unswerving commitment to the protection and promotion of refugee rights" and was "committed to the privacy and confidentiality of the repatriated individuals".

The British national, Necdet Seyitoğlu, told the BBC six other people he knew - all Turkish citizens - were also abducted in the same manner from different locations in Nairobi.

In a statement, the UK Foreign Office said it was "providing



Critics accuse President Hakainde Hichilema of overreaching in his actions against judges

the election victory of former President Edgar Lungu.

They also took part in a controversial ruling allowing Lungu to stand in the 2021 elections, despite having twice served as Zambia's president. Their dismissal comes after they lost a court application for a review of a judicial panel's decision.

Mozambique opposition lawyer shot dead

The lawyer for a 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] cold-blooded 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,

matter. The JCC had investigated them over allegations of gross misconduct following a complaint by Moses Kalonde, a private citizen. Last year, the JCC rejected a complaint from lawyer Joseph Busenga, who had petitioned for the removal of the three judges, alleging that they had mishandled the 2016 election

petition. Reactions to the dismissal of the judges were mixed.

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 prevent any acts of vandalism, violence, or public disorder in coming days. "Naturally, we



It has been 10 days since Mozambicans went to the polls



Multiple people, all but one Turkish nationals, were reported to have been abducted in Nairobi on Friday

to respect the principle of non-refoulement [forced return of refugees], which protects asylum-seekers and refugees from any measure that could lead to their removal to a place where their life or freedom would be threatened."

Kenya's foreign ministry said it had agreed to Turkey's request to repatriate the four men because of the country's "robust historical and strategic relations" with Turkey, and that it had been assured the refugees would be "treated with dignity". The four are believed to be followers of the Gulen movement, a powerful Islamic community with followers in Turkey and worldwide, whose leader has just died. The Gulen movement runs a network of schools in Kenya and around the world. Known as Hizmet or "service" in Turkey, it was blamed for a 2016 coup attempt and later declared a terrorist organisation. Turkish authorities have not yet commented on the repatriation.

Under the UN's 1951 Refugee Convention, refugees should

consular support to a British man and his family following an incident in Kenya". Following reports of the kidnapping, Kenyan police told the BBC they were investigating a "kidnapping incident" after a motorcycle driver witnessed the abduction.

According to the report, two vehicles intercepted and blocked a silver saloon car with two occupants from the front and behind. "About eight persons armed with weapons emerged from the two vehicles, pulled out the two occupants" and drove off with them, said Kenyan police spokeswoman Resila Onyango.

However, Amnesty International's Kenya spokesman said he was "deeply concerned by reports that seven asylum seekers from Türkiye have been abducted on Kenyan soil". The UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, told the BBC it was "aware of reports and will provide more information once we have it". Turkey's relationships with African countries has grown over the past 20 years, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan seeking to strengthen ties. But Kenya's close ties with Turkey go even further back.

EDITORIAL

Gay stigma is hurting United Methodists

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 regarding this situation despite his professed opposition to same-sex marriage and the ordination of gay bishops and gay pastors. 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.

COMMENTARY

By Richard Haass

The New Gang of Four

NEW YORK - The Gang of Four was the name given to four senior Chinese officials closely associated with some of the Cultural Revolution's most radical features. They lost out in the power struggle that followed Mao Zedong's death, after which they were arrested, convicted of various crimes, and imprisoned.

Fifty years later, a new Gang of Four has emerged: China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia. This grouping is not a formal alliance committed to defending one another. But it is an alignment driven by shared antipathy toward the existing US-led world order and features mutual exchanges of military, economic, and political support.

This Gang of Four seeks to prevent the spread of Western liberalism domestically, which they see (correctly) as a threat to their hold on power and to the authoritarian political systems they head. They also oppose US leadership abroad, including the norms the United States and its partners embrace, above all the prohibition on acquiring territory by the threat or use of force.

The gang's mutual support takes several forms. On the eve of the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, China signed an agreement with Russia declaring that their mutual friendship had "no limits," while Russia expressed support for China's position vis-à-vis Taiwan. Since then, China has echoed Russian talking points about the war in Ukraine, blaming NATO for it, and amplifying Russian misinformation.

In the economic realm, China has opposed war-related sanctions against Russia, is the world's largest importer of Iranian oil, and has long subsidized North Korea. Militarily, Iran has provided missiles and drones to Russia, North Korea has provided artillery shells, and China seems to have provided dual-use technologies and industrial inputs with military applications that the US and its allies have tried to keep out of Russia's hands. Russia has reportedly reciprocated by assisting these countries in improving their nuclear, missile, or submarine programs, and by sharing intelligence about Western weapons systems gleaned from its war with Ukraine.

Unfortunately, no single or simple policy will suffice to counter this alignment. There is no diplomatic opportunity to exploit divisions between them, in contrast to the early 1970s, when the US leveraged Sino-Soviet tensions to draw China toward the West. Further complicating matters, China is fundamentally different from the other three. It is integrated into the global economy and a major trading partner for many countries in the Western security orbit. Efforts to isolate China economically or to use trade and investment to shape its behavior will have limited impact.

China also stands alone among the four in seeking not to overturn the existing international order so much as to bend it toward its foreign-policy goals. Iran, North Korea, and Russia are far less integrated into the global economy, though they have one another as a source of imports and markets, and Iran and Russia have other trade partners. India remains a major purchaser of Russian energy and arms. Dozens of so-called Global South countries have refused to condemn Russian aggression in Ukraine or support sanctions against Russia.

North Korea is the most isolated of the four, but its vulnerability to sanctions is limited by China's interest in preventing it from collapsing, fearing instability on its border and a united Korea tied to the West. Russia, given its reliance on North Korean artillery, will also likely provide Kim Jong-un's regime with greater assistance. To confront this challenge, the US, in coordination with South Korea, could explore relaxing sanctions in exchange for steps by North Korea to limit the scale of its nuclear and missile programs. Close ties between the US and South Korea should work to discourage North Korean aggression.

Russia, for its part, must not prevail over Ukraine. This requires maintaining long-term military support for Ukraine while extending security assurances and European Union membership, all of which would signal to Vladimir Putin that he is wrong to think that he can outlast the West. This would not bring peace, but it could set the stage for diplomacy that ends the fighting and preserves Ukraine's independence. Standing up for Ukraine also demonstrates to China that it should not expect a free hand with Taiwan.

