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## ntinental News

Prominent Kenyan human rights activist Boniface Mwangi has

OCTOBER

28

been detained by police on charges of inciting violence after six masked individuals forcibly took him from his home, his wife has told the BBC.

is detention comes after marathon, the official name of the he called for an anti-race. Nairobi, on Sunday.

Onyango confirmed to local chantsonline. custody, but did not provide fun!" he added.

government protest at a He urged people to dress up in the marathon in the capital, colours of the national flag, wear bandanas with the message Police spokesperson Resila "RutoMustGo" and share protest

media that Mr Mwangi was in "Stay calm and peaceful and have BBC.



further details.

caused outrage among his over his campaigning. supporters, who are His latest call for a protest was demanding his release.

President William Ruto, using the hashtags #RutoMustGo and refers to Standard Chartered

Mr Mwangi has been arrested and Mr Mwangi's detention has released on numerous occasions

seen as an attempt to keep up Mr Mwangi had been rallying pressure on Mr Ruto, who has people on X (formerly Twitter) faced growing public anger over to demand the resignation of the escalating cost of living and alleged police brutality during demonstrations earlier this year.

#OccupyStanChart, which The activist's wife, Njeri Mwangi, of Ruto.-BBC

his home in Machakos County, about 40km (25 miles) east of Nairobi.

A group of five masked men and one masked woman, all in plain clothes, roughed up her husband before taking him away, she said.

"They allowed him at least to dress up and then they walked him out," Mrs Mwangi told the

Hours later, police confirmed that Mr Mwangi was in custody at a police station in downtown Nairobi.

Both Mr Mwangi's lawyers and his wife say he faces charges of incitement to violence, which he denies.

Ruto was elected president in 2022 after he pledged to champion the interests of what he called the "Hustler Nation", a reference to poor and unemployed people. especially the youth.

But he faced mass protests in June and July after he announced plans to increase taxes.

He dropped the plans and brought the main opposition party into the government in an attempt to quell public anger.

Kenya's parliament also impeached his deputy Rigathi Gachagua more than a week ago with the apparent backing

working population is

otswana's governing party dramatic transformation of a poor country, with only a few kilometres of tarred roads at independence, into a place where average living standards are among the highest on the continent.

> Underpinning this transformation has been Botswana's huge diamond reserves - measured by their value, the country is the world's largest producer of the gemstone. And yet all is not well. Botswana is facing big economic is using the slogan "Save challenges - hence Masisi's talk of change.

More than one in four of the

unemployed, with an even higher proportion among younger people, according to the World Bank.

Politics professor at the University of Botswana Zibani Maundeni described it as a "jobless economy".

"We are producing graduates every year and the economy is not producing enough jobs for them," 'he told the BBCs Africa Daily podcast.

The Botswana Congress Party Botswana" to rally support In addition, Botswana's wealth is not evenly spread around

## Kenyan Activist Detained After New wave of mass killings Raid by 'masked' group told the BBC that he was arrested at dawn on Sunday at his home in Masked at a Sudan alarms UN

Sudan says she is Ldeeply troubled by reports of "atrocious crimes" in the central Gezira state, including the mass killing of civilians by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Clementine Nkweta-Salami's comments came after an activist group said that at least 124 people were killed by the RSF in attacks on villagers over the past

The RSF has denied targeting civilians, saying its fighters are clashing with militias armed by the military. The 18-month conflict in Sudan

has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced more than 11 million.

Gezira state turned into a major battleground last week after the RSF suffered a major blow

senior UN official in killings, the raping of women and girls, the widespread looting of markets and homes and the burning down of farms.

Ms Nkweta-Salami said the "atrocious crimes" were on a scale similar to those seen in Sudan's Darfur region last year, when the RSF was accused of "ethnic cleansing" communities seen to be opposed to it.

Ms Nkweta-Salami said the death toll was still unclear, but preliminary reports suggested that scores of people were killed in Gezira state.

In a statement on Saturday, the Wad Madani Resistance Committee, which campaigns for an end to the conflict and democratic rule in Sudan, said the RSF was committing "extensive massacres in one village after another", the Reuters news agency reported.

The Sudanese doctors' union called



The army said he had brought "a large number of his forces" with him, in what it described as the first high-profile defection to its

In response, the RSF said its with everyone carrying arms". Ms Nkweta-Salami, the UN

Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, said that preliminary reports suggested that the RSF had carried out a major attack across the state between 20 and 25 October.

She added that it led to mass

when one of its commanders, on the UN to push the two sides in Abu Aqla Kayka, defected to the the conflict to agree to safe humanitarian corridors into villages that were facing "genocide" at the hands of the RSF. The doctors' union added that rescue operations had become impossible and that the army was "incapable" of protecting civilians. fighters would defend The conflict in Sudan broke out in themselves and "decisively deal April 2023 after a fall out between the commanders of the RSF and military, Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo and Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan respectively.

> The two had jointly staged a coup in 2021, derailing Sudan's transition to democracy, but then got involved in a vicious power struggle. -BBC





ty in power for - in power for almost six decades - is trying to pull

off a trick in Wednesday's general election by using a phrase normally associated with long-suffering opposition

In its manifesto, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is calling for "change".

"Let's change together and build prosperity for all," President Mokgweetsi Masisi in charge of the country since 2018 - writes in the introduction.

It is an acknowledgement that things need to be done differently - the opposition argues that the president's party is not in a position to do that.

Though analysts say the outcome of the election is hard to predict this time, the BDP has won handsome parliamentary majorities at the 11 elections since independence in 1966.

It subsequently secured the presidency every time as MPs elect the head of state.

The BDP has been credited with overseeing a peaceful and

By Raghuram G. Rajan

### **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.

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#### **Reform or Irrelevance for the IMF?**

CHICAGO – The world needs an effective Perhaps, which is why any reforms affecting International Monetary Fund. Countries have become hugely indebted following the COVID-19 pandemic, and the risk of new shocks grows as the world warms and new pathogens emerge. Protectionism (sometimes cloaked by security interests) is on the rise, impeding traditional pathways to development. As economies falter, no one wants to absorb the desperate people who are braving dense jungles or climbing onto rickety, overcrowded boats in search of decent livelihoods.

We need an honest broker to help countries negotiate fair rules for international exchange (including, most immediately, rules on subsidies), to call out violators, to criticize bad policies, and to step in as lender of last resort for those in distress. Unfortunately, the IMF, despite the high quality of its management and staff, is increasingly illpositioned to perform these tasks.

The institution's problems lie in its anachronistic governance. Most key decisions, including on country loans, are made by the Fund's executive board, where G7 members hold most of the power. The United States wields a de facto veto, and Japan's voting power exceeds that of China, whose economy dwarfs Japan's. India's vote share is far smaller than the United Kingdom's or France's, even though its economy is larger and growing faster than

Because the world's erstwhile dominant powers refuse to let go, the underrepresentation of fast-growing emerging economies persists. At the same time, it is no longer clear that the old powers always have the global interest at heart. In the immediate postwar era, the United States, as the sole economic superpower, could be trusted to enforce the rules of the game and generally remain above the fray. But as its worries about being overtaken have grown, it has switched from referee to player. Once a champion of the idea that openness benefits everyone, it increasingly wants openness only on its own terms.

