

**Advertise Here!**

**Subscribe to our website**  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS  
0886484201 / 0777007529

WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY  
from MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.  
**Hurry and book now!**

**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY 01, NOVEMBER 2024	L\$191.0561/US\$1	L\$192.3502/US\$1

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.  
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 14 No. 194      FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2024      PRICE LD\$50.00

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

**Down Load New Dawn Android App**

## Boakai writes Koffa

## As Deputy Speaker crosses carpet

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

**Dial \*156\*1#** to MoMo it in LRD or USD

Ivory Coast
 Ghana
 Uganda
 Mali

Guinea
 Sierra Leone
 Senegal
 Rwanda

and counting...



# Continental News

## New EU Seeds4Liberia Project Enhances Food Security

*Seeds4Libeeia seeks to transform Liberia's agricultural landscape by improving seed production, distribution, and infrastructure for rice, cassava, soybean, coffee, and fish value chains.*

**M**onrovia, October 31, 2024: The Seeds4Liberia Project, an initiative aimed at building resilient seed systems across key agricultural value chains, has been officially launched in Monrovia. This project is funded by the European Union and led by AfricaRice in collaboration with several national and international partners. It seeks to transform Liberia's

and supporting sustainable livelihoods in line with national development goals. European Union's Commitment to Agricultural Development The EU Ambassador to Liberia, Nona Deprez, reaffirmed the EU's long-term commitment to Liberia's agricultural development. The Seeds4Liberia Project, funded by the European Union, is part of the EU's

that seed farmers receive quality early generation seeds to produce ready-to-plant seeds and sell to farmers. "We are looking forward to active produce certified seeds and market to farmers both in Liberia and beyond," said Mr. Mohamed Kamara, President of Liberia Farmers Association. In her opening remarks, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in charge of Administration, Mrs Antoinette Dukuly, emphasized the critical importance of agriculture to Liberia's economy. She noted that the sector provides livelihoods for over 70% of the population and



improving seed production, distribution, and infrastructure for rice, cassava, soybean, coffee, and fish value chains. The event saw the participation of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in charge of Administration, representing the Minister of Agriculture, Ambassador of the European Union to Liberia, and the Director General of AfricaRice and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Director for West and Central Africa, Dr. Baboucarr Manneh, among others. The gathering also included lead seed farmers, processors, food and cash crop growers from Liberia's agricultural and development sectors. The Seeds4Liberia project will provide Liberian farmers with high-quality seeds and training to boost productivity and resilience. Through this, the project addresses climate and pest challenges, enhancing food security and reducing reliance on imports. This initiative strengthens Liberia's agricultural base, ensuring a stable food supply

broader efforts to promote sustainable growth and food security in Liberia. It squarely fits in Global Gateway agenda where the EU reaches out from people to people. "At the European Union, we strongly believe that sustainable development is rooted in the ability of countries to nourish their populations and diversify their economies." In this the EU is much aligned with the Government of Liberia's "LIBERIANS FEED YOURSELVES AGENDA" enshrined in its National Agriculture Development Plan 2024-2030. The Seeds4Liberia Project will provide farmers with high-quality, climate-resilient seeds, and empower Liberia and its population to chart its own agricultural future," said Ambassador Deprez. The EU also stressed the importance of strengthening private sector involvement in seed production and creating new economic opportunities for local communities. "The ways this project is structured is what we need in Liberia because it will ensure

contributes nearly 39% to the GDP. The Minister highlighted that the Seeds4Liberia Project is designed to directly address key challenges in Liberia's seed systems, including the use of uncertified seeds and inadequate infrastructure for seed production and quality control. "The Seeds4Liberia Project is a bold and transformative step to build a stronger, more resilient agricultural sector. By producing 6,000 tons of certified rice seeds, 62,500 bundles of cassava seedlings, 4,800 tons of certified soybean seeds, and 1.1 million coffee seeds, we are not just improving agricultural productivity – we are laying the foundation for food security, job creation, and economic diversification in Liberia," said the Deputy Minister. The Director General of AfricaRice, Dr Baboucarr Manneh, highlighted the critical role that improved seed systems play in achieving food security and sustainable development.

## Liberia launches National School Census today

*The census data collection process which begins November 1, 2024, will run until December 12, 2024, with a specific focus on Montserrado.*

**By Kruah Thompson**

The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Education is due to launch a National School Census data collection today, November 1, 2024, to assess the quality of the school system across the country. The census data collection process which begins November 1, 2024, will run until December 12, 2024, with a specific focus on Montserrado. This initiative is conducted in collaboration with partners including USAID, UNICEF, the EU, and other members of the technical working group on data established by the Ministry of Education, among others.

Making the disclosure Thursday at the Ministry of Information regular press briefing, Deputy Education Minister for Planning, Research, and Development Dr. Samuel Toe revealed that since the last national school census was conducted in 2020, the ministry has not conducted any census. He indicated that there has been a noted gap in data collection since then. But This new initiative aims to fill that void and provide updated information on the state of education in the country. He emphasized that they are taking their mandate under the 2011 Education Reform Act and the Education Sector Plans seriously by initiating these activities this year to achieve their goals. "Under this year's census collection, a comprehensive set of data from formal and non-formal TVET institutions across the entire sector will be gathered." "This will enable the Ministry to plan more effectively, prepare for proper investments in the education sector, and monitor the quality, access, and equity of the education system in the country," he noted. However, he revealed that the ministry has projected a cost of

\$1.2 million, which will cover the purchase of equipment, training of data staff, logistics, census reporting, and dissemination of the census report. "This year's data collection will differ from past procedures, where data enumerators were deployed across the country. This year, in Montserrado, private school principals and registrars will be responsible for collecting school data and reporting it directly to us," he noted. In terms of activities surrounding the event, he stated that they have established a working group comprising key stakeholders within the government, including the legislature, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and development partners, to focus on education data and census data collection.

"The technical working group on data evidence is responsible for preparing and managing the execution of this year's census and has mobilized resources for this purpose," he noted. According to him, the activities will include training data management staff, procuring equipment, upgrading their department to an education information management system, and ongoing community mobilization and public information dissemination outreach. Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Education's senior management team, he stated that under the community engagement process for this year's census collection, they will involve the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) from private, public, and faith-based schools across Liberia. Reading the activities that have already been launched by the ministry to spearhead the process, he indicated that the group began its public awareness and media community engagements on October 28, 2024 which will run until December 15, 2024. A school census tool distribution process will roll out on December 15. Following this, they will test the equipment using an online system that will allow them to collect and synchronize data for ongoing real-time analysis.



Minister of Education, Dr. Jarso Jallah Saygbe





# Lord, fear ley enemy within ooh.

Dear Father,  
You know, ley people who can hurt you most, that ley people you consider your own friends and confidantes because they are people you share all your secrets with including your weaknesses.

You say whatin?  
Yes, Father, and come to think of it you know when ley plenty noise started at our Traditional Council, ley troubled Paramount Chief knew da ley people them who behind him trouble come from him own backyard. But him tried to pet them, at some point even defending their loyalty publicly, while in secret him will cry on their names.

You mean in this village; people can still go da far?  
Yes, Father, ley Paramount Chief wor trying to play maturity. Bor you see, it doesn't matter how long a person try to hide him character, da thing will one day show.

Ehn you heard what ley second Paramount Chief said, all that thing da pure "yawamsene"-Oga will say.  
My son, what are you telling me, you want to say this Paramount Chief wahala from him own people?  
Father, this noise we are hearing from ley Traditional Council so, ley play it coming from da him own backyard. Him own friend them and confidante.  
Ley people say, ley man da Uncle Sam man, da him naked all ley people them in ley Footballer Camp. In fact, da him make ley Footballer sef to be in trouble with Uncle Sam.  
So, all da noise you hearing so, da thing wor well planned. Him own people sold him out, out for revenge.