In the case of Iran, the long-term priority must be to ensure - through diplomacy or the threat or use of military force - that it does not develop nuclear weapons. The immediate goals should be to rein in Tehran's support for its havoc-wreaking proxies across the Middle East (admittedly easier said than done) and to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from spiraling into a regional conflict (which Iran may not want, given its domestic challenges).

China presents the most complicated challenge of the four, owing to its strategic ambitions and willingness to use its economic heft and military might to achieve its objectives. Dialogue, deterrence, and, at times, reassurance will be required to influence Chinese behavior and leverage its interest in maintaining access to technology and markets.

The US and its partners need to assume this new alignment will persist and potentially deepen. That should not preclude diplomatic contacts, which are a tool, not a favor. Diplomacy reinforces the message that the US goal is policy change, not regime change, if only because regime change is beyond reach and could encourage even less restraint among the Gang of Four.

US and Western influence will also reflect US and Western strength. This implies the need to repair defense industrial bases across the US, Europe, and the Indo-Pacific, and to enhance and integrate military capabilities to account for the possibility of a multi-region conflict. Moreover, the West must create supply chains for critical goods that do not rely on these four countries.

The US also must modernize its nuclear arsenal in response to China's massive nuclear buildup (and North Korea's relentless one) and the possibility that the New START agreement with Russia will expire in 2026. At home, the US ought to reduce its soaring debt (now higher than its GDP) and prevent its political divisions from interfering with its international commitments.

But the principal tool for countering the Gang of Four is an effective counter-alignment. Fortunately, it already exists in the web of alliances and partnerships in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. The challenge for the US is to provide the presence and predictability that such relationships require. For America's partners, the challenge is to contribute more toward common defense and to coordinate policy to meet shared challenges - including those posed by the Gang of Four.

OP-ED

By Kenneth Rogoff

Rethinking Foreign Funding for Africa

CAMBRIDGE - How long can the complacent West continue to ignore Africa’s sovereign-debt crisis? As African countries grapple with unsustainable debt burdens, restructuring negotiations with Western governments and multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund have stalled. While forgiveness is essential, it is important to bear in mind that a significant share of Africa’s foreign debt is held by private lenders and China, neither of which has shown much willingness to offer relief.

With nearly 400 million people living in extreme poverty, Africa’s growing debt-servicing burden has become a major obstacle to poverty reduction, as rising costs are compounded by wars, regional conflicts, climate disasters, and a sluggish global economy. The continent’s population, currently at 1.5 billion, is projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050. It is unlikely that young Africans, who need only look at their smartphones to see that other countries can offer better opportunities, will quietly accept their circumstances for much longer.

Given this reality, it is naive to think that the West can remain indefinitely insulated from the fallout of Africa’s violent conflicts and economic crises. Whether through rising immigration, terrorism, or proxy wars over the continent’s vast natural resources, the consequences will inevitably spill over to the developed world.

So, what can be done? Ultimately, African countries must grow their way out of debt, as East Asia has done and as countries in South Asia - particularly India - are beginning to do. Just as Asian economies once followed Japan’s economic model, Africa needs a few success stories to set an example for the rest of the continent.

But such a shift will take years. In the meantime, foreign-aid programs must be overhauled, focusing on grants rather than development loans. Africa’s green transition alone requires at least \$100 billion annually, including the vital task of providing electricity to the 600 million Africans who still lack access. If the United States can spend \$1 trillion on green projects that will likely have only limited effectiveness, it should be able to direct a portion of that investment to Africa, where its impact could be far greater.

The aim must be to prevent African countries’ debt from spiraling out of control. To this end, Western governments should also introduce legal reforms that bar enforcement of sovereign-debt contracts in developed-country courts. Forcing private lenders to rely on the legal systems of debtor countries would incentivize prospective sovereign borrowers to strengthen their legal and financial systems to gain lenders’ trust. Countries with less-developed institutions would need more time, making grants essential to bridging the gap in the short term.

While this proposal may seem harsh, it reflects an uncomfortable reality: borrowing from private foreign lenders has often been a mixed blessing for developing countries, especially those in Latin America and Asia. This is partly because most developing-country governments, even when not corrupt, pursue short-sighted borrowing strategies, taking on debt that poses unnecessary risks to their populations.

Time and again, debt crises have derailed development efforts. In his 2002 book *Globalization and Its Discontents*, Nobel laureate economist Joseph E. Stiglitz attributes this pattern to the conduct of international financial institutions. But the real problem is a legal system that allows foreign lenders to wield disproportionate power by suing defaulting borrowers in New York and London. Far too often, the IMF is left to clean up the mess.

This is why, as early as 1990, Stanford economist Jeremy Bulow and I argued that debt disputes should move to borrower-country courts. While the IMF’s proposal for a sovereign-debt bankruptcy mechanism could be seen as a step in the right direction, it faces resistance from lenders that rightly assume the Fund would be more sympathetic to borrowers than the New York courts would be. Some emerging-market governments also oppose this idea, fearing that it would limit their ability to secure foreign loans.

But that is exactly the point. Latin America’s experience with foreign debt shows that recurring crises often outweigh the short-term benefits of borrowing. In recent years, most middle-income emerging markets have managed to mitigate default crises by adjudicating sovereign-debt disputes in their own courts, with Argentina being a notable exception.

African countries must adopt a similar approach and move toward local jurisdiction over debt contracts. Transitional financing should ideally come from outright grants, much like the Marshall Plan did for postwar Europe. But the shift from development loans to grants must be far-reaching, reshaping the World Bank’s framework for funding projects into a grant-based system.

OPINION

by Agnes Kalibata, Cary Fowler

Africa’s Food Security Depends on Adaptive Crops

NAIROBI - Africa’s food systems are facing myriad challenges, from climate shocks and low productivity to supply-chain disruptions and soil degradation. In 2022, one in five Africans was undernourished, even though the continent’s cultivated land could more than meet its food needs. But that would require effective management and, perhaps most importantly, planting adaptive crops such as millet, sorghum, teff, and fonio.

These underutilized crops have long been staples in African communities and offer nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits. Unfortunately, food companies and retailers often overlook them - which must change to have any hope of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Rapid urbanization and changing tastes have dampened demand for traditional crops in Africa, increasing reliance on the small number of staples that dominate global agriculture. Only 20 plant species provide more than 90% of the world’s food requirements, with maize, rice, and wheat accounting for 60% of total caloric intake. But relying on a few staples is unsustainable, especially given rising temperatures. Without effective climate adaptation strategies, yields for such crops could decline by as much as 30% by 2050, in which case demand would outstrip supply and even more people would go hungry.

