



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

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
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024	L\$180.9950/US\$1.00	L\$182.9071/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 14 NO. 226 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024 PRICE LD\$50.00

Police arrest several suspects



-In fire incident



Boakai calls for swift investigation

The Danger of electing hoodlums to power

-A Front-page comment

By Othello B. Garblah

Unfolding events at the House of Representatives, coupled with the early Wednesday morning arson attack on the Capitol Building, the seat of the National Legislature, reflects the choices Liberians have made over the years during elections.

A country that puts popularity over competence usually winds up electing to power hoodlums - troublemakers and

hoodlums who have not matured or do not have the requisite understanding of what it means to be a statesman or even be called an honorable.

These men and women, most uncouth, emerging right from the kitchen tables, plank fields, market stalls, office doors of others, etc., were fortunate to be elected on either party lines or sympathy rather than by competence; thereby, lacking the understanding or do not know the magnitude of the job before them.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

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

Nigeria releases 29 children who potentially faced death penalty for alleged involvement in protests

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's [President Bola Tinubu](#) on Monday ordered the immediate release of [29 children](#) facing the death penalty after being arraigned for allegedly participating in protests against the country's worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation. Under growing pressure from activists, Tinubu also directed an investigation of the law enforcement agents involved in the arrest and prosecution of the

reporters in the capital, Abuja. They are not expected to be released until Tuesday through a court order. The children, detained since August, were among more than 70 people arraigned on Friday on charges of treason, destruction of property and mutiny after the August protests that shook the country and culminated in security operatives [killing some demonstrators](#) and arresting hundreds.

They were brought to the court last week. Most others looked malnourished and lost as they pressed against one other in the dock, the rest sitting on the floor. There had been no news of their detention until their arraignment, which sparked outrage and renewed concerns about [deteriorating human rights](#) in Africa's most populous country. A local court imposed stringent conditions and granted the children a bail of 10 million naira (\$5,900) each, which none of them was able to meet. It is still not clear if the children participated in [the protests](#) staged by Nigerians as they faced worsening hardship caused by the government's economic policies that were aimed at reducing costs and stabilizing the ailing economy. They were detained unlawfully and put through "horrible experiences," according to Amnesty International's Nigeria office, one of several rights groups that demanded the children's release. The children's arrest "highlights significant flaws in our criminal justice system, particularly the child justice system, indicating systemic issues that fail to protect minors' rights," said Funke Adeoye, founder of Hope Behind Bars Africa, a nonprofit that has been fighting for their release. *Africa News*.



Another Protest in Nigeria

minors, Nigeria's Information Minister Mohammed Idris told Aged 14 to 17, four of the minors collapsed due to exhaustion when

Ugandan court asks government to pay LRA war crimes' victims

Kampala — A Ugandan International Crimes Division Court has ordered the Ugandan government to pay reparations to war crimes victims affected by atrocities committed by former Lord's Resistance Army commander Thomas Kwoyelo. The judges argue the order is based on both international and domestic law considering Kwoyelo, 50, has no funds. Kwoyelo was captured in 2009 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and held in detention until a court found him guilty in August of murder, kidnap with intent to murder, pillaging, cruel treatment, torture, rape, and crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison in October. The LRA, founded in 1986 by Joseph Kony, led a more than 20-year insurgency against the Ugandan government and is accused of carrying out multiple massacres. Kony remains at large. Justice Duncan Gaswaga said the court declaration is not based on fault or vicarious liability but on principles of collective responsibility. "Atrocities committed on a scale warranting transitional justice is considered a manifestation of a failure on the part of the government that triggers a responsibility for the state to pay reparations to the victims," said Gaswaga.

Transitional justice is a set of policies or mechanisms to address the aftermath of large-scale human rights abuses and sometimes political instability. The office of the Ugandan Attorney General, the government's representative, reiterated its argument that the government is not liable to compensate for crimes committed by private actors and that reparations sought are matters of policy. Speaking to VOA by phone, Silas Aogon, a lawmaker from Northern Uganda, says the draft Transitional Justice Bill has been in the offing since 2019 but has not been brought before Parliament for consideration. He says the bill would address accountability, reparations, institutional reforms, and enable truth telling. Aogon faults the delayed justice on a number of weaknesses. "There is already institutional weakness, legislative weakness,

oversight weakness, given the kind of situation that we have in the country," he said. "The kind of polarization that the country went through. The kind of human and other injustices that occurred in society. The social unrest. We needed a strong law, and we needed the Transitional Justice Bill to be passed into law as soon as possible." The court declarations include \$2,700 to be paid to families of each deceased person, \$1,000 to those who suffered physical injuries, \$950 for each victim household of property loss and \$1,350 for victims of gender-based violence such as rape, forced marriage, forced labor and other physical abuse. Lawmaker Betty Ocan says they have been pushing for this bill for a year, and fears they are running out of time since the current Parliament ends in 2026 and passing the Transitional Justice Bill doesn't seem to be a priority. *Africa News*



commander Thomas Kwoyelo.

Cyril Ramaphosa: Who is Jacob Zuma's successor as new leader of South Africa's ANC

Cyril Ramaphosa is likely to become [South Africa's](#) next President after he was elected leader of the [African National Congress](#) (ANC). The deputy President won the race against his rival, [Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma](#), a former cabinet minister and ex-wife of President [Jacob Zuma](#), by a margin of less than 200 votes. In the run-up to the contest, Mr Ramaphosa styled himself as a reformer who will steer South Africa away from the corruption scandals that have hurt the economy and spooked investors.

post-apartheid constitution. How was he regarded by Nelson Mandela? Whenever Nelson Mandela needed a breakthrough in talks to end apartheid, he turned to the then-trade union leader with a reputation as a tenacious negotiator. Using skills honed in pay disputes with mining bosses, Mr Ramaphosa steered those talks to a successful conclusion, allowing Mr Mandela to sweep to power in 1994 as head of the victorious ANC after South Africa's first democratic vote. Mr Mandela wanted Mr Ramaphosa to be his heir, but was pressured into picking [Thabo Mbeki](#) by a group of ANC leaders who had



Mr Ramaphosa became emotional after it was announced he had won the vote at the ANC's elective conference in Johannesburg (AP)

Who is Cyril Ramaphosa? The 65-year-old moved from being a prominent anti-apartheid activist and one of the chief negotiations to help bring an end to white minority rule, to becoming one of the wealthiest businessmen in South Africa. He fought the injustices of white rule from within South Africa, most prominently by defending the rights of black miners as leader of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). A member of the relatively small Venda ethnic group, Mr Ramaphosa was able to overcome divisions that sometimes constrained members of the larger Zulu and Xhosa groups. He also played an important role in drafting South Africa's

fought apartheid from exile. It has taken more than two decades for Mr Ramaphosa to get another chance to run the country. **What does his election mean for the future of South Africa?** The choice of Mr Rhamaphosa over his main rival, Ms Dlamini-Zuma, is likely to chart a reformist course for South Africa. President Zuma has faced allegations of corruption since he became head of state in 2009. He has also faced allegations that his friends, the wealthy Gupta businessmen, wielded undue influence over his government. Both Mr Zuma and the Guptas have denied the allegations. Mr Ramaphosa has promised to fight rampant corruption and revitalise the country's economy, in a message hailed by foreign investors. *Africa news*.

Merry
Christmas to all our
Readers

EDITORIAL

Irresponsible display of greed

Wednesday's (December 18, 2024) arson attack on the Capitol that saw the seat of the Liberian Legislature in flames is counter-productive to democratic practice and respect for the rule of law. We Liberians should not always resort to violence in finding remedy to issues that confront us.

The arson attack clearly exposed the actual intention of people, including some lawmakers, who mobilized citizens to protest at the Capitol against the removal of Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

A day before the statement, Montserrado County District#9 Representative Saah Foko had announced on Spoon Talk that he was reporting for work at the Capitol on the day of the protest and would be accompanied by his people from the district.

We are disappointed that embattled Speaker Koffa, who has challenged his removal, is yet to condemn the violence at the Capitol. His conspicuous silence raises doubt whether he truly stands of the side of the law that he professes.

We wonder how does mobilizing thugs and lawbreakers to rant havoc on a major public facility like the Capitol Building contribute to upholding the rule of law. Supporters of embattled Speaker Koffa should know that their actions are no less than rebels.

While we oppose the manner in which the Speaker was removed, it does not give any member of the public or those lawmakers on his side right to use violence in expressing their disagreements and hurts.

The Government of Liberia thru the Minister of Information Jerolinmek Matthew Piah announces a US\$5,000 bounty for anyone in the public with knowledge on the fire incident at the Capitol. This is laughable. We think the state should investigate and identify persons of interest based on available evidence rather than relying on personal narrations that may be characterized by sentiments, political interests and probable witch-hunt.