My son, what kina big, big thing you talking here so!  
Oh Father, you na hear about ley rat da can be bitting you and still be putting breeze there? Ooh, all da noise coming from da camp so, da so, so show. Ley people know what they doing yah.  
Ehn you na hear ley people say, ley enemy of my enemy is my friend-aaha, da what happening to ley Paramount Chief so.  
You don't mean it.

Aah be there ehnn 2029 coming. Ley people say ley man da thorn in their bossman flesh for 2029 so, they need to break him wing before him start getting more powerful.

All da thing you hear about their chief them being in trouble-la, la. Da just to put up show. Ley people na wan ley man there.  
Father, just look at ley paper weh ley chief them put their names on, even ley people ley Paramount Chief help during ley voting time in our village, their name them there too.

Bor my son, I though ley people say da ley Oldman behind da thing.  
Father, nobody mom fool us in this village. Ley people say ley Paramount Chief too know. Him one wan be in everything. They say him undermined their big bossman. You na see while ley people from da camp plenty in this Paramount Chief moving bisnay.

So, what ley Paramount Chief will do na?  
Father, ehnn you know ley man da Kru man ehnn, him say, him na moving from there, Him say when they wan move him, they mom come look him face, they mom na be hiding in another play.  
And you know something Father, ley same people can be acting leh they for him ooh.

You joking!  
Kpoo, you mom come see them doing all kina thing again. Father you mom fear ley enemy that can come from within oo. We waiting, one thing I know everything geh ending.

OPINION

By Jordan Schwartz

## Africa's Path to Green Prosperity

**B**EIJING - As South Africa prepares to take over the G20's rotating presidency, its government has vowed to make 2025 the "year of Africa." At the same time, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Brazil (COP30) will serve as a litmus test for global climate action, revealing how much progress the world's largest polluters have made in fulfilling their commitments to reduce greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions and provide climate finance to developing countries.

Given that Africa accounts for just 4% of global GHG emissions and bears little historical responsibility for climate change, the continent has understandably been reluctant to embrace the net-zero agenda. As the UN Economic Commission for Africa noted in its latest State of the Climate in Africa Report, what African countries truly need is to boost investment in climate adaptation and resilience.

But a shift appears to be underway. As African economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and large amounts of capital flow into climate mitigation, many policymakers are recognizing the pivotal role that investment could play in fueling a massive wave of technological innovation and green growth across the continent. Green tech could be a game-changer for Africa, and recent developments suggest that this emerging sector may hold the key to overcoming the continent's long-term growth challenges. Rising foreign investment in battery production in Morocco, and ongoing talks between India's Hinduja Group and Egyptian firm El Nasr Automotive to establish an electric-vehicle plant in Egypt, points to a future where Africa, with its abundant renewable-energy potential and undervalued natural resources, benefits from a green economic boom.

One of Africa's most valuable assets is its young population. Although the percentage of Sub-Saharan Africans enrolled in higher education has remained shockingly low, at under 10% since the early 2000s, the continent's rapid population growth means that the absolute number of graduates is growing. Moreover, African higher education has improved markedly over the past two decades, with more institutions offering high-quality programs and research output continuing to increase. Some of these improvements became particularly evident during the pandemic, as individual researchers and health-care professionals stepped up to inform policymaking. Scientific collaboration across the continent flourished, with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise. In fact, it could be argued that African epidemiologists and economists collaborated more effectively during the pandemic than their counterparts in Europe did. The annual Africa Economic Symposium, hosted by the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) in Rabat, underscores the increasing collaboration between academics and policymakers, bringing together leading researchers and thinkers from across the continent.

This year's Symposium, held in July, focused on the decline in official development aid and private-sector investment in Africa, driven largely by high debt levels that have deterred investors and limited the ability of multilateral development banks and bilateral lenders to provide support. While Africa's overall debt burden has not increased dramatically since COVID-19, debt-servicing costs have soared, forcing many countries to spend more on loan repayment than on health and social services. Against this backdrop, the PCNS Symposium offered a glimmer of hope. While African countries urgently need financing for climate adaptation, the funds already allocated for mitigation can be leveraged to access new green technologies. These investments could, in turn, enable African governments to gain a foothold in global value chains, as Morocco's burgeoning battery industry has shown.

Africa's enormous natural capital is another important asset. Properly valuing these resources could boost many African countries' wealth and lower their borrowing costs. Meanwhile, monetizing these valuations could help governments reduce their debt burdens through mechanisms like debt-for-nature swaps, whereby countries pledge to protect globally significant natural assets in exchange for debt relief.

Fortunately, multilateral development banks are scaling up their investments across the continent. The African Development Bank has led several innovative initiatives, such as the Africa Go Green Fund, and introduced new tools to increase its lending capacity. The World Bank has also ramped up lending, while the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - after a decade of success in North Africa - is finally moving into Sub-Saharan markets. And the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is steadily expanding its presence, with a focus on climate-related projects and forging closer ties with African countries. South Africa's G20 presidency represents a unique opportunity to rally the international community behind the continent's green transformation. With the African Union as a permanent member of the G20, the stage is set for a discussion that highlights Africa's potential to tackle global challenges and revitalize the world economy.

Amid regional turmoil and rising geopolitical tensions, Africa represents the ultimate test of whether the international development-finance system can still operate effectively. Though significant challenges remain, the African century remains within reach.

# FEATURE

## A Call to Action, President Boakai: Alleviate the Financial Burden of Graduation Fees

By Seltue Karweaye

In a compelling open letter, former presidential candidate and leader of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, fervently urges President Joseph N. Boakai to eliminate graduation fees at all educational levels in Liberia. He points out that these fees impose significant financial hardships on families and further contribute to existing inequities in education. Gongloe advocates for immediate executive action to alleviate this burden on parents, guardians, and students. The pressing issues of drug abuse, murders, armed robbery, political cultism etc. affecting Liberia can largely be traced back to inadequate upbringing and limited access to quality education. With a population exceeding 5 million residing in fifteen counties, and faced with a fragile political and economic system, education is crucial for achieving national stability, security, unity, and prosperity. Over the past decade, the rapid growth of Liberia's population has placed immense strain on public resources, services, and infrastructure. Nearly 46.8% of the population consists of children under 15 years old, while 14.4% are children under five. This demographic challenge has overwhelmed the educational system. According to UNICEF, out of 740,000 primary school-age children, an alarming 16% are not enrolled in school. It is essential that we take decisive action to empower our youth and secure a brighter future for Liberia. South African anti-apartheid activist and African Nationalist, Nelson Mandela once said "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another." Education is the cornerstone of a child's future, laying the foundation for essential life skills. During this critical stage, children develop fundamental abilities in language, communication, mathematics, science, and general knowledge. They gain

insight into their surroundings and learn about important current events, equipping them for the challenges ahead. However, in Liberia many children are denied access to education due to a variety of barriers. The costs associated with education can be staggering, encompassing expenses for books, stationery, uniforms, admission and examination fees, sports fees, transportation, mid-day meals, and graduation fees. Furthermore, the opportunity cost for families is significant; time spent in school could otherwise be used for income-generating activities or supporting household responsibilities. Illness and hunger—affecting either the children or family members—can also obstruct school attendance. Additionally, the limited economic returns on education, often resulting in graduates facing unemployment, can dissuade families from prioritizing schooling. The Liberian Constitution clearly assigns the responsibility of educating the nation's children to the government, as stated in Article 6, which mandates equal access to education for all. While the government has made strides by implementing free and compulsory primary education—first introduced in 2001 and reaffirmed in the 2011 Education Reform Acts—challenges remain. It may be misleading to label this education as entirely free since parents still face the burden of school levies, uniform costs, and other expenses. Moreover, once children complete primary school, parents and guardians must shoulder the full financial responsibility for secondary and tertiary education. It is crucial that the government not only commits to its constitutional obligation but also addresses these financial barriers, ensuring that every Liberian child has a genuine opportunity to succeed in their education. Public schools, while funded by the government and more affordable, often lack the necessary quality in facilities and learning resources. Many classrooms are in disrepair, and school buildings are crumbling. Teachers, who play a critical role in shaping young minds, are often underpaid, creating a challenging environment for

