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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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**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.

## I WILL NOT RESIGN

**P11**

***-Speaker Koffa vows as Lawmakers meet today***

## Liberian children face bleak future

***--As school buildings in rural communities remain deplorable 21 years on.***

**P11**

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# Continental News

## Nearly half of Africa's population faces worsening governance- Report

Governance has worsened in nearly half of Africa's countries over the past decade, according to a new report. The annual Ibrahim Index of African Governance

Countries like Nigeria and Uganda have experienced a more significant drop in governance in the second half of the decade.

Mo Ibrahim, founder of the

marginalization, often fuels violence and conflict, as seen in recent coups in West Africa and the ongoing war in Sudan.

However, there are positive signs in some areas. The report shows improvements in infrastructure, such as mobile phone access and energy, as well as advances in women's equality. Health, education, and the business environment have also seen progress across the continent. Despite these gains, public perceptions remain negative. Many people feel that economic opportunities and safety have worsened, even when governance indicators show improvements. Ibrahim warned that rising public dissatisfaction could lead to unrest, increased migration, and more conflicts. The report suggests that these negative views might stem from higher expectations in countries that are making progress, as well as a focus on what is still not working. Nonetheless, Ibrahim stressed the importance of addressing public dissatisfaction to avoid further instability. -African news



With the headquarters of the ruling party burning in the back, supporters of mutinous - Copyright © africanews Fatahoulaye Hassane Midou/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved.

reveals that security issues are undermining progress in many areas.

While 33 countries have seen improvements, the overall situation in 21 others has declined, affecting almost half of Africa's population.

Ibrahim Foundation, highlighted a growing "arc of instability," pointing to the security and safety challenges as the main factors behind the decline. In an interview with Reuters, Ibrahim explained that poor governance, including corruption and

## BRICS: African leaders call for reforms of international institutions

African leaders attending the summit of BRICS nations currently underway in Russia, spoke out on Wednesday about what they see as important issues on the international stage.

The coalition that started with Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa has grown to include Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia have officially submitted applications for membership, and many other countries have shown interest in joining as well.

"International developments have shown that the shortcomings of the current international system are not limited to political and security issues, but extend to economic and development issues," said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

He said the "escalation of the debt problem and the lack of necessary funding" are among the problems preventing developing countries from quick economic growth.

The Egyptian President said Cairo gave high priority to taking steps to ensure that the international community was aware of its role in

helping achieve development in these countries.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called for a reform of the World Trade Organisation and the "recalibration of trade rules to enable industrialisation".

"We must intensify cooperation amongst BRICs members by launching common development programmes in the fields of exports, industrial cooperation, and technology exchange," he said.

Ramaphosa also expressed concern over the continuing crisis in Gaza and the Middle East, insisting there should be an immediate ceasefire and the recognition of Palestinian self-determination.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, suggested reform of

another international organisation, the UN Security Council.

"Together, we can champion reforms that address the concerns of developing nations and ensure that their voices are heard on the global stage," he said.

"This is not just about representation. It is about justice, equity and ensuring that all nations can contribute to global governance."

The three-day summit is the largest gathering of world leaders in Russia in decades and comes at a time when the West is attempting to isolate Moscow over its actions in Ukraine. -African news



African leaders attending the summit

## Idris Elba: Why I'm planning a move to Africa

British actor Idris Elba has told the BBC that he will relocate to Africa within the next decade as part of his plans to support the continent's movie industry.

The 52-year-old star of the hit series The Wire is behind nascent projects to build a film studio on the Tanzanian islands of Zanzibar as well as one in the Ghanaian capital, Accra.

Born in London, Elba, whose mother is from Ghana and father from Sierra Leone, has a strong attachment to Africa.

He wants to leverage his star power to back its burgeoning film business as he says it is vital that Africans get to tell their own stories.

"I would certainly consider settling down here; not even consider, it's going to happen," he said in an interview on the sidelines of an industry meeting in Accra.

"I think [I'll move] in the next five, 10 years, God willing. I'm here to bolster the film industry - that is a 10-year process - I won't be able to

Mandela in the 2013 biopic Long Walk to Freedom, believes that it is vital for Africans to be centre-stage in the entire film-making process. That is in front of the camera, behind the camera and also in financing, distribution, marketing and showing the final product.

He imagines that just as movie audiences around the world know the differences between the US cities of New York and Los Angeles without necessarily ever having visited them, they will one day have a more nuanced understanding of the continent.

"This sector is a soft power, not just across Ghana but across Africa.

"If you watch any film or anything that has got to do with Africa, all you're going to see is trauma, how we were slaves, how we were colonised, how it's just war and when you come to Africa, you will realise that it's not true.

"So, it's really important that we



Getty Images Idris Elba (right) gestures as he speaks onstage while sitting next to Yvonne Orji (left)

do that from overseas. I need to be in-country, on the continent."

But in the spirit of Pan-Africanism he will not commit to living in a specific place.

"I'm going to live in Accra, I'm going to live in Freetown [Sierra Leone's capital], I'm going to live in Zanzibar. I'm going to try and go where they're telling stories - that's really important."

One goal he does have is to make a film in his studio in Accra one day.

'Own those stories'

Elba, who played South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson

own those stories of our tradition, of our culture, of our languages, of the differences between one language and another. The world doesn't know that."

With Nigeria's Nollywood producing hundreds of movies a year, films are arguably one of the country's most successful exports. There is also a tradition, especially in parts of Francophone Africa, of making high-quality films.

Elba has previously recognised the talent in Africa's film industry, but said the facilities were "lacking".

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EDITORIAL

Bribery to remove Speaker Koffa is a disgrace

It is a disgrace that some 48 members of the House of Representatives received US\$15,000 each to announce a coup against Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. All those behind the dishing out of huge cash to remove Speaker J. Fonati Koffa should be ashamed of themselves.

We can see that clearly, they have no genuine cause, and their plan is purely belly-driven for selfish motives other than the people’s welfare. How does removing the Speaker provide basic services to the people or enhance development?

Chills erupted down the spines of Liberians when news broke at the Capitol on Thursday, 17 October, that a group of lawmakers totaling about 48 were receiving US\$15,000 each to sign a resolution for the removal of the Speaker. The total money is US\$720,000, or an equivalent LRD 136,800,000, in what former presidential candidate and renowned human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe described it as a criminal conspiracy.

If there were probable cause in the first place, we wonder why the cash inducement to execute what should be a legitimate action, especially when Speaker Koffa was out of the country. Now, we can see that the motive is more sinister than patriotic.

The coup plotters on Capitol Hill should be reminded that each time we carry out such an act as a nation, we undermine ourselves by helping to push our country backward and become a laughingstock in the subregion and the world at large, leaving our development partners wondering whether we Liberians are ready for business.

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

Our leaders, especially those in the legislature, have lowered themselves so low for money that they care very little about integrity and respectability except what goes into their personal pockets. They have no interest in prioritizing the interests of the people they represent.

There are reports that each member of the plot was allegedly induced with US\$25,000 but received an initial amount of US\$15,000 in a ‘paid-to-play’ deal. Those dishing such an amount of money clearly indicate that such funds did not come from their sweet. These are public funds being misapplied for selfish goals.