African governments must work with the agri-food industry and farmers to increase demand for climate-resilient and nutrient-rich adaptive crops that would enable the continent to feed its growing population. There are more than 300 such “opportunity crops,” a few of which are popular globally, including lentils, cassava, pumpkin, and sweet potato. But many more are known mainly by the communities that grow them.

Interest in these crops has been growing. Efforts to commercialize fonio in West Africa have been relatively successful, and the ancient gluten-free grain is gaining international attention, with the global brand Knorr naming it as a “Future 50 Food” for a healthier planet. Teff, a cereal grain from the Horn of Africa, is also growing in popularity as a so-called superfood.

National policymakers and international partners have an important role to play in reducing Africa’s overdependence on global staples such as maize and wheat. The Ghanaian government has used policies that promote cereal-flour blending to boost consumption of locally grown sweet potatoes. In Kenya, the International Potato Center has encouraged local women to make chapatis, a type of flatbread, with orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Making greater use of these crops has nutritional benefits and creates new investment opportunities, especially because consumers have shown a preference for these substitutions.

But to change eating habits and create new markets, policymakers must ensure that African farmers and communities reap the benefits of growing adaptive crops. That is not the case today: climate-resilient and nutrient-dense grains such as fonio are not as commercially viable as traditional staples. In Senegal, the labor-intensive process of removing fonio’s tough hull results in just 10% of the crop reaching market, with the rest consumed by farmers and their families. Therefore, at present, there is little financial incentive to grow fonio. But this can change. Providing farmers with better equipment and processing methods could make the grain more competitive in wider markets.

The large-scale adoption of adaptive crops and their associated technologies requires market and policy incentives, research funding, and regulatory reform. The Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS), launched by the African Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the US Department of State, is a step in the right direction. VACS promotes global interventions, including land-use planning and fertilizer technologies for adaptive crops, and helps governments develop supportive policies and build agricultural capacity. It also educates farmers on how to grow adaptive crops successfully.

At this month’s Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, African institutions demonstrated their willingness to lead this charge. The AU Commission, in particular, has made important progress with its Africa Common Position on Food Systems, which recognizes that expanding the continent’s food basket will require intentional investment in traditional and indigenous crops. To make this a reality, the private sector in Africa and elsewhere must invest in research and development to scale up production of a new wave of food products made with adaptive crops that are attractive to consumers in Africa and elsewhere.

Policymakers, for their part, must promote the commercialization of opportunity crops by coordinating with pioneering companies, small- and medium-size enterprises, and nonstate actors to address constraints. That could mean leveraging policies like blending targets, providing incentives such as tax breaks and subsidies, and launching public-awareness campaigns. Governments could also use procurement to introduce adaptive crops into meals for schools, hospitals, and other public-sector catering.

Closer collaboration between governments, development partners, the private sector, and farming cooperatives can accelerate the uptake of adaptive crops. Such initiatives promise to help many African countries meet their goals of diversifying their agricultural practices, reducing their dependence on maize, wheat, and rice, and achieving growth that is good for people and the planet.

FEATURE

ARTICLE

Using WASSCE Results to Promote Accountability in Education in Liberia

Education (MOE) has the power to certify, license, and accredit teachers, school administrators, and support staff. However, it does not provide details on how often schools need to renew their licenses. The Act also gives the Ministry the authority to monitor and ensure quality education in all schools (both public and private). It mandates the MOE to:

- Conduct inspections to evaluate schools based on established national standards.
- Monitor teacher performance and ensure they are qualified and meet teaching standards.
- Evaluate students' performance in relation to curriculum objectives, using various assessment methods, including national exams such as the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

My research of publicly available information over the past two decades revealed that school closures in Liberia have primarily been attributed to unsafe conditions, lack of proper registration, or poor infrastructure. Notably, there were NO documented cases of schools being shut down solely due to poor performance. This suggests that academic performance has not

solutions.

3. **Motivation for Schools-** School rankings can incentivize both public and private schools to improve their teaching methods, curriculum coverage, and student support systems. Knowing they will be ranked against others encourages schools to compete in providing quality education, lifting overall standards.

4. **Transparency for Parents and Students-** Ranking schools publicly based on their WASSCE results gives parents and students more information when selecting a school. They can choose schools with proven academic performance, ensuring that students attend institutions where they are more likely to succeed academically. It empowers parents to hold schools accountable.

5. **Promoting a Culture of Excellence-** School rankings could foster a culture of academic excellence. Schools will strive to be ranked among the best, leading to greater efforts in academic planning, teacher effectiveness, and student performance. It could also inspire best practice sharing among institutions, where lower-performing schools learn from higher-ranked ones.



West African Examinations Council

I am not suggesting that the WASSCE is a perfect measure of students' performance. However, it does provide a means to measure a school's academic temperature and can be augmented using additional measures such as student attendance, school infrastructure, and student satisfaction surveys.

For the ranking of schools to be effective, the WASSCE must be credible. Over the last 5 years, there have been instances of cheating on the exam (as reported in the Frontpage Africa newspaper). For instance, in 2022, Dale Gbotoe, head of the West African Examination Council (WAEC) Liberia, raised concerns about school

administrators facilitating exam cheating. Despite being entrusted with exam supervision, these administrators were caught engaging in malpractice, particularly in Montserrado County, which reported

been a primary factor in school closure decisions in Liberia during this period.

While there are challenges associated with the WASSCE (more on that below), I am convinced that ranking schools in Liberia based on their performance on the exam could bring significant benefits to the country's education system:

1. **Improved Accountability-** Using WASSCE results to rank schools would promote greater accountability among school administrators, teachers, and students. This system would identify consistently underperforming schools, motivating them to implement necessary reforms. Conversely, high-performing schools would set benchmarks for others to emulate.

2. **Informed Policy Decisions-** Data from WASSCE rankings could help the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders make evidence-based policy decisions. The government could allocate resources and implement interventions for underperforming schools while incentivizing high-achieving ones. This approach would also highlight specific areas of educational weakness—be it teacher quality, school infrastructure, or curriculum issues—enabling targeted

the highest number of incidents. Furthermore, in 2023, students at multiple schools were found with photocopied exam materials during the WASSCE. This situation suggests that the Government of Liberia should take one of two actions: implement stricter accountability measures for WAEC authorities in their supervision of exam administration or initiate leadership changes within the WAEC to address the ongoing issues of exam malpractice.