The quality of the Fund's lending decisions is also likely to deteriorate. Whenever the Fund lends, it is natural that well-connected countries in economic trouble tend to obtain more relief on easier terms. While there have always been political influences on Fund lending, there has been a greater chance of it succeeding in the past because of outside assistance from powerful board members – think, for example, of the Mexican crisis in 1994, where the US contributed a hefty share of the rescue package.

With fiscal resources now tight even in the G7, the IMF increasingly will have to risk its capital as powerful board members with relatively little skin in the game direct loans toward friends and neighbors. Worse, such special treatment may not even help the loan recipients, many of whom need tough love.

In sum, the IMF's governance structure will increasingly hurt the Fund's work. But will redistributing IMF vote shares to reflect the current distribution of economic power not lead to chaos? Won't China block loans to any country linked to the G7, and vice versa? Isn't dysfunctional governance better than absolute paralysis?

countries' voting power should be accompanied by a fundamental change in IMF governance. The executive board should no longer vote on operational decisions, including individual lending programs. Instead, the Fund's top management should be given free rein to make operational decisions for the benefit of the global economy, with the board setting broad guidelines and periodically examining whether those guidelines have been met.

More to the point, the executive board should become a governance board, much as with corporations. It would set the organization's operational mandate, and appoint and change management and monitor overall performance; but it would not control day-to-day decisions. All operational decisions should be depoliticized. Indeed, that is what John Maynard Keynes would have preferred to see at the time of the Fund's founding. Fearing America's undue influence, he proposed a non-resident board, which in those days of poor communications and steamship travel implied a non-executive board and an empowered management.

There are some foreseeable objections to this proposal. The first is that powerful countries will refuse to commit their taxpayers' resources to the Fund unless they can exercise full control over their use. But this is precisely what the dominant board powers already expect the rest of the world to do. What is good for the goose...

Another objection is that emerging powers like China might not agree to a change in Fund structure now that they themselves are on the verge of acquiring power. But if they don't accept any change, neither will the old powers. The recent 16th General Review of Quotas made little change in the distribution of board power. Expect more of the same unless the old powers and emerging powers reach a grand bargain.

Finally, countries would be uneasy with fiscal resources being spent by unelected management who could be insensitive to the needs of the world's people. But political considerations will still play a role. Board directors, appointed by governments, will appoint IMF top managers and give them broad marching orders, based on their governments' political assessments. For example, the rules governing lending can become more lenient if the directors deem it appropriate. The difference is that the rules will be applied uniformly across all countries. Powerful friends of the needy can still help, but they will have to do so outside the Fund program, rather than by bending

Eight decades after the IMF was created, the world can - and must - pursue a grand bargain to reform its governance structure and deal with emerging challenges. The alternative is to do little and watch the institution fade into irrelevance.

Raghuram G. Rajan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India and chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the co-author (with Rohit Lamba) of 'Breaking the Mold: Indias <u>Untraveled Path to Prosperity</u> (*Princeton* University Press, May 2024).

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## By Ambroise Fayolle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ambroise Fayolle is Vice President of the European Investment Bank.

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#### & Vera Songwe ivestments in Nature What the G20 Can I ll Decide Our Future for Green Gra

ONDON - 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 climatechange 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

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.

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

#### -The case of the Liberian Legislators

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **We Welcome the Doctoral Programs** at the University of Liberia

In 1851, the Republic of Liberia founded the Liberia College of Social Sciences and Humanities now renamed the Amos C. Sawyer College of Social Sciences and Humanity in honor of the late Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, former Dean of the College. I graduated from the Liberia College of Social Sciences and Humanities from the Political Science Department as the dux for the entire College with Magna Cum Laude in Political Science. I had the second Highest average at the University in the Class of 2001/2002 which graduated on 28th May 2003. My emphasis was in Comparative Government and Politics. My Minor was in History (European History) and my Electives in Mass Communication (Print media). All my studies were done within the Liberia College. Those days all colleges at the University graduated together on a Wednesday (we will discuss why Wednesdays later time). Liberia College became operational in 1862 (<a href="https://ul.edu.lr/new/">https://ul.edu.lr/new/</a>). Later, about 100 years after the declaration of the College in 1951, the University of Liberia was created through an Act of the Legislature. The Republic of Liberia now had its first University. No other existed then.

"In 1862, the first President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E Joseph Jerkins Roberts, was inaugurated as the first President of Liberia College" (<u>https://ul.edu.lr/new/history/</u>). In fact former President William R. Tolbert graduated from Liberia College as the dux for the College like me. Interestingly, with two professors, "Rev. Alexander Cromwell and Professor Dr. Edward Wilmot Blyden, President Roberts opened the doors of Liberia College in February 1863 to 7 students (Ibid.). My former Dean, Prof. Joseph Barlefay, orally told us then that the College was operated somewhere on Clay Street. I am still looking for a written History on this this and the entire University (Dean Barlayfaye was one of the signatories to the 1986 Liberia Constitution representing Bong County). Documenting the History of the University of Liberia could be a worthy research project sponsored by the school. Today, the University of Liberia is operated on four campuses: the first at the Capitol Hill, the Second at the Medical College around the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital, the third at Fendall, and the last in Sinje, Grand Cape mount County.

When the University was chartered by the National Government, it only offered undergraduate degrees. This meant that students wanting to obtain a master's degree in any of the academic disciplines offered at the University and elsewhere if any then needed to travel out of Liberia to get a masters degree. Master degrees could not be obtained in Liberia then (we will later discuss the history of Masters degrees being offered in Liberia). Notably, a 76-year Oldman was the oldest graduate from the MBA/MPA program in academic year 2020/2021at the graduate School when I served as an Academic Coordinator at then. He confided in me that he was the first to obtain a Master degree in his family. President William V.S Tubman opened the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medical Center (JFK) as the Teaching Hospital of the University of Liberia. Today, the Political System in Liberia runs or operate the JFK Memorial Hospital as an entity on its own. The University does not control JFK as its teaching hospital. Imagine that! Students from the Medical School and the School of Pharmacy as well as their professors are still required to practice at this teaching Hospital owned by the University. JFK is also Liberia's primary referral Medical Institution in the Country. We will discuss this symbiotic relationship between the UL and JFK later time.

Fast forward, graduate studies began with a Diploma in Regional Science and Planning, now the Graduate School in Regional Science and Planning. Later H.E. Samuel Kanyon Doe, former President of the Republic of Liberia, negotiated with his Colleague and counterpart, H.E Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to assist him open a master's degree Program in Political Science at the University. Former President Doe had graduated from Liberia College's Political Science Department as dux also and needed his Master's degree in Political Science. This was how The Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB) Graduate School of International Studies was created in the late 1980s. Unfortunately, Samuel Doe did not obtain the Master of Arts degree in International Relations when the Civil War broke out and he got killed. One of his classmates, the late Prof. Alhaji G.V Kromah and I graduated as classmates on 29th April 2009. I was the dux for the entire University by then, and the President of IBB. Professor Kromah taught International Law at the School prior to his demise.