both educators and students. For children from underserved families and poverty-stricken areas, the aspiration for a solid education is frequently extinguished. Faced with dire circumstances, many abandon their hopes and turn to street hawking or menial jobs just to survive. The most desperate may resort to theft and other criminal activities as a last resort, adapting to a harsh reality where supporting themselves becomes the norm. This relentless struggle not only breeds frustration and hopelessness but also drives these young individuals toward crime, exposing them to even greater dangers. The alarming increase in juvenile delinquency in Liberia, fueled by this desperation, poses a grave threat to the stability and future of our society. It's crucial that we address these issues and invest in better education and support systems for our youth to break this cycle of despair. This is why many, including myself, were inspired by Gongloe's open letter to President Boakai. Gongloe astutely observed that in the 1960s and 1970s—when our economy was robust, bolstered by flourishing sectors like mining, logging, agriculture, and manufacturing—there were no graduation fees. He highlighted that these thriving industries not only created jobs but also provided disposable income for countless families. This sets up a striking contradiction: "In a time of such severe job scarcity, the government is allowing graduation fees to be a prerequisite for graduation." Such a policy is both unjust and counterproductive. President Boakai must take Gongloe's advice and annul the graduation by issuing an Executive Order. This action would significantly lift the financial burden on students, parents, and guardians. Graduation should be a joyous celebration, not a source of additional financial stress. Also, the President needs to show genuine political commitment to address the long-standing neglect in the education sector. Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf aptly described our educational system as "a mess" in 2013, calling for a total overhaul. Unfortunately, neither she nor her successor, George Weah, enacted the necessary reforms.

# ARTICLE

## Noah, the Ark, and the Flood: Applying Themes of an Ancient Tale

*The Biblical story of Noah bears themes that relate to contemporary experiences of sustainable development and could provide practitioners with considerations as they implement their work. The article is unpublished.*

By Yossef Ben-Meir Marrakech

It is worth considering, in light of humanity's profound struggle against the world's climate and matters of elemental justice, how the onset of the Biblical tale of Noah is relevant today. According to ancient Hebraic commentaries, Noah actually grew the timber he used for his ark from seeds of cedar. In fact, the entire process of building the ark is said to have taken 120 years. The theme of this portion of the story is that the people, the public, any witnesses or observers, and anyone willing to listen had years of warning that a calamity, in this case utter destruction, was on its way. Of course, many of us can relate to this idea in our own lives and situations when something less positive comes upon us, and we look back to how many signs appeared of what ultimately befell. How many times could we have corrected our action, and in how many ways might we have adjusted or done something differently? Considering experiences of sustainable development and the projects that create livelihood opportunities while safeguarding the environmental future, it is also certainly apparent that there is overwhelming opportunity and, rarely, if ever, a lack of community vision and ideas for lasting, positive change if people are given the assistance they need to analyze and find the specific initiatives that will enhance their futures. At the same time, the so serious difficulty in securing the funds needed to implement those ideas—whether in water infrastructure, public health, education, or small businesses—makes implementation relatively uncommon, explaining at least in significant part, rampant, constant poverty. But we know the systemization of losing humanity's potential. We have been warned about this and live through this. Ample warning was fixed in the story of the flood. In Noah's time, Divinity's patience (or that of binding universal energy) seemed to have dissipated too low. Ancient commentaries about this Biblical episode explain what it was that finally brought torrential submersion upon civilization. It is described as a consequence of that time's rule of law, as an injustice against the common person where they were legally robbed of the value they created. Might our time be characterized in such ways, with nations entrapped by other nations via debt, where mighty conglomerates pay nothing to their national public purse,

where farmers of the world grow what is invaluable and retain just a fraction of the real value, where innocence is no shield. Only, in our time and perhaps in Noah's, so much of this occurs unbeknownst to the one and the many who are stripped of their value. Hebraic immemorial knowledge about Noah's time also explains that he did not enter the ark when the light rains first began to fall and, in fact, only finally entered when the waters reached his knees. The deluge had come and the wellsprings of the deep began to open. Sages debate whether his hesitancy was due to a challenge of faith, or whether he held on to continue warning whoever could hear. However this question may be settled, some faulted Noah for not beseeching God Almighty enough on behalf of the people, his contemporaries, to save them and their world. What lesson can workers for sustainability learn who already so honestly worry about our time, who may have spent years building their mission ark, who may have done what one feels is one's own best to espouse and try to build a pathway to prosperity's harbor? The lesson we can apply as leaders in our circles, as ones who may be able to represent others, organizations, groups, communities, or even just our own selves, is to relentlessly implore representatives of localities, states, and nations, presidents, prime ministers, and kings and queens. Tell what it is that people need and where. Explain why it matters again and again, and do not stop ever, not once, even as the waters rise and the heat and cold burn. And, as we are beseeched, we will try and give the response we hope for when we are a beseecher. The rainbow, according to ancient thinking, seems a bit double-edged. Yes, it is a promise, a pact that we will last and we will continue forward. At the same time, we are also warned not to dwell upon looking at the rainbow, however impossible it seems to not fixate on total beauty. Why not take in as long as we can that assurance that somehow humanity will find a way to sustain itself and our environment? Considering the warning not to settle one's eyes on the rainbow for too long beyond just the time needed to recognize its good meaning, perhaps it may be explained that fixation upon the promise may take it for granted, may come to subdue our luster by believing in a guarantee sealed by the perfect beauty of a rainbow. This makes one think, then, how certain is this actual promise if taking it for granted might ultimately mean its undoing?

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# LRA Boss dodges talk on US\$150K jeep

*Liberia Revenue Authority Commissioner General James Dorbor Jallah draws back on the conversation regarding purchasing a jeep valued at US\$150,000 for Ex-Minister of Commerce Amin Modad when he appeared for Thursday's Senate hearing.*

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, November 1, 2024—The Commissioner-General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, James Dorbor Jallah, ignored conversation at the Liberian Senate public hearing on his facilitation of the purchase of a jeep valued at US\$150,000 for former Commerce Minister Amin Modad. The Senate had invited both CG Jallah and self-resigned Commerce Minister Modad based on a communication from Margibi County Senator Nathaniel McGill



and others calling for an immediate investigation into allegations of abuse of power and misuse of public resources. The communication seeks to establish whether or not the authorization of public resources for the purchase of the jeep was done within the confines of the law, which Senator McGill believes violated statutes of the Liberia Revenue Act, Public Financial Management Law, and Budget Law of 2024. The law clearly states that all government institutions' purchase of vehicles should not exceed US\$45,000. However, honoring the senate's communication, CG Jallah and his Commissioner for contracts stormed the Liberian Senate on Thursday, 31, 2024. When given an opportunity to speak on the charges brought against him, the LRA Boss said that even though the LRA has a statutory mandate to collect legitimate revenue for the country, it does so in collaboration with other agencies and ministries of government. He recalls that over the years, the LRA has provided resources to enhance revenue mobilization. In the specific case of the vehicle purchase, he seeks the body's indulgence to provide some historical information about the performance of the DI contract and the purchase of the vehicle under that contract. Jallah notes that on July 1, 2021, the Government of Liberia signed

a customs Destination Service Inspection contract with MTN. Under said agreement, the LRA benefits from a 20% share intended for both hard and soft capacity building in customs. He adds that he was never in government at the time or a signatory to the contract. The LRA Boss continues that he inherited the contract almost three years later from the last administration. In his fervent respect for the rule of law and the sanity of contracts, he wouldn't have endeavored to kill any defect in the contract