About the Author

Chris Tokpah is the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Delaware County Community College in PA. He holds a Ph.D. in Program Evaluation and Measurement, an MBA (with an emphasis in Management Information Systems), and a B.Sc. in Mathematics. He is an Adjunct Professor of Research Methods and Statistics (Ph.D. program) at Delaware Valley University and an independent consultant. He has participated in, or supervised baseline studies and evaluations sponsored by the World Bank, IDA, Geneva Global, USAID, and AfDB. His email address is ctokpah@kent.edu.

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ECOWAS Donations to NCCRM under the ECOPHISM Program

Monrovia, Liberia - The ECOWAS Commission, through its Resident Representative in Liberia, Ambassador Josephine Nkrumah, made donations to strengthen the ECOWAS Protection and Human Security Integrated Coordination Mechanism (ECO-PHSICM) in

coordinate protection efforts for vulnerable populations, including women, children, displaced persons, and victims of human trafficking.

This donation fulfills the commitment made by ECOWAS during the In-Country Technical Facilitation Mission

"This donation is a step towards operationalizing the ECO-PHSICM in Liberia, ensuring a more coordinated and efficient approach to addressing human security issues. ECOWAS is committed to working with the Liberian government and stakeholders to strengthen resilience and promote human security in the face of challenges such as pandemics, natural disasters, and migration." Amb. Nkrumah asked the Center to use the equipment for the intended purpose.

Accepting the donation, Mr. Arthur Bestman, the Acting Executive Director of the NCCRM, thanked the ECOWAS team headed by Amb. Josephine Nkrumah and promised to use the equipment for its intended purpose. Mr. Bestman thanked the team in general and Amb. Nkrumah in particular for her continued support to the NCCRM.

"The NCCRM is an ECOWAS initiative and ECOWAS has done lots regarding capacity building to the institution", Mr. Bestman said. He however appeals to ECOWAS to help NCCRM with the needed visibility to support the work of the institution.

The ECOWAS Protection and



Liberia. The donation highlights ECOWAS's continued commitment to addressing the human security challenges in Liberia and the ECOWAS region.

The items donated include two HP laptops (250 G8, Intel i3 processor, 8GB RAM, 1TB storage), a Canon 3410 ink tank printer, and an Epson projector with accessories. These resources, valued at US \$2,300, will support the operations of the ECO-PHSICM Secretariat in Liberia, and enhance its capacity to

held in Liberia in June 2024. During this mission, key stakeholders, including the National Center for the Coordination of Response Mechanism (NCCRM), engaged with ECOWAS to enhance human security measures in the country. The equipment will bolster the ongoing efforts to protect those most affected by rights violations and human security lapses in Liberia.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Ambassador Nkrumah highlighted the importance of this support:

▶ CONT'D page 7

Liberia's Ministry of Health and USAID launch initiative to Bolster Healthcare

Monrovia, October 21, 2024/The U.S. Agency for International Development in Liberia (USAID), a U.S. government-funded agency focused on development assistance, and the Government of Liberia officially announced the launch of the Local Health Solutions (LHS) Activity, a five-year initiative aimed at strengthening Liberia's health system.

Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, Minister of Health, and U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Mark Toner presided over the event, which was held at the Ministry of Health.

The LHS Activity is designed to improve the delivery of affordable, equitable, and high-quality healthcare services by fostering local leadership and supporting local organizations in strengthening health systems. The LHS Activity will promote inclusive governance structures, strengthen supply chain management, enhance data use, and improve the quality of services, including maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, malaria services, and laboratory and disease surveillance systems.

USAID, in partnership with

Management Sciences for Health (MSH), will work across all 15 counties in Liberia. MSH will serve as the lead implementing partner, working with four local organizations— all women-led.

These partners include Africabio, Community Health Initiative (CHI), Medical Emergency and Relief Cooperative International (MERCIC), and Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL).

"This initiative goes beyond healthcare—it's about

building resilience and ensuring that communities have the leadership and tools they need to thrive," said Ambassador Toner. "The United States is proud to work alongside Liberia to improve the quality of health for all, particularly in the most underserved areas."

The LHS Activity is part of USAID's ongoing collaboration with the Liberian government to improve the health and well-being of the population. -Press Release.



Reintroduce Parole Board

-Prison Fellowship Liberia recommends to Go!

An advocacy group, Prison Fellowship Liberia is calling on government to reintroduce parole board to help reduce overcrowdedness of prisons across the country.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, October 22, 2024- The Country Director for Prison Fellowship Liberia is appealing to the Liberian government to re-introduce the parole board in order to decongest prison facilities across the country.

Reverend Francis Kollie, in an interview with reporters at the weekend said the parole board is part of the justice system under the ARREST agenda of the government.

He calls for training of more defense counsels to meet growing number of detainees in prisons.

According to him, lots of the defense counsels have transformed to other areas of the legal system, while some have abandoned the court for lucrative jobs.

The renowned criminal justice practitioner also recommends to Liberia's Chief Justice, Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh, for digitization of court

very fast due to the quality of technology and as such, judicial authorities in Liberia need to prioritize the universal rights of pre-trial detainees to have fair access to speedy trial, the right to be heard and represented in court by a lawyer who will be ready to legally challenge accusation levied against them by a prosecutorial team.

He says recommendation for digitization of the Judiciary branch, when implemented by the Supreme Court of Liberia, will create easier access regarding court documents- whether it is retrieving case files or finding public records, noting that digitization improves a court's capability to offer individuals with access to the information they need; thus, promoting transparency and public trust in the criminal justice system.

He explains that digitization, which is a process of converting physical records into digital format by means of scanning or digitalization and the conversion of text-based documents, photographs, sound and video into digital formats- will effectively help



Reverend Francis Kollie

documents within the Judiciary to help preserve court records and fast-tracking cases that have overstayed on various courts' dockets, which have allegedly denied pre-trial detainees from having access to timely and impartial trial in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Prison Fellowship is the most extensive network of social actors working in the criminal justice and it is Liberia's famous rights-based nonprofit organization- serving prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, and a leading advocate for criminal justice reform here.