I graduated with Highest Distinction. The University would have a single Touch Brearer usually from the undergraduate school those days because the University was originally an undergraduate University. I was denied the touch because of such regime in 2009. Presently, there are different graduation days for colleges and Graduate and Professional programs like law, medical and School of Pharmacy. In fact the University Charter has not been revised since 1951. The very Charter I had and used as Chairman of the ever potent Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP) from 2001 to 2002 remains the same Charter that is in force today. Imagine that!! The Liberia National Legislature that nominates its representatives to the UL Board according to the Charter has never seen the reason to revise the Charter. **To be continued** 

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#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

OCTOBER 28

#### MORE HEADLINE NE

## Newly established Liberian group, Solidarity and Trust for A our lives and with danger on us,

New Day, says its activities will be void of politics.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

onrovia, Liberia, October 28, 2024 - The Chairman of Solidarity and Trust for a New Day says STAND is not a political party and will remain a civil society

"STAND will remain tall in defense of the masses, what is rights, to fight impunity and bring about accountable governance," says Morlu, adding: "If you are in government and continue to do



Liberians.

offices in Congo Town, people." Chairman Mulbah Morlu said the According to him, their corrupt officials in government, who he says are stealing public growth in Liberia.

governance, noting that STAND will remain a force for good.

organization that is geared those bad things, then you have towards advocating for ordinary a good reason to be afraid because this organization will Speaking during official go after those who are corrupt, dedication of the organization polluting the seat of power and over the weekend at its new misusing the wealth of the

only people who will be afraid activities have no political justice in the country. of the existence of STAND are motive, as the desire is for

stand at the barrel of danger on Browne

because we care more about Liberia than our personal security."

Morlu, former chairman of the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change, explains that Liberia deserves better and change in the country should never be delayed or denied, but must come now and not latter.

For his part, the Chairman of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia, Counselor Dempster Brown, warns STAND against politicizing itself.

He welcomes STAND's efforts in the promotion of human rights in the society and cautions all civil society organizations to join the fight for human rights in the country.

The Secretary General of the Liberia Council of Churches, Reverend Christopher Toe, congratulated STAND on behalf of LCC President, Reverend Doctor Samuel Reeves.

He says STAND is a member of the CSO community, promising to work with the organization in championing the rights of ordinary people and social

National Muslim Council of peace, stability and democratic Liberia, Secretary General, Kuku Reeves, who represented the 'STAND has come into existence Council's Chairman Abrahim He says STAND will continue to to ensure that change comes to Fumba Sheriff at the program fight against ills in the society, Liberia because the rottenness promises to support STAND in its including corruption and bad of our democracy needs to advocacy for the Liberian change as this organization will people. *Editing by Jonathan* 

When passed, the two bills will immediately disarm the National Port Authority (NPA), the sector's regulatory arm.

By Lincoln G. Peters

2024: The Plenary of the Regulatory Authority. Liberian Senate on Thursday, October 24, 2024, suspended voting on the passage of two Acts to create Liberia Sea Port Regulatory Authority and Liberia Sea Port Decentralization.

When passed, the bills seek to grant independence to Liberian ports nationwide.

The Senate debated on Thursday, after which it suspended voting.

Port Authority (NPA), the sector's authority and autonomy. regulatory arm.

Act.

Maritime Law, restating an Act to onrovia, October 25, create an independent Sea Port

The Sea Port Regulatory Authority regulates port operations and services in the country to ensure adherence to domestic and maritime laws and regulations.

The committee further stated that Sea Port shall exist independently of the other but shall be governed by the National Port Authority Board.

It indicated that the NPA Board shall be the port's governing Board with a key characteristic of enabling each When passed, the two bills will port to have greater financial, immediately disarm the National operational, and administrative

On the other hand, the joint Also, the NPA has opposed the committee argued that the Sea Port bill, frowning on the Liberian and Decentralization Act is not in Senate for introducing such an conflict with the country's Constitution, statutes, and common



Claims and Petition.

Regulatory Agency does not and the Harper Port Authority. common law.

proposed Act amends the fordebate.

The Bill is submitted by the joint However, it repeals the Act adopting committee on Public Corporation Chapter 6 of the Public Authority and Judiciary, Human Rights, Law, creating the National Port Authority, and amends the Public According to the joint Authority Law of 1973, establishing committee, the proposed Act to the Monrovia Port Authority, the Create the Liberia Sea Port Buchanan Port Authority, Greenville,

conflict with the country's Following the reading of the bills, Constitution, statutes, or Jeremiah K. Koung, the President of the Liberian Senate and Vice The committee argued that the President of Liberia, opened the flow

#### years of achievements PIH says it arrived in Liberia during the heat of the deadly Ebola outbreak in 2014 at the invitation of ex-President

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

#### By Lewis S. Teh

Partners In Health (PIH) Liberia Ebola outbreak in 2014 at the has recounted its numerous invitation of ex-President achievements since its operation Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. in Liberia.

organization that is saving lives by deaths from Ebola couldn't be providing health care services to attributed to Ebola alone. citizens in the southeastern part Instead, he explained that the of Liberia, specifically in underbelly of Ebola was a Maryland County.

The organization observed its tenyear anniversary at its head office He told the audience that in Oldest Congo Town recently.

During the celebration, the organization reaffirmed its commitment to buttressing the government and development partners' efforts to rebuild and strengthen the health sector of the country.

PIH said this will be done through the provision of health care services, empowering local nurses, and midwife technicians, among others.

PIH Liberia Executive Director Dr. Maxo Luma described the organization's ten-year journey in Liberia as a historical moment. Dr. Luma said the organization

started its operation in Liberia back in 2014.

He said PIH arrived in Liberia Monrovia, October 28, 2024: during the heat of the deadly

He continued that during that PIH is an international period, they understood that

> weakened healthcare system facing significant challenges. when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Liberia Ebola-free in 2016, PIH

accompany the Government of Liberia in rebuilding, strengthening, and stabilizing the healthcare system in remote and underserved southeastern parts of the country.

"It's hard to imagine that it's already 10 years, and we are proud to gather here to reflect on this incredible journey alongside the government we have collectively made together," he added.

Citing a few achievements, he said since 2017, PIH accompanied the government in developing the National Essential Package of Health Services, a critical step to achieving universal health Siaway, Senior Director for coverage.



#### Starts from page 7

Senior Management by Mr. John

Transport. Mr. Siaway said that in his 18 years of service at the NPA as fleet manager, this is the first time the NPA management has purchased an ambulance that will benefit its employees. He assured the management that the Transport Department would properly maintain the fleet. Mr. Emmanuel Horton, Deputy workforce development. More

Managing Director for Operations, are planned to strengthen the received the keys on behalf of the NPA's contribution to Liberia's Senior Management and expressed economic growth," Hon. gratitude to the Procurement and Dukuly stressed. Transport Departments for their

eleven pickup carbines, a fire efforts. He emphasized the truck, and a state-of-the-art continued support of the NPA's ambulance, was handed over to leadership in improving the institution's operations.