Wednesday's fire at the Capitol is not the first in recent time. Last week, fire gutted the joint chamber, damaging appliances, including air conditioner. In November, unidentified individuals made their way into the same joint chamber and remove all chairs with no report of arrest.

This uncouth behavior has been going on with nobody coming out to condemn these actions, so it has reached at a level that we all need to ask ourselves who is providing security for the Capitol Building that seems vulnerable.

In the past, offices of lawmakers and senators' had been broken into and documents reportedly stolen in a place that should be well protected. There are lapses here, and somebody should be responsible.

Despite repeated advice from the international community and our traditional friend, the United States, it is shame that we Liberians would conduct ourselves in such manner, especially, those in leadership, who should be setting examples. Instead, they allowed themselves to be persuaded by selfish and narrow interest by being on the wrong side of the law, which is counterproductive.

Merry Christmas to our Readers

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

COMMENTARY

by Nana Akufo-Addo

The Key to Africa's Vaccine Sovereignty

Africa is on the cusp of a profound economic transformation. The population boom in Sub-Saharan countries, which is expected to increase the number of Africans from 1.4 billion today to 3.3 billion in 2075, holds the potential to trigger rapid GDP growth and raise living standards across the continent.

My country, Ghana, aims to be at the forefront of these developments. But our ability to capitalize on the demographic dividend hinges on one critical factor: the health of our citizens. For this reason, we are seeking to form strategic international partnerships that help us improve health outcomes, stimulate economic growth, and deliver broadly shared prosperity.

This raises a fundamental question: What does an equitable strategic partnership between African countries and the Global North look like? Historically, development aid for vital health projects in the developing world, though well-intentioned, has often been uncoordinated and unsustainable, focusing on short-term crises rather than addressing the systemic problems that cause them.

Over the past two decades, African countries have been laying the groundwork to sustain their health systems entirely through domestic resources. Recent trends suggest that partnerships between the public and private sectors are key to expanding access and achieving true health self-sufficiency.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a case in point. Since its founding in 2000, this international partnership has helped African countries immunize nearly a half-billion children, halve mortality rates among children under five, and generate tens of billions of dollars in economic benefits by improving educational outcomes, boosting productivity, and dramatically reducing health-care costs.

These positive effects on African countries' health and economic performance are just the starting point. Sustainable, inclusive income growth could enable countries like Ghana to diversify their economies and foster more stable societies. It could also help us retain talent, as more people choose to build their futures here instead of searching for economic opportunities abroad. Moreover, a thriving Africa

would benefit our trading partners, thereby contributing to a stronger, more resilient global economy.

The immediate benefits of strategic health partnerships are obvious. The rapid purchase and deployment of mpox vaccines over the past two months show that key lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic have been learned, as new emergency financing mechanisms - established through continent-wide efforts and supported by international partners - have boosted vaccine equity and bolstered health security.

Looking ahead, new initiatives to expand domestic vaccine manufacturing create an invaluable opportunity to meet Africa's growing demand and achieve vaccine sovereignty. While international partnerships are essential for fostering long-term growth, our ultimate objective remains self-reliance. In 2023, African governments contributed more than \$200 million to Gavi's immunization programs - a historic milestone. With the Global South now providing 40% of the funding for Gavi's routine activities, many countries, including Ghana, are on track to fund their immunization efforts independently by the end of this decade.

But if Africa is to achieve full vaccine sovereignty, Gavi must secure at least \$9 billion for the next five years. The importance of this support is evident in Ghana, where our partnership with Gavi has reinvigorated the fight against malaria - a longstanding scourge - and will soon help protect young women from cervical cancer for the first time by expanding access to the HPV vaccine.

One of the strengths of Gavi's model is its capacity to harness and scale private-sector innovations, enabling governments in the Global South to vaccinate more children, provide quality health care, and cut costs. In Ghana, Gavi's financial and logistical support has helped us integrate technological advances such as digital record-keeping, solar power, drone delivery, and infant biometric identification into our health system.

My message to Gavi's donors is simple: as partners, we have achieved remarkable progress together. Stepping back now would jeopardize our hard-won gains. A healthier, safer, more prosperous, and more equitable future for all is within reach. By deepening our collaboration, we can achieve it.

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

Merry Christmas to all our Readers

OP-ED

by Ellen Jackowski

Digital Financial Inclusion Strengthens Climate Resilience

PURCHASE, NEW YORK - A group of economists came together earlier this year to complete the largest analysis of hurricanes' economic effects on the United States to date. One of the most striking findings was that businesses with only a brick-and-mortar presence that were in a hurricane's path suffered a 56% drop in sales for roughly three weeks, whereas those with an online presence experienced a far shallower decline - just 23%.

The clear takeaway is that nearly every business - from a hardware store in North Carolina to a corner shop in Nairobi - can strengthen its resilience to climate change by joining in the digital economy.

The global effort to counteract climate change has expanded rapidly in recent years. The energy and automotive industries are overhauling supply chains to boost uptake of clean technologies. Governments are implementing policies to accelerate the green transition, from the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to the United States' Inflation Reduction Act.

But measures to promote digital and financial inclusion - the critical work of providing internet access to left-behind communities, bank accounts to workers, and digital tools to entrepreneurs - are often missing in the fight against global warming. The report on the impact of hurricanes, conducted by the World Bank, the Sustainable and Green Finance Institute, and the Mastercard Economics Institute, illustrates why integrating these measures into climate action plans would have a powerful effect.

More than one billion unbanked people live in the most climate-vulnerable countries, and improving their access to digital banking and payment services would make them and their communities more resilient to both economic and climate shocks. Following a natural disaster, households could more easily receive relief funds through digital money transfers, and businesses could continue selling to their customers online.

This represents a clear opportunity, especially for fintechs and nonprofits, to create more products and services at the intersection of climate resilience and digital inclusion. One good example is the social enterprise Abalobi, an Earthshot Prize finalist in 2023. Abalobi created an app that small-scale fishers can use to input catches, showing exactly where they are fishing.

The app addresses two problems. First, it provides invaluable data to governments and scientists about who is fishing sustainably and who is not. Second, small-scale fishers often sell through middlemen who pay low prices, which forces them to reel in as much as they can to make a living. But by using the app's digital marketplace, these fishers can connect directly with restaurants and other buyers, enabling them to sell their catch for higher prices. This allows them to fish more selectively, in turn reducing the strain on marine life.

Yo! Pay Agric, powered by Mastercard Community Pass, likewise enables smallholder farmers to connect with regional buyers through their farmer cooperative organizations, bypassing middlemen and earning them higher prices for their crops. Transaction data from these sales can be used by farmers to establish their creditworthiness, making it easier for them to secure loans to invest in seeds, fertilizer, and clean-energy solutions such as solar-powered farm equipment.

Digital and financial inclusion must become a core pillar of future climate efforts, with a focus on reducing the number of unbanked individuals and building digital infrastructure in climate-vulnerable communities. To that end, private companies, governments, and nonprofits need to work together to create innovative solutions, including products like Abalobi and Yo! Pay. This approach would help local users improve their financial health while simultaneously promoting resilience.

Climate change and poverty are intertwined: we cannot effectively tackle one without addressing the other. Digital tools and access to financial services cannot stop climate-related disasters, but they can make it easier for people to recover from these shocks. Strengthening the financial resilience of the most climate-vulnerable households benefits local communities, while also benefiting the entire global economy.

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

OPINION

by Jorge G. Castañeda

Did Mexico Help Trump Get Elected?

MEXICO CITY - There is no question that immigration was a defining issue in last month's US presidential election. Donald Trump used the growing number of asylum seekers and economic migrants entering the United States from early 2021 through the beginning of this year to argue that President Joe Biden's administration - including his vice president, and Trump's opponent, Kamala Harris - had been "soft on immigration." This narrative helped Trump win the election. But how credible was it?

Trump's campaign narrative left out a few crucial facts - not least that immigration flows across the US border with Mexico fell sharply this year. But perhaps more interesting is what happened just before this shift. On December 1, 2023, the head of the National Institute of Migration (INM) - Mexico's federal immigration agency - announced that the institute had run out of money and would thus halt migrant transfers and deportations and suspend migration-related patrols across the country.

That month, US border authorities reported 249,741 "encounters" with migrants crossing the US-Mexico border - the highest number ever recorded in a single month - with as many as 13,000 occurring in a single day. In an effort to manage the surge, the US shut down important railroad crossings in Lukeville, Arizona, and in Eagle Pass and El Paso, Texas.

Moreover, on December 27, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas made an unscheduled visit to Mexico City to urge the country's president at the time, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (widely known as AMLO), to restart efforts to curb migration. AMLO agreed, and migration flows soon plummeted. In August 2024, the US Border Patrol recorded fewer than 60,000 "encounters" with migrants crossing the US-Mexico border.

These are the facts. What is missing is a clear explanation of why AMLO's administration halted its efforts to manage migration when it did. Anyone familiar with the Mexican budget process can tell you that if a crucial agency like the INM ran out of money, the finance-ministry software would immediately and automatically send it resources to tide it over until a formal, lasting budgetary solution could be found - say, when the next fiscal year begins. It would not be allowed simply to stop functioning - unless another factor came into play.

Now we enter into the realm of speculation - well-informed and credible, but impossible to verify. Biden, the Democrats' candidate until his withdrawal in July 2024, was acutely aware of the damage the migration surge could do to his presidential campaign. He had been a junior senator in 1980, when Fidel Castro announced that any Cuban who wanted to emigrate was free to board a boat to the US at the Port of Mariel. By the time the Mariel boatlift ended that October, some 125,000 Cuban refugees had landed in Florida, severely harming President Jimmy Carter's re-election bid.

It is thus entirely possible - even likely - that Biden cut a deal, tacit or explicit, with AMLO early in his term: limit migration flows, and the US will ignore the Mexican administration's transgressions, from human-rights abuses to violations of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). So, when migrant flows increased, Biden pushed back. But, instead of falling into line, AMLO recognized that he had the power to undermine Biden's candidacy by effectively halting curbs on migration. And he used it.

Appearances notwithstanding, AMLO may well have preferred Trump to Biden. He had gotten along relatively well with Trump when their terms previously overlapped, in 2018-20, perhaps owing to their shared affinity for transactional engagement, their view of themselves as "outsiders," and their propensity for outré conduct.

AMLO might have determined that his hand-picked successor, Claudia Sheinbaum, would fare better with Trump than with the alternative, especially with AMLO close by, ready to jump in if needed. This would afford the former president greater opportunity to continue influencing Mexican politics. While AMLO's term had already ended by the time Harris replaced Biden in the race, the switch would not have changed his position.

The idea that a Mexican president could bend a US presidential election to their will might sound farfetched. But the figures suggest that AMLO could quickly slash the number of people attempting to cross into the US. And Mexico has sustained this enforcement effort for close to a year now, without a new migrant surge materializing. If AMLO had the power to influence immigration flows into the US, why would he refrain from using it to give his preferred candidate a boost?

If this really happened, plenty of questions remain. Did AMLO concoct his scheme to influence the US election deliberately and consciously, or was it more of an intuitive decision? How did the Americans convince him to reverse course and suppress migrant flows so quickly at the end of last year? What, if anything, did they offer in exchange? We will probably never know the answers to these questions. Nonetheless, anyone who still thinks that foreign governments cannot have a decisive impact on US elections should think again.

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

Starts from Front page

The Danger of electing hoodlums to power

As such, the only way they know how to resolve conflict is through the ways they know best through acts of hooliganism or gangsterism- yet they take home a chunk of the country's meager national budget as salaries and allowances. They entered politics with their eyes set on money, not the provision of the kind of leadership the country yearns for.

But what else can we expect from these men and women who now see politics as the easy path to wealth.

Liberia's National Legislature, particularly the House of Representatives, is a compendium of mostly illiterate individuals who rose from being "House boys and Yana boys

the Capitol Building was inflamed early Wednesday morning, shows a lack of leadership.

As an elderly statesman with over 40 years of experience in government, President Boakai is in a position to understand this country's most recent history and why such political tensions are unnecessary for his administration.

A country lagging in almost everything, from infrastructure to human capacity, needs not to engage in self-destruction as Liberians are witnessing today.

Again, as an elderly statesman, the power to unite both parties within the ongoing Speakership crisis at the



Capitol Building on Fire

and girls" to state power.

But again, we, the Liberian electorates, are the guilty parties here. And to quote Amb. Nathaniel Barnes, Liberia's former Ambassador to the UN, said, "A country gets the type of leadership it deserves."

When people vote based on sentiments and lack of understanding of the issues at heart, resounding results would most likely lead the country to retrogression-trust me.

Why has President Boakai failed to exercise leadership thus far?

The decision by President Joseph Boakai to take a side in the ongoing leadership crisis at the House of Representatives, a crisis which has recorded a sequence of events before

House of Representatives is in his hands. He could have intervened and settled the matter. If he is bent on having Koon as Speaker, as it is evident, he could have encouraged the majority bloc to give the embattled speaker his due process and removed him by the law.

To bypass such process and publicly display his choice for Koon's leadership despite the Supreme Court's ruling to revert to the status quo also demonstrates a failure in leadership at the highest level of the country's leadership.

Politics aside, Liberia deserves better and until the electorates revert from choosing popularity over competence- Liberia's future would remain bleak.

From the Pages of History: A Cautionary Reflection on the Ides of March

By Hun-Bu Tulay
Contacts: +231-777-111-032/886-517-356
Email: ntevoma@gmail.com

"Truth can often be elusive in our current times, and misinformation is deeply entrenched. It takes a discerning mind, one that values truth, to navigate through these complexities."

From a book-the Political Dinosaurs nearing completion by the author

On June 30, 1905, a promising young man, just twenty-six years old, published a groundbreaking scientific paper titled "Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter Körper" (Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies). This work introduced his theory of Special Relativity and was featured in the German Physics Journal, Annalen der Physik. The paper was reviewed by one hundred and fifty scientists, ten of whom provided their interpretations. The author of the paper was made aware of these critiques and believed that no one could explain his ideas more effectively than he could. His perspective was that interpretations by others might often be partial. This young scientist was Albert Einstein, a monumental figure in the fields of physics and mathematics in the 20th century.

The Truth



Speaker Koffa & Koon

As we reflect on the trajectory of Liberia, several key questions continuously arise: "Do Liberians genuinely seek to hear the TRUTH?" If the answer is affirmative, we must consider whether the current generation possesses civility and decency to embrace the truth and rise above past tendencies to overlook it. It is crucial that we engage with these inquiries earnestly if we wish to address the current challenges within the House of Representatives. If we hold true to the first verse and the fifth stanza of our National Anthem, which emphasizes unity and the pursuit of liberty, we must ask ourselves whether we are truly living up to these ideals as a nation. Let us take time to thoughtfully examine our country's historical context.

Who is the best interpreter of a written document?

Much like the aforementioned physicist, numerous legal thinkers have endeavored to interpret the Supreme Court's ruling or opinion. Interpretations have varied based on alignment, leading to claims of victory from different sides. Yet, for those of us who approach these matters from a neutral standpoint, the essential question remains: do we possess civility and decency to accept whatever truth may arise? It raises a pertinent point: why not engage directly with the court that issued the ruling? There seems to be a reluctance from both factions to do so, perhaps because they each favor interpretations of truth that align with their positions.

What the minority block should have asked for

We acknowledge that the minority group has submitted a Bill of Information to the Honorable Supreme Court. However, we must thoughtfully consider whether this was the most appropriate course of action. A Bill of Information is typically a legal document that formally charges someone with a crime, and if legal experts agree on this definition, it may suggest that a reevaluation is warranted. It would be beneficial for the Legal Team of the minority group to enhance their approach and avoid potential misunderstandings. The court will not give you what you did not ask. In our perspective, **a Bill of Clarification regarding the Supreme Court's ruling would have been more suitable.** Such a bill seeks to clarify any ambiguities surrounding a prior order or ruling that the parties involved do not fully comprehend.

Many readers may recall our earlier discourse titled **"Bad Lawyers and Good Lawyers,"** highlighting the challenges posed by a number of less effective legal practitioners in Liberia, contributing to unfortunate outcomes in various cases.

Article 49 of the constitution

If the minority block legal team had used this article to their advantage, the court would have responded differently. One significant issue that appears to have been overlooked in the minority group's most recent petition relates to the first sentence of Article 49: **"The House of Representatives shall elect once every six years a speaker who shall be the presiding officer of that body, and the deputy speaker, and such other officers as shall ensure the proper functioning of the House."** This article clearly stipulates that all seventy-three Representatives should convene to elect a speaker not a majority Block or minority block as was done in electing Representative Richard Koon. If this fundamental question was posed in the initial petition, the High Court would have addressed whether a faction or block of members of the House of Representatives the legal authority and capacity has to elect a speaker independently.

Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CDC calls for investigation

-wants Kalasco, others release

The Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) said it is alarmed by the fire incident at the Capitol and calls on the Government to conduct a speedy and impartial investigation.

Thursday, December 19, 2024/ The CDC in a statement issued Wednesday, also condemn what is said are attempts by the Government to falsely accuse individuals of complicity in the fire incident when no serious investigation has yet been conducted.

In the statement signed by acting party Chairman Atty. Janga A. Kowo, the CDC party noted that it rejects and condemns a rushed arrest order issued against Montserrado District nine Representative Frank Saah Foko in deviously

Police and other security institutions, with the LNP in the last several days, even flogging CDC lawmakers at the very premises. The reality is that Government is now embarrassed that the public may hold it

responsible for the arson given this overwhelming security presence, and as such has now resorted to the framing, and scapegoating of political opponents," the CDC went on.

The party drew the public attention to the fact that for the last 48 to 72 hours, security at the Capitol had been

capable of concocting devious and diabolical schemes to deflect public pressure from their egregious rule of law violations. With such clear motive and amid heightened security, a serious investigation is now publicly demanded to establish the honest truth and facts in this matter.

As a matter of fact, the CDC calls on the international community to provide technical support in this investigation. No amount of scapegoating or accustomed witch-hunting of political opponents will succeed.



alleged connection with the tire incident.

It said such baseless arrest order can only be termed a politically motivated witch-hunt to cover up apparent involvement or complicity by elements within the Government.

The CDC further stated that this feigned rush to arrest Representative Foko is an indication that the Government believes the incident was an act of arson.

The party questioned how the Government was able to reach such conclusion when the Justice Minister had just announced the government's intention to launch an investigation into the incident. "It would seem between the timing of the Minister's interview at the Capitol and his arrival at his office, the Government determined that the fire was caused by arson, and it imagined Rep Foko a person of interest," the CDC explained.

"The truth is that the Government understands fully that the public is aware that the Capitol premises have been adequately manned by the Liberia National

heightened, owing to the announcement of the Citizens' Peaceful March on the Capitol, scheduled for December 17, 2024.

The CDC argued that amid the bloody and violent suppression of the peaceful march, security vigilance was reportedly even more intense over and above recent LNP security routines at the premises.

Thus, the party further argued that any breach of this massive security dragnet and cordon would have been virtually impossible without LNP or other national security outfits knowing about such a breach.

The CDC maintained that dogged by this inescapable reality, the Government has now been shamed into framing patriotic and law-abiding citizens who have absolutely no motive or reason to commit arson.

"We are also aware that with pressure mounting on the Government from them international community on the flagrant disregard and disrespect for the Supreme Court opinion in the current legislative impasse, Unity Party desperadoes are

The CDC reassures Liberians and our international partners of our full and unconditional faith in the pursuit of life, liberty, and constitutional rule, and calls upon all Liberians to remain lawabiding in the exercise of fundamental democratic rights to free speech, peaceful assembly, and peaceful public protest. These rights shall not be allowed to perish under the lawlessness we are now experiencing and witnessing under the Unity Party. We must continue to defend democracy and constitutional governance." The release said.

In another development, the CDC also calls on the Government to unconditionally release Mr. Sekou Kalasco Damaro and other Liberians who were arbitrarily arrested yesterday and are being held on bogus charges. We again warn that these abuses are dangerous to our democracy. Mr. Damaro, Representative Foko and others committed no wrong in the exercise of their democratic right to protest. Damaro and others were arrested and now Rep Foko is being pursued for kangaroo reasons the Government is making up.

Starts from page 5



Reachard Koon & Fallah

The Minister of Justice Act is contemptuous

If the parties genuinely wish to uncover the truth, it would be prudent to petition the Supreme Court for clarification on the ruling. Moreover, it would have been more appropriate for the Minister of Justice, as dean of the high court, to formally request such clarification rather than providing an opinion. The minister's opinions are typically reserved for constitutional matters and the interpretation of laws. In various jurisdictions, conflicting opinions from a minister may lead to serious concerns, and it is important to uphold the integrity of our judicial process. Councilor Christian Abayomi Cassell was disbarred by the high court in 1961 for a lesser action. Associate Justice Pierre read the opinion of the high court.

The High Court Ruling

As you delve into Pages 27 to 34, those who embody intelligence and a quest for truth will recognize that there is no ambiguity within the opinion. It is not uncommon for individuals due to limited comprehension and a struggle with the English language, which may not be their native tongue to misconstrue written documents. In the High Court ruling, continual references to Articles 33 and 49 illuminate this point. Article 33 emphasizes: "A simple majority of each House shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, yet a lower number may adjourn and compel the attendance of absent members. When the House of Representatives or the Senate convenes in a joint session, the presiding officer is the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Article 49 notes: "The House of Representatives shall elect a Speaker every six years, who acts as the presiding officer, alongside a Deputy Speaker and other necessary officers to ensure the proper functioning of the House. The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and other elected officers may be removed for cause, which requires a resolution signed by two-thirds of the entire members." Rule 10 of the House underscores the process of removing elected officers (two-thirds of the entire members).

Additionally, Article 38 offers powerful insight: "Each House shall adopt its own rules of procedure, enforce order, and expel a member for cause with two-thirds of the entire membership. Each House shall create its own committees and subcommittees, ensuring that committees on revenue and appropriations consist of one member from each county. All rules adopted by the Legislature shall uphold the principles of due process as outlined in the Constitution."

Chapter III, Article 20-a boldly states what due process is: "No person shall be deprived of life, security, property, privilege, or any other right granted by election except through a hearing judgment consistent with this Constitution and due process of law."

The pathway for removing a Speaker in Liberia is clearly defined:

According to the Constitution, the Speaker's removal requires: 1. initiating a resolution stating the reason (s) for removal signed by two-thirds of the entire members of the House. In this case by 49 members of the House of Representative. 2. Following due process, which ensures fairness in legal matters, civil and criminal alike. Adherence to procedures laid out by the Constitution, statutes, and judicial practices including notice of rights is essential to prevent prejudicial or unequal treatment. 3. Due process requires obtaining two-thirds votes from the entire membership, not merely an ordinary majority of those present and voting. It is alleged that 50 members of the entire House signed the resolution but only 43 were present on the day of removal. This action contradicts Article 49 of the constitution. Secondly, it is also alleged that there were NO VOTES TAKEN. How do we know that the signatures on the resolution were not by someone sitting in one room in West Point? Even in jury trial, when a verdict is reached and signed by the jury and given to the presiding Judge. The Judge often asks members of the jury if each of them agree with the verdict. This represents a vote for each.

The crux of the matter is whether these processes were upheld in the removal of Speaker Koffa. We believe these missteps may be what the High Court refers to as **ULTRA VIRES**. This signifies actions taken beyond the legal scope of authority,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Embattled Speaker Koffa distances from Facebook post -Condemns fire outbreak at Capitol Building

Embattled Speaker Fonati Koffa says a controversial Facebook post on his timeline is not his, distancing himself, amid public suspicion.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, December 19, 2024 - Embattled Speaker Fonati Koffa distances himself from a controversial Facebook post that seems to link him to supporting Wednesday's arson attack on the Capitol Building in Monrovia that caused significant damages on the facility. Speaking to reporters shortly when he visited the ashes chamber on Capitol Hill, Cllr. Koffa excluded himself from the Facebook post,

describes the post as "ill-advised".

"I think Cllr. Koffa was ill-advised, because, this post is not FAKE, and his confirmation changes my position," she says. Cllr. Yeakula reiterates that the embattled Speaker was ill-advised and the post warrants wrong timing. She distances herself from alleged Unity Party's accusations that Cllr. Koffa is responsible for the fire without any investigation, calling on the government for speedy investigation.



while defending the icon "Alamo" "This word is not alarmo; it is Alamo", Cllr. Koffa clarifies to Journalists, explaining that word Alamo, references a group of men and women who stand in defense of their rights. He refuted being in control of such Facebook account, saying "I'm not the one who posted; that has nothing to do with me, and the word alamo has nothing to do with fire. It is defense of right." He describes the fire situation as unfortunate, while demanding swift investigation to bring those responsible to justice. Amidst the post, the embattled Speaker has also received tongue lashes from a Liberian lawyer, Cllr. Moriah Yeakula Korkpor, who

At the same time she cautions public officials to avoid inflammatory accusations and controversial statements during investigation. "Alamo is referenced to a pivotal 1836 battle in Texas, United States, where a small group of Texans fighting for independence were defeated by Mexican forces. Speaker Koffa is facing immense public pressure here on suspicion of his alleged involvement in the fire outbreak at the Capitol. He has since deleted the controversial post on his timeline that has sparked widespread debate of his alleged involvement, amidst the unsettled dispute in the House of Representatives. *Editing by Jonathan Browne.*

Office of War Crimes Court seeks ECOWAS' support

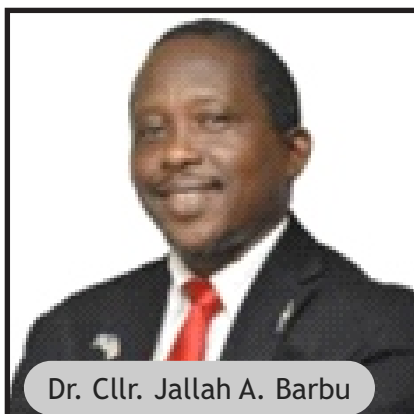
Liberia's Office for the establishment for War and Economic Crimes is appealing to the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, for support.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, December 19, 2024 - The Office for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court is calling on ECOWAS to support Liberia's effort towards establishing the Court. President Boakai recently appointed law professor Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu as Executive Director for the Office. Already, government has demonstrated political will through the issuance of two instruments, a legislative joint resolution and an executive order leading to the creation of an office to oversee the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia.

A press release from the Office commends ECOWAS for approving the establishment of The Gambia's Special Tribunal to prosecute perpetrators of Gross Human Rights Violations. It terms the move by the regional bloc as a milestone that all rights groups should support. ECOWAS took the decision Friday, December 13, 2024, at the just-ended summit in Abuja, Nigeria. The OWECC-L "acknowledges the participation and congratulates His Excellency, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Sr., for his role in this cutting-edge decision by the sub-regional body, as this exemplifies the President's resolve to fight impunity and strengthen accountability for

all", the release says. It adds that the support given to The Gambia in addressing impunity is unprecedented in West Africa, as this is the first time that ECOWAS was partnering with a member state to establish an international tribunal to prosecute war crimes and crimes against humanity. Press Release



Starts from page 5

actions such as removing the Speaker, electing a new one, reconstituting House Committees, and suspending House Members. Ultimately, the High Court's order for all parties to revert to their status quo. This phrase means: when a suit is instituted then the person who is holding the possession and title shall retain such possession and title until the suit is disposed of. Since each party is claiming victory, this implies that the status quo still holds. The High Court could view such actions of some members of the House as contemptuous.

As we conclude, we would like to reflect on the insightful words of President Joseph N. Boakai regarding Sound and Honest Leadership: "We have the opportunity to change the course of history in this country. As I have always said, our country holds many promises, and it is up to us as a generation to seize it and transform our nation so that everyone has a fair chance at a better livelihood. I reiterate my belief that Liberia is not lacking in resources, but rather, the challenges we face stem from a deficit of SOUND and HONEST LEADERSHIP. The elections are behind us; now is the time to engage in meaningful work."

Let us engage in a thoughtful analysis of this statement. What constitutes Sound Leadership? It is characterized by decision-making that prioritizes the welfare of the people and aims to uplift them from poverty. Honest Leadership involves transparency, sincerity, and direct communication with all stakeholders. It also embodies a willingness to acknowledge mistakes and grow from them. The crucial question remains: Do we, as Liberians, recognize these qualities in the leadership of our past and current presidents? Words carry little weight if they are not backed by consistent actions. Maybe it is time to acknowledge the mistake we have made in handling the crisis in the House of Representative and turn the page. If we do not, this will continue up to the end of January 2025. And we may end up in a constitutional crisis because at the President Annual Message, who will be the presiding officer? Koffa or Koon.

Conclusion

In closing, it is important to note that it is not always the most intellectually gifted or vocal politicians who endure, but those who are adaptable and responsive to change who leave a lasting impact on their constituents. President Boakai, it may be beneficial to re-evaluate the composition of your legal team at both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs as well as some of your ministers. Prudence and reflection may guide us through the challenges ahead. **President Boakai, you are surrounded by Robin Hoods and**



Illiterates of the 21st century. Just like President Tolbert was. President Boakai, please as the Chief Law Enforcement officer of the country, do not use the security against the representatives. Many African Leaders did the same and it did not end for them.

Recommendation:

For the greater good of the nation, we encourage J. Fonati Koffa to take the right steps for Liberia following the High Court clarification, which could potentially benefit him. This may entail stepping aside and allowing a fresh election to take place. Likewise, we implore President Boakai to demonstrate true leadership by requesting Richard Koon not to contest the forthcoming election for Speaker. The country deserves a speaker who will bridge the divide between the Majority and Minority Blocks; either Koffa or Koon holds the potential to accomplish this unifying vision.

Beware of the Ides of March.

Français

Affrontements entre manifestants et police au Libéria : arrestation d'un ancien conseiller de Weah et de dizaines d'autres manifestants

Des affrontements violents ont éclaté mardi 17 décembre 2024 aux abords du Parlement libérien, opposant des manifestants aux forces antiémeutes. Ces tensions ont conduit à l'arrestation de près de 70 personnes, don't

superintendant du comté de Grand Bassa, visait à dénoncer ce que les manifestants qualifient d'« ingérence inconstitutionnelle » du président Joseph N. Boakai et du vice-président Jeremiah K. Kounj dans la destitution controversée du président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa.

démocratiques et appellent à une mobilisation nationale pour faire respecter l'État de droit.

Violences policières ou maintien de l'ordre ?

Des accusations graves ont été portées contre la Police nationale du Libéria (LNP), les manifestants affirmant que les forces de l'ordre auraient utilisé des balles réelles, causant des blessés parmi des citoyens qu'ils qualifient de pacifiques. Gregory Coleman, inspecteur général de la police, a fermement rejeté ces allégations, affirmant que ses hommes ont agi avec « professionnalisme », en utilisant uniquement des moyens non létaux, tels que des gaz lacrymogènes, pour disperser les manifestants.

« Nos forces ont fourni protection et sécurité aux manifestants. Cependant, lorsqu'ils ont commencé à résister et à engager des affrontements physiques, nous avons utilisé des moyens adaptés pour maintenir l'ordre. Actuellement, plus de 70



Sekou Kalasco Damaro, ancien conseiller présidentiel sous George Weah. Le rassemblement, organisé à l'aube sous l'initiative de Janjay Gbarpbea, ancien

Les manifestants, regroupés sous la bannière des Citoyens concernés pour la protection de la Constitution et de l'État de droit, accusent l'exécutif de saper l'intégrité des institutions

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le CDC dénonce l'intimidation et la répression violente du gouvernement

Le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), principal parti d'opposition au Libéria, accuse le gouvernement de recourir à la censure, à la justice arbitraire et à l'intimidation pour museler les citoyens pacifiques.

Dans une déclaration publiée après les violences survenues lors d'une manifestation sur Capitol Hill, le mardi 17 décembre, le CDC dénonce ce qu'il considère comme une tentative délibérée de restreindre les droits constitutionnels des Libériens, malgré des années de paix et de stabilité.

Un appel aux partenaires internationaux Le CDC exhorte la communauté internationale, notamment l'ambassade des États-Unis, l'Union européenne et la CEDEAO, à examiner de près ce qu'il qualifie de dérives autoritaires. « Nous appelons nos partenaires internationaux à prendre conscience de la résurgence de la justice expéditive, de la censure et de l'intimidation exercées par le gouvernement à l'encontre des Libériens pacifiques », affirme le parti.

Il se dit profondément

préoccupé par la dérive du Libéria vers un état de non-droit sous la direction du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

Violences lors de la manifestation Le CDC accuse le gouvernement d'avoir réprimé violemment une manifestation pacifique, organisée pour protester contre la destitution de l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Jonathan Fonati Koffa.

Selon le parti, des balles réelles auraient été tirées sur des manifestants non armés, une accusation qui reste à vérifier. « Ces citoyens n'étaient pas une menace. Ils exerçaient leur droit constitutionnel de se rassembler et de pétitionner leur gouvernement », souligne le communiqué.

Le CDC qualifie cette réponse des forces de sécurité d'« excessive et injustifiée », dénonçant une atteinte grave aux principes

démocratiques et constitutionnels.

Contexte politique tendu La manifestation intervient dans un climat de tensions politiques croissantes, marqué par la destitution de Jonathan Fonati Koffa en novembre. Cette décision, pilotée par des députés membres du CDC, a été présidée par Thomas Fallah, lui-même cadre du parti.

Le CDC accuse l'administration Boakai de manipuler les institutions pour asseoir son contrôle sur les branches législative et judiciaire. « Sous les instructions de M. Boakai, l'exécutif agit de manière délibérée pour saper l'État de droit et concentrer le pouvoir », déclare le parti.

Des droits fondamentaux en péril

Le CDC s'inquiète des



Éditorial

La chute de la maison Assad

Par Daron Acemoglu

TEL AVIV - L'effondrement rapide d'une dynastie al-Assad vieille de 54 ans en Syrie vient transformer le paysage géopolitique du Moyen-Orient. L'offensive éclair de la milice islamiste Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) a surpris tous les voisins de la Syrie, comme le reste du monde. L'annonce de la [fuite](#) du président Bachar al-Assad en Russie confirme une vérité incontournable s'agissant des guerres : des conséquences inattendues peuvent s'étendre bien au-delà du champ de bataille.

L'attaque du 7 octobre 2023 perpétrée par le Hamas contre des communautés civiles israéliennes à proximité de la frontière de Gaza a provoqué plusieurs séismes dans l'ensemble du Moyen-Orient. L'impitoyable offensive menée par Israël pour détruire le Hamas à Gaza et le Hezbollah au Liban a quasiment anéanti « l'axe de résistance » iranien, tandis que les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni ont bombardé les Houthis soutenus par l'Iran au Yémen, en réponse à leurs attaques contre des navires commerciaux internationaux.

La guerre civile syrienne a débuté en 2011, lorsque le régime d'Assad a écrasé les manifestations pacifiques du « Printemps arabe ». Puis les combats se sont largement atténués après 2015, l'intervention de la Russie, avec l'aide de l'Iran et du Hezbollah, ayant inversé le cours de la guerre en faveur d'Assad. Dernièrement, les proxies de l'Iran ayant été détruits, et les capacités de combat de la Russie étant éprouvées par la difficulté du conflit en Ukraine, les rebelles ont saisi l'opportunité.

Avec l'[appui](#) de la Turquie, et semble-t-il du Qatar, les rebelles ont facilement pris d'assaut les défenses étonnamment fragiles du régime syrien, et l'armée d'Assad a capitulé sans combattre. L'Iran et la Russie, protecteurs d'Assad, ayant précipitamment [évacué leurs troupes](#) et abandonné le dictateur à son sort, le régime syrien fondé sur la torture et les massacres n'inspirait plus la peur.

La fin de l'alliance de l'Iran avec la Syrie, principal bastion du régime de Téhéran dans le monde arabe, est vouée à redéfinir l'équilibre régional des puissances. Comme l'[exprimait](#) l'ancien vice-président iranien Mohammad Ali Abtahi deux jours avant la fuite d'Assad, un effondrement du gouvernement syrien « constituerait l'un des événements les plus importants dans l'histoire du Moyen-Orient... La résistance dans la région se retrouverait privée de soutien. Israël deviendrait la puissance dominante ».

« Hayat Tahrir al-Sham » signifie la libération du Levant, qui dans le lexique politique du premier califat inclut la Syrie, le Liban, la Jordanie et la Palestine. Le chef du groupe islamiste HTS, Abou Mohammad al-Joulani, tente néanmoins de projeter l'image d'un islamiste d'un nouveau genre. Il semble avoir tiré les enseignements nécessaires des échecs d'al-Qaïda et de l'État islamique (EI), et se considère désormais comme un pragmatique [aspirant](#) uniquement à « libérer la Syrie de son régime tyrannique ».

Signe de ce nouveau pragmatisme, Joulani a [ordonné](#) à ses hommes de laisser le Premier ministre syrien Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali continuer de gérer les institutions publiques jusqu'au [transfert officiel](#) du pouvoir. Par opposition, l'EI aurait certainement procédé à des exécutions massives de soldats et responsables publics.

Joulani n'en demeure pas moins à la tête d'une organisation islamiste radicale. Ceux qui [s'attendent](#) à ce que la Turquie tempère l'extrémisme du HTS présument que Joulani sera le soldat obéissant d'Ankara. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que Joulani va devoir composer avec de puissantes contraintes politiques, notamment avec les nombreuses milices rivales qui se sont unies pour faire tomber Assad, ainsi qu'avec les forces kurdes qui se sont [empressées de prendre le contrôle](#) de nouveaux territoires dans l'est de la Syrie, tout en subissant les [attaques](#) des forces turques au nord.

Aux yeux du président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les ambitions des Kurdes de Syrie menacent d'alimenter une rébellion nationaliste au sein des communautés kurdes de Turquie. En 2019, Erdogan a ordonné à son armée de mettre en place une « zone de sécurité » de 30 kilomètres de large dans le nord de la Syrie, et de repousser les combattants kurdes loin de la frontière turque, zone dans laquelle les Kurdes avaient saisi l'opportunité de la guerre civile pour consolider une enclave autonome.

Shlomo Ben-Ami, ancien ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, et vice-président du Centre international de Tolède pour la paix, est l'auteur de l'ouvrage intitulé [Prophets Without Honor: The 2000 Camp David Summit and the End of the Two-State Solution](#) (Oxford University Press, 2022).

Français

Starts from page 8 Affrontements entre manifestants et police au Libéria

personnes sont en détention et feront l'objet d'enquêtes avant d'être traduites en justice », a déclaré M. Coleman lors d'une conférence de presse.

Il a également précisé que des zones spécifiques avaient été assignées pour le rassemblement, mais que les manifestants les avaient ignorées, provoquant ainsi les affrontements.

Un député contraint de fuir sous les gaz lacrymogènes

Les députés Frank Saah Foko (Montserrado, district #9), Yekeh Kolubah (Montserrado, district #10) et Eugene J.M Kollie (Gbarpolu) figuraient parmi les personnalités présentes lors des tensions.

Dans une scène marquante, M. Foko a été vu escaladant une clôture séparant le Parlement du Palais de justice, vêtu d'une tunique blanche et pieds nus, pour échapper aux gaz lacrymogènes. Il s'est ensuite réfugié dans le tribunal de Monrovia, où il a demandé la protection du magistrat Ben Barco, affirmant que sa vie était menacée par la police.

« Je n'étais pas impliqué dans la manifestation. Je me rendais simplement à mon bureau lorsque les gaz lacrymogènes ont affecté mes yeux. J'ai dû escalader une clôture pour me réfugier et sauver ma vie », a déclaré M. Foko à la presse après l'incident.

Une opposition grandissante à l'administration Boakai-Koung

Lors d'une conférence de presse, Janjay Gbarpbea, chef des manifestants et ancien superintendant du comté de Grand Bassa, a dénoncé la répression qu'il qualifie de « brutale

» par la police, accusant les autorités de violer les droits des citoyens et d'alimenter les tensions dans un pays déjà marqué par la pauvreté et des injustices croissantes.

M. Gbarpbea a annoncé le lancement prochain d'une campagne nationale appelant à la démission du président Boakai et de son vice-président Koung, affirmant que ces derniers doivent répondre de leurs actes pour avoir, selon lui, sapé la démocratie et favorisé l'instabilité.

« Nous appelons toutes les forces politiques de l'opposition et le peuple libérien à se mobiliser pour mettre fin à ce cauchemar. Une nouvelle campagne nationale de protestation débutera bientôt pour exiger la démission immédiate du président et de son vice-président. Il est temps de défendre nos droits et de préserver la paix et la démocratie », a-t-il déclaré.

Une crise politique de plus en plus préoccupante Ces tensions surviennent dans un climat politique déjà tendu, après la destitution controversée de J. Fonati Koffa, remplacé par Richard Nagbe Koon, un député du parti au pouvoir. Cette décision, prise par un groupe de législateurs se revendiquant comme la « majorité », est vivement contestée par l'opposition, notamment par le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC).

Alors que le pays est en proie à des divisions croissantes, des voix s'élèvent pour appeler au respect de l'État de droit et à une gestion pacifique des différends politiques. La situation reste tendue, et les prochains jours pourraient être déterminants pour l'avenir de la démocratie libérienne.

Starts from page 8 Le CDC dénonce l'intimidation et la

arrestations et détentions arbitraires de citoyens, certains dans des lieux non divulgués, qu'il qualifie de violations flagrantes des droits fondamentaux.

« La Constitution libérienne garantit le droit à la liberté d'expression et de rassemblement pacifique. Les récents agissements du gouvernement témoignent d'un mépris inquiétant pour ces principes fondamentaux », déplore le communiqué.

Le parti appelle à la libération immédiate et inconditionnelle des personnes arrêtées et demande que les auteurs des violences soient traduits en justice.

Un avertissement à la communauté internationale

Le CDC avertit que le silence de la communauté internationale face à ces dérives pourrait aggraver la situation. « Chaque silence face à ces violations offre au président Boakai un

terrain fertile pour poursuivre sa mauvaise gouvernance », prévient le parti.

Il affirme que l'inaction pourrait précipiter un retour à l'autoritarisme et compromettre les acquis démocratiques du Libéria.

Engagement en faveur de la démocratie

Le CDC réitère son engagement indéfectible envers le peuple libérien et promet de continuer à défendre la démocratie, l'État de droit et les droits humains.

« Aucun abus, aucune intimidation ne forcera les Libériens à renoncer à leurs droits », assure le parti.

Enfin, il met en garde le président Boakai contre les conséquences de ses actions : « En fin de compte, il pliera sous la pression populaire », conclut le communiqué.

Le CDC appelle les citoyens à rester mobilisés et à défendre les principes constitutionnels qui garantissent la paix et la stabilité au Libéria.

Le Libéria en quête d'un retour triomphal : Une décision cruciale attendue lors de la réunion du conseil d'administration de la MCC

Ce mercredi, le conseil d'administration de la Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) se réunit à Washington dans une rencontre décisive qui pourrait marquer un tournant historique pour le Libéria. Après des années de réformes ambitieuses et un engagement soutenu envers les critères exigeants de la MCC, le pays espère décrocher le très convoité Compact de la MCC.

Pour un Libéria qui a essuyé des échecs en 2022 et 2023, cette décision pourrait devenir le symbole d'une transformation profonde et durable.

Les échecs comme catalyseurs de changement

Le rejet répété du Compact en 2022 et 2023 a été un choc pour le Libéria, révélant des faiblesses structurelles en matière de gouvernance, d'économie et de

développement social. Ce revers, loin d'être une défaite, a déclenché une mobilisation nationale sans précédent.

Sous la direction du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, le gouvernement a lancé un ambitieux programme de réformes ciblant des domaines essentiels tels que la lutte contre la corruption, l'État de droit, la liberté économique et l'équité sociale. Parallèlement, des investissements significatifs ont été réalisés dans l'éducation et la santé, des priorités fondamentales pour répondre aux attentes de la MCC.

Des résultats significatifs

Les efforts du Libéria se reflètent clairement dans son dernier tableau de bord de la MCC, avec plusieurs indicateurs clés :

Alors que le Libéria attend

impatiemment la décision de la MCC, les efforts déployés et les progrès réalisés placent le pays en position favorable pour obtenir le Compact.

Quelle que soit l'issue, cette étape illustre la capacité du Libéria à surmonter ses difficultés et à tracer la voie vers un avenir plus prometteur. Une décision positive aujourd'hui pourrait être le catalyseur d'un développement transformateur et envoyer un message fort au monde entier : le Libéria est prêt à s'affirmer comme un modèle de résilience et de réforme.



Des étudiants en médecine protestent contre cinq mois d'arriérés de bourse

Plus de 450 étudiants en médecine de l'Université du Libéria (UL), ainsi que de l'École de Pharmacie et du Collège de Médecine A.M. Dogliotti, ont menacé de se mobiliser si le gouvernement ne régularise pas le paiement de cinq mois d'arriérés de bourses.

Le gouvernement est responsable de verser une allocation mensuelle de 200 dollars américains à chaque étudiant afin de les aider à couvrir les frais liés à leurs études dans ces institutions publiques. Toutefois, les étudiants font état de cinq mois d'impayés, entraînant une pression financière considérable sur leur quotidien.

Après trois mois de négociations infructueuses, la situation a pris un tournant le 17 décembre 2024, lorsqu'un groupe d'étudiants s'est réuni devant la résidence du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à Paynesville pour exiger une réponse concrète du gouvernement.

Une aide indispensable pour leur quotidien

Dennis Blay, président de l'Association des étudiants en médecine du Libéria et du Collège de Médecine A.M. Dogliotti, a souligné que cette allocation est essentielle à la survie des étudiants, qui suivent des études à plein temps et ne peuvent pas exercer d'activités rémunérées en parallèle.

« Nous avons contacté l'Université du Libéria ainsi que le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, mais ce dernier a fermé ses comptes pour l'année. Ils nous ont indiqué qu'ils ne pouvaient verser qu'un mois d'arriéré et nous ont demandé d'accepter de renoncer aux quatre autres mois », a expliqué Blay.

Cette proposition a suscité un mécontentement général parmi les



Étudiants en médecine de l'Université du Libéria (UL)

étudiants. « Cette bourse est cruciale pour notre quotidien. Nous comptons sur elle pour subvenir à nos besoins de base. Renoncer aux autres mois n'est tout simplement pas envisageable », a ajouté Blay.

Des protestations jusqu'à satisfaction des revendications

Ne trouvant pas de solution satisfaisante par les canaux habituels, les étudiants ont décidé de poursuivre leurs manifestations devant la résidence présidentielle jusqu'à ce que leurs demandes soient prises en compte.

Hnoede L. Brownell, présidente de l'Association des étudiants en pharmacie, a précisé que, compte tenu de la nature exigeante de leurs études, les étudiants ne peuvent pas travailler parallèlement pour couvrir leurs frais de subsistance. Elle a également souligné que de nombreux étudiants doivent faire face à des coûts supplémentaires, comme le loyer, étant donné que tous ne sont pas logés sur le campus.

« Cette situation est injuste. Il est essentiel que nous recevions l'intégralité des cinq mois d'arriérés. C'est la seule manière de couvrir nos besoins essentiels », a insisté Brownell.

Un malaise plus large dans le secteur de la santé

Le mécontentement des étudiants en médecine s'inscrit dans un contexte de plus en plus tendu au sein du secteur de la santé. Les médecins spécialistes et autres travailleurs de la santé se sont eux aussi élevés contre les bas salaires et la réticence du gouvernement à améliorer leur rémunération.

L'Assemblée des professionnels de santé du Libéria, qui regroupe des associations telles que l'Association des infirmiers du Libéria et l'Association médicale et dentaire du Libéria, a récemment dénoncé la décision du gouvernement d'introduire une prime salariale de 50 dollars pour les travailleurs du secteur. Selon eux, cette mesure contrevient à la politique de reclassification salariale du secteur et risque d'entraîner une grève nationale si elle n'est pas révisée.

Édité par Jonathan Browne

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Data Reduction

By Naneka Hoffman

The recent deduction of data and minutes by GSM Companies is still raising concern among subscribers with many blaming government and the service providers as you may read below.



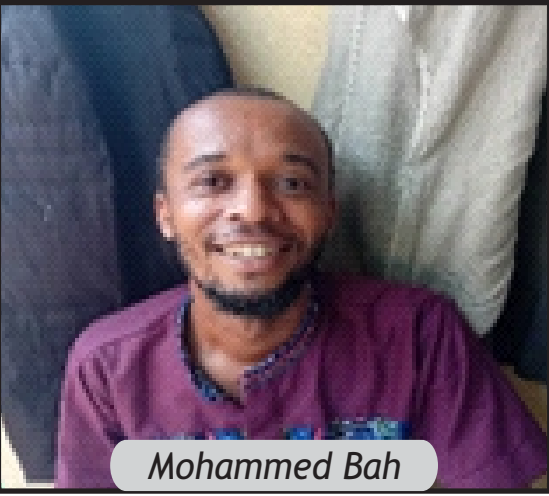
“The data issue in this country is even worse than the harmonization process. In the harmonization process, not everyone was on government payroll; there were few people on

“As for the data issue, for me, I will say it comes from the government, because the government put huge tax on the GSM companies, so for that reason, you will not expect a business man to be paying tax in a huge amount then you expecting him to sell this business at a low price, so for that reason they have to do some increasing or take away some offer that was given to customers. I feel that I am not getting what I supposed to receive so for that reason, I have to reduce the cost to meet up with the payment of the tax.”

government payroll that were making salary from government and they brought their pay down. It affected them, even the government and it led them to their defeat. In this instead case, even the least man in society is on social media. He sees Facebook, TikTok and all the different social media platforms, as sources of happiness to remove the stress after a hectic day. For you to see a government that said they will rescue this country, and under this administration to find both Lonestar and Orange leading to the cause to extend data package or to reduce any package at all level that was positively affecting the lives of the least in the country. I feel it is wickedness. This isn't how you rescue a country.”



“Our rescue government we brought to power is trying to make us so we will not remain silent; first our data must be restored and secondly, the law is the law. I blame LTA. Yesterday, we were in data struggle; we started enjoying data 3.00usd for 12G. Today, our data has gone, so we want our data to straighten our minds. Everyone isn't working in government, but we use data to do research.”



“This data issue is really disappointing we the citizens of Liberia and they cut off the data without telling us. At least when you give offer before you take it,

“The data is a problem, but you see there are two ways. Everything we can politicize it; where we are facing problem with the data, there is a major issue nobody is looking at; they are only talking because we want to politicize data. The major issue when you purchase your data, network facing problem and data and minutes have expire time. There is a possibility that you don't use your data and call and when that date and time reach, the GMS companies will collect all your data and minutes in your phone which isn't supposed be that way. I think the GMS companies need to stop taking our data and minutes, because some of us cannot use our data and minutes and then

you have to inform the people that you taking the data, so we can prepare for the effect of it, but they just took the data without sending messages to us. I blame the GSM companies because the companies supposed to inform the public and the government got a part to play, because if something happens between the companies and the government, they supposed to sit down and discuss and inform us the citizens. Let the companies try to restore our data back; we will be happy for it because data just looking like rice bag. As for me, I prefer I don't eat but data must be in my phone.”



when the network gets bad and the expiring time reaches, they will collect all our data and minutes without leaving our data and minutes in our phone. I think it's bad; they need to stop it.”



“I think the data issue both the government and GSM companies need to be blamed. The GMS companies

supposed to inform the public that they are reducing the data because of so, so reasons. We are paying tax to them and the government. And secondly, the government needs to take the blame because they told us that they came to recuse the country, and we are paying tax, so anything the government and GSM companies are going through, they supposed to inform us ahead of time but both of them left the entire citizenry in doubt, so at the end of the day, we started protesting on Facebook and in the streets because of lack of communication from the both parties.”

The NewDawn

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

Read the

NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

Starts from Back page

Arson or electrical shock?

Koffa. The cause of the fire is still unknown, but the Liberian National Police suspects a possible arsonist and potential electrical shocks based on initial evidence available.

This is not the first time for strange fire to engulf the Joint Chamber of the building; the first attempt happened Tuesday, December 10, 2024, but was immediately quenched following joint intervention.

The Police IG reveals that calls have been placed to find persons of interest to report to the Police to answer to some of the claims, noting that the Constitution is clear, because there are no legislative privileges.