Accurate record keeping is one of the critical challenges confronting courts operating in all parts of Liberia because, their record keeping methods have not been modernized, but rather outdated, a 2022 survey finding indicates. How be it, Reverend Kollie, elaborated that the entire world is positively running

Liberia's judicial system to reduce overcrowding of cases on the dockets and prolong detention of pre-trial detainees whose human rights have been continuously infringed upon years after years. "Court workers such as Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Clerks of court, Judges and others need to be frequently trained by the Judiciary Branch of Liberia to enable them to become legally effective, impartial and operational for the prioritization of the welfare of pre-trial detainees, who are currently overcrowded at the Monrovia Central Prison and other correction centers in Liberia," he laments.

Rev. Kollie notes that welfare of pre-trial detainees needs to be prioritized continuously by the three branches of the Liberian government with practical budgetary support to help make prison centers across the country

▶ CONT'D page 7

-CSO Council alarms

By Lincoln G. Peters

and misleading." However, the Office of the Vice President has not commented on the matter. These allegations and denials have drawn the immediate attention of the CSO Council, prompting the



Council to release a statement here, condemning the fracas at the House. In a statement issued Friday, October 18, 2024, under the signature of its Chairperson, Madam Loretta Pope-Kai, the NCSC described the allegations as worrisome and shameful. With the Legislature being the first of three branches of the Liberian government, the Council emphasizes that the fate of the nation is at stake, as these bribery allegations—considered to have elements of truth—undermine the gains made over the years in the nation's democracy.

The Council, which is the umbrella organization for all civil society groups in the country, notes that these allegations do not only undermine democracy but also erode public trust in officials entrusted with the daily governance of the people. “Imagine, why CSOs are fully supporting government in advancing democratic gains, we see our statesmen creating chaos and straining the hard-earned peace we have sacrificed so much for. What can we tell the younger generations then?” It wonders.

The Council condemns the conduct of lawmakers, who were captured on various social media platforms hurling

Deputy Speaker Fallah has vehemently denied any involvement in a scheme to remove Speaker Koffa, dismissing the claims as "false

investives at one another, noting that such behavior is not a measure of our national identity that our public officials, especially high-profile figures like lawmakers can exhibit. Such claims, coupled with the public spectacle of lawmakers hurling insults at each other, NCSCS notes does not only threaten the stability of institutions but also erode public trust in the governance process - a reputation it (NCSCS) fears for the national hegemony and pride. "The National Civil Society Council strongly condemns any action that undermines our democracy, such as the ongoing allegations on Capitol Hill that some lawmakers are being bribed to remove the Speaker. As CSOs, we are doing our part in Liberia, and we now call on the government and all branches to act responsibly."

“Let it be clear that the Council is not opposed to the lawful removal of the Speaker or any public official; our concern is specifically focused on the allegations and the ways and manner such activities are conducted outside democratic tenets, when such allegations appear to have some basis in truth, as they are being made by the lawmakers themselves. This is detrimental to our democracy and puts our state at risk”, the Council adds.

It calls on all branches of government to take immediate action to uphold the principles of democracy and mutual respect, which are the cornerstones of the nation's pride, noting that as a nation built on the resilience of its citizens, it is essential that the executive, legislative, and all public institutions demonstrate accountability to the people who have entrusted them with the authority to lead.

The CSO Council points out that the future of Liberia depends on the collective effort of all citizens and leaders to uphold democratic principles and prioritize the common good.

The Council urges the government to put the interests of the nation above individual ambitions and to act in a manner that reflects the dignity and responsibilities of public office.

Starts from back page

Limited bed capacity at JJ Dossen

Doctors, Midwife, nurses, and other health workers, then there is a need to address these problems that the hospital is faced with," she maintains.

Administrator Doe pointed out within the southeast. that the situation faced by baby PIH has continued to play critical mothers after giving birth is roles in buttressing the county health unhealthy and can even expose system, which has been bedeviled by them to other potential health many constraints. problems. The American-run health NGO

She emphasized that due to recently announced a three-day limited space, the hospital has blood donation drive to provide Life-merged the medical and surgical saving care as part of its wards, which she said is not collaboration with the Maryland proper while calling for the County Health Team and the National intervention of the government Blood Safety Council. and health partners. According to their communication

"These constraints have been specialist, the initiative is part of discussed in most of our activities marking the organization's meetings, and our national office decade of partnership with the is aware, but we are yet to get a Maryland County Health Team and redress." the Government of Liberia to

In addition to the limited bed strengthen Maryland's health care capacity at the hospital, Madam system.

Doe said the hospital also needs an annex, and there is available land space for that.

However, she noted that despite these challenges, the hospital has made significant improvements since post-war Liberia. County depend on life-saving blood transfusions for their care, mothers in childbirth to children battling severe illnesses and accident victims in need of urgent surgery while

She highlighted that in the past, describing the blood donation the hospital had referred critical exercise as a critical lifeline.

cases to the Jackson F. Doe referral hospital in Nimba. However, due to the presence of specialists, they no longer transfer patients to Tapita.

This has happened over time because the government and partners have aided the hospital by providing specialized equipment, such as an X-ray machine, a well-equipped theatre, and a laboratory. The blood donation exercise, which began on October 18, is expected to end on Tuesday, October 22. It will take place at the Martha Tubman Stadium, JJ Dossen Hospital compound, and Harper City Hall, respectively.

She acknowledged the presence of Partner In Health-Liberia and expressed her gratitude for the support they are providing to the county's health system. "We are committed to helping the county's health system despite these challenges and constraints because the hope is to see Liberians living the happiest life," he concluded. -Edited

Meanwhile, the New Dawn has by Othello B. Garblah

Starts from page 6

Reintroduce Parole Board

functional and human rights friendly.

Prison Fellowship Liberia has sponsored over 500 prisoners' children in various public and private high schools here, because access to education is a universal right for all humans.

“The 55th Legislature needs to empower the Ministry of Justice with attractive budgetary support to hire dozens of Public Defenders who are well-trained to represent the legal interest of pre-trial detainees, who are presently in various prisons in all parts of Liberia,” the P.F. Executive Director underscores.


At the same time he commends the Boakai-Koung administration for the

establishment of the Office of War and Economic Crimes Court, describing it as very timely to allowing war victims to have access to justice.