> In remarks, NPA Managing Director Dukuly praised the workforce for their dedication and hard work, highlighting their role in driving productivity and ensuring high-quality services across the ports. "Procuring these vehicles is just one of the many initiatives to support

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## The initiative seeks to address stress, anxiety, and

OCTOBER 28

personal challenges faced by LRA staff, and ensure that they have a safe space to express concerns.

By Bridgett Milton onrovia, October 28, 2024: The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has formally launched a Psychosocial & Counseling

Center will be the first of its kind within a Liberian agency.

This initiative will reaffirm the LRA's obligation to create a supportive environment that



Center.

Launched on Friday, the center overcome challenges. revenue collection forward.

The launch of the center seeks The Center was launched in ambition to raise more than a and the Ministry of Health. billion dollar as revenue in a The partners will offer fiscal year.

stressed the importance of the other health programs. facility.

is essential to our success in national development. collecting national revenue," said Mr. Jallah.

Psychosocial & Counseling Ministry of Health for their

will empower employees to

is intended to prioritize the It will help maintain resilience mental and physical health of and contribute to the National employees who play a pivotal Collector's ambitious goal of role in moving Liberia's raising more than a billion dollars in a fiscal year.

to support LRA Commissioner collaboration with two other General Dorbor Jallah's partners, The Carter Center

employees access to At the launching ceremony, Professional Counseling, Commissioner General Jallah Mental Health Services, and

center and challenged LRA The LRA has proclaimed that staff to make full use of the the initiative will improve both the "health" and "The work we do here is "productivity" of its staff as demanding and requires you to the agency engages in the be both mentally and rigorous task of revenue physically fit. Your well-being mobilization - a critical

Meanwhile, Commissioner General Jallah applauded both The establishment of an LRA The Carter Center and the

professional support in recommending certified mental health clinicians to oversee the facility.

"This collaboration strengthens our commitment to ensuring a healthy workforce capable of meeting the demands of revenue collection while promoting overall job satisfaction," Jallah stated.

Delivering a special remark, Health Minister Dr. Louise Kpoto emphasized the importance of maintaining confidentiality in Counseling Services.

"Confidentiality is the hallmark of this project. I'm urging all clinicians to safeguard the privacy of staff using the center," Dr. Kpoto noted.

the LRA for leading by example being the first government institution to prioritize psychosocial and mental health care for its employees.

The psychosocial unit will be staffed by two experienced clinicians who will provide free services to LRA employees three days a week during designated hours.

This initiative not only aims to address stress, anxiety, and personal challenges faced by staff but also ensures they have a safe space to express concerns that could otherwise affect their work performance.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 400,000 Liberians suffer from some form of mental disorder, with around 130,000 facing severe mental illness.

By establishing this center, the LRA is taking a bold step in promoting mental health within the workplace, ensuring that its staff can perform at their best while contributing to Liberia's revenue growth and national prosperity.

## LRA launches psychosocial and counselling center <u>Educator proposes urgent</u>

Mr. Tamba has encouraged graduates to set ambitious goals, seize available opportunities, and inspire others through their actions.

By Lincoln G. Peters

V le d u c a t o r a n d both locally and abroad. researcher Fayiah S. Tamba He urged graduates to view their need for comprehensive career opportunities. educational reform, across the country.

Mr. Tamba spoke at the 25th Monrovia over the weekend. He noted that the government

initiating a comprehensive He highlighted the gap between of students.

failed to ensure quality in the country's economic needs. sector, particularly our To address these challenges, graduates," said Mr. Tamba.

to improving education and onrovia, October 28, providing valuable research 2024: Liberian guidance to college students,

says Liberia's educational high school diplomas as system is failing to ensure significant milestones that pave quality, stressing an urgent the way for further education and

Quoting Orrin Hatch, he particularly in high schools remarked, "Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."

Tamba pointed out a common graduation ceremony of the misconception among graduates Trumpet of Faith Baptist who see their diplomas as the Minister Kpoto also applauded School in Bassa Town in pinnacle of their educational journey rather than a foundation for continued learning.

educational reform for high schooling and actual education, schools across the country, will noting that many high school help address the poor quality graduates lack the knowledge and skills necessary to secure "Our educational system has employment and meet the

Tamba offered three key "It's time that the Government recommendations: graduates of Liberia through the Ministry should strive to be visionary, and of Education embark on a opportunistic, and serve as role models.



officially commissioned a Port.

(NPA), Sekou A.M. Dukuly, has Greenville Port, and Harper morale across the Network.

ctober 24, 2024 - new fleet of vehicles to This strategic move aims to Monrovia, Liberia - The bolster operations at all four boost operational efficiency, Managing Director of NPA ports—Freeport of increase high performance, the National Port Authority Monrovia, Buchanan Port, and enhance employee

> The commissioning ceremony took place yesterday at the NPA Headquarters in Monrovia during the vehicle's display. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Charles Massalay, Executive Director for Procurement at the NPA, lauded Mr. Dukuly's unwavering commitment to maintaining a competitive and transparent procurement process, which facilitated the acquisition of the new

The fleet, which consists of

CONT'D page 6

vehicles.

the country," he added.

the Liberian society.

from pursuing higher graduates alike. education.

advancement.

School of Graduate and

Professional Studies, Tamba

has expressed his commitment

comprehensive educational He emphasized that adopting reform in high schools across these principles is crucial for overcoming complacency.

He noted that this urgent need He encouraged graduates to set when addressed, will help with ambitious goals, seize available the quality of output within opportunities, and inspire others through their actions.

However, he addressed the The ceremony concluded with a complacency and complexities call to action for school that often deter graduates administrators, parents, and

Tamba advocated for the Mr. Tamba underscored the establishment of effective career importance of resilience and development programs in every dedication to educational high school to assist students in Grades 10-12 as they navigate A lecturer at the United their futures, highlighting the Methodist University (UMU) importance of family support.

## **Eranç** Koffa sollicite l'arbitrage

de la Cour suprême temps, ses partisans, bien que présents sous sa présidence, ne

OCTOBER 28

a décision du président de troisième fois consécutive, à représentants, M. J. Fonati délibérer.

la Chambre des atteindre le quorum nécessaire pour

Koffa, de promouvoir la Jeudi dernier, le groupe de

parviennent pas à atteindre le quorum. Au 24 octobre, 30 représentants soutiennent encore M. Koffa, alors qu'il en faut 37 pour que les travaux parlementaires



#### **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 j 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 p 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 l 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 i 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 l 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 l opportunité stratégique pour renforcer les relations avec i la Côte d'Ivoire, un voisin francophone essentiel. De même, le ministère des Travaux publics doit dépasser les guerelles ! internes et se concentrer sur l'essentiel : l'avancement du l projet de pont, un intérêt commun pour les deux nations.