execution, irrespective of whether or not the government or the contract is at fault for said defect. According to him, all of his efforts on the contract have been to achieve two goals: upholding the law relating to the contract and getting the maximum benefit for itself in the contract. “Regarding the allocation or purchase of vehicles for the Ministry of Commerce, which is the subject of this meeting, following all the precedents from my predecessors I outlined, and considering the Ministry of Commerce as a key stakeholder to LRA particularly, Customs was constrained at the beginning of the financial year. We accepted the request to make good fate allocation as my predecessors have always done. The question that remains unanswered in my mind is, what did my predecessor of the last administration do right by providing resources for the purchase of vehicles for the Ministry of Commerce and other government agencies? What did they do right that I did wrong? What did they do then that was right? Now I do the same thing, and that is wrong.” He contends. He reminds the Senate that the legislature has also benefited from the resources expended by the LRA to send its members on joint study tours and other activities. “As we speak right now, to investigate and analyze what our counterpart countries are doing

in the sub-region, we now have a proposal from the Senate and the House for a study tour in our neighboring countries to learn how they are solving allocations similar to the road fund. And that proposal is from members of this august body, this legislature. If that is not wrong, how is expanding the resources to enhance domestic revenue mobilization wrong? He continues that unless the legislature, in its wisdom, grants the LRA the power to do so, the LRA has no legal authority to determine or enforce the specification and value of vehicles that government agencies should buy. He recalls that on July 19, 2012, the Government of Liberia, represented by Senator Amarah Konneh, then Minister of Finance, and others, signed a customs inspection Services Contract with BIVA. Under that agreement, the company procured ten vehicles for customs, some of which were given to customs services. Also, he notes that on September 30, 2016, the Government of Liberia again signed another customs contract service with BIVA. Under that agreement, the company provided capacity-building services to customs, including the provision of equipment and contribution of residential buildings, among other things, at a cost of US\$825,000. He adds that the capacity building also included providing three vehicles and ten motorbikes for the Ministry of Commerce. In 2018, the government extended the contract and benefited from approximately US\$400,000, which was used to procure vehicles for Deputy Ministers at the Ministry of Commerce that are still functional. However, CG Jallah left the conversation on the US\$150,000 jeep and began providing information on the historicity of LRA contracts, the utilization of funds, and the institution's interventions to boost domestic revenue mobilization. He says they have helped the Liberia National Fire Service print its certificate and funded a joint enforcement exercise by the Ministry of Labor, Liberia Immigration Service, Ministry of Transport, and other institutions. Based on his detour, he was called to order to leave the success stories and specifically focus on the purpose he was invited for. I already discussed the issue, but since they want a full context for public consumption, we will stop here.” But senators insist that the order states that the witness presented a global position of the LRA and seemed bent on lecturing how it should conduct its hearing. However, the LRA Boss retorts: “They said that we misallocated public resources. My point from all those resources is that we have not,” he says. The presiding party then adjourns the session to resume next Tuesday, 5 November, with copies of CG Jallah's presentation distributed to all senators. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Journalists attend training on fisheries and aquaculture reporting

*Several local Journalists from across Montserrado County are benefiting from a three-day media literacy and ethical journalism course in fisheries and aquaculture reporting under the auspices of the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project.*

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Several local Journalists from across Montserrado County are benefiting from a three-day media literacy and ethical journalism course in fisheries and aquaculture reporting under the auspices of the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project.

The project is being implemented by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) with funding from the World Bank. Media institutions benefiting from the exercise include NEW DAWN, Spoon TV, Truth FM, KMTv, Women's TV, Lib First TV, Lux Radio, Women's Voices, Blaze FM, New Republic, CEMESP, Okay FM, PTMG, West Africa Web TV, Africa Daily News, Oracle, MICAT and Prime FM.

The training, which has the theme "Rekindling Media Interest and Understanding the Importance of Sustainable Fisheries Management," aims to strengthen Liberian journalists' fishery reporting skills.

The training is at the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Technical Office inside Mesurado Pier, Coast Guard Base, Bushrod Island.

LSMFP Communication Officer Ruth N. Gbatoe says the training

their coverage of fisheries issues. She explains that the training will underscore the media's role in delivering balanced, ethical reporting on Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture sector. She notes that it will also serve as a collaborative forum, allowing journalists to share ideas, establish a media network, and deepen their commitment to highlighting the importance of sustainable fisheries practices. She adds that participants will be guided through LSMFP's Media Training Manual by experienced trainers, which covers Global Trends in Fisheries and Aquaculture Production, Challenges, Opportunities, and Sustainability in Fisheries, Combatting Misinformation and Fake News with Fact-Checking and Digital Literacy, and Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Communities and Fisheries. For his part, the Director of Aquaculture at NaFAA, Mr. Zizi Kpadeh, says the Journalists' role in the fisheries sector is to understand Aquaculture key terms and concepts for effective reporting and highlighting fisheries activities. Journalist G.Wremongar Joe notes that fact-checking can counter misinformation and fake news about fisheries, so reporters need to acquire digital literacy.



aims to enhance media literacy and ethical Journalism in reporting fisheries and aquaculture in Liberia. She says the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project has developed a communication strategy and a specialized training manual to advance media literacy and ethical journalism in fisheries reporting. Madam Gbatoe continues that the goal is to equip journalists with the knowledge and skills necessary to uphold high standards of professionalism in

The Director of Marine Fisheries at NaDAA, Solomon Daryoue, says Climate Change impacts coastal communities and the fisheries sector. Lead facilitator and publisher of Public Trust media group Frank Sainwola, Jr. emphasizes the roles of journalism in promoting sustainable fisheries in line with principles of responsible journalism, ethics, and accountability through solution-based reportage. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### CDC condemns Fallah –For joining Rebel lawmakers

While its lawmakers lead the plot to oust Speaker Koffa, the CDC has alleged that these actions are clearly influenced by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's government.

Monrovia, November 1, 2024: Opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) National Executive Committee has strongly condemned Deputy House Speaker Thomas Fallah and other CDC lawmakers for

While its lawmakers lead the plot to oust Speaker Koffa, the CDC has alleged that these actions are influenced by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's government. There have been suggestions in the public that Speaker Koffa's quest to ensure

the CDC will emerge stronger after all this we are closely monitoring the situation," the statement continued.

It detailed that these developments speak to the wider threat to the Liberian democracy where an overbearing executive can interfere with the function of the other two branches, thereby undermining checks and balances.

"The evidence is clear that the U P government is undemocratic and has gone against every facet of the rule of law as evidenced by disrespecting Supreme Court rulings, violations of Human Rights, arbitrary dismissals of civil treatment of Liberian Diplomats deployed during the CDC government, and many more violations."

The CDC said it is aware that under Liberian democratic practices, political parties have limited control over their members elected to the Legislature as suspensions or expulsion have no bearing on their season at the Legislature.

"We need a national conversation on strengthening political parties powers over their elected members at the National Legislature," the CDC noted. The opposition party disclosed that it will be considering its next steps. "We call on all partisans of the CDC to remain calm and collected as the party, in consultation with Stakeholders, considers the next steps!!"



joining rebel lawmakers who are seeking the removal of House Speaker Fonati Koffa.

According to a statement issued Thursday, October 31, 2024, the CDC said Fallah and his fellow CDC lawmakers have disobeyed the CDC National Executive Committee and joined the rebel lawmakers.

The former ruling party added that Fallah and other CDC lawmakers disobeyed former President George Manneh Weah to go against Speaker Koffa.

transparency by ordering an audit of the House of Representatives has turned many of his colleagues against him. The Legislature has, over the decades, shielded itself from audits.

Efforts to break this notorious tradition require legal and political will.

Notwithstanding, the CDC has shifted the blame on the Executive, alleging that these actions are intended to destabilize the CDC.

"These schemes will fail, and

### President Boakai surspendes LRRRC officials -Amid allegations of financial impropriety

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., has suspended three senior officials of the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) with immediate effect following serious allegations of financial misconduct.

The executive Director, Mr. Patrick Worzie, the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, Mr. Richard Hoff, and the Deputy Executive Director for Administration, Mr. AJ Armah Karneh, were suspended.

The Executive Mansion, in a press release dated

Thursday, October 31, 2024, under the signature of Kula Bonah Nyei Fofana, Presidential Press Secretary, said that the suspensions take immediate effect and will remain in place without pay, pending a thorough investigation by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

The report submitted to the Office of the President detailed questionable financial transactions involving these officials and others within the LRRRC.