He discloses that a huge consignment of medicinal products and equipment are anticipated to arrive in Liberia this year to help seek the welfare of pre-trial detainees in Montserrado County and other parts of the country.

“Prison Fellowship-Liberia presence in the criminal justice sector of Liberia is making a meaningful impact because thru our free legal clinic, we had greatly helped hundreds of pre-trial detainees to have speedy access to justice”, he says.

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Français

Gongloe réclame cinq ans de prison pour les députés corrompus

L'ancien candidat à la présidence, Me Tia wan Saye Gongloe, préconise une peine de cinq ans d'emprisonnement pour les députés accusés d'avoir accepté des pots-de-vin de 15 000 dollars américains chacun dans le cadre d'un complot visant à destituer le président de la Chambre des représentants, Jonathan F. Koffa.



Father Daniel L. George

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue à son cabinet de Monrovia, Me Gongloe a salué le courage des parlementaires qui ont

réponse ferme de la justice.

« La révélation de ce complot exige des mesures immédiates et rigoureuses », a déclaré Me Gongloe, ajoutant que l'action des lanceurs d'alerte témoigne d'un engagement profond en faveur de l'intégrité et de la transparence dans la gestion des affaires publiques.

En s'appuyant sur la législation libérienne, Me Gongloe a rappelé que la

corruption est un crime de deuxième degré, comme stipulé dans le chapitre 9 du Code de conduite des agents publics et dans le chapitre 12 du Code pénal. Selon lui, ces lois prévoient jusqu'à cinq ans de prison pour toute personne sollicitant ou acceptant des pots-de-vin en échange de décisions officielles.

« Dans ce cas précis, les députés incriminés ont trahi les principes de bonne gouvernance et miné la confiance publique, essentiels pour le progrès du Liberia », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a en outre précisé que l'article 9.1 du Code de conduite interdit catégoriquement à tout fonctionnaire public d'accepter des cadeaux ou des avantages pouvant influencer sur l'exercice de ses fonctions. De même, l'article 12.50 du Code pénal classe la corruption comme un crime de deuxième degré, punissable de peines sévères si prouvée. Me Gongloe a exhorté le ministère de la Justice et la Commission anticorruption à mener une enquête approfondie et à poursuivre, sans exception, les auteurs et les complices de cette affaire. « La corruption n'est pas seulement une

► CONT'D page 9

Recul des députés rebelles dans leur tentative de destitution du président de la Chambre

Le représentant du Grand Bassa, Thomas Goshua, affirme que la proposition du président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa, d'auditer l'institution a provoqué un complot parmi certains de ses collègues visant à le destituer.

Les députés impliqués dans une tentative de destitution du président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa, ont subi un revers majeur alors que plusieurs d'entre eux ont retiré leur soutien à cette initiative.

La semaine dernière, plusieurs parlementaires ont révoqué leur signature de la résolution appelant à la destitution de M. Koffa, invoquant des « questions d'intégrité » pour justifier leur retrait.

Le Liberia est secoué par cette crise politique à Capitol Hill, où une résolution avait été signée en l'absence de M. Koffa pour acter sa destitution. Parmi les parlementaires ayant retiré leur soutien figurent le représentant du

district n°3 du comté de Maryland, Austin B. Taylor, la représentante du district n°1 du comté de Montserrado, Rugia Barry, la représentante du district n°5 du comté de Montserrado, Priscilla Cooper, et le représentant du district n°5 du comté de Grand Bassa, Thomas Goshua.

Le jeudi précédent, 47 membres de la Chambre avaient

signé la résolution. Toutefois, selon des informations obtenues par le journal *NewDawn* au cours du week-end, le nombre de signataires est tombé à 40.

Le vendredi 18 octobre 2024, Thomas Goshua a révélé à la presse qu'il s'était joint aux députés rebelles en tant qu'infiltré, après avoir appris

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Éditorial

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 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 matière de connectivité routière, ce projet représente une véritable bouffée d'oxygène. Il promet de dynamiser les 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'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 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 le réaliser.

Le président Joseph Boakai doit voir dans ce projet une 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.

Français

Par Thomas Buberl

Starts from page 8 Gongloe réclame cinq ans de

infraction pénale ; c'est une trahison flagrante de la confiance du peuple. Il est crucial de protéger et d'encourager les lanceurs d'alerte, qui jouent un rôle fondamental dans la lutte contre la corruption », a-t-il insisté. Soulignant la nécessité de renforcer la transparence au Liberia, Me Gongloe a invité la population à réfléchir à l'usage plus constructif qui aurait pu être fait des fonds détournés. Selon lui, ces sommes auraient pu financer des écoles et des cliniques à travers le pays.

« Chaque député aurait reçu 15 000 dollars américains, pour un total de 720 000 dollars américains (soit 136,8 millions de dollars libériens). Ce détournement massif de fonds publics représente une trahison des devoirs envers la nation », a-t-il ajouté. Enfin, Me Gongloe a salué le député Luther Collins, qui a joué un rôle clé en exposant ce scandale. Il a affirmé que cet acte s'inscrit dans la mission de son Mouvement du Balai, qui vise à éradiquer la corruption au Liberia. Il a également encouragé les autres parlementaires, tant au Liberia que dans toute l'Afrique, à suivre cet exemple et à dénoncer les complots criminels où qu'ils se trouvent.

« Chaque député aurait reçu 15 000 dollars américains, pour un total de 720 000 dollars

Starts from page 8 Recul des députés rebelles

que des signatures étaient recueillies pour destituer M. Koffa.

Goshua a déclaré avoir agi avec la connaissance et l'accord de certains de ses collègues pour surveiller le mouvement et en identifier les instigateurs. « Mon rôle était purement investigatif », a-t-il précisé, ajoutant qu'il n'avait jamais eu l'intention de soutenir l'effort de destitution.

« En tant que représentant dûment élu, je retire officiellement et avec effet immédiat ma signature de la résolution visant à destituer M. Koffa », a affirmé M. Goshua.

Il a ensuite expliqué que cette initiative de destitution était essentiellement motivée par l'audit de la Chambre proposé par M. Koffa, une démarche inédite selon lui. Cet audit, qui vise à promouvoir la transparence et la responsabilité au sein de l'institution, a suscité de vives résistances de la part de certains membres.