Le lancement des travaux est prévu pour novembre, bloc de soutien du Président de l'ampleur lors de l'absence de Grand Bassa, Gbehzohngar 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.



de ses collègues.

conseiller J. Fonati Koffa, a l'Assemblée. Chambre a échoué, pour la destituer M. Koffa. Pendant ce

transparence en appelant à un représentants fidèles à M. Koffa n'a audit de l'institution semble pas réussi à réunir le nombre requis être à l'origine du de membres pour tenir une session, mécontentement de plusieurs ce qui fragilise davantage sa position. S'appuyant sur l'article 33 de la Confronté à une contestation Constitution libérienne, M. Koffa grandissante, le président de la espère une intervention judiciaire Chambre des représentants, le qui rétablirait l'ordre au sein de

annoncé son intention de saisir La majorité des députés de la la Cour suprême du Liberia. Ce Chambre organise en effet des recours intervient alors que la sessions parallèles, cherchant à

puissent se dérouler.

Depuis trois sessions consécutives, M. Koffa a dû suspendre les délibérations en raison d'un quorum insuffisant, entravant ainsi les affaires nationales. Le mouvement visant à le destituer a commencé lors de son absence à l'étranger, avec l'implication de certains membres de son propre parti, le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique

CONT'D page 9

#### Le Sénat libérien forme un comité de médiation pou apaiser la crise politique à la Chambre des représentants

Chambre des représentants, législative.

jeudi, le Sénat a souligné opposant les membres des dossiers nationaux. de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa, en affirmant que cette initiative sert l'intérêt supérieur du pays. Ce geste témoigne de l'engagement du Sénat à favoriser un environnement propice à une gouvernance démocratique stable au Libéria.

Réuni en session consultative le 24 octobre 2024, le Sénat a établi ce comité pour faciliter un dialogue structuré entre les factions rivales. Depuis plusieurs semaines, plus de 40 députés ont tenu des sessions séparées, cherchant à destituer M. Koffa de son poste, tandis que ses

Face à l'impasse politique qui partisans poursuivent les séances M. Koffa à l'étranger, divise actuellement la sous sa direction, sans toutefois impliquant même certains atteindre le quorum requis pour députés de son propre parti, le Sénat libérien a annoncé la une conduite officielle des travaux. l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le formation d'un comité de Actuellement, 30 députés Congrès pour le Changement médiation visant à rétablir la soutiennent le Président Koffa, Démocratique (CDC). Face à stabilité et à préserver la paix mais un minimum de 37 membres cette opposition, M. Koffa a au sein de l'institution est nécessaire pour mener les saisi la Cour suprême, affaires législatives. Lors des trois demandant un mandamus afin Dans un communiqué diffusé dernières sessions, Koffa a été de contraindre les 43 députés contraint de lever la séance en dissidents à reprendre leurs l'importance cruciale de raison de l'absence de quorum, sièges pour garantir le bon résoudre le différend compromettant ainsi l'avancement déroulement des sessions.

Le comité de médiation, présidé dissidents de la Chambre et le Cette tentative de destitution a pris par le Sénateur du comté de



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Sayon, s'ils ne participent pas à la

les partisans de M. Koffa tentent de

pour lutter contre la corruption au

également une volonté politique

## rançais

Starts from page 8 Koffa sollicite l'arbitrage

(CDC), ancien parti au pouvoir.

Face à cette impasse, M. Koffa a saisi prochaine session du bloc, prévue le la Cour suprême d'une demande de mardi 29 octobre. mandamus, visant à contraindre les « Si le vice-président Thomas Fallah 43 députés dissidents à participer et la greffière en chef Mildred Sayon aux sessions parlementaires. Le bloc ne participent pas à notre session de anti-Koffa persiste cependant à mardi, je propose que leurs sièges boycotter les séances qu'il préside et soient déclarés vacants », a affirmé refuse de reconnaître son autorité, M. Kolleh. plongeant l'Assemblée dans une Cette crise politique a paralysé les impasse politique. Le camp Koffa travaux législatifs, chaque camp espère que l'intervention judiciaire s'opposant farouchement pour le permettra de restaurer le contrôle de la Chambre. Tandis que fonctionnement de la Chambre.

Conformément à l'article 33 de la défendre son mandat, ses Constitution du Liberia, une majorité opposants l'accusent de mauvaise simple des membres de la Chambre gestion et de corruption. est nécessaire pour conduire les Certains observateurs estiment affaires officielles. Les partisans de toutefois que l'initiative de M. Koffa M. Koffa accusent les absents de d'appeler à un audit pour violer cette exigence promouvoir la transparence est, en constitutionnelle et espèrent que la partie, responsable de la rébellion Cour suprême ordonnera leur retour au sein de la Chambre. Les efforts pour reprendre les travaux.

Les députés anti-Koffa, pour leur Liberia se heurtent souvent à de part, se montrent déterminés et ont fortes résistances, et le Parlement a, fait savoir qu'ils ne reculeront pas. Ils jusqu'à présent, échappé aux affirment n'avoir aucune crainte de audits. Briser cette tradition la Cour suprême, qu'ils estiment nécessiterait non seulement un n'avoir aucun pouvoir sur leur soutien juridique solide, mais démarche.

Au cours d'une session distincte sans faille. organisée par le bloc anti-Koffa le Alors que les deux camps se jeudi 24 octobre 2024, le préparent pour une confrontation représentant James Kolleh, élu du décisive mardi prochain, les regards comté de Bong, a présenté une se tournent vers la Cour suprême, motion pour déclarer vacants les dont la décision pourrait forcer les sièges du vice-président de la députés absents à revenir siéger, Chambre, M. Thomas Fallah, et de la mettant ainsi un terme à cette greffière en chef, Mme Mildred impasse politique.

Starts from page 8 Le Sénat libérien forme un comité de médiation pou

Findley, avec le Sénateur du comté de River Cess, Wellington Gevon Smith, en tant que viceprésident, comprend également le Sénateur du comté de Grand Gedeh, Thomas Yaya Nimely, le Sénateur du comté de Maryland, Gbleh-bo Brown, et le Sénateur du comté de Grand Cape Mount,

Dabah Varplilah.

Par cette démarche, le Sénat espère favoriser la réconciliation et restaurer l'harmonie au sein de la Chambre des représentants, dans l'intérêt de la nation et de la préservation des valeurs démocratiques libériennes.

dr. Tolbert Nvenswah appelle å une recherche tondee sur des preuves pour reniorcer le secteur de la sante au Liberia

Liberia, a souligné l'importance vitaux pour améliorer les cruciale de bâtir une résultats sanitaires de la nation. communauté de recherche Lors de son discours inaugural solide pour répondre aux défis sanitaires du pays et améliorer les résultats de santé publique. Pour lui, la recherche fondée sur des preuves est essentielle pour surmonter les obstacles structurels dans le secteur de la santé et développer des capacités locales résilientes.