For once, it is important that lawmakers learn to keep the sanctity of the First Branch of Government as a custodian of public trust rather than being a rubber-stamp institution operating at the higher bidder's caprices.

We believe that lawmakers will serve the state better when they focus on enacting laws that improve the lives of citizens and future generations instead of embarking on a carb mentality of pulling one another down for selfish gains rather than the common good.

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COMMENTARY

By Kingsley Moghalu

Fixing Africa's Governance Crisis Must Come First

KIGALI - African leaders - and their counterparts in Western countries and international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank - often misdiagnose the continent's development challenges. More than increased aid, debt relief, and foreign investment, Africa needs to resolve its governance crisis - the source of all its problems.

The continent must focus on developing the competence required to govern itself effectively and drive its own development trajectory. That means boosting state capacity at the most basic level to enable African governments to secure borders, raise revenue through taxation, and provide social services and other public goods. Without these reforms, Africa's countries will continue to fail to deliver stability and broad-based prosperity, and most external financing will continue to be misallocated and misappropriated, resulting in suboptimal outcomes for the poor.

For starters, the continent's many “ungoverned spaces” have allowed terrorist groups - from Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in Nigeria and the Sahel to al-Shabaab in East Africa - to proliferate. They have also nurtured large-scale conflicts in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, and elsewhere. To protect their citizens against violence, African governments must regain full control of their territories.

African governments must also improve their tax systems, the anchor of any modern economy. The ratio of tax revenue to GDP is mostly in the high single and low double-digit percentages on the continent, significantly lower than in most European and Asian countries. The resulting budget shortfalls have fueled a penchant for foreign borrowing that has pushed some African countries into debt distress.

This state of affairs reflects two main factors. First, many Africans are reluctant to pay taxes, because they do not trust their government to use budget revenue to finance public goods. Too often, corrupt politicians and officials raid the state's coffers. Second, many African countries have large informal economies, with most people and businesses operating outside the tax net. Widening that net would go a long way toward fixing the problem, and is a better alternative to levying high rates on a narrow base.

But African countries must also improve their ability to provide basic services such as health care, education, potable water, and sanitation. Most of the continent's governments, however, worship at the altar of GDP, using it as their main measure of economic progress. As a result, Africa's resource-rich and commodity-dependent countries fail to achieve the kind of broad-based, sustainable growth that lifts millions out of poverty.

Paradoxically, the shift from military dictatorships to multiparty democracy in Africa over the past three decades has not yielded better results, because political power has become unmoored from good governance. African leaders now fixate on winning, by hook or by crook, conducting ritualistic elections that often lack transparency and truly independent monitors.

Moreover, politics in many African countries is shaped by ethnic tensions, owing to the legacy of arbitrarily drawn colonial boundaries. Voters tend to decide whom to support based on candidates' sectarian identities - and their willingness to give handouts. High levels of illiteracy only add to the challenges that democracy faces on the continent.

If Africa is to strengthen state capacity, it needs competent technocratic governments and strong institutions. Elected politicians must resist the temptation to pack agencies that ought to be independent and apolitical with unqualified, sycophantic party hacks. Equally important, skills that are often absent or lacking among the continent's politicians and officials must be established at scale. These include knowledge of economics, public policy, program evaluation and monitoring, data analytics, statistics, risk management, urban policy, local government administration, public-private partnerships, and international political economy.

Home-grown academic institutions are starting to fill this human-capital gap. One of the most promising new entries is the African School of Governance, of which I am president. Located in Kigali, Rwanda, this professional graduate school offers public-policy and leadership education and research programs that are distinctly African. Established by continental leaders, including Rwandan President Paul Kagame and former Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, and with support from the Mastercard Foundation, the university aims to train politicians and bureaucrats to overcome the obstacles impeding Africa's progress on achieving sustainable growth.

African leaders must now focus on preparing those who will take the baton from them. They and anyone else who supports Africa's aspirations should support independent initiatives - like the African School of Governance - that seek to address the roots of the continent's development challenges. The uncomfortable truth is that Africa lags behind the rest of the world largely because it is poorly governed. Blaming other factors - whether the legacy of colonialism or the influence of external actors - is merely an excuse for inaction.

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OP-ED

By Mariana Mazzucato & Vera Songwe

What the G20 Can Do for Green Growth

LONDON - As finance and climate ministers gather in Washington this week for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, they should focus on the need for new economic development pathways that are compatible with the Paris climate agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius.

The [final report](#) of the [Group of Experts to the G20 Taskforce for a Global Mobilization Against Climate Change](#) (which we co-chair) calls on the G20, whose members account for around 85% of world GDP, to advance green industrial strategies supported by comprehensive financial reforms. Development should be oriented around nationally determined contributions (NDCs) - the Paris agreement's term for countries' emissions-reduction plans - and governed in a way that emphasizes equity within and between countries.

Without a change of course, global warming is [projected](#) to exceed 3°C, leading to a loss of at least [18%](#) of global GDP by 2050. The dominant models of economic growth are pushing the planet toward collapse, with potentially irreversible consequences for people and economies. Since G20 member states are responsible for [80%](#) of current and past greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, they should be responsible for 80% of the emissions reductions needed to achieve the 1.5° C goal.

The climate crisis is a direct result of economic choices. To change the direction of economic growth so that it respects planetary boundaries, green industrial strategies must go beyond picking [favored sectors or technologies](#). If oriented around achieving “[missions](#)” like the NDCs, they can catalyze innovation and investment across many different sectors, thus driving an economy-wide transformation.

Instead of subsidizing specific sectors with few strings attached, governments should seek to open new market opportunities for willing businesses of all sizes, from all sectors. In doing so, they should hold these businesses to a high standard in terms of GHG emissions, wages, support for workers through structural economic changes, and reinvestment of profits in productive activities like research and development. Crucially, to accelerate the transformation we need, governments must repurpose existing fossil-fuel subsidies (which [continue to rise](#)), and make public support for fossil-fuel-intensive industries contingent on decarbonization.

Implementing green industrial strategies should not be a task solely for ministries of industry or climate. Whole-of-government engagement and a redesign of key institutions and tools - not least [public procurement](#) and [public finance](#) - is needed to support NDC targets.

Green industrial strategy also requires a global lens. We need new global-governance structures that can focus on equity and ensure that all countries benefit from green growth. Since the climate crisis is a global challenge, tackling it requires global collaboration - including through technology- and knowledge-transfer agreements and support for building green manufacturing capacity in low- and middle-income countries.

To that end, green finance must be made more accessible globally. Wealthier countries - especially those that contributed more to historic GHG emissions - should use their greater financial means to help scale up green finance, and to ensure that it is designed to be affordable, patient (long-term), and risk-tolerant.

Without such support, low- and middle-income countries will remain fiscally constrained, inhibiting their ability to invest in green industrial strategies or climate-change mitigation and adaptation. They will be forced into a vicious cycle of increasing climate vulnerability and deteriorating public finances.

The current disparity in the global allocation of green finance is stark. Since 2021, high-income countries and China have attracted [over 90%](#) of new clean-energy investment, while borrowing costs for low- and middle-income countries have continued to rise. Though these countries are the least responsible for GHG emissions, they are burdened with a “climate risk premium” that inflates the cost of finance.