The President has further instructed that all affected personnel surrender

government and LRRRC assets to the Commission's Human Resource Director, who shall act immediately.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is directed to initiate a full investigation into the allegations. The suspended officials must cooperate with the LACC to ensure a swift and transparent investigation.

President Boakai remains dedicated to ensuring ethical governance and accountability and promoting transparency in all government institutions.

### Constitutional coup d'etat

**-Rights activist terms Speaker's removal campaign**

A Liberian advocacy group, Campaigners for Change, says attempt to remove Speaker Koffa is a constitutional coup d'etat, threatening to protest if the law is breached.

A Liberian advocacy group, Campaigners for Change, says attempt to remove Speaker Koffa is a constitutional coup d'etat, threatening to protest if the law is breached.

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Monrovia, Liberia, November 1, 2024 - Liberian Rights activists and Executive Director of Campaigners for Change, Vandalark Patrick, terms action of rebel lawmakers seeking to oust Speaker J. Fonati Koffa a constitutional coup d'etat while threatening a mass citizens' protest here if members of the House of Representatives failed to uphold constitutionalism and respect decision of the Supreme Court.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia on Thursday, October 31, 2024, broadcast live on Prime FM, Activist Patrick said the majority bloc's deliberate action and attempt to violate the Constitution by forcing the

majority bloc, which has decided to put the law into perspective and should remain with it.

He continues that under Liberian law, a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, adding that the public is urging members of the majority bloc to respect the law and accord due process to the Speaker.

He notes that the House has chosen to use the political method to remove the speaker over the rule of law, something he describes as a deliberate attempt to abrogate and circumvent the Constitution.

"Fellow Liberians, recently, we witnessed what looks like a constitutional Coup d'etat with respect to the violation of our constitution by some members of the House of Representatives. However, as a Liberian and rights activist who has defended the Constitution of Liberia for the past fifteen years, I believe it's time to put the country on the right



Speaker to resign is a bad precedent.

He notes that Article 9 of the Liberian Constitution empowers the House of Representatives to elect its officials to preside but with a caution to remove.

However, Patrick argues that Article 39 of the Constitution provides that all rules adopted by the legislature shall conform to due process of law, as enshrined in the Constitution, adding that it has been realized that requirement to remove the Speaker must be in consonant with Article 29 & 38 of the Constitution and the House's rules.

He underscores the importance of the allegations brought against Speaker Koffa. All Liberians should appreciate the now 43-member

trajectory. Therefore, in the coming days, we will announce a mass citizens' protest if the majority bloc refuses to appear or honor the ruling of the Chambers Justice by obeying the Constitution."

Patrick stresses that their action to uphold the dignity and Constitution of Liberia is above political parties, adding that they are acting in defense and line with morality and the Constitution while alarming that what is happening at the House of Representatives speaks volumes.

He cautions lawmakers that Liberia has not fully recovered from its brutal civil past, so they must uphold the law to maintain the sanity of the state. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

www

**Advertize Here!**

**Subscribe to our website**

get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

# Français

## "Faites des lois, pas de bruit" : Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf adresse un message fort aux législateurs

Depuis plusieurs semaines, la colline du Capitole est secouée par une agitation concentrer sur leur mission fondamentale : faire des lois, et non du bruit. Ce message survient alors que des députés dissidents temps pour notre législature de faire des lois et non du bruit. Il est temps pour notre justice de traiter les affaires et de rendre la



Father Daniel L. George

politique croissante, alors qu'un groupe de députés de la Chambre des représentants paralyse les sessions législatives dans une tentative de destituer le président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa. À l'occasion de son 86e anniversaire, l'ancienne présidente du Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a exhorté les législateurs à se

mènent une campagne pour écarter le président de la Chambre, Cllr. Fonati Koffa, créant une crise qui bloque le fonctionnement de l'Assemblée. « Le silence nous rend tous complices des mauvaises actions », a déclaré Mme Sirleaf, expliquant son choix de s'exprimer publiquement. Elle a rappelé l'importance des trois branches du gouvernement dans la stabilité de la nation : « Il est

justice sans compromission. Et il est temps pour l'exécutif de prendre la parole. » Alors que les dissidents peinent à réunir les 49 voix nécessaires pour destituer M. Koffa, celui-ci conserve le soutien de 30 représentants. Faute d'atteindre le quorum de 37 membres requis pour ouvrir des sessions, son bloc a dû suspendre les travaux à

▶ CONT'D page 9

## Le remaniement diplomatique de Boakai suscite des interrogations

Le président Joseph Boakai est sous le feu des critiques après avoir récemment révoqué, avec effet immédiat, les nominations d'Ambassadeurs spéciaux, d'Envoyés spéciaux et de Représentants au Commerce et à l'Investissement. Monrovia, Libéria, le 30 octobre 2024 - Le récent remaniement diplomatique initié par le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai soulève de sérieuses questions quant à la politique étrangère du Libéria. Cette décision d'annuler plusieurs nominations diplomatiques met en lumière des préoccupations essentielles concernant les processus de sélection et le manque de clarté dans les termes de référence liés à ces postes. Interrogé par OK FM le 28 octobre 2024, l'analyste politique libérien Abdullah Kiatamba a exprimé son inquiétude face à cette action soudaine, soulignant les interrogations qu'elle suscite

sur les procédures de sélection et l'absence de directives précises pour les personnes nommées. Kiatamba fait remarquer que l'absence de lignes directrices structurées pourrait engendrer des inefficacités dans les efforts diplomatiques du Libéria, mettant ainsi en péril ses relations internationales et ses intérêts stratégiques. "Il n'existe pas de directives claires concernant ces postes", déclare-t-il. Ce manque de direction pourrait entraîner une confusion et nuire à l'engagement diplomatique

efficace, d'où l'importance d'un cadre plus structuré pour les nominations futures. Dans un effort pour répondre aux défis rencontrés au sein du secteur diplomatique, le président Boakai a décidé de révoquer tous les mandats d'Ambassadeurs spéciaux, d'Envoyés spéciaux et de Représentants au Commerce et à l'Investissement. Cependant, Kiatamba rappelle que c'est au président de définir

▶ CONT'D page 9



## Éditorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Français

Par Justina Nixon-Saintil

## Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf adresse

Starts from page 8

plusieurs reprises. Liberia, ainsi qu'Angie Brooks Randall, première femme africaine à présider l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU. Elle a également rappelé sa propre élection historique en tant que première femme présidente en Afrique.

Parce que je suis une dirigeante, et que le bien de mon pays me tient à cœur. »

En ce jour anniversaire, Mme Sirleaf a souligné que son message n'est pas centré sur elle-même, mais sur l'avenir du Liberia, affirmant que le pays se trouve à un tournant crucial. « L'histoire du Liberia est marquée par des divisions profondes et des manœuvres politiques qui perdurent encore aujourd'hui », a-t-elle déploré.

Elle a rappelé la résilience du Liberia face aux défis majeurs, notamment deux régimes militaires, deux décennies de guerre civile et l'épidémie d'Ebola. « Mais pensons également aux contributions positives de notre histoire. Le soutien que nous avons apporté aux mouvements de libération en Afrique a été essentiel pour la souveraineté du continent », a-t-elle souligné.

Mme Sirleaf a aussi mis en lumière le rôle déterminant des femmes dans l'histoire du Liberia, citant des figures telles que la cheffe Suakoko, qui a favorisé les premiers investissements au

Liberia, ainsi qu'Angie Brooks Randall, première femme africaine à présider l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU. Elle a également rappelé sa propre élection historique en tant que première femme présidente en Afrique.

Alors que le Liberia s'engage dans une nouvelle ère de changement politique, Mme Sirleaf a insisté sur l'importance de répondre aux défis mondiaux actuels. Elle a noté que les relations internationales évoluent et que l'autonomie nationale devient une nécessité pour les citoyens.