Dr. Nyenswah a mis en lumière le déficit de capacités de recherche comme l'une des principales sources de défis scientifiques au Liberia, notamment pour la santé maternelle et néonatale. Il a souligné qu'une augmentation du nombre de chercheurs qualifiés, en particulier de titulaires de doctorats, est indispensable pour analyser et les États.

r. Tolbert G. Nyenswah, résoudre ces problèmes ancien responsable de la critiques, ajoutant que des riposte contre Ebola au efforts de recherche ciblés sont pour le lancement des programmes doctoraux de l'Université du Liberia le 23 octobre. Dr. Nvenswah a rappelé l'impact de l'épidémie d'Ebola et l'importance de la collaboration entre les chercheurs locaux et internationaux pour trouver des solutions efficaces. « Nous devons renforcer nos capacités de recherche pour être mieux préparés face aux futures crises sanitaires », a-t-il déclaré, évoquant l'unité qui a permis de contenir l'épidémie d'Ebola.

> Pendant la pandémie de COVID-19 aux États-Unis, où je me trouvais, le traçage des contacts est devenu une stratégie clé adoptée par tous

## Inondations dévastatrices

Les inondations massives qui frappent familles, tributaires de ces cultures, également une montée Buutuo, dans le comté de Nimba, font désormais face à la famine. plongent la région dans une crise aiguë. En dépit de la gravité de la situation, chez les jeunes, de nombreux Cultures ravagées, routes coupées, la aucune assistance des autorités habitants étant poussés à des catastrophe prive des centaines locales ou nationales n'a encore été actes de vol pour subvenir aux d'habitants de moyens de subsistance et déployée, accentuant les pénuries besoins de leur famille. Plus de alimentaires et le manque de biens dix motos auraient été d'accès aux services essentiels.

Le district de Buutuo, dans le comté #5 de de première nécessité. Le dérobées, tandis que les



Nimba, est aujourd'hui au cœur d'une correspondant de \*New Dawn\* dans habitants, en grande majorité catastrophe naturelle, alors que des le comté de Nimba, ayant inspecté pauvres, sont marqués par une pluies diluviennes entraînent des les lieux, décrit des conditions de vie déscolarisation massive de la inondations qui ravagent villages et a larmantes et en rapide jeunesse, qui se tourne souvent terres agricoles. Les récoltes détruites, dégradation.

l'accès aux soins, à l'éducation et aux La population de Buutuo, Le district, terre natale du vivres devient critique, confrontant la majoritairement agricole, voit ses sénateur Prince Yormie population à une insécurité alimentaire efforts anéantis, les récoltes ayant Johnson, qui siège depuis 27 pourri sous l'eau. L'accès au marché ans au Sénat, est actuellement sévère.

Les récentes intempéries ont laissé une ivoirien voisin, source de biens représenté par le député grande partie des agriculteurs isolés et essentiels, est également bloqué par Samuel G. Kogar, entamant son démunis, leurs champs de riz et de cacao les inondations, exacerbant troisième mandat. Rédaction étant submergés depuis plus de deux l'isolement du district.

mois. Les enfants scolarisés et leurs Cette crise humanitaire favorise

inquiétante de la criminalité citoyens réclament une aide immédiate du gouvernement et des partenaires internationaux.

Par Thomas Buberl

Les routes menant au district #5 sont impraticables, interrompant tout acheminement de biens et de services vers Buutuo et paralysant les activités économiques locales.

Tristement célèbre pour avoir été le point de départ de l'insurrection armée du 25 décembre 1989 dirigée par Charles Ghankay Taylor, Buutuo demeure sans développement notable depuis la fin de la guerre civile en 2003. Ses vers la toxicomanie.

finale par Jonathan Browne.

#### Le Colonel Abraham Kromah appelle à un soutien renforcé aux jeunes toxicomanes lors d'une visite marquante

toxicomanie.

familles des personnes touchées par la drogue, les encourageant à privilégier une approche de soutien et de compassion. « Lutter contre la toxicomanie nécessite l'implication et l'amour des familles, et non la confrontation », a-t-il affirmé.

Le responsable suspendu de la LDEA a attribué la hausse de la consommation de drogues à l'action des trafiquants, appelant les citoyens à se mobiliser dans la lutte contre ce fléau. Il a également exhorté la communauté internationale et les organisations humanitaires à soutenir les efforts du gouvernement pour créer une société libérienne sans drogue.

Lors de sa visite au cimetière de

olonel Abraham Kromah, centaines de jeunes toxicomanes de réinsertion. « La toxicomanie directeur suspendu de trouvent refuge pour échapper aux détruit à la fois la santé mentale et ✓ I'Agence de Lutte contre la forces de l'ordre, le colonel Kromah physique. Il est temps pour chacun. Drogue au Liberia (LDEA), a célébré a souligné la nécessité de mettre fin de saisir l'opportunité d'une son anniversaire en partageant un à la stigmatisation et de nouvelle vie », a-t-il affirmé.

repas avec des jeunes toxicomanes, promouvoir des solutions Cette visite, marquée par la réaffirmant son engagement pour d'accompagnement pour ces célébration de son anniversaire, a vu leur réinsertion et la lutte contre la jeunes en difficulté. « La le colonel Kromah partager un repas confrontation ne fera qu'intensifier avec les jeunes en signe de Profitant de cette occasion, le leur isolement et leur dépendance. solidarité. Il a également demandé



alternatives constructives », a-t-il budget de l'Agence de Lutte contre la Drogue pour renforcer la lutte

Aux quelque mille jeunes résidant contre le trafic et la consommation dans ce cimetière désaffecté, de drogues au Liberia.

Kromah a lancé un appel à L'initiative a été chaleureusement abandonner les substances illicites saluée par Princess David, une des et à envisager un avenir meilleur jeunes présentes, qui a exprimé sa Center Street à Monrovia, où des par le biais de formations gratitude envers le colonel pour son professionnelles et de programmes soutien continu.

## Corruption: The Persistent Disregard for Budgetary Regulations in Liberia

Corruption: The Persistent Disregard for Budgetary Regulations in Liberia

On October 30, 2024, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer will present the UK government's annual budget to parliament for debate and scrutiny. Like every year, the Financial Times and other British broadsheets will be immersing themselves in In the Special National Budget from July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, the National the proposed budget, with each dedicating over 15 pages of a special supplement to analyze its intended and likely impacts on different categories of people, families, businesses, and the wider economy.

This level of serious attention to government budgets is vital because they determine how a government will allocate public funds. It is expected that budgets will enhance lives, improve society, and stimulate economic growth. Regrettably, this is not the case with government budgets in Liberia, as they violate universal norms of The Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs was allocated \$4,940,685, but the budgeting.

Firstly, budgets in Liberia are essentially meaningless when it comes to prioritization and implementation. Secondly, the budgeting process prioritizes private gain over public good, as politicians inflate and pad budgets to siphon public funds.

Let's address the first point. Post-conflict budgets in Liberia offer minimal direct benefits to ordinary citizens. A thorough analysis of the budgets in the past eighteen (18) years would reveal minimal positive impact on people's lives, businesses, society, and the economy. The Liberian government budget comprises capital and recurrent expenditures. Recurrent expenditure, which covers the cost of running the state, consistently accounts for the largest share (91.4% of the 2024 budget). The allocation for the Public Sector Investment Plan represents the second largest portion (8.6%) of the recast budget. This annual budgeting process has virtually no positive impact on the lives of the majority of

**MONDAY** 

The recent bribery scandal that has shaken the House of Representatives has exposed alarming

Liberians.

allegations of budget padding. The heart of the rebellion against the Speaker of the can be seen as a series of failures and unfulfilled promises. House of Representatives, J. Fonati Koffa, revolves around accusations of blatant public corruption, as claimed by the majority bloc who are demanding the Speaker's removal. According to the 2023 budget review, the office of the Deputy Speaker was granted US\$1,541,025, yet the actual expenditure totaled US\$4,038,687. This amount exceeded the approved budget by \$2,936,159. The outturn report scrutinizes the real expenditure against the approved budget for the year and marks the fourth budget monitoring report of the fiscal year.

#### Disregard for budgeting guidelines across the three branches of government

outturn report amounted to \$67,963,832. This was \$16,349,503 higher than the House of Representatives, expressed worries about the budget formulation process actual amount allocated to the National Legislature in the 2023 approved budget, during an appearance on Spoon Talk. He disclosed that some members of the 54th which included a \$1,520,854 allocation to the Office of the Senate Pro Tempore. Legislature on Joint Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance would convene in However, the outturn report for the Senate Pro Tempore amounted to \$3,351,821, which was \$1,217,231 higher than the actual amount allotted to the Senate Pro during these discussions, various government ministries and agencies would be Tempore's office.

The Office of the President was allocated \$3,844,132, but the outturn report amounted to \$4,414,402, which was \$570,270 higher than the actual amount allotted to the Office of the President in the 2023 approved budget.

Similarly, the Vice President's Office was allocated \$3,791,842, but the outturn report amounted to \$4,416,625, which was \$624,783 higher than the actual amount allotted to the Vice President's Office in the 2023 approved budget.

In the same budget, the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs was allocated \$14,732,093, but the outturn report amounted to \$20,478,159, which was \$5,746,066 higher than the actual amount allotted to the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs in the 2023 approved budget.

The Judiciary was allocated \$18,453,234, but the outturn report amounted to \$19,177,180, which was \$723,946 higher than the actual amount allocated to the Judiciary.

Legislature was allocated \$29,994,952, but the outturn report amounted to \$40,116,438. This was \$10,121,486 higher than the actual amount allotted to the National Legislature. The Office of the Pro Tempore was allocated \$922,924, but the outturn report amounted to \$1,812,159, which was \$889,235 higher than what was allotted. The Office of the Speaker was allocated \$1,057,776, but the outturn report amounted to \$1,485,164, which was \$427,388 higher than the actual amount.

outturn report amounted to \$6,714,579. This was \$1,773,894 higher than the actual amount allotted to the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs in the 2021 approved special budget.

The Office of the President was allocated \$412,400, but the outturn report

amounted to \$859,529, which was \$447,129 higher than the actual amount allotted to the Office of the President in the 2021 Special approved budget.

**NEW DAWN** 

10

The Office of the Vice President was allocated \$1,613,136, but the outturn report amounted to \$1,830,938, which was \$217,802 higher than the allotted amount.

The national budgets in Liberia have consistently failed to benefit the people, instead primarily benefiting a small group of political elites. For example, both former Presidents Sirleaf (Unity Party) and Weah (Coalition for Democratic Change) touted their budgets as significant achievements for the nation, highlighting initiatives like the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Pro-Poor agendas. However, after a combined eighteen years in power, their budgets



In tagging his approved recast budget of US\$738.86 million for Fiscal Year 2024 -ARREST Agenda, Joseph Boakai emphasizes the need for Liberians to seize opportunities in agriculture, roads, infrastructure development, rule of law, education sector reform, sanitation improvement, and unlocking the tourism sector's potential. However, Boakai's budget faces significant challenges. Firstly, it operates at a deficit, meaning heavy borrowing will be required for funding. Secondly, such a large budget raises concerns about potential waste, misappropriation, and embezzlement.

In the 2023 budget, the National Legislature was allocated \$51,614,330, but the This leads to the issue of budget padding. Fonati Koffa, the embattled Speaker of the Room 1026 at Boulevard Palace Hotel to discuss the budget. Koffa mentioned that invited to review the initial budget allocations from the Ministry of Finance. However, he noted that some lawmakers would inform these officials of their intention to inflate the budget to secure kickbacks for themselves. Interestingly, it is worth noting that Koffa, who previously held the position of deputy speaker in the 54th Legislature, chose not to acknowledge or raise these concerns with the public until the current efforts to remove him as speaker of the 55th National Legislature.

> In the 2024 budget, the National Legislature increased the budget by \$738.8 million, allocating an additional \$13.2 million for questionable Legislative Support Projects in the name of an extra \$51.451 million in revenue generation discovered by the Joint Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance for the fiscal year 2024, despite the existing deficit. Additionally, \$4.6 million was allocated for vehicle purchases for each member of the National Legislature.

28

The rebel lawmakers have largely succeeded in crippling legislative functions through their conduct of separate meetings while those backing Koffa's leadership lack a quorum to proceed.

OCTOBER

By Lincoln G. Peters

ctober 28, 2024: Liberia's Supreme Court Chamber Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr., has placed a stay order on all further proceedings by opposing lawmakers seeking the removal of embattled House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

However, sources closed to the opposing lawmakers say, they

The majority bloc has more than 40 lawmakers, while Speaker Koffa's bloc has about 30. He needs 37 representatives to be able to conduct sessions.

intervention as his rivals have leadership.

Last him, the embattled Speaker filed a writ of Mandamus before superior

Meanwhile, the court has ordered a stay on all further proceedings and/or actions in the matter pending the outcome of the conference.

www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Recently, embattled Speaker Koffa vowed to go to the Supreme Court of Liberia after failing to meet a quorum for the third consecutive sitting at the House of Representatives.

Koffa is seeking the court's Koffa's supporters continue to rally for his survival, while the refused to recognize his majority bloc accuses him of mismanagement and corruption.

Notwithstanding, there are



have resolved to not honour court to compel opposing law suggestions in the public that the mandate of the Justice in makers to attend sessions. Chambers. There are claims Associate Justice Gbeisay between the cissors in the the group. ongoing speaker removal saga. been disrupted by the majority majority bloc. bloc of the Representatives opposing Speaker Koffa's leadership.

quorum to proceed.

lawmakers is being backed by Supreme Court on October 25, Vice President Jeremiah 2024, to inform the head and and Deputy Speaker Thomas Majority Bloc, Samuel G.

The Chamber Justice's Over the last few weeks, decision followed Speaker

Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr, Associate political will. Koffa's leadership lack a captioned case," the court resolve the standoff.

Speaker Koffa's guest to ensure change at the House by calling that the move by the mandated the Clerk of the for its audit to promote transparency is partly responsible for most of his Koung, Sen. Emmanuel Nuquay acting chairperson of the colleagues turning against him. Efforts to fight corruption in Fallah who has been caught Kogar, to halt all activities of Liberia continue to meet resistance, and little is achieved.

But over the decades, the legislative sessions at the Koffa's petition for a of Legislature has shielded itself House of Representatives have prohibition against the from audits. Any effort to break this notorious tradition "By directive of His Yamie requires legal backing and

Justice presiding in Chambers, As both sides prepare for a The opposing lawmakers have you are hereby cited to a crucial showdown on Tuesday, largely succeeded in crippling conference with His Honor on all eyes are on the Supreme legislative functions through Monday, November 4, 2024, at Court to see if it will intervene their conduct of separate the hour of 10:00 am., in to compel the absent meetings while those backing connection with the above lawmakers to return and

#### Starts from back page Gongloe writes

and large tree crop farms, including but not limited to rubber, cacao, coffee, sugar cane, tobacco, and rice.

While Liberia was not producing crude oil, Cllr. Gongloe noted that the country had a functioning petroleum refinery.

The Liberian Peoples Party (LPP) former political leader recounted that Liberia had a sugar factory in Maryland County, plywood factories in Greenville, Sinoe County, and River Gbeh, Grand Gedeh

and export.

Recounting his conversation joyous occasion. worries about this issue.

Citing an instance, Cllr. graduation seasons. Gongloe disclosed that a three of her children.

According to him, the mother pleaded. revealed that the financial

County (now River Gee burden of paying graduation fees County) for the local market for all three of her children has overshadowed what should be a

with parents across the Instead of celebrating their country, he stated he has children's achievements, Cllr. encountered widespread Gongloe said many families are left anxious and unhappy during

recently expressed her this fee would bring immense distress to him over the relief to countless Liberians, simultaneous graduation of including parents, guardians, and sponsors of students," he

mother in Paynesville "Your leadership in eliminating

#### -Renowned Liberian Prelate wonders

As no side in the current leadership crisis at the House of Representatives seems unwilling to give in, a renowned Liberia Prelate Bishop Kortu Brown, wonders which group will submit eventually.

By Bridgett Milton onrovia, Liberia, October 28, 2024 - As the Valeadership crisis in the House of Representatives lingers, the former President of the Liberia Council of Churches, Bishop Kortu K. Brown wonders here who will survive the fight.

Speaking to 12th Graders of the Mother Tegeste Stewart Apostolic Pentecostal School in Brewerville over the weekend, during an interactive session, Bishop Brown and the students exchanged notes on the current saga and expressed deep concern over unfolding events amid growing economic and social challenges facing ordinary Liberians.

He said Liberians are questioning the timeliness of the action that is paralyzing normal legislative functions in the Capitol Building.

The former LCC president told the students that about 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ commissioned a team to assist him in laying the foundation for the ushering in of the "New Covenant" relationship between God and man, as promised.

According to him, in the formation of the 12-man team, Jesus also brought in Judas, who history showed was preoccupied with making money and other disruptive missions.

"As a consequence, Judas was willing to do anything to get his aims accomplished, including

time to know the real actors behind the events, the Bishop told the students, questioning, who is the real Judas in the House's conflict.

"Apparently, this signature exercise has been going on for a couple of months now. I wonder who has been behind it. Where's the Judas? In the Senate, Executive branch, Pro-Speaker or Anti-Speaker groups? Judas is somewhere, already done his work and waiting for the results", he told the students.

He figuratively wonders who is the high priest that gave money to those lawmakers he describes as Judas to execute the plan of removing the Speaker.

Bishop Brown, head and Founder of the Apostolic Pentecostal Church International, fears that if proper care is not taken, the House will be troubled for many years to come.

"There will be revenge and retribution, continuously", he cautions, suggesting that one of the ways to address this problem is to "expose the Judas in this saga", the people behind the scene who are fueling the conflict and hijacking the work of the country all the time. He wonders why the House of Representatives is always engulf in leadership conflicts.

"This is why we welcome the efforts of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to investigate the reported



selling Jesus and putting the lives of his friends at risk", he details.

survived the conflict between Judas and Jesus about 2,000 years ago, they all shouted, "Jesus." The students appeared confused about what was happening on Capitol Hill and why it was happening at a time of great national need.

Their concerns were whether the current conflict is a consequence of Speaker Koffa's decision to audit the Legislature, a mere power-fight, or poor performance of the Speaker, as enumerated by leadership.

allegations of corruption in this story. What we hope for is that the investigation is comprehensive, When he asked the students, who considering all allegations of corruption from both sides of the conflict. Corruption is a menace. It is robbing our country of needed resources to advance education, health, food security, etc. We must meet it head-on no matter where it comes from", the senior Pastor of the New Water in the Desert Assembly in Brewerville said.

He welcomes efforts to mediate in the conflict at the House of Representatives and appeals to lawmakers to give peace a chance, rebel lawmakers opposing his saying "We know you all have your points of contentions but right Like many other political conflicts now we have to continue to put in the country, it is difficult most our country first."



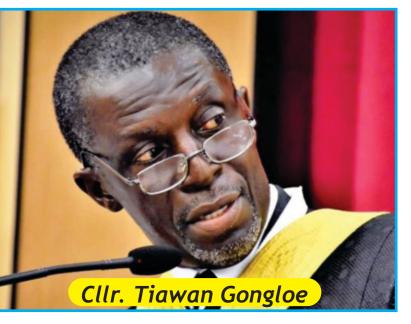
## EWITES BOAK

#### Seeks elimination of schools' graduation fees

Instead of families celebrating their children's Graduation Fees," Cllr. Gongloe achievements, Cllr. Gongloe says many of them are left wants the elimination to be anxious and unhappy during graduation seasons over the applied both in private and payment of graduation fees.

#### By Lincoln G. Peters

human rights lawyer Cllr. consider such a decision as it He further indicated that he



President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and increase school today will recall that in the seeking the average elimination enrolment. of graduation fees in schools across the country.

described graduation fees as graduation fees across all companies, logging companies, burdensome and unjustifiable. In his communication to the Liberia," said Cllr. Gongloe. President dated October 24. In the letter captioned

"Mr. President, I extend my respectful compliments and than now. Cllr. Gongloe, a 2023 write to appeal to you to During that time, he continued, educational institutions in

"Appeal for the Elimination of public schools, from kindergarten through university. He suggested that the onrovia, October 28, 2024, noted that it's imposition of graduation fees is 2024: Renowned Liberian important that the President burdensome and unjustifiable.

> brings this matter to the attention of President Boakai given the challenges faced by families regarding graduation

> Through his daily interactions with a cross-section of Liberians, Gongloe said it has become clear to him that this burden weighs heavily on students and their supporters.

> "Historically, there were no graduation fees in Liberia during the economically prosperous period, 1960s and 1970s, a time when our nation boasted of thriving industries - from mining and logging to agriculture," the renowned lawyer said.

He argued that every Liberian Tiawan Saye Gongloe has written will help struggling parents who is at least fifty years old 1960s and 1970s, the Liberian economy was performing better

presidential candidate, has consider the elimination of there were so many mining

➤ CONT'D page 11