Col. Coleman notes that they will also be calling in technical expertise, international partners to be able to examine the cause of the fire because there seems to be capacity issue, saying “We are also looking at other intelligence that we have been gathering.”

According to him, there was a night when they showed up at the Capitol and it became a major sensational headline regarding their patrol but, their movement was based on intelligence, disclosing that the attempt to have the Capitol burnt had been coming for almost a month, and they have been working to stop this but unfortunately it has happened.

Information Minister Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, says Liberia has a violent history and so, it's important to keep reminding citizens about how a sitting President was overthrown and killed like a primitive animal, adding that

following his execution, several government officials were executed publicly.

He was making reference to the April 12, 1980, topple of late President Dr. William R. Tolbert, who was chair of the former Organization of African Union, now the African Union.

Minister Piah also notes that within a space of six years under former President George M. Weah, development left Liberia, now within the space of one year, Liberia has begun experiencing growth and development once again, lamenting that it is so saddening that people of lawlessness want to erode the peace.

“In less than a year, we having this big win. However, instead of working with us to achieve this progress we are making in less than one year, we seen these elements of lawlessness and violence that are permeating the society. This which the government must say as the President said today, these are all considered unacceptable. If there are people who believe that they will cause insurrection here, make violence as a way of life, let me call your attention that there is a government here. And we have the responsibility as a government to ensure the protection of lives and properties and we will not fail on that” he warns.

Wednesday's fire at the Capitol followed violent protest a day earlier, when protesters and Police clashed before the Capitol Building, leaving a police officer wounded and disarmed and scores of citizens arrested and detained.

Editing by Jonathan Browne.

Police arrest several suspects

The Liberian National Police says it has arrested and detained several suspects in connection with fire at the Capitol that Police Chief Gregory Coleman terms as an arson attack.

By Kruah Thompson
Monrovia, Liberia, December 19, 2024 - The Inspector General of Police, Col. Gregory Coleman, announces arrest of 73 anti-government protesters and several individuals believed to be linked to the fire incident that occurred early Wednesday morning on Capitol Hill.

According to Inspector General Coleman, the arrests include individuals, who claimed to be security officers assigned at the Legislature, but lack proper identification, raising further suspicion about their presence on the premises during Tuesday's violent protest.

The incidents come against the backdrop of rising tensions within the 55th Legislature over Speaker Koffa's removal, as protesters took to the streets of Monrovia on Tuesday to express dissatisfaction with the administration of President Joseph Boakai, who has been in office for less than a year.

While demonstrators gathered near the national legislature, police responded with teargas and live bullets to disperse the crowd, but the Liberia National Police denies discharging live weapons.

A day after the protest, fire gutted the building housing the Liberian Legislature, causing significant damage to

the entire chamber. Though the Police are yet to identify the source of the fire, Inspector General Coleman told special press briefing on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, that a joint investigation by the police and fire service is ongoing.

He explains that by the time officers arrived at the scene, the Capitol Building was already engulfed in flames.



Police arrested all security officers present during the incident, as well as individuals claiming to be security personnel but without proper identification.

“All of the security officers who were present were also arrested, and as they spoke to us, some of them were released based on the information provided,” Coleman adds.

He says both incidents are being investigated, while emphasizing a need for additional expertise, including international partners and

specialists, to ensure a thorough inquiry into the matter.

The Police IG urges those summoned by the Police to cooperate fully with the investigation, noting that all evidence, including social media and print media, will be reviewed.

Providing updates on Tuesday's protest that led to several injuries, he narrates that protesters were guided to a designated protest zone near the University of Liberia (UL),

and they were formally informed that due to ongoing security concerns at the Capitol Building, only staffers and lawmakers would be allowed entry to carry out their duties.

He continues that protesters were told the area in front of the University was the appropriate location for presenting their petition, but notes that while some complied, others took an alternate route, became violent, and forced the police to use teargas to restore order. During the incident, police

Boakai calls for swift investigation

President Joseph Boakai is calling for speedy investigation into Wednesday's fire incident at the Capitol, vowing that anyone caught will be dealt with accordingly.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Monrovia, Liberia, December 19, 2024 - In the aftermath of Wednesday's fire at the Capitol, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai says the fire incident will be expeditiously investigated and those found, will be dealt with

saddening news that fire has gutted the Joint Chamber of the Legislature, less than 24 hours, after violent clashes between Police and protesters demanding adherence to the rule of law amid ongoing leadership crisis at the House of Representatives.



accordingly.

President Boakai, accompanied by Vice President Jeremiah Kounk, toured the damaged facility and expressed sorrow, while consoling members of the Legislature.

“This is complete banditry and gangsterism, and we're not going to accept this, so we are asking the Minister of Justice, Security apparatus and our friends to investigate this to the letter. People who are culprits, we will deal with”, the President vows.

Speaking forthrightly, he describes the act as hooliganism and warns that “No stone will be left unturned in accordance with the law.”

President Boakai: “This is unfortunate, and we are not going to settle for this. This is not a place for hooligans, but for responsible people, who are there to serve their country, so if you have problem, you have the rule of law; you have every way the people will listen to you, so we are not going to accept.”

Liberians woke up early Wednesday morning to

Few months ago, a group of lawmakers calling themselves Majority Bloc gathered to remove embattled Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, something that has sparked controversy here, with minority Representatives resisting said action.

Meanwhile, immediately after the fire incident, reports link embattled Speaker Koffa, who has been defiant that he remains the legitimate Speaker to the incident, as being mastermind of the fire outbreak on Capitol Hill.

But Speaker Koffa in a Facebook post writes, “Hon. Fonati Koffa, has nothing to do with him; has no access to such social account.”

However, Montserrado County District#9 Representative, Saah Foko, a staunch supporter of Speaker Koffa and the minority bloc, has been invited by the Liberia National Police (LNP), for questioning in regards to a live interview video cast, in which he was heard threatening in July to burn down the Joint Chamber of Capitol Building.

arrested 72 individuals. Of those, 15 protest and the subsequent were charged and immediately investigation into their actions.” forwarded to court, while 10 were Meanwhile, the government has released after investigators found no announced a \$5,000 bounty for evidence of their involvement. “The anyone with credible remaining individuals are still being information about the Capitol investigated to determine their roles Building fire.

in the unrest,” Coleman adds. The Minister of Information, He discloses that the 15 individuals Culture Affairs and Tourism charged are facing multiple Jerolinmek Mathew Piah, says offenses, including criminal they are confident that mischief, physical obstruction of individuals have valuable government functions, aggravated information, and the reward is assault, failure to disperse, intended to encourage them to obstructing traffic, and disorderly come forward. *Editing by*

conduct. “These charges reflect the severity of the disruptions caused during the

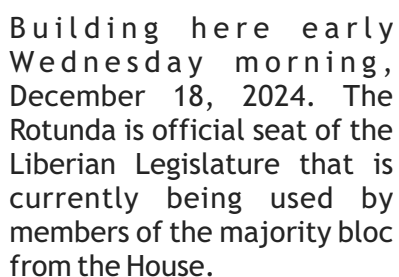
Jonathan Browne.

-Government unclear about Capitol Building flames

By Lincoln G. Peters

press briefing at the Ministry of Information, Liberia National Police Inspector General, Gregory Coleman, said early Wednesday morning, the Police received calls that there was smoke coming out of the Joint Chamber of the Capitol Building.

Liberians woke up early Wednesday to shocking news of blazing and massive flames engulfing the Capitol Building, with the fire mainly concentrated in the Rotunda. The Joint Chamber of the Capitol currently hosts members of the majority bloc that have illegally removed embattled Speaker J. Fonati



According to Inspector Coleman, by the time they got on the scene, the fire was raging, so, they made contact with the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company, Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation and private institutions to help

Addressing an emergency

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11


www.thenewdawnliberia.com
Advertise with us!
Subscribe to our website
 Get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines**
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars**
- Brochures, Letterhead**
- Receipts, Invoices**
- Souvenirs, Gifts**
- Designs, etc...**



A composite image showing two different Heidelberg printing machines in a workshop setting. The left machine is a smaller, older model with a yellow bed. The right machine is a larger, more modern model with a black frame. The text "2 Colors Heidelberg Machines" is overlaid in the center.

<http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com>


A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue shirt and reading a newspaper. The newspaper is the 'New Dawn' sports section, with headlines such as 'Dawn raises red flag' and 'Uncertainty hangs over schools'. A large, bold, black text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE'. The background is a solid yellow color.

A hand holding a pen, about to press a button labeled 'PRESS' on a colorful, abstract background. The background features vibrant, splashing colors like pink, yellow, and blue, suggesting a creative or dynamic environment.

PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
UN Drive, P. O. Box 1266
Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.

Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529
0886978282 / 0775407211

Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com
Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

A collage of various New Dawn publications, including a newspaper, a calendar, a brochure, and a magazine, all featuring the New Dawn logo and colorful abstract designs.