« C'est principalement cette résistance qui est à l'origine de

la résolution visant à destituer le président », a-t-il souligné. « En tant que parlementaires, nous avons le devoir moral de soutenir une initiative aussi cruciale pour la bonne gouvernance, plutôt que de la freiner », a ajouté M. Goshua.

Il a salué la démarche de M. Koffa, la qualifiant de « sans précédent », et souligné que le président de la Chambre a fait preuve d'un leadership exemplaire. « Je maintiens toute ma confiance en sa vision pour une législature plus transparente et responsable », a-t-il affirmé.

Tout en reconnaissant le droit de ses collègues à exprimer leurs désaccords, M. Goshua a insisté sur la nécessité d'aborder les conflits internes de manière constructive, plutôt que de saper les réformes institutionnelles nécessaires.

« L'audit proposé par le président Koffa est une étape essentielle pour garantir que la Chambre des représentants œuvre dans l'intérêt du peuple », a-t-il conclu.

Le CDC accuse l'UP de complot pour destituer le Président de la Chambre



Le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) a exhorté ses parlementaires, don't les signatures figurent sur une résolution visant à destituer le Président de la Chambre des représentants, à se conformer aux directives du parti et à soutenir le conseiller J. Fonati Koffa.

Le principal parti d'opposition, le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), a accusé l'Unité (UP), le parti au pouvoir, d'avoir tenté de manipuler des membres de la Chambre des représentants dans le but de destituer le Président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa.

Dans un communiqué publié le 20 octobre et signé par son président, l'avocat Janga A. Kowo, le CDC condamne fermement ce qu'elle qualifie de « tentative avortée » de l'administration du Président Joseph Nyuma Boakai d'exercer une influence illégale sur les parlementaires pour évincer le président Koffa.

« Le CDC observe que c'est la troisième tentative échouée de destituer le Président Koffa depuis que l'UP a perdu la présidence de la Chambre en janvier 2024 », précise le communiqué. Le parti accuse l'UP d'avoir détourné des

ressources publiques pour soudoyer des députés dans le cadre d'un « coup d'État législatif ».

Le CDC soutient que, depuis la rentrée scolaire en septembre, des dizaines de milliers de Libériens n'ont pas pu inscrire leurs enfants en raison des graves difficultés économiques. Le parti critique la gestion du gouvernement, qui, selon lui, peine à payer les fonctionnaires à temps et à honorer ses obligations financières envers les ministères et agences publiques.

Le CDC accuse également le gouvernement de n'avoir pas trouvé les ressources nécessaires pour augmenter les salaires des fonctionnaires aux niveaux d'avant l'Harmonisation.

En plein contexte de crise économique, le parti dénonce le déboursement de plus de 1,2 million de dollars américains pour soutenir la tentative de destitution, qualifiant cet acte de « mépris flagrant » envers l'opinion publique et de « conspiration criminelle », méritant une enquête de la Commission Anti-Corruption du Liberia (LACC) et du Ministère de la Justice. Le communiqué du CDC critique l'obsession de l'UP à vouloir contrôler la présidence de la Chambre, au mépris de l'équilibre démocratique en vigueur. « Cet équilibre, essentiel dans une démocratie mature, doit être préservé au sein du législatif, où le Sénat est dirigé par le parti au pouvoir et la Chambre des représentants par l'opposition », précise le document.

Le parti appelle l'ensemble de l'opposition à s'unir pour défendre cet équilibre et à résister à toute tentative de manipulation politique. « Le maintien de cette parité législative est crucial pour garantir la transparence dans l'élaboration et la supervision du budget national », souligne le CDC.

Le parti rappelle que les électeurs, lors des élections de 2023, ont exprimé leur volonté de maintenir un équilibre au sein du législatif.

Le Chef Cyril condamne les législateurs rebelles

Le Chef Cyril Allen, président émérite du Parti National Patriotique (NPP), a exprimé une critique virulente à l'encontre des membres de la Chambre des représentants, les accusant de ridiculiser publiquement cette institution. Dans une interview accordée le week-end dernier, le Chef Allen a affirmé que la Chambre des représentants se compose d'élus don't le niveau d'éducation soulève de sérieuses inquiétudes. Selon lui, ces législateurs, en quête d'attention, portent des vêtements ostentatoires pour séduire leurs électeurs, tout en négligeant leurs véritables responsabilités envers le peuple libérien.

Il a également dénoncé le fait que ces élus aient été choisis sur des bases tribales, insinuant qu'ils ont trompé leurs concitoyens pour parvenir à leurs fins. « La plupart d'entre eux ont abandonné leurs études au lycée, tandis que d'autres ont obtenu des diplômes frauduleux auprès d'institutions non reconnues, ce qui entraîne un embarras considérable pour le pays », a-t-il déclaré.

Le Chef Allen a souligné que les législateurs compétents se retrouvent dans une position délicate, devant composer avec des collègues qui ignorent les procédures législatives essentielles. « Il existe cependant un nombre important de Libériens qualifiés et instruits prêts à servir leur pays, mais ils ont été trahis par ceux qui, en distribuant de l'argent pendant les élections, déshonorent la nation et négligent les aspirations des citoyens », a-t-il ajouté. Les tensions se sont exacerbées le 17 octobre 2024, lorsqu'un groupe de législateurs a tenté de destituer le président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa, en l'accusant d'être en conflit d'intérêts en tant que conseiller légal pour de grands concessionnaires au Libéria. Cette initiative, soutenue par des membres de divers partis politiques, a conduit à des manifestations au Capitole.

Le représentant Nyan Flomo (District #2, Comté de Nimba) a lu la pétition en dehors du bâtiment du Capitole après que des partisans

de Koffa ont temporairement fermé la chambre. La situation a pris un tournant inattendu lorsque Luther Collins, un législateur dissident du comté de Gbarpolu, a révélé avoir reçu un pot-de-vin de 25 000 dollars américains pour soutenir la résolution, don't 15 000 dollars versés en avance.

Dans une vidéo où il exhibe une somme d'argent conséquente, Collins a précisé qu'il avait rejoint le groupe uniquement pour exposer leur plan de corruption, affirmant qu'il n'avait aucune intention de soutenir la destitution de Koffa.