« L'Afrique est désormais perçue comme le continent de l'avenir, et plusieurs nations africaines adoptent de nouvelles stratégies pour réaliser leur potentiel », a-t-elle déclaré. Toutefois, elle a mis en garde contre les comportements persistants qui freinent le développement du Liberia : « Notre pays risque d'être laissé pour compte, même par rapport à nos voisins les plus proches. »

Concluant son message, Mme Sirleaf a appelé à un changement de mentalité et de comportement, insistant sur l'importance du travail, de l'intégrité et de l'honnêteté. Elle a exprimé sa reconnaissance pour les bénédictions de la vie en ce jour spécial, rappelant que l'avenir du Liberia dépend de la volonté de chacun de s'engager pour le bien du pays.

## Boakai suscite des interrogations

Starts from page 8

la direction générale de la politique étrangère, tandis que le Ministère des Affaires étrangères, dirigé par le ministre des Affaires étrangères, est chargé de mettre en œuvre cette politique par le biais de la diplomatie.

Il note également que le gouvernement n'a fourni aucune directive claire, laissant ainsi les fonctionnaires établir leurs propres termes de référence. Il évoque une recherche qu'il a menée par intérêt personnel, révélant que l'équipe de sécurité nationale a effectué une enquête interne qui a mis en lumière des abus et des défis, don't le président a été informé et qui a donné des instructions pour agir.

Selon Kiatamba, certains des nommés ont des rôles discutables, mais il existe un débat sur la nécessité pour le président de se concentrer sur les individus problématiques, plutôt que de révoquer l'ensemble des nominations, ce qui pourrait embarrasser publiquement certaines personnes.

Il souligne qu'un retour à un statu quo serait souhaitable. Lorsqu'on lui demande pourquoi l'équipe de

sécurité nationale a rendu sa décision de manière générale, ce qui pourrait nuire à la réputation de certains, il explique que la nature de la situation et les déclarations des nommés pourraient contredire la position officielle de la politique étrangère du pays, ce qui justifie selon lui la décision de l'équipe de sécurité.

Kiatamba insiste sur l'urgence de rendre le processus de sélection aussi rapide que possible, afin de garantir que ceux qui excellent continuent de travailler, tandis que ceux qui ne répondent pas aux critères minimaux soient invités à assumer d'autres responsabilités.

Le gouvernement libérien a mis en place des mesures pour aborder des questions majeures dans sa politique étrangère, notamment en ce qui concerne les actions non autorisées et la mauvaise gestion. Le retrait des passeports diplomatiques et de service est perçu comme une démarche visant à restaurer le contrôle et à s'assurer que les représentants du pays respectent les politiques et normes officielles.

## La LERC examine l'augmentation des tarifs proposés par la LEC

La Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) a soumis une proposition de nouveaux tarifs pour la période 2025-2027, qui fera prochainement l'objet d'un examen public.

Monrovia, le 30 octobre 2024 / La Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) a annoncé avoir reçu une demande de la LEC concernant de nouveaux tarifs d'électricité, nécessitant l'approbation de la Commission.

La période tarifaire proposée s'étend du 1er janvier 2025 au 31 décembre 2027, conformément à l'article 8.1(2) de la Loi sur l'électricité de 2015, qui stipule qu'« un titulaire de licence ne peut facturer un client d'autres tarifs que ceux déterminés ou approuvés par le Régulateur ».

Cette proposition intervient alors que le régime tarifaire actuel, en vigueur depuis le 1er janvier 2022, arrivera à expiration le 31 décembre 2024.

Les nouveaux tarifs prévoient une augmentation de 37 % pour les clients résidentiels prépayés, passant de 0,24 USD/kWh à 0,33 USD/kWh. Les tarifs pour les clients non résidentiels devraient rester stables, tandis que les clients postpayés connaîtront une légère hausse de 0,37 %.

Si les nouveaux tarifs proposés par la LEC sont approuvés par la LERC, les frais de connexion pour les compteurs monophasés pourraient passer de 20,00 USD à 82,00 USD, soit une augmentation de 310 %. Parallèlement, les frais pour les compteurs triphasés pourraient presque doubler, passant de 350,00 USD à 630,00 USD, ce qui représente une hausse de 80 %.

En réponse à cette proposition, la LERC a demandé à la LEC de fournir tous les documents justificatifs ayant servi à l'élaboration de sa structure tarifaire.

La Commission a précisé qu'après la réception des documents, elle considérera la demande comme complète et publiera un avis de pendance pour l'examen et l'approbation des tarifs proposés, conformément à la Loi sur l'électricité de 2015 ainsi qu'au Règlement tarifaire de 2021, à la Méthodologie tarifaire pluriannuelle et au Modèle de détermination des prix de l'électricité reflétant les coûts.

Dans un souci de transparence et d'engagement public, la LERC organisera une série d'audiences publiques, de consultations avec les parties prenantes et d'initiatives de sensibilisation. Ces forums viseront à recueillir les opinions des clients, des consommateurs, des décideurs politiques, des organisations de la société civile et d'autres parties concernées avant de finaliser la décision tarifaire.

Il convient de rappeler qu'en 2021, la Commission avait approuvé des tarifs pour cinq catégories de clients : Clients sociaux, Clients résidentiels prépayés, Clients résidentiels postpayés, Clients non résidentiels prépayés et Clients commerciaux postpayés, ainsi que pour les Clients à moyenne tension. Ces tarifs sont en vigueur depuis le 1er janvier 2022 et expireront le 31 décembre 2024. À ce jour, les services de la LEC couvrent les comtés de Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi et Margibi.

Par ailleurs, la Commission examine actuellement une demande tarifaire de Jungle Energy Power (JEP), une société opérant dans les zones de distribution des comtés de Bong et Nimba. Les nouveaux tarifs, en attente d'approbation, devraient entrer en vigueur du 1er janvier 2025 au 31 décembre 2027.

La LERC reste déterminée à protéger les droits des consommateurs d'électricité et à garantir que les opérateurs titulaires de licence fournissent un service de qualité. « Nous encourageons toutes les parties prenantes à participer aux prochaines activités de consultation pour exprimer leurs opinions et recommandations », a conclu le Conseil des commissaires.



# From Our Files

## The Risks Threatening Liberia's Democracy (published August 29, 2016)

Two 'interventions' in the ongoing leadership squabble among Members of the House of Representatives may currently be considered a setback for Liberia's democracy in the minds of many well-meaning citizens, including politically schooled and legal minds.

Recent communication(s) addressed to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hans Barchue and the refusal by the

Snowe, are just indicative of the setback in Liberia's emerging democracy as expressed by well-meaning Liberians.



Justice-in-Chambers of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice Jamesetta H. Wolokollie to issue the Writ of Prohibition prayed for by embattled House Speaker J. Alex Tyler against the majority bloc presided over by Deputy Speaker Barchue, when the High Court had earlier honored similar intervention prayed for by Representative Edwin

Let it be emphatically made clear that the issue of the 'recusal, removal or resignation' of the Speaker of the House of Representatives is solely in the purview of his colleagues, but in consonance with the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, as well as rules of the House - and there should no argument about it.

But the current roles of the Executive and Judicial Branches of the Government of Liberia, to be honest, are very worrisome for our democracy. Sincerely, the fact that the head of the Executive Brach would choose to officially respond to two separate communications from the Deputy Speaker and as well as assuring him of her commitment to doing business with [his faction of the House] "a constitutionally organized body of the House" may only lend credence to various public speculations about her involvement or whatsoever.

Many had thought that Madam President would have avoided the openness of her role and move covertly, especially in the wake of various speculations of her alleged involvement in the House's leadership crisis at the highest level, claims the Executive Mansion has consistently denied.