Thus, the G20 should champion expanded long-term concessional loans, grants, and debt and liquidity relief so that all countries can pursue green growth without increasing their debt burdens. It should also support existing efforts - such as the [Bridgetown Initiative](#) - to achieve a more equitable global financial architecture.

Building on the work of [Finance in Common](#), national development banks should be empowered to scale up patient, NDC-aligned capital, including through [strengthened collaboration](#) with multilateral development banks. These institutions are well positioned to direct green finance, drawing on their local knowledge, public mandates, and potential to crowd in private capital that would otherwise shy away from riskier projects.

Finally, a stable financial sector that considers systemic climate risks is crucial for accelerating and sustaining the green transition. The G20 can reinforce the importance of prudential regulators adopting more robust interoperable taxonomies to strengthen disclosures, collecting better data, and improving predictive climate models.

Similarly, central banks have a key role to play in accounting for climate-related financial risks and supporting conditions that encourage more private finance to flow toward green investments - and discourage financial flows to carbon-intensive projects. Doing so would not be a departure from central banks' existing mandates. In fact, “market neutrality” can have the perverse effect of creating favorable financing conditions for carbon-intensive activities that ultimately threaten macroeconomic and financial stability.

*Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Co-Chair of the Group of Experts to the G20 Taskforce for a Global Mobilization Against Climate Change. Vera Songwe, Senior Adviser at the Bank for International Settlements' Financial Stability Institute, is Co-Chair of the Group of Experts to the G20 Taskforce for a Global Mobilization Against Climate Change.*

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OPINION

by Patrick Njoroge, Bogolo Kenewendo

Africa's Green Future Starts with Debt Relief

GABORONE/NAIROBI - Many countries have experienced extreme weather in one form or another this year: the summer, marked by intense wildfires, was the hottest on record, while the return of El Niño has led to catastrophic flooding and other disasters. Such shocks underscore the urgent need for multilateral efforts to address climate change and achieve sustainable development.

In the last few months of 2024, world leaders will gather for a series of summits - including the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku - where they could make progress on these fronts. These meetings are particularly important for African countries, which remain vulnerable to the effects of global warming amid a deepening sovereign-debt crisis.

Of the 20 countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, 17 are in Africa. In addition to adverse weather and rising temperatures, African economies have suffered a series of external shocks - including inflation spikes, interest-rate hikes in advanced economies, rising geopolitical tensions, and violent conflicts - in recent years. Partly as a result of these shocks, the continent's public debt levels increased by a whopping 240% between 2008 and 2022.

The consequences are dire. Over half of African countries now spend more on interest payments than on health care and lack the fiscal space to invest in sustainable development. This cycle of debt and development distress makes these countries even more vulnerable to the effects of global warming, trapping them in a loop of economic instability and environmental degradation.

While increased liquidity may offer temporary relief to African economies by easing short-term fiscal pressures, it fails to address the deeper debt problem that is impeding green growth. To mobilize the financing needed for climate action and to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we estimate that at least 34 African countries will require significant debt relief.

Unfortunately, the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments, designed to provide relief to countries in debt distress, has proven woefully inadequate. Its case-by-case approach is slow and insufficient, leaving many countries in a perpetual state of fiscal instability. Moreover, private creditors' reluctance to participate in debt restructuring, coupled with the exclusion of multilateral development banks (MDBs), has resulted in uneven and often inadequate responses.

To embark on the path of sustainable development, African countries need large-scale debt relief. This would provide governments with the fiscal space to invest in resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, and other climate-related projects. Without such measures, Africa's green-growth aspirations will be unfulfilled, and the continent will continue to suffer from unsustainable debt dynamics that escalate climate damage and worsen social outcomes.

Large-scale debt relief must rest on three pillars. First, bilateral creditors and MDBs must take a significant haircut to restore fiscal stability in debtor countries. Second, incentives and penalties are required to ensure private and commercial creditors' full participation in debt restructuring. Third, credit enhancements and support for non-distressed countries must be provided to reduce capital costs and maintain liquidity. This holistic approach would enable African countries to scale up and sustain investment in climate resilience and sustainable development.

An essential part of these reforms is the inclusion of climate considerations in the IMF's debt sustainability analyses. Currently, DSAs focus on a country's ability to service its debt, while failing to consider its need to invest in the energy transition and the industries of the future. By incorporating climate risks and opportunities into DSAs, the international community can ensure that debt relief is aligned with broader sustainability goals.

The participation of all creditor classes, including private bondholders and MDBs, in debt restructuring is also critical. Using fair comparable-treatment rules to determine losses would ensure equitable burden-sharing.

Such a coordinated and comprehensive approach to debt relief would unlock Africa's potential for green growth, an essential part of any long-term solution to the climate crisis. The continent has vast solar, wind, and hydro resources, and the world's youngest and fastest-growing workforce. With the right investments, Africa could become a hub for renewable energy and clean industries, thereby advancing the continent's development goals and the global fight against climate change.


Looking ahead to 2025, African leaders will have a unique opportunity to drive the reforms needed to address the debt-climate nexus. With South Africa presiding over the G20 (which now counts the African Union as a permanent member), and Uganda leading the G77, the continent's governments will be in a position to push for significant debt relief and critical reforms to the global financial architecture.

The climate and debt crises in Africa are inextricably linked, and addressing one but not the other is a recipe for failure. The international community must act now to support Africa in building a sustainable, green future for all.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

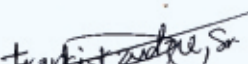
The Judiciary Branch of Government has received a budgetary allotment for fiscal year 2024 and intends to apply it toward the construction, furnishing and equipping of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Complex, Harper City, Maryland County.

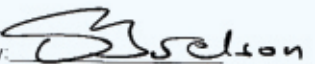
LOT #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
Lot-1	Construction, Furnishing and equipping of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Complex	1 unit

The Judiciary Branch now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction, furnishing and equipping of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Complex.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA).
- All interested and qualified bidders may obtain a set of bidding document comprising of the Bill of Quantity (BOQ) along with the drawing from the Procurement Unit, Room # 505, Temple of Justice, for a nonrefundable fee of US\$250.00, beginning October 7, 2024 from 10AM to 3:00PM, Monday-Friday.
- Requirements for qualification include:
  - ✓ Valid Business Registration Certificate
  - ✓ Valid Tax Clearance
  - ✓ Certificate from the Ministry of Public Works
  - ✓ Article of Incorporation
  - ✓ Past performance record (construction projects undertaken)
  - ✓ Technical and financial capacity, equipment and key personnel
  - ✓ Ability to pre-finance
  - ✓ Vendor Registry Certificate from PPCC
  - ✓ Bid security should be two percent(2%) of the bid price in the form of Bank Guarantee
- Bids must be delivered to the procurement Unit; 5<sup>th</sup> floor room #: 501, Temple of Justice, on October 28, 2024 at the hour of 1 PM. Electronic bids will not be accepted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on October 28, 2024 at the hour of 1 PM, in the Resource Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Temple of Justice building.
- Site visitation is on October 15, 2024.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on October 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Resource Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Temple of Justice building.
- The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed by:   
Head of Procurement Unit

Attested by:   
Architectural Consultant (IN-HOUSE)

Approved by:   
Court Administrator

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Boakai's dreams

Liberia." The initiative marks a pivotal step in enhancing academic offerings and promoting advanced research in the country. The University of Liberia will fully begin Doctoral Programs in 2025, focusing on educational administration and sciences. These programs will include a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, a Ph.D. in Education Administration, a Ph.D. in Measurement and Evaluation, and advanced degrees in Biomedical Sciences, Immunology, Virology, Microbiology, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and One Health. The ceremony was attended by diverse personalities, including members of the cabinet, diplomats, distinguished guests, academicians, and the students body University of Liberia Acting President, Professor Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh, says this milestone program underscores the University's commitment to strengthening research and innovation in providing education transformation for the country. As the nation strives for academic excellence, Dr. Conteh underscores that research and innovation play a critical role in addressing Liberia's present challenges, adding that "The Doctoral programs will foster a culture of critical thinking, creativity and evidence-based problem solving. "We are not just shaping scholars; we are nurturing leaders, who will transform Liberia's healthcare educational landscape in the context of our country's development program, the ARREST agenda for inclusive development", the former Ambassador to Nigeria says. According to him, the critical programs will highlight collaboration, bringing together experts from diverse fields and institutions to tackle complex issues, and that students will develop innovative solutions from Liberia's healthcare educational challenges and furthermore empower the next generation of leaders to drive the country's development. "We are committed to a academic integrity, our curriculum have been designed to provide vigorous training and fostering critical thinking and promote innovative research. We have forged partnership with other universities and institutions abroad to ensure that students and faculty have opportunity to the best resources and collaborating opportunities." He calls on government and partners to join the University in this transformative endeavor by working together to ensure these programs strive to become the model of excellence for education in Liberia. Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Cllr. Tolbert G. Nyenswah, Senior Research Associate/Faculty, John Hopkins University, United States of America, says the launch of these Doctoral programs signal commitment, while emphasizing the importance for the initiative to be owned and led by the government. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

The Global Rule of Law Recession Continues, But Some Progress Emerges

Authoritarian trends expand, improvements made on criminal justice and corruption measures

WASHINGTON (Oct. 23, 2024) - For the seventh year in a row, the rule of law has declined globally, according to the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024, released on Wednesday, October 23.

This year, the rule of law again weakened in a majority of countries surveyed (57%). However, Index data also suggests the global rule of law recession is slowing and that progress is possible.

The proportion of countries where the rule of law is eroding has shrunk for the third year in a row, and some notable areas of improvement have emerged. For the first time in five years, more countries improved than declined on the Index factor measuring Absence of Corruption. This year, corruption declined in nearly three-fifths (59%) of

protections for their fundamental rights. Additionally, 77% of countries show a weakening in governmental checks and balances, including oversight by legislatures, courts, civil society, and the media.

Over 6 billion people now live in countries where rule of law is weaker than it was in 2016. "In every corner of the world, we continue to see leaders consolidating their authority," Neukom added. "This has grave implications for individual freedoms, government accountability, and people's ability to choose their leaders through free and fair elections."

Elections in 2024

Since the global rule of law recession began in 2016, the Index subfactor measuring lawful transition of power has declined in 72% of countries. In this global year of the election, this principle is being put to the test.

More than two dozen countries represented in the WJP Rule of Law



World Justice Project  
Rule of Law Index®  
2022



countries.

A majority of countries also improved on ensuring effective criminal justice. Overall, civil justice declines have slowed considerably since the height of the global pandemic, though problems delivering timely and independent civil justice have continued to spread.

Meanwhile, authoritarian trends have continued to set countries back on protecting human rights and democracy. "After seven consecutive years of rule of law declines it can be easy to focus on the negative. But to do so would ignore accomplishments in anti-corruption and the hard work occurring to improve justice systems globally," WJP Co-founder and President William H. Neukom said. "The global community must redouble efforts to expand these rule of law gains in all areas."

Troubling authoritarian trends continue

Last year, there was some hope that global authoritarian trends had begun to slow. This year's Index, however, finds broader and deeper declines in two critical Index factors: Fundamental Rights and Constraints on Government Powers.

The long-term implications are troubling. Between 2016 and 2024, people in 81% of countries have lost

Index have already held national elections in 2024. In the 11 countries among them with weaker rule of law (with a rule of law score under 0.5 out of 1), the ruling party retained power in every instance. Index data shows that these countries have less democratic oversight and weaker electoral systems. On the other hand, countries with higher rule of law scores that had elections have changed ruling party more often than not so far in 2024.

Some of the most improved countries in the 2024 Index saw new, democratically elected governments take office last year. Voters in Brazil and Poland opted for change in each country's most recent national elections. Both countries had experienced some of the largest rule of law declines since 2016 before changing course in the past year.

Rankings revealed

The WJP Rule of Law Index is the world's leading source of original, independent rule of law data. Its rigorous methodology draws on expert and household surveys to measure rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions, covering 95% of the world's population.

Each country's score is an average of

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Boakai's dreams

President Boakai is envisioning that Liberia will become a hub for research in West Africa, with the launch of Doctorate degree programs at the State-owned University of Liberia.

By Lincoln G. Peters

**Monrovia, Liberia, October 24, 2024** - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai is optimistic that the launch of doctoral programs contributing to national development and competing on a global scale, while contributing to scientific



at the University of Liberia will attract international students and scholars here.

Mr. Boakai envisions Liberia becoming a "hub for research" by fostering academic collaboration and innovation in the region.

Speaking Wednesday, 23 October at the launch of the Doctoral Programs, President Boakai noted that the initiative will help produce highly qualified graduates capable of

educational advancement.

The President describes the program as a significant milestone for the country educational sector, because it will impact the educational landscape by elevating the nation's intellectual and research capabilities.

He emphasizes that his government is committed to advancing research and innovation, pledging support for the University of Liberia.

"These commitments will position us in our nowadays economy that will inform our economic growth with advanced research initiative inline with the ARREST agenda for inclusive development", President Boakai says.

He further reaffirms government's commitment to supporting and investing in higher education thru transformation, research, collaboration, and partnership with international institutions, adding that these initiatives align with the country's development agenda.

President Boakai underscores collaboration with the private sector, international and research institutions for support to higher education in Liberia, and ensure that these programs receive broader support of collaboration and accreditation, saying "My government will ensure that through budgetary allocation, the necessary resources are provided."

On 23 October at its Capitol Hill Campus in Monrovia, the University of Liberia held an official program marking the launch with a symposium on Doctoral Programs under the theme, "Strengthening Research & Innovation for Higher Education Transformation in

▶ CONT'D page 5

## Mo Ibrahim Foundation releases 2024 African Governance index

**London, 23 October** – The Mo Ibrahim Foundation has released the 2024 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), the latest iteration of the biennial dataset assessing governance performance and trends in the 54 African countries over the decade 2014-2023.

Collected from 49 independent sources, with some data commissioned by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the IIAG is based on 322 variables clustered in 96 indicators, organised under 16 sub-categories and four main categories: *Security & Rule of Law*; *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*; *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*; and *Human Development*.

The 2024 IIAG shows that after four years of almost complete stagnation, Africa's *Overall Governance* progress ground to a halt in 2022 as rising conflict and insecurity, as well as a shrinking democratic space across the continent, undermine critical progress achieved in human and economic development. Over the decade 2014-2023, there is progress for just over half (52.1%) of Africa's population, living in 33 out of 54 countries, but for the remaining half, the level of overall governance

reached in 2023 is worse than in 2014.

However, this concerning picture at the continental average level masks very dynamic and diverse performances and trajectories across the 54 African countries and between the 16 IIAG sub-categories.

At country level, 13 countries – including Egypt, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Côte

Djibouti. Seychelles, having made striking progress over the decade (+10.0 points), overtakes Mauritius and is the top-ranking country in 2023.

Following an opposite course, 11 countries are on a concerning decade-long trend of deterioration that even worsens since 2019. Some of them, such as Sudan, grapple with ongoing crises. However, decadelong deteriorations are also seen in high-ranked countries.



d'Ivoire, Togo and Somalia - manage to follow a successful course of overall governance progress over the decade, even accelerating improvement since 2019. The latter four also rank in the top 10 most improved countries between 2014 and 2023, along with Seychelles, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Angola, Mauritania and

Mauritius (2nd), Botswana (5th), Namibia (6th), and Tunisia (9th), though still ranking in 2023 among the ten highest-scoring countries, also feature among the most deteriorated countries over 2014-2023, along with Comoros, Mali, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Niger and Eswatini.

## Light Academy School denies charging high fees

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, October 23, 2024 - The Proprietor of Light Academy Model Liberia School, in Schuffin, along Robertsfield highway, Rev. Dr. Tailey Garley, dismisses rumors of tuition hike at the institution.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN recently, Dr. Garley frowned on those he described as negative propagandists against his institution, while clarifying the school has never increased its tuition.

According to him, tuition fees for senior high students had never exceeded US\$150 as was indicated on information sheet displayed to this paper.

"Let me tell you that the Light Academy is the cheapest school you will find here with modern facility, and I'm not sure there's any school in Margibi County, that meets up with our standard", Dr. Garleysaid. He said despite facilities on campus, the tuition is below US\$150 for 12<sup>th</sup> graders

the Ministry of Education's regulation that all private and faith-based schools must not exceed US\$100 benchmark set for graduation.

This is a policy that aims to significantly ease economic hardship on parents.

Addressing the issue of defiance in graduation fees, Dr. Garley defended that the decision came from the students themselves without administration's interference.

"We have never charged US\$150 to parent, and not a single parent will tell you that our school charged such fees. We are law-abiding and will not defy the Ministry of Education's policy.

Talking about extra- charge that has been reported to you and you have to come see, this was agreed by the student themselves and never in the Administration purview. Our clearance didn't mention such amount, but US\$100."

He further defended the extra



emphasizing, "I mean only \$140, and elementary not more than \$100, as you can see."

The NEW DAWN gathered that the school was caught in defiance of

charge was agreed by the Student Council Government, which according to him, is being recognized by the Ministry of Education.



Global Insights - Local Solutions

**USAID DATA, EVALUATION, LEARNING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ACTIVITY)**

**Proposal Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS)**

The DELTA Activity, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking proposals from qualified Liberian firms to support the 2024 Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) Listening Tour. The purpose of this Listening Tour is to gather feedback from stakeholders across Liberia to inform the design of USAID's CDCS for 2025-2030.

Through this activity, USAID aims to ensure that its future programming aligns with Liberia's development priorities, challenges, and aspirations by engaging directly with local communities. The selected firm will provide data collection services, including conducting key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), town hall meetings, and mobile phone surveys from November 2024 to February 2025.

This work will be critical to shaping USAID's strategic focus in Liberia, ensuring that it reflects local voices, addresses on-the-ground realities, and fosters greater impact through locally-driven development solutions. The selected subcontractor will support data collection in nine counties: Montserrado, Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Cape Mount, Sinoe, and Maryland. The firm will facilitate the following data collection methods:

**Interested bidders are encouraged to visit the Executive Mansion website for details and submit proposals to [procurement@procurements@liberidelta.org](mailto:procurement@procurements@liberidelta.org)**

The deadline for proposal submission is November 10, 2024.





## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## GC holds gender equality training

## Integrity Watch partners with Senate

**-To seek knowledge on Proposed Tax Reforms**

*Integrity Watch Liberia and the Liberian Senate are collaboration to share knowledge on enhancing national policies to increase domestic revenue mobilization, curbing illicit financial flows and supporting national development initiatives.*

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, October 24, 2024 - Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL) with funding from the Tax Justice

Francis Dopoh of Rivergee County to establish the African Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation

County Senator Nya D. Twayen, extolled his colleagues for supporting a bill that supports increase of domestic revenue mobilization.

"I told my colleagues that the Senate must be sophisticated and results-driven, and this will have an impact on the lives of our people", Senator Twayen says.

He notes the Senate at the moment is compromised of prominent individuals, who once served in government with huge experiences, adding "At about this time if the Senate, with all that number of qualified individuals and manpower can't do something to take the Liberian people to the next level then I don't know when that will happen."

The Senator extols his colleagues particularly, Senator Francis Dopoh, for initiating several amendments aimed at improving the lives of citizens.

"I am much more gratified to lobby along with my colleagues that before the passage of the 2025 national budget, we can have all these amendments passed."

He expresses support for this process to bring needed relief to low-income and middle-income earners.

Sen. Twayen is optimistic that if these amendments are effectuated, they will lead to adjustment of modified tax bracket to reflect impact of inflation on the people.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Network for Africa along with prominent members of the Liberian Senate has held a one-day dialogue aimed at seeking stakeholders' knowledge on enhancing national policies to increase domestic revenue mobilization, curbing illicit financial flows and supporting national development initiatives.

In his opening statement here Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at the Monrovia City Hall, Program Director Navin Ireland, said Integrity Watch Liberia has been working with the legislature since 2021 through Senator

(APNIFFT) caucus when Sen. Dopoh served in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Ireland notes that following the establishment of APNIFFT, the caucus has been working to promote legislative policies to reducing illicit financial flows across the country, while propagating message of increase domestic revenue mobilization.

According to him, Integrity Watch had worked closely with APNIFFT on reviewing some key legislative instruments, including concession agreements.

Also making remarks, Nimba

## LRA Staff get TADAT training

*Staff of the Liberia Revenue Authority benefit training on Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool or TADAT, to enhance efficiency in tax administration here.*

Monrovia, Liberia - October 24, 2024 - Staff from the Liberia Revenue Authority's (LRA) Domestic Tax Department and personnel from other supporting departments are currently participating in the second Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT) training.

According to the LRA, this initiative seeks to assess and improve its tax administration framework, focusing on enhancing the tax system's efficiency, transparency, and fairness.

TADAT, developed by international partners with input from leading experts, is a globally recognized tool for

potential weaknesses.

The release says the ongoing TADAT training aims to build a shared understanding among key stakeholders—government



It provides an independent, standardized, evidence-based, and quality-assured assessment of a country's tax system, highlighting areas of strength and identifying coordination and management of external support.

*A Liberian think-tank - Governance Commission embarks on in-house training on gender equality.*

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, October 23, 2024 - As a means of strengthening and promoting gender equity across various institutions of government, the Governance Commission (GC) through its Gender and Social Inclusion unit begins two days intensive in-house training on promotion of gender equity.

Acting chairperson Professor Alaric Tokpah, stresses a need for immediate actions to promote gender equity at various places of work.

"Gender equity", he says, "is key to nation building and as part of GC efforts to create a vibrant working environment that will give women the opportunity, we thought to conduct this in-house training."

Professor Tokpah in the next two days, there will be awareness building and discussion surrounding the importance of gender equality for everyone, including men and women, among others.

Addressing participants Tuesday, October 22, 2014 at the Commission office in Sinkor,

marginalized; we need to work together in order to promote development", the university professor continues.

He extols partners through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Gender Ministry, among others for the support given to the GC gender unit over the time.

Giving an overview of the training, Ms. Patience Coker, a research assistant, says since the establishment of the unit, it has successfully accomplished many of its goals.

She names key amongst goals as mainstreaming the act that establishes the GC, mainstreaming decentralization policy, including mainstreaming the Local Government Act and implementation of Phase I of gender responsive planning and budgeting 2022 project.

She recalls that in 2022, US\$20, 000 was allocated to the GC for the gender unit through the MFDP's gender responsive planning and budgeting program, adding "Today, the latest initiative is the allocation of another \$20,000 given to the GC to undertake gender initiative such as purchasing of equipment for the gender social and inclusion unit, the training workshop and other



Monrovia he says the fight for important initiatives."

gender equality and equity isn't just about women, about every human being; however, he notes, women have been disadvantaged and there's a need to give particular attention to women concerns.

The Acting GC boss wonder is it with sufficient evidence that women can perform as better leaders across the world, but they are so disadvantaged to the extent that they don't take on leadership role.

"When will a woman become a president in powerful countries like China, United States or Russia, but we have done our best by producing female President, Vice President and Chief Justice. This kind of training is meant to reinforce that half of the population has been

Policy Analyst at the Governance Commission, George Garteh, says commencement of the two-day in-house training marks a significant step in the institution's journey towards creating a more equitable and inclusive environment.

"As we embark on this training, let us be reminded of the strength in our diversity and progress that can be achieved when we commit to good understanding and uplifting one another"

Mr. Garteh says the training is a learning curve, experience and a transformative process that calls for active participation, open mindedness, and share vision for gender equality and social inclusion. The ceremony was graced by staff of the GC, government officials from line ministries and agencies and commissions, among others. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Les législateurs tiennent des sessions parallèles sur fond de mésentente

Éditorial

La Présidente de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonita Koffa, poursuit ses efforts pour maintenir l'unité de

pour le jeudi 24 octobre. Cette décision survient alors que les tensions s'intensifient autour de la volonté de certains législateurs de

Le député Musa Bility, représentant la circonscription électorale n°7 du comté de Nimba, a cité l'article 33 de la Constitution de 1986 du Liberia, qui stipule : « Une simple majorité dans chaque chambre constitue un quorum pour la conduite des affaires, mais un nombre inférieur peut ajourner la séance au jour suivant et obliger les membres absents à se présenter. Lors des sessions conjointes de la Chambre des représentants et du Sénat, le président de la Chambre préside. »

Suite à cette motion, la plénière a demandé à la greffière en chef, Mildred Sayon, de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la présence des membres absents lors de la session de jeudi.

Mme Koffa et le Vice-Président de la Chambre, Thomas Fallah, ont participé à cette séance, accompagnés de membres de la minorité.

Parallèlement, dans la Chambre conjointe de la 55e législature, le bloc favorable à la destitution de la Présidente a tenu une session distincte, présidée par le député Clarence Gahr, représentant la circonscription n°5 du comté de Margibi, et coprésidée par le député Sekou Kanneh de la

▶ CONT'D page 9



House Speaker J Fonati Koffa.

l'assemblée, malgré les tentatives d'un groupe de députés dissidents visant à la destituer.

Lors de la séance plénière de mardi, présidée par Mme Koffa, la Chambre des représentants a voté pour contraindre les membres absents à participer à la prochaine session, prévue

renverser la Présidente.

Ce même jour, la séance n'a pas atteint le quorum requis, avec seulement 30 députés présents dans la salle ordinaire de la Chambre. Conformément au règlement de l'assemblée, un quorum nécessite une majorité des deux tiers, soit la présence de 49 législateurs.

## Enquête sur des irrégularités dans le processus d'appel d'offres de la LTA : Le groupe SATZ appelle à l'intervention de la LACC, du CENTAL et de la PPCC

Le groupe SATZ a officiellement déposé une plainte auprès de la Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), dénonçant des irrégularités importantes dans le processus d'appel d'offres pour le projet de développement du cadre de cybersécurité, de sensibilisation et d'orientation (IFB No. LTA/REOI/002/2024).

Parallèlement, le groupe SATZ a saisi la Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), le Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) et la Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC), exhortant ces institutions à mener une enquête approfondie sur les conditions d'attribution du contrat. Le groupe plaide pour des mesures garantissant la transparence et le respect scrupuleux de la loi sur les marchés publics et concessions de 2010.

SATZ a exprimé de sérieuses préoccupations concernant l'équité et la transparence du processus d'évaluation

récemment conduit par la LTA. Bien que la société ait respecté toutes les exigences stipulées dans les documents de la demande d'expression d'intérêt (REOI) et de la demande de proposition (RFP), elle aurait été éliminée de façon inattendue, invoquant une présumée non-conformité technique.

« La décision d'exclure le groupe SATZ semble entachée de circonstances douteuses », dénonce la plainte. « De

nombreuses incohérences dans les phases d'évaluation et de qualification mettent en cause l'intégrité de la procédure d'acquisition. »

Le document souligne plusieurs irrégularités, telles que des évaluations biaisées, des rejets de propositions sans justification claire, une mauvaise interprétation des CV soumis, l'absence de notification

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## 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.



*Starts from page 8* **Les législateurs tiennent des sessions**

circonscription n°2. Ce bloc majoritaire a également déposé une motion pour convoquer Thomas Fallah à comparaître devant leur assemblée jeudi, après son refus de rejoindre le groupe dissident. Selon le décompte effectué par le bloc anti-Koffa, 43 députés étaient présents dans la Chambre conjointe, tandis que 30 siégeaient sous la présidence de Mme Koffa. Alors que les deux camps s'enferment dans leurs positions concernant la destitution de Mme Koffa, celle-ci demeure ferme, déclarant que la démission n'est pas une option. L'issue de cette crise politique est donc très attendue.

*Starts from page 8* **Le groupe SATZ appelle**

concernant les insuffisances transparence et de conformité relevées et un manque général de légale », a-t-il déclaré.

Aloysius S. Zayzay, fondateur et PDG du groupe SATZ, a rappelé l'importance de garantir des pratiques d'appel d'offres équitables. « Nous sommes fermement engagés à veiller à ce que les processus de passation de marchés publics au Liberia respectent les normes les plus strictes en matière d'équité, de

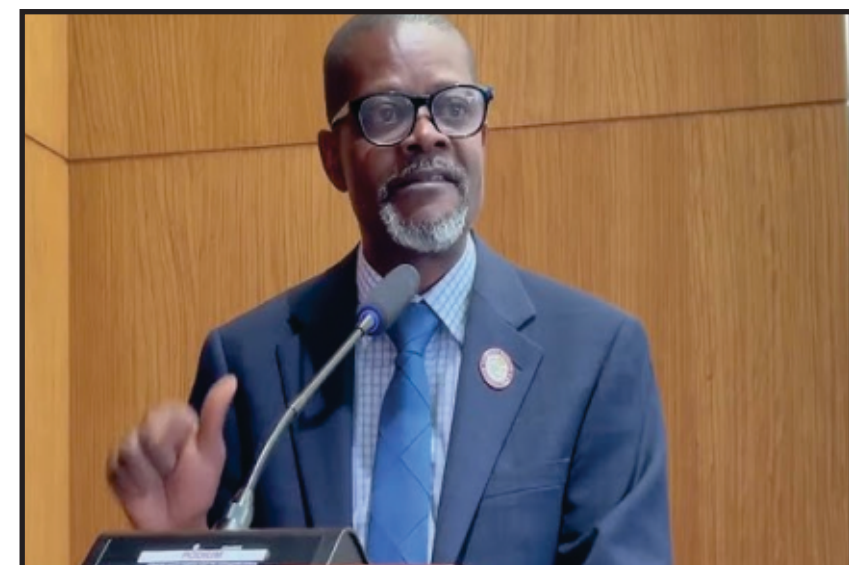
Lors d'une réunion de débriefing avec la présidente par intérim de la LTA et les membres de l'équipe de passation de marchés, le 22 octobre 2024, le groupe SATZ a demandé à connaître le nom de l'entreprise retenue. Cette demande a été refusée, alimentant ainsi davantage les interrogations sur la transparence de la procédure.

## Le sénateur Dillon demandera la convocation du ministre du Travail

**L**e Sénat libérien a été sollicité pour convoquer le ministre du Travail, Cllr. Cooper Kruah, afin qu'il explique les raisons de l'octroi de permis de travail aux non-Libériens.

Le sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon, représentant le comté de Montserrado, a

Le règlement stipule également que les employeurs doivent prouver qu'ils ne peuvent pas trouver de Libérien qualifié pour un poste avant de demander un permis de travail pour un étranger. Cela nécessite la



officiellement demandé au Sénat libérien l'autorisation de citer le ministre du Travail, Cllr. Cooper Kruah, à se présenter devant l'assemblée pour répondre aux préoccupations croissantes concernant l'émission de permis de travail à des étrangers.

Dans une communication lue lors de la 39e séance de la première session du Sénat, le 22 octobre 2024, le sénateur Dillon a exprimé des inquiétudes quant aux violations potentielles des réglementations du travail, qui devraient prioriser les travailleurs libériens tant dans les postes qualifiés que non qualifiés. Il a invoqué la Loi sur le travail décent, en soulignant que les articles 7.1 du chapitre 7 et 45.9 du chapitre 45 confèrent au ministère du Travail le pouvoir d'émettre des permis de travail pour les étrangers. Toutefois, le Règlement révisé n° 17 (2019), qui établit le cadre juridique pour ces permis, impose des conditions strictes pour limiter l'emploi de non-Africains dans le secteur informel et garantir que certains emplois restent réservés aux Libériens.

publication des offres d'emploi dans au moins deux journaux locaux et sur deux stations de radio pendant un mois, ainsi que l'obtention d'un certificat du ministère attestant de l'absence de candidats libériens.

Malgré ces exigences, le sénateur Dillon a soulevé des inquiétudes concernant la tendance du ministère du Travail à délivrer et à renouveler des permis de travail pour des ressortissants étrangers, y compris pour des postes pour lesquels des Libériens sont disponibles et qualifiés.

« Chaque année, le ministère du Travail accorde des permis de travail à des non-Libériens pour des postes où des Libériens sont aptes et disponibles. Cela compromet nos efforts pour lutter contre le chômage et améliorer les taux d'emploi locaux », a déclaré le sénateur Dillon.

30 siégeaient sous la présidence de Mme Koffa.

Alors que les deux camps s'enferment dans leurs positions concernant la destitution de Mme Koffa, celle-ci demeure ferme, déclarant que la démission n'est pas une option. L'issue de cette crise politique est donc très attendue.

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# Nos routes seront en meilleur état », dit le Ministre des Travaux Publics

Le gouvernement du Liberia a annoncé que les principales routes du pays seront accessibles et en bon état avant le début de la saison des pluies en 2025. Suite à des critiques sévères sur l'incapacité du gouvernement à respecter ses engagements des cent premiers jours, le ministère des Travaux Publics a



confirmé qu'il déploierait des efforts significatifs pour améliorer la condition des routes avant la prochaine saison des pluies.

Le ministre Roland L. Giddings a déclaré : « Je vous assure qu'à l'approche de la saison sèche, nos routes seront en meilleur état qu'elles ne le sont actuellement. »

Cette déclaration a été faite lors d'une conférence de presse au ministère, situé sur Lynch Street à Monrovia, le mardi 22 octobre 2024.

« Mesdames et Messieurs, comme vous le savez peut-être, le ministère des Travaux Publics s'est engagé dans l'initiative de gouvernement ouvert. Cette conférence reflète notre volonté d'assurer la transparence et d'informer le public de notre travail. Nous n'avons rien à cacher ici ; la transparence est notre priorité », a-t-il ajouté.

Le ministre a également exhorté les médias à relayer toutes les informations concernant les travaux routiers à travers le pays.

Il a indiqué qu'une évaluation avait été réalisée durant les cent premiers jours et que les travaux d'entretien des routes avaient débuté en avril, se poursuivant jusqu'à la saison sèche, avec plus de 70 % des travaux déjà achevés.

La ministre adjointe des Travaux Publics, Jocelia J. Tarplah, a également pris la parole lors d'une présentation PowerPoint, affirmant que le ministère s'efforçait de répondre aux attentes du public.

Elle a précisé que des initiatives étaient mises en œuvre dans plusieurs corridors, tant en milieu rural qu'urbain, pour résoudre les problèmes de drainage.

« Les problèmes de drainage auxquels font face diverses communautés ne relèvent pas uniquement de la responsabilité du gouvernement. Pour y remédier, nous engagerons un dialogue constructif avec les habitants, afin qu'ils puissent proposer des solutions », a-t-elle ajouté.

Elle a également noté qu'il était courant que certains citoyens préfèrent rémunérer des jeunes défavorisés

pour l'évacuation de leurs déchets, plutôt que d'utiliser les services de gestion des déchets, ce qui engendre des difficultés dans certaines zones.

Elle a révélé qu'à partir de ce mardi, le ministère avait recruté son premier

consultant pour réaliser des études de faisabilité. « Avant de mettre en œuvre tout projet ayant un impact public, il est essentiel de procéder à une évaluation de l'impact social et environnemental (ESIE) », a-t-elle précisé.

Elle a souligné : « Nous allons nous concentrer sur le nettoyage des systèmes de drainage ; c'est l'intervention à court terme la plus urgente. Toutefois, si une ESIE est nécessaire, il faudra attendre la fin des études de faisabilité pour déterminer où l'eau s'écoulera et quelles pourraient être les conséquences. »

Par ailleurs, le ministre assistant à la Planification, Abraham Bility, qui supervise les opérations de démolition gouvernementales, a annoncé le lancement d'une campagne de démolition visant à entamer les travaux de construction dès le début de l'année prochaine.

Bility a précisé que ce projet affecterait les occupants des zones où deux ponts aériens doivent être construits. Cependant, il a assuré que les résidents avaient été informés de cette initiative à la suite de plusieurs consultations avec le ministère.

« Nous sommes prêts ; la population est consciente que le ministère est sur le point d'agir. Nous appelons les citoyens, en particulier ceux des ruelles, à coopérer avec nous », a-t-il conclu.

Le gouvernement du Liberia, avec le soutien de la République populaire de Chine, s'engage à construire des ponts aériens sur les principales routes menant à Monrovia afin de réduire les embouteillages.



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## FEATURE

## ARTICLE

# Using WASSCE Results to Promote Accountability in Education in Liberia

**E**ducation (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.

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

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.



## West African Examinations Council

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



# I will not resign

*Speaking J. Fonati Koffa, who faces stiff opposition from over 40 of his colleagues of the House, says he would not give in illegally.*

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, October 24, 2024 - As lawmakers returned on Capitol Hill today (Thursday, October 24), embattled Speaker Jonathan F. Koffa maintains that he will not resign unless those lawmakers

They will have to have 49 votes, but I don't think we will get the votes because over the next couples of days, these members that signed resolution, you will see some of them coming because they love Liberia and want to make a difference. You will see them

not going to spend a dam on anybody to tell them to come to work. I am also not going to spend a dam on anybody to say don't remove me. I stand on what I have done. I have not been a perfect speaker; I am not a perfect speaker. I made some mistakes, and I am willing to admit that and say I am sorry to craft a path forward, but to pay them no! I don't have that kind of money."



opting for his removal obtain 49 votes, as it is legally enshrined in the Constitution of Liberia and other status.

Speaking Tuesday, October 22, 2024, in a live talk interview, Speaker Koffa said he will not bribe any member of the majority bloc lawmakers who signed a resolution to remove him, to return to work and serve the Liberian people.

However, he at the same time urged them to return to work in order to save Liberia from embarrassment, adding that he is greatly hurt by what he saw, noting that they will not reach or obtain the 49 or 50 numbers needed; saying rather, they will need a quorum to determine his stay. "I want to say this to the Liberian people; this is not about me. I will not resign.

come when the budget is here", he noted.

The Speaker explains that they had a contentious election at the House of Representative that brought him to the office, but it all came to a situation when the leadership positions were few, and it was like the victor contested unopposed, adding that when negotiating with a man, and he shows his interest, it's difficult to tell him that you can't. However, Speaker says he is willing to sit with all members of the House of Representatives, including those opposing him, to negotiate on grounds that they need 49 votes to have him ousted and so, they should dissolve all committees and dialogue.

"It's absolutely not true; I am

Koffa notes that if slain President William R. Tolbert is celebrated today, as one of Liberia's greatest and good presidents, but when he took office and was trying to change Liberia, conservatives felt that he was moving too fast, while progressives thought he was moving slowly, and at the end, they killed him.

"If they move me, I will just say thank God; they didn't kill me. But change in this country is hard. I have taken on the heavy burden. On the ninth day of my colleagues telling me to change this place. I have been trying my best. So now, the cartels have told them I am not working in their interest. So, if it's time for me to go, I say go for the 49 signatures. I will still live", he insists. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Liberian children face bleak future

*Liberia's education system has continued to deteriorate 21 years since the end of the civil conflicts. Students in the country's rural communities are said to be at a disadvantage.*

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

While Liberian officials are buying luxury vehicles and some are taking fabulous salaries, Liberian children's hope of a quality education and learning environment, particularly those in rural areas, remains bleak.

Images of public-school buildings and other learning facilities in the rural counties are concerning, while their lawmakers are walking away with US\$45,000 each to purchase luxury vehicles in addition to their US\$15k monthly salaries.

As if those were not enough, lawmakers representing these rural communities pay little or no attention to what is happening in their local educational systems.

A recent visit to what appears to be the only elementary school in Sawken Township, District #1, Grand Kru County, saw a deplorable structure standing as a learning facility. The infrastructure alone is not conducive to learning for students and teachers, let alone the kinds of materials being taught there.

Representative Nathaniel N. Bahway Sr represents Grand Kru County Electoral District#1.

According to the School's

citizens to help the institution, but to no avail.

The entire kindergarten section of the structure is completely broken down, while the other portion stands abandoned.

Rev. Attiogbe Sr. says he has called on community members, County officials, and others to address the school situation, but no one has responded to him yet.

He explained that the school's condition has reached a level where the people of the town are concerned about the future of their children.

The school principal said he had written communication to the District's Representative, Mr. Bahway Sr, who had pledged to make some intervention but has yet to receive any response despite several follow-ups.

He said the school had moved some of the classes for the 2024-2025 school activities to the United Methodist Church in the town, while other classes are being held in the portion of the mud building, which is still standing.

"So, despite these conditions, it's regretful and dangerous for our students and teachers who are teaching in the various classes because I'm afraid that the



Principal, Rev. Joseph S. Attiogbe Sr, the situation at the school is one of concern and frustration not just for teachers but also for parents who send their wards there in anticipation of giving them some form of education.

Rev. Attiogbe Sr., speaking to New Dawn, bemoaned the situation. He said that due to the dilapidated condition of the school, some of the township's children are no longer going to school despite ongoing academic activities.

Rev. Attiogbe told our correspondent that he has made several appeals to sons of the region currently serving in government and other patriotic

building might collapse one day," he maintained.

Meanwhile, Principal Attiogbe pointed out that community dwellers built the mud structure in question because there was no learning facility in the town, and students had to trek long distances to neighboring towns to go to school.

The school in question has five teachers, three of which are on the Government of Liberia payroll.

New Dawn has made all efforts to contact Grand Kru County District#1 Representative Bahway Sr, but all efforts seem fruitless. Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

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Starts from page 5

## The Global Rule of Law Recession

eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

The top-ranked country in the 2024 WJP Rule of Law Index is Denmark, followed by Norway (2), Finland (3),

Sweden (4), and Germany (5). The top five ranked countries remain unchanged from 2023. The bottom ranked countries are Venezuela (142), Cambodia (141), Afghanistan (140), Haiti (139), and Myanmar (138).

The countries with the biggest rule of law declines

in the past year are Myanmar, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, while the countries that improved their rule of law score most from 2023 to 2024 are Poland, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka.

Explore the full rankings and findings of the 2024 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index at: <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/index/>

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## Deputy Speaker faces loyalty challenge

### -As majority lawmakers go to vote

As majority members of the House of Representatives opposed to Speaker J. Fonati Koffa go to elect a new leadership today, Thursday, 24 October public curiosity increases whether Deputy Speaker Thomas F. Fallah, who hails from the same CDC, will join his colleagues to remove the Speaker.

Speaker, but how long will he keep holding on, when every indication seems to show that the coup plotters are resolved on their own plan. Fallah appears finds himself in a predicament: He does not want to



Speaker & Deputy Speaker

“Majority Bloc”, have been calling on Representative Fallah to join them in their struggle to oust Speaker Koffa. They have accused the Speaker of conflict of interest, among others and expressed vote of no confidence in him, which must be demonstrated legally thru a two-third vote or 49 members of the House as required by the Constitution of Liberia. Up to now, Deputy Speaker Fallah has stood with the embattled

be seen publicly, as betraying the Speaker. At the same time, he would not want to ignore his colleagues from the Majority Bloc, are predominantly from the opposition Congress for Democratic Change.

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