« Ces législateurs qui ont signé pour destituer illégalement le président agissent par intérêts personnels. Voici l'argent, et le représentant [James] Kolleh a pris 200 dollars de cette somme; l'honorable Thomas Fallah et le vice-président Jeremiah Koung sont également



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LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Bribery to remove Speaker Koffa

By Naneka Hoffman

Plot at the Capitol Building last week Thursday, 17 October by a group of rebel lawmakers to remove Speaker J. Fonati Koffa has generated debate across the country with many Liberians appear to be unanimous against the act, as you may read in this random sampling below.



Mohammed S. Kamara

“For me personally, I don’t want to conclude on an alleged issue to hold it as a fact, because it’s still yet not been confirmed, and we haven’t seen a single lawmaker to

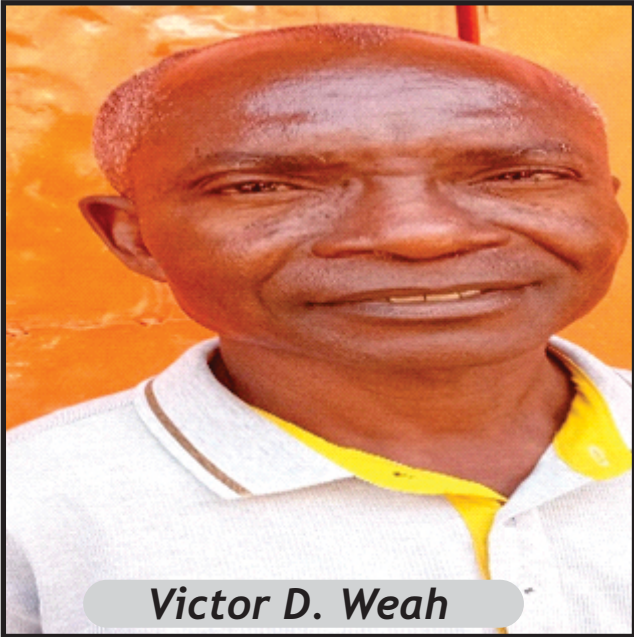
come up yet to say they have received US\$15,000 each for the removal of Speaker Koffa. But if it is established, for me, I think Liberia’s democracy is going to cripple because we can’t have an economy where majority of the people who voted this leader are using huge amount of cash to seek the remove of an elected Speaker. The business of the House of Representatives is controlled by these representatives and they are representing the Liberian people.”



Titus Siakor

“I think that is a wrong idea, even if there is a cause to remove the Speaker, I don’t think it should be done through bribery; that along too is against the law. You can’t move somebody that is ruling lawfully by using illegal means to remove them. I don’t think this is in the interest of the Liberian people.”

“If it is true that US\$15,000 was dished out for the removal of Speaker Koffa, I think there’s a serious crime because bribery is a crime under our law, so for that aspect along it needs an investigation. And those, who are involved, need to answer some questions.”



Victor D. Weah

“I think the lawmakers were wronged to take allegedly US\$15, 000 each to remove Speaker Koffa from his position. Let’s remember that this Speaker we are talking about was voted [elected] to this position, so you can’t just remove him like that. Let us follow the law of this country and forget about putting personal feeling in duty.”

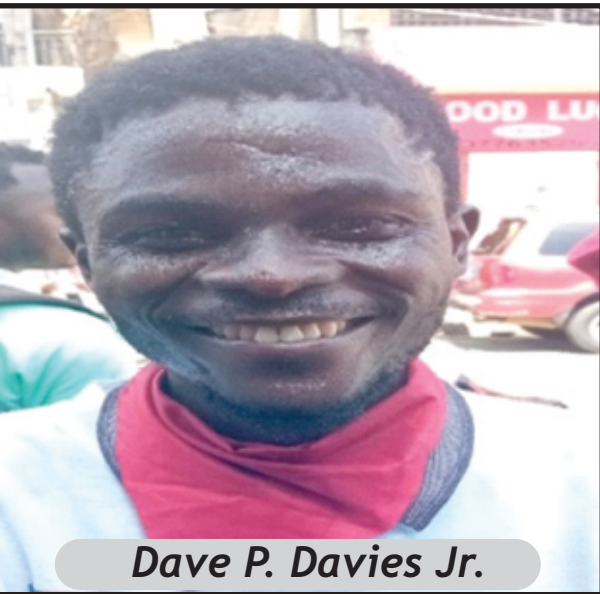


Seleki V. Konneh



Alex Tamba

“If the lawmakers received allegedly US\$15,000 to remove Speaker Koffa, I think they are wasting their time, because this Speaker was voted for; he was not just selected for that position, so if they want to remove Speaker Koffa, let them go through the right process.”



Dave P. Davies Jr.

“It’s very much sad; in this kind of economy where we are not prioritizing the people’s interest, but lawmakers in the House are receiving US\$15,000 each. There are so many problems to solve then taking US\$15,000 to remove Speaker Koffa.”

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Limited bed capacity at JJ Dossen referral Hospital leaves patients on the floor

The JJ Dossen Hospital, one of the famous referral hospitals in the Southeast, is currently facing bed capacity issues due to the influx of patients there.

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

Harper, Maryland County, October 22, 2024/ One of the leading referral hospitals in the southeast is facing a crisis due to the

support have been the Liberian government and non-government organizations like Partner In Health Liberia (PIH). Despite these supports, the growing number of people

beds. Speaking to reporters recently in the county, one of the administrators, Julia Natt Doe, said the situation at the hospital was concerning.

She narrated that the wards with limited bed capacities that have been receiving an influx of patients are the OB, medical, Surgical, Emergency, and paediatric wards.

Madam Doe further narrated that this has left patients with no option but to make their beds on the floor after being admitted to the hospital.

She told reporters that the average catchment capacity at the OB ward or the pregnant women ward has been twenty-three (23) patients, but due to increment, the ward holds up to forty to forty-five patients, leaving others to sleep on the floor.

Madam stated that the situation is not suitable for the patients, mainly the pregnant women and their babies, especially after giving birth, adding that it's strongly against the quality health delivery service that the hospital is providing.

"If we say that we are providing quality health and service delivery at J.J Dossen Referral Hospital due to the quality of



limited bed capacity at Major seeking health care at the Wards. The facility has exposed the James Jenkins Dossen hospital's limited beds in the Hospital, commonly referred to as (JJ Dossen) the influx of patients there. Hospital administrators have nearby counties, Grand Kru, described the situation as River Gee, and nearby embarrassing, especially when communities in Ivory Coast. they have to put pregnant The hospital's major sources of women on the floor for lack of

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