## Bending the rules at CBL to satisfy President Weah (Published August 16, 2018)

The new Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia has vowed to ignore or downplay policies at the Bank to enable him meet dictates of President George Manneh Weah regardless of the economic and financial repercussions to the state. This means he would bend the rules for political expediency at the expense of conventional practices. Executive Governor Nathaniel Patray believes this would afford him the opportunity to work with the technical economic management team in executing mandates of the President's . President George Manneh Weah's mandates to the economic management team set up in early July include among others (1) immediate infusion of US\$25 Million in the economy to mop up excess liquidity of Liberian dollars, which has reportedly been executed; (2) A mandate to the Central Bank to provide more effective supervision and regulation of money-changers or foreign exchange bureau; (3) A mandate to the Central Bank to provide more robust oversight of banks under its supervision; and (4) Conduct a comprehensive review of regulations on the hoarding of

both Liberian dollars and U.S. dollars outside the banking system, and provide incentives and safeguards to encourage the utilization of the banking system, including financial instruments . Governor Patray maintains "...We are working at the President's mandate – technical economic management team which is different from the mandate of the Central Bank that is within the Bank's act. We will work with the Bank's Act, but if it is necessary to sideline it for a while to get the President's own mandate accomplished, we will have to do that." We believe this posture by the new CBL Executive Governor squarely contradicts policies at the "Bankers' Bank" that will have serious negative future consequences for our country. Although fully aware that the Governor works at the will and pleasure of the President, but we caution that giving in anyhow to pleasing him thru unorthodox means could be counterproductive to functions of the Central Bank. The 1999 Act establishing the Central Bank of Liberia bars Governors of the Bank from maintaining affiliations that could interfere with their

duties.Section 17 (c) of the Act states, "The Governors shall not be regarded as delegates on the board of any commercial, financial, agricultural or industrial or other business interest or receive or accept directions therefrom in respect to duties to be performed under this Act . " Among other functions, Executive Governors are to independently advise the President on monetary policies and Macroeconomic issues, void of politics. But the way Governor Patray intends to proceed at the CBL could negatively undercut these traditional roles . Since the Central Bank of Liberia was established in 1999, this is the first Executive Governor that is publicly on record in saying he would circumvent the rules to satisfy the President no matter what. Liberians, beware! The writings are on the wall of things to come. We must brace ourselves for future economic and monetary implications in satisfying short and long-term political interests at the Central Bank albeit unconventionally.

## Beware of Political Judases (Published October 19, 2016)

You know for a second there, I would have let sleeping dogs to lie. But sometimes it is just as well as good to expose the cowards and hypocrites on our political landscape.

Certainly, you will agree with me that our political system is void of ideologies-a belief system or a dogma that defines what a party stands for. An idea that even children unborn or young university students will hold onto as a way of making a decisive choice as it relates to which political party proffers the best idea that would enable our nation achieves its development agenda. A kind of Republican and Democrat thing though. And Like in neighboring Ghana where the New Patriotic Party or NPP and the National Democratic Congress or NDC are divided by the Nkrumah, and the Danquah-Busia traditions. No, there is none here. Trust me and I dare anyone to point to just one party with such. It is all about the political leader, what he or she thinks. And why wouldn't it be so, when a political leader here is considered the financier of the club or party. Again, trust me, they (political parties and politicians) will have you believe that those cut and paste booklets they parade with around here as a platform is an equivalent of a political ideology or a tradition, that long after its founders shall have expired, emerging generation can aspire to. So, what you have are clubs of likeminded individuals whose sole intend is to gain state power for their selfish gains, period. They only feed on the masses to get state power. This has been reflected repeatedly in how we carve our national budgets which aimed solely at simply putting money in officials' pockets and not focusing on uplifting the dying masses. That is why there has always been a blame game when it comes to the issue of raising civil servants' salaries in the budget. Don't get me wrong, when it comes to the issues of officials' benefits and perdiems, these go through 4Gs approvals. Now, come to think of it, it makes much sense to me now, why some of these so-called politicians adopt a Nicodemus style of politics, not wanting to be publicly identified with certain political group, because such public announcement would rob them of opportunities elsewhere. Again, don't get me wrong, the heads of these political groups too are afraid to announce publicly the alignment of certain politicians with them, simply because of fear that they (politicians) will come up publicly to denounce such alignment thus putting them in a most embarrassing situation. The 2011 Congress for Democratic Change or CDC and the Liberty Party or LP of Charles Brumskine merger talks, and subsequent betrayal is one public disgrace no political party wants to experience here again. So, I quite understand that part. This brings me to a point. Early this week, the New Dawn newspaper

published an article in which it named several government officials who had one way or the other held meetings with our little-known political figure, Mr. Alex Cummings, the Johnny Just Come or JJC of the 2017 Presidential and Legislative elections, a replica of Kennedy Sandy of 2011. Individuals named in that article can in no way deny that they have not met with Mr. Cummings one way or the other and made some promising commitment. What is more shocking is the repeated denial being made on the various airwaves, not by the individuals named in the article but the media trainees who are heading the public relations department of Mr. Cummings. "We were afraid that the people would have denied the story. So we had to go out there before they embarrass us," an official who spoke to this writer in confidence on Tuesday said. Certainly, he has a genuine fear in the Liberian political context. Simply because this is the only country where most politicians here behave like leaches whenever they realized that a particular candidate with no experience whatsoever is loaded with cash ready to dish out - Or where some use their so-called popularity as a means of extorting money from power drunk politicians. But you know, in most cases the one who is giving more in such secret love affairs usually ends up getting the hurt or disgrace. You know when a man denounces a woman or turns her over to her parents, and after that, goes on to re-establish a secret love affair with the same lady, it is only prudent that she insists, that the guy goes back before her parents and inform them of the change in his decision. Otherwise, any pregnancy or any other thing resorting from the sneaking between the two if denied by the guy which is 99.9 percent possible will be more disgraceful then when he first handed her over to her parents. However, there are good ones too though. The ones who will say enough is enough and publicly announce their support elsewhere. The Musa Bility's, Sen. Oscar Cooper, Ex-speaker Alex Tyler, and several other men and women who are not afraid to say this was while I joined you in the first place and if it is no longer there, I must find somewhere else where such are made available. Of course, we all know politics of interest, but equally so, we must realize that men and women who aspire for state or public offices must be people of integrity. If you cannot be trusted when you make a commitment to a particular candidate of your loyalty and support, what make you think you will be loyal to the state and her people? By Othello B. Garblah

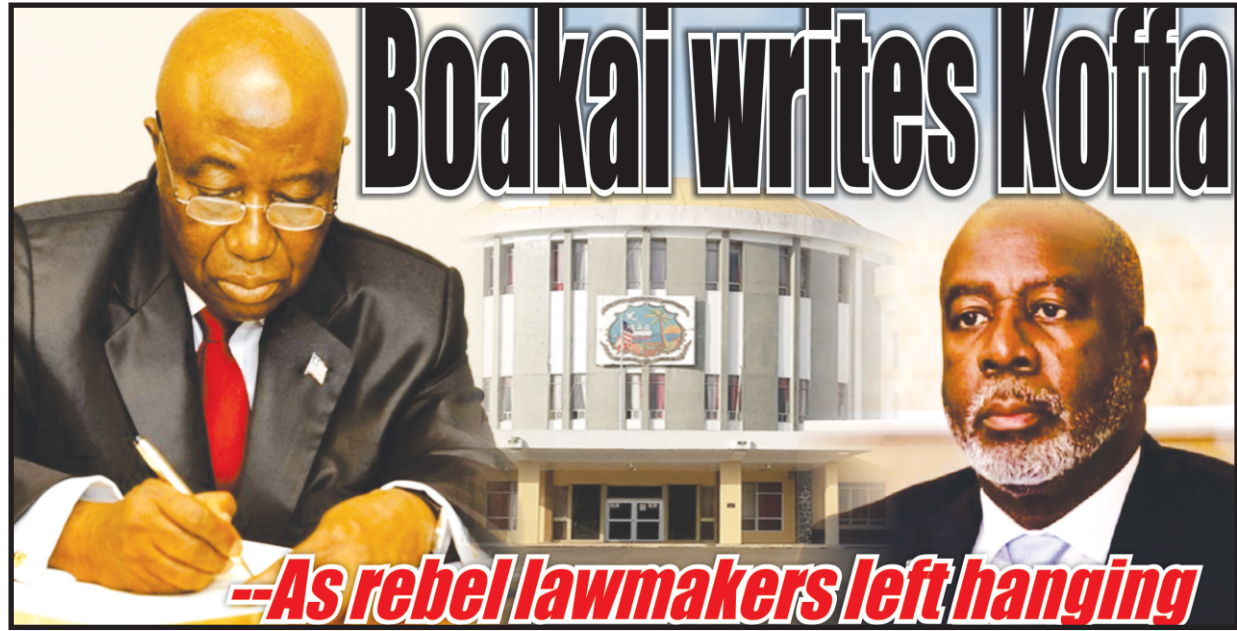
# Boakai writes Koffa

President Boakai says the Ministry of Finance has requested additional time for the submission of the budget to finalize technical and economic assumptions for the revenue forecast.

Monrovia, November 1, 2024: President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has written House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa requesting an extension of legislative session for the Executive to present a

President Boakai's communication to Speaker Koffa suggests that the Executive recognizes his leadership as the rebel lawmakers lack the required 49 members to vote Kofas out.

the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has informed the Executive of the need for additional time to collaborate with the Liberia Revenue Authority and other stakeholders to finalize their



draft national budget. Dated October 29, 2024, the communication noted that the presentation of the draft budget was due on October 31, 2024. President Boakai's communication came amidst an ongoing political crisis in Capitol Hill that has continued to disrupt legislative sessions for several weeks. Some 40 members of the House of Representatives are opposed to Speaker Koffa's leadership and have refused to sit under his garble. They have been conducting separate meetings away from the Chambers under Koffa's control in their quest to oust the embattled speaker. Koffa has about 30 representatives backing his leadership, but he falls short of 7 additional representatives to conduct sessions.

Addressing Speaker Koffa, President Boakai said the new proposed date for the submission of the draft national budget is November 8, 2024. "We request the additional time in order to present a comprehensive draft budget that would accommodate all potential sources of revenue, as well as public priorities, in keeping with Section 17.1 of the 2019 Amendment of the Restatement of the Public Financial Management Act of 2009 (PFM Law), and it's accompanying regulations," said President Boakai. He detailed that the Government of Liberia is also concluding discussions with its development partners whose contribution and inputs are critical in the budget formulation process. According to President Boakai,

technical and economic assumptions for the revenue forecast. President Boakai stated that the Finance Ministry is also discussing the budget ceilings and expenditure priorities with spending entities in relation to the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development - which will begin implementation in January 2025. "Accordingly, I ask for your understanding as we complete the necessary processes to ensure that the draft national budget for FY2025 is submitted to the National Legislature by November 8, 2024," President Boakai wrote. He expressed confidence that the FY2025 budget process will serve as another opportunity to strengthen the spirit of coordination needed to achieve shared national vision and goals.

## As Deputy Speaker crosses carpet

At long last, Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah has sided with majority bloc lawmakers seeking to oust Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, Liberia, November 1, 2024 -The campaign to unseat Speaker Fonati Koffa gets a major boost here, as Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah finally crosses over to rebel lawmakers, upping the majority bloc from 43 to 44, but short of the constitutionally required 49 lawmakers to remove the Speaker. Deputy Speaker Fallah's alignment with the majority bloc on Thursday, October 31, 2024, highlights the increasing discontent within the House of Representatives, setting the stage for a potential leadership shake-up. Fallah's move significantly strengthens rebel lawmakers' position. He reached the

decision during a session held by majority bloc lawmakers, which was attended for the first time by Deputy Chief Clerk of the House Commicks Chea. The deputy clerk's presence among the rebel lawmakers indicates strong institutional backing for the group. However, Chief Clerk Mildred Sayon formally excused herself from the session, citing illness, in a written statement addressed to the House. On Tuesday, Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah wrote to the majority bloc after they invited him to join them, formally requesting additional time to consult with his legal team. In his letter to the Acting Chief Clerk James Toubie, Fallah

acknowledged two communications received from the majority bloc, dated October 22 and October 24, urging his participation in their ongoing proceedings in the joint chambers of the 55th Legislature. The bloc seeks to remove Speaker Koffa through a vote of no confidence, citing unresolved grievances. Appearing in joint chambers Thursday, he said as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and a proud member of the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), he is deeply committed to upholding both his party's principles and the trust of the Liberian people. Fallah explains that his role in the House of Representatives

Starts from Back page

## Budget extension

submission would allow the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning to collaborate with the Liberia Revenue Authority and other Stakeholders to finalize other technical and economic assumptions for the revenue forecast. He cited discussions relative to the budget ceilings and expenditure priorities with spending entities that align with the government's ARREST Agenda for inclusive development. Also, the Plenary of the Liberian Senate has cited the Director General of the General Services Agency (GSA), Mr. Galapkah Kortima to appear before its Committees on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget, Judiciary and Autonomous Commission. The Senate's plenary decision was based on a Communication from Grand Gedeh County Senator Thomas Yaya Nimely seeking the indulgence of his colleagues to

investigate the new policy. The policy calls for the purchase of vehicles for Ministers at the cost of US\$65,000 and Deputy Ministers at the cost of US\$50,000 with a usage period of three years. Accordingly, Senator Nimely said on Friday, October 25, 2024, the GSA Director General disclosed this information in a local daily. He stressed that the disclosure made by Kortima needs more elaboration as the budget law requires that the ceiling for the purchase of government vehicles is US\$45,000. However, the Grand Gedeh Lawmaker prayed to the Plenary for the GSA boss to appear before the Plenary to explain when this policy was put in place and by whom. The GSA Director General has also been requested to come along with statistics on the number of vehicles already purchased for the Ministers and Deputy Ministers at the current price.

## Happy Wedding Anniversary

Happy 4th wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Adrian S. Pabai of Moulton Corner, Brewerville, Montserrado County. May God bless the union today and always. From your lovely Kids: Adrina & Awah Pabai



has always been one of loyalty to shared values and resolute support for Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, who has long dedicated himself to working for Liberia. According to him, the recent challenges facing the House are serious and must not be shrugged off. "Our inability to convene as one body threatens the democratic foundation upon which this nation is built. So, as the elected Lawmaker of Electoral District #1 (Foya Statutory District), Lofa County, and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the

55th Legislature, I consider it my duty, first and foremost, to safeguard that foundation by ensuring a transparent, effective and wholesome functioning Legislature", he maintains. Fallah continues that he decided to join his colleagues on the other side, who have raised some grievances against Speaker Koffa, for which that body is being brought to disrepute. He notes that those colleagues represent the majority of lawmakers in the House of Representatives and simply cannot be ignored.

## Senate to scrutinize Boakai's budget extension

President Boakai has sought the indulgence of the Senate for the extension of budget presentation by eight days to allow a comprehensive draft budget to be submitted.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, November 1, 2024: The Plenary of the Liberian Senate has mandated its Ways, Means, Finance, and Budget Committees to advise the body on a communication

on 31 October 2024.

The Plenary's decision was triggered by a formal communication to the Liberian Senate from President Boakai.

He has requested the Senate's consent for an extension for

to allow a comprehensive draft budget that would accommodate all potential sources of revenue.

He also spoke of public priorities in keeping with Section 17.1 of the 2019 Amendment and Restatement



Sen. Kangar Lawrence

from President Joseph Nyuma Boakai requesting an extension of the legislative session.

The Executive has made the request for an extension for the presentation of the draft national budget that was due

the submission of the draft national budget for fiscal year 2025 to be submitted on November 8, 2025.

In his communication, President Boakai prayed for the indulgence of the Senate for the extension by eight days

Public Financial Management Act of 2009 and its accompanying regulations.

President Boakai also highlighted that an extension in the time for the budget

▶ CONT'D page 11

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
**PRESS**

**WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:**

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc.

**DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing**

© 0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street  
© 0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia