



#### CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA **MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**

**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR** DATE **BUYING SELLING** 

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024 L\$183.1518/US\$1.00 L\$181.2357/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.

# **French Version Inside**

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#### REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



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# Continental New

# Death toll in latest stampedes Burkina Faso adopts amnesty in Nigeria rises to at least 32 law for 2015 putschists

The death toll from stampedes during two separate Christmas charity events in Nigeria has risen to 32, police said on Sunday.

he victims, include at Okija town, where a least four children.

As the country grapples with the worst cost-of-living crisis in a Ten others died in the capital, gathered to collect food and

philanthropist had organised a food distribution, local police

generation, large crowds had Abuja, during a similar churchorganised event.



clothing distributed at the "They opened the gate this Christmas charity events.

southeastern Anambra state's started marching on people. They

morning, everybody just rushed The dead included 22 people in in, then some people fell, and they

marched on them till they died," said one eyewitness.

"We discovered that a lot of people were trampled upon. It took a lot of effort to be able to move them immediately to the hospital," said Tunji Disu, head of the Intelligence Response Team in Abuja.

Police said they are investigating the two incidents, which took place only days after dozens of children were killed during a crush at a holiday funfair in Ibadan.

The organisers had promised to give cash handouts and food.

Africa's most populous country is seeing a growing trend by local organisations, churches, and individuals to organise charity events ahead of Christmas to ease economic hardship.

The stampedes have prompted growing calls for the authorities to enforce safety measures at such events.

Nigerian police have also mandated that organisers obtain permission prior to holding them. -Africanews

urkina Faso's government has adopted a new bill which will grant amnesty to people convicted in connection with the failed 2015 coup.

The Minister of Justice said they will first have to admit to facts, behave well, and be willing to be operationally deployed in the fight against terrorism.

In 2015, a group of soldiers from the country's elite Presidential Security Regiment, loyal to ousted President Blaise Campaore, attempted to end the transitional government less than a month before democratic elections.

Campaore was forced out of in 50 years.

from part of the army and the population, and several highranking officers were sentenced to prison terms in 2019.

Appeal judgements are still pending following the trial, but the justice minister said the amnesty law could make up for the slowness of the justice system and unblock the situation.

He said the people concerned by the amnesty will be designated in a forthcoming decree.

The draft law has sparked mixed reactions, with some seeing it as a positive step towards reconciliation, while others question its motivation and implications.

Following the failed 2015 coup, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré won the election, in the country's first peaceful and fair vote



Burkina Faso coup leader Capt. Ibrahim Traore, October 2022-BBC

## Cyclone Chido kills 94 people in Mozambique Reuters A drone view of destroyed houses and buildings following Mayotte's prefect previously told

cyclone Chido in Pemba, Mozambique, December 18, 2024Reuters

yclone Chido has killed 94 already limited before the cyclone. local authorities have said.

The country's National Institute of in response to the cyclone. disaster in some capacity.

(160mph) and 250mm of rainfall Niassa can rebuild. in the first 24 hours.

before moving on to Mozambique, catastrophe. Malawi and Zimbabwe.

northern provinces that are died. regularly battered by cyclones. It first reached Cabo Delgado, then travelled further inland to Niassa

and Nampula. The country's INGD said the cyclone impacted the education and health sector. More than 109,793 students were affected, with school infrastructure

severely damaged. Some 52 sanitary units were damaged, the INGD said, which further risks access to essential health services. This is exacerbated further in areas where access to healthcare facilities were

people in Mozambique Daniel Chapo, leader of since it made landfall in Mozambique's ruling party, told the east African country last week, local media the government is mobilising support on "all levels"

Risk and Disaster Management Speaking during a visit to Cabo (INGD) said 768 people were Delgado on Sunday, one of the injured and more than 622,000 most badly affected areas, Chapo people affected by the natural said the government is working alongside the INGD to ensure Chido hit Mozambique on 15 those affected in the provinces of December with winds of 260 km/h Mecúfi, Nampula, Memba and

In Mayotte, Chido was the worst The same cyclone had first storm to hit the archipelago in 90 wreaked havoc in the French years, leaving tens of thousands of Indian Ocean territory of Mayotte, people reeling from the

The interior ministry in its latest In Mozambique, the storm struck update confirmed 35 people had

local media the death toll could rise significantly once the damage was fully assessed, warning it would "definitely be several hundred" and could reach thousands.

More than 1,300 officers were deployed to support the local population.

One week on, many residents still lack basic necessities, while running water is making a gradual return to the territory's capital. The ministry has advised people to boil water for three minutes before consuming it.

Around 100 tonnes of equipment are being delivered each day, the ministry said, as an air bridge was built between Mayotte, Reunion and mainland France.-BBC

office in 2014 by protesters He was however ousted in a angered by his attempt to change the constitution to extend his 27-year rule, and fled the country.

The week-long power grab failed following opposition

military-led insurgency in January 2022, which was followed nine months later by a second coup, whose leader is still in power.-Africanews.



NewDawn Newspaper

# **EDITORIAI**

# Irresponsible display of greed

ednesday'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.

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By: Togba-Nah Tipoteh

## **Rule Of Law Not Burning**

with all of the LNP Guards around? Pot of Liberia. calling teakettle black. Can not the will not be credible.

GOL can expose itself and render itself burning buildings. noncredible. What a shame! But the within the Rule of Law.

have taken to action by calling upon the other country. Supreme Court of Liberia to use this

he attempt to burn down the opportunity to spread Our Creator's Word Capitol Building has provided the that we are here to save Lives and not to opportunity for the people who kill lives. We are here to serve and not to be love Liberia to continue to tell the Truth served. The Supreme Court of Liberia has that is bring the societal problem in already ruled for parties concerned to obey Liberia to an end. Truth burned to the the Rule of Law by going back to the Gavel ground will rise again. How did the of the Speaker. Certainly, money must not suspects get into the Capitol Building be the gavel when there is the Constitution

powers that be know that the people are We have Law in Liberia. We must use the not stupid. The more that the powers that Rule of Law rather than the rule of burning be do not tell the Truth, the more that they to get the right things done, Now, the GOL has to find the two million United States dollars to get the Capitol Building fixed. The people are not stupid. The people How will this money be fixing in the midst know that it is impossible for the LNP of corruption and members of the Officers to be all around the Capitol Legislature are camping at a local hotel on Building and not know how the suspects taxpayers' money gotten illegally. This is got in the building. To add insult to injury, stealing in broad day light or highway The LNP beat on the Whistle Blower, and robbery. This is being put to a stop through he had to be rushed to the JFKMMC. The the awareness raising by the people who Representative who was the Whistle love Liberia. This awareness raising is Blower was not in the building. So why going well because the people of Liberia was he beaten upon. You see how the areacting through the Rule of Law and not

people are watching, learning and acting It is this acting through the Rule of Law that the unfair prevailing electoral system into the fair enduring electoral system. It is The people are acting within the Rule of only through the Rule of Law that persons Law and not being Lawbreakers like the with good records can get elected to bring Lawmakers who have become in the system of Justice, the indispensable Lawbreakers. The Religious Leaders ingredient for Justice in Liberia and in any

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MONDAY

by Emily Armistead

## The Half Promise of Weight-Loss Drugs

ONDON – Groundbreaking weight-loss drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy have understandably generated a lot of excitement, bringing hope to the I hundreds of millions of people grappling with obesity. When combined with a healthier diet and exercise, these drugs, which work by suppressing appetite, deliver an average 10% reduction in body weight that can be sustained for years.

With more than two-thirds of adults in the United Kingdom and nearly three-quarters in the United States classified as overweight or obese – a health crisis that costs national economies billions of dollars annually – physicians and policymakers could be forgiven for embracing these drugs as a panacea. US President Joe Biden's administration, for example, recently proposed requiring Medicare and Medicaid to cover the costs of weight-loss drugs, offering access to millions of Americans. But addressing obesity requires much more than a technological fix.

To be clear, I am not suggesting these drugs are unnecessary or that medical professionals should avoid prescribing them. But they do not address the problem fueling the global obesity crisis (and contributing to the climate crisis as well): our broken food system.

The alarming rise in obesity over the past 30 years is not simply a byproduct of higher living standards or more sedentary lifestyles, though these factors play a pivotal role. The primary factor appears to be the transformation of our food environment, which has fundamentally altered both the types of food we consume and our eating habits.

In recent years, scientists and health experts have increasingly focused on the highfat, sugar, and salt (HFSS) foods driving unhealthy dietary habits. This trend can be attributed to companies reshaping the food system to produce ultra-processed, hyperpalatable, and highly profitable foods. Consequently, people are snacking more, eating larger portions, and preparing fewer meals themselves. In the UK, for example, the snack market has boomed while the time spent preparing meals has sharply declined.

These changes haven't just fueled the rapid increase in HFSS food consumption. They have also led to a surge in meat consumption, especially in Europe and North America, where meat-heavy diets have become all too common.

Beyond the heightened risk of heart disease and related health conditions, excessive meat consumption has had devastating effects on the climate and biodiversity. Research shows that animal-based foods generate twice the greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions of plant-based alternatives. Just as health experts urge us to reduce our HFSS intake, climate scientists consistently emphasize the importance of cutting meat and dairy consumption to keep global warming within safe limits.

In an effort to prevent a lasting change in people's eating habits, the meat industry is seeking techno-fixes to cut GHG emissions. For example, funding for research on cutting farm emissions – such as feed additives designed to reduce methane levels in cows' burps – has increased markedly.

Such solutions are particularly attractive to governments reluctant to introduce measures that influence consumer behavior. Fearful of opposition from the Big Food lobby and wary of accusations of overreach, policies like sugar taxes or meat taxes are deemed political hot potatoes to be avoided at all costs.

But the overlapping crises our broken food system is fueling – from the billions of dollars spent each year on diet-related health problems to the environmental degradation pushing our planet to its limits – cannot be wished away or fixed with technological band-aids. Instead, what is needed is a major shift in dietary habits toward foods that nourish both people and the environment.

To this end, the EAT-Lancet Commission – comprised of the world's leading nutrition and sustainability experts – advocates a diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and plant-based proteins while reducing consumption of animal proteins, dairy, and sugars. Taken together, these recommendations offer a clear blueprint for ensuring health and sustainability.

Admittedly, it is unrealistic to expect consumers – conditioned by food environments designed for profit rather than human or environmental health – to drive this transition on their own. With unhealthy foods widely available and aggressively marketed, many consumers often struggle to moderate their food intake and, in some cases, develop addictive behaviors.

Governments and food manufacturers must take proactive measures to reshape these environments, such as expanding initiatives aimed at reducing the consumption of HFSS foods to include meat, thereby encouraging people to eat more plant-based whole foods and meat alternatives.

Another potential solution would be to extend bans on promotional deals for unhealthy foods to cover meat products. Requiring food companies to report on the types of food they sell, including HFSS foods and the ratio of plant-based to animal proteins, would also help. These measures would incentivize businesses to prioritize healthier, more sustainable options over less nutritious ones.

None of this is to suggest that the new generation of weight-loss drugs cannot benefit individuals living with obesity. For those trapped in a cycle of poor health, Ozempic and Wegovy could even save lives, and efforts to make these treatments widely available are a welcome step.

But it is essential that we recognize that this approach treats the symptoms rather than the underlying pathology. Defusing the time bombs of ill health and environmental catastrophe requires fast, decisive action to remake our dysfunctional food system.

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By Indernik Gilland Apditya Mattoo

## Services Are the New Road to Development

ASHINGTON, DC – For developing countries around the world especially the poorest – the economic terrain has seldom been so slippery. Low-income countries have already suffered a lost decade, with virtually zero per capita income growth since 2010. Many middle-income countries are coming to terms with a demographic shift that puts them at risk of growing old before they grow rich. And many high-income countries risk stagnation because of sky-high debt and anemic productivity growth.

Such conditions are not conducive to international comity, at least not of the kind that fueled so much progress after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Developing economies will need to get better at fending for themselves, and while some are already preparing to do so, they are operating with an antiquated policy framework.

In the third decade of the twenty-first century, does it really make sense for developing countries to place an all-or-nothing bet on manufacturing? New research from the World Bank shows clearly that it does not. Developing countries would do far better to put services in the lead role, with manufacturing and agriculture serving as the supporting cast.

Services include a wide range of activities – finance, health, tourism, logistics – and the benefits they generate spill over to other sectors. Yet relative to manufacturing, they continue to get a bad rap. Supposedly, they are notoriously slow to innovate, hard to trade, and difficult to free from regulatory restrictions. Yet services now account for more than two-thirds of global GDP and half of global trade (once you factor in services that are used in manufacturing and agriculture).

Among those seizing the opportunities offered by trade in services, the most striking examples come from the home of the "Asian miracle." While the textbook manufacturing-led model of economic growth once worked wonders in East Asia, these countries' circumstances and needs have changed. Their populations are aging quickly, the global economy is becoming more fragmented, and they are adapting. Over the past decade, our research shows, the share of services grew from 44% of economic activity in China to 53%, and from 44% to 48% in other economies across East Asia. These sectors now account for nearly 50% of employment in the region, up from 42% a decade ago.

This shift reflects the rapid rise of digital technologies – nearly three-quarters of people in East Asia and the Pacific now have access to the internet, a sevenfold increase from 2000 – as well as modest trade liberalization for services. The result is an Asian economic renaissance. Opening services to competition has fueled higher labor productivity even in manufacturing and agriculture, where firms can check prices, deliver goods, and receive payments much more efficiently.

Across all major economies in East Asia and the Pacific, services now contribute more than manufacturing to overall labor-productivity growth, an essential condition for higher wages. In Vietnam, for example, labor productivity climbed by 2.9% after the government eased restrictions on foreign entry and ownership in several services sectors between 2008 and 2016 – reform commitments that were part of Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organization. Moreover, manufacturing firms that use these liberalized services registered a 3.1% annual increase in labor productivity, and the biggest beneficiaries were small and medium-sized private enterprises.

The rise of services in East Asia has yielded other important benefits. It is powering foreign direct investment, with the growth rate of FDI in services exceeding that of manufacturing by a factor of five. It is also driving demand for higher-skilled workers. Close to 40% of formal workers in digital services in East Asia today have a university degree or higher. That's double the rate for workers in other sectors. And the same trend is unlocking greater economic opportunities for women, because the ratio of female to male workers tends to be higher in the services sector than in manufacturing, and the proportion of women in the workforce grows as the level of economic development increases.

These are all essential ingredients for long-term growth. But because the trajectory of services is so closely tied to the spread of digital technologies, developing economies have not benefited equally. The countries with the fastest growth in services tend to be upper-middle-income economies – especially in East Asia. In such economies, services have gone from a 40% share of GDP in 1970 to about 50% today. In lowincome countries, however, services as a share of GDP are still about 40%, pretty much the same as in 1970.

Yet even in the poorest countries, services represent a promising path to future prosperity. They can help all countries move from low- to middle- to high-income status. But first, we must reject the false choice between supporting services and supporting manufacturing. Policymakers should do both, while maximizing the potential of the services sector to deliver growth and jobs.

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## The Danger of electing hoodlums to power

nfolding 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 hooligans 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.

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 meagre 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 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 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 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.



#### The Government of Liberia Should Lead **Diplomatic Efforts to Keep ECOWAS' Unity**

ometime ago, the Republics of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso decided that they were preparing to withdraw from the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS). The three countries had experienced undemocratic transitions or transfers of power that ECOWAS is opposed to. The ECOWAS Member Sates imposed selected sanctions on those countries and took other actions to help the 3 West African countries return to democratic leadership by holding free, fair, and transparent elections. These countries have not returned to democratic governance as demanded by ECOWAS. They are all under military rule. Last weekend the ECOWAS Authority ended its 66th Summit in Abuja. ECOWAS officially received notification of the 3 countries' decision to withdraw from ECOWAS. According to the President of ECOWAS, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso have got up to 29th January-29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to remain within the ambit of ECOWAS. These countries have reaffirmed their commitment to break away or withdraw from ECOWAS and form their own ub regional union, the Alliance of Sahel Sates.

Geopolitically, the Sahel comprises more than the 3 states of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The three countries as sovereign states have their right to decide what happens to their countries and peoples in terms of remaining within ECOWAS. However, they need to act meticulously in the context of their National Interests. Let us make no mistake. States Must always protect their National Interests and that of their Peoples. National Interest means the Security of the Sate and the Wellbeing of its people. Hence, the 3 countries' grievances need to be listened to, discussed, and diplomatically negotiated. This is why I welcome the suggestion of the Republic of Liberia articulated by H.E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai that ECOWAS should remove all sanctions against the 3 countries and increase diplomatic efforts in negotiating with them in the spirit of international Cooperation. No country is truly independent of others.

The suggestion advanced by Liberia's President at the just ended 66th Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Governments is great, welcoming, and relevant. It is only through diplomacy that such intergovernmental negotiation can take place. Indeed, there is strength in Unity. Regional Solidarity is required no matter what the issues are. There is a very strong connection between international cooperation and sustainable development (Kaydor, 2024). Through international cooperation processes, the ECOWAS region can ensure that mutually agreed outcomes (Ibid) are obtained in the ultimate interests of all member states. The practice of international cooperation either stalls or enhances the attainment of national, regional, and global public goods and amicable outcomes. Official Development Assistance (ODA) is one of the key components of international cooperation that remains a key pillar to the achievement of sustainable development in the mutually beneficial interest of stronger and weaker states.

International cooperation is the fulcrum for sustainable development (Kaydor, 2024). First, international cooperation impacts sustainable development because it is through cooperation that states can attain mutually beneficial outcomes to address both national, regional, and global challenges and problems. Without international cooperation, states will fail to singularly achieve their national interests. Simply put, all states are interdependent. Second, international cooperation has evolved over time moving beyond the traditional practice of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to now include global governance that involves trans governmental networks; transnational private governance; and transnational public-private partnership processes. These global networks are complex but help states and non-state actors to cooperate in attaining national, regional, and global development outcomes bordered on the security of states and the welling of their people. For instance, Liberia just documented citizens of Burkina Faso who have migrated to some counties in the South-Eastern Region. Regional solidarity is needed to support each other citizens and this is what Liberia is doing.

**4S I SEE IT**, there is a need to improve regional international cooperation in ECOWAS by enhancing diplomacy and negotiations to ensure that states and non-state actors further commit and fulfill the principles of global partnership. Liberia is a brainchild of ECOWAS formation. The country also benefitted from the support and assistance of ECOWAS during the Liberian Civil War. ECOMOG came to Liberia and some soldiers of Weast African States died in Liberia during our civil war. These are terrible times for Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The 3 countries need to advance economic growth and build strong institutions for sustainable development as required under SDG16 on the one hand, while they need to take concrete steps to radically end extreme poverty and pursue the path to sustainable development so their citizens can enjoy the befits of their respective countries, on the other. This can only happen when peace and stability are in place. This is where ECOWAS comes in. The Regional body needs to increase its diplomatic overtures to ensure peace, security, harmony, and National Unity in the region mainly in the countries affected by crises. Liberia as the lead founder of ECOWAS therefore needs to lead the diplomatic efforts. To help to keep ECOWAS united as a bloc, the Government of Liberia Should Lead Diplomatic Efforts to Keep ECOWAS States together.

A**bout the Author**: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. serves as an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. He holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he specialized in International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.' He earned a Master of Public Policy (MPP) specialized in Development Policy or Development Economics with Distinction from the Crawford School of Economics and Government (now the Crawford School of Public Policy), Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He also obtained a Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations (Highest Distinction) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude in Political Science from the University of Liberia where his Minor was History with Masscom as is his Elective. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; and he holds other diplomas and certificates in professional fields from Italy, UK, Pakistan, China, and Israel. Prof. Kaydor is also an Adjunct Professor of International Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. Dr. Kaydor is an evidencebased researcher, a blogger, a columnist, and a published author. One can reach him via (kaydorth@ul.edu.lr*orthkaydor@gmail.com*).



#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

DECEMBER 23

#### MORE HEADLINE NE

# LIS to deploy over 500 officers China accelerates development in -As Pres. Boakai breaks ground for China-aid Clinical Liberia authorities have lauded China for being steadfast to Liberia authorities have lauded Chi

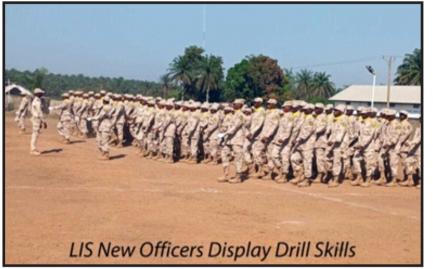
2024

The Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) says it will begin deployment of newly graduated officers in early January 2025.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

cting Commissioner-General Elijah F. Rufus disclosed to the New Dawn on Sunday, December 22, 2024, that the fresh deployment According to him, the mass

begin deploying these newly L I S graduated officers, and we aim to strengthen surveillance, border-Security- Acting LIS Commissioner Rufus Rufus added.



aimed at Strengthening Border- deployment of over 500 Security.

immigration Officers will cut

across the counties and hard-toreach areas.

"As of January 6, 2025, we will "There are some counties where our presence is not wellfelt." So, we are going to deploy these men in different areas, Acting LIS Commissioner

> Early this month, the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) graduated at least 517 recruited officers from its Joseph Boakai Training Academy in Foya, Lofa County.

> The Immigration personnel had undergone a six-week intensive training in immigration formalities.

Liberia has struggled to manage its porous borders for years, with several illegal entries. The latest deployment of officers is expected to help reduce the number of unlawful entries and boost border security. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Liberian authorities have lauded China for being steadfast to Liberians'

onrovia, December 23, 2024: The People's Republic of China has begun accelerating the implementation of a developmental agenda in Liberia under President Joseph Nyuma Boaka's administration.

development initiatives come amid strengthening diplomatic relations between the Republic of Liberia and the People's Republic of

Over the weekend, Liberia and China broke ground for the construction of a National Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment Laboratory at the 14th Military

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 20, 2024, on the grounds of the 14th Medical Hospital in Lower Margibi County. The ceremony brought together diplomatic community.

founded to consider detailed design

The technical working group comprised the Ministry of Defense, the Civil Work Department, the Armed Forces of Liberia Engineering and Medical Department, and the Ministry of Health Infrastructure Department.

The main project focused The enhanced China-aid exclusively on laboratory activities. Due to a need for expansion at the 14th Military Hospital, a request was forwarded to the Chinese Government for additional departments to strengthen the clinical capabilities.

> On September 17, 2019, a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Health visited Liberia to discuss the project's feasibility.

> The Government of Liberia and the Liberian technical working group reminded the Chinese delegation about the adjustment.

After further justification, their requests were made with an officials of government and the intensive care unit, an operating center, and a computerized

## CDC demands rudimentary evidence -Threatens to sue Police over Kalasco's detention The former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) threatens "This arrest was only because this

here to take the Liberian National Police to court for the arrest and is Kalasco; we have to arrest him detention of former Presidential Aide Sekou Kalasco Damaro.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

onrovia, Liberia, December 23, 2024 -Former President Weah's campaign manager and ex-Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe, threatens here to take the Liberia National Police (LNP) to court for what he describes as "wrongful arrest of former Presidential Aide Sekou Kalasco Damaro.

Mr. Nagbe describes it as an unfortunate and unfair action by the Police to arrest and detain an individual without rudimentary evidence during a recent protest on Capitol Hill in Monrovia.

"This was a targeted arrest, and it is unfortunate and unfair, and we cannot allow the government to use the Judicial System for its own tyrannical purpose," Nagbe says.

"Wrongful arrest, the charges had no warrant; the arrest was wrongful, and we are considering the option of suing the police, I mean, things that we're going to

According to him, the arrest of Kalasco was wrongful, and the Police didn't have any charge against him but to wrongfully accuse him only because he is a former government official and aide of Mr. Weah.

"You arrested and charged

someone for terrorism and cannot their own detriment," he says. provide evidence; that I think was He reaffirms his commitment to

And this is not something we are joking with. You arrest an "We all believe this country is individual and detain, there must to sue the Police and those who violated be brought to justice", he maintains.

bars, former Presidential Aide never keep us silent", he adds. Sekou Kalasco Damaro expresses his innocence.

POLICE

and act like we are making news at

continue engaging in the interest of the Liberian people.

governed by law and that we must be a rudimentary evidence, if not, respect the law, and we are not we are going to use the law again deterred and will remain resolute and committed to what we believe in. Despite these intimidations, we will keep standing strong in For his part, fresh from behind the people's interest, and this can

Kalasco and dozens of others He argues that his arrest wasn't the White-Tuesday protest last warranted, and it only came week at the Capitol when because he is a member of the protesters clashed with police CDC and former Presidential attempting to restore order. Editing by Jonathan Browne



serve Liberia and further position the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) military collaboration strategies. It will also support the efforts of the were remanded in prison during Ministry of Health as a leading entourage from China. Also, the Laboratory will support the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) in the preparation, detection, and response to compound-affected

> This initiative is a symbol of the two countries' shared vision, enduring friendship, and fruitful cooperation.

diseases.

Liberian President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Yin Chengwu broke grounds for the project. The project results from a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on March 6, 2018, between Liberia and China.

Following this commitment, a technical working group was

The project, when concluded, will thermography (CT) scan.

In a special remark, Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Yin as a force for good in its civil- Chengwu expressed gratitude to Mr. JI Kecheng, senior manager of Shandong Hi-Speed Group, and his

institution for the provision of He also expressed gratitude to the health care services across Liberia. construction team on the ground and their capable Liberian counterparts.

> "Today, as we turn the soil for this significant project, we are sowing the seeds of a healthier, safer, and more prosperous future for China and Liberia," said Mr. Yin.

> "As I see, the project is meaningful. First, the project demonstrates China's strong determination to implement the outcomes of the meeting between President Xi Jinping and President Boakai during the 2024, Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)," he stated.

> According to Ambassador Yin, it is the first groundbreaking facility of China-Aid projects following

> > CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# rança

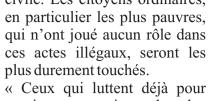
## La tourmente législative menace la stabilité du Libéria

du Libéria, Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a exprimé ses inquiétudes face aux turbulences politiques qui secouent actuellement l'Assemblée législative, estimant qu'elles mettent en péril les acquis durement obtenus par le pays.

Dans un message adressé à la

ancienne présidente ravagé par les flammes. Cet civile. Les citoyens ordinaires, incendie est devenu le symbole alarmant de plusieurs mois de discorde entre deux factions politiques rivales au sein de l'Assemblée.

« Cela menace d'aggraver notre économie déjà fragile et de décourager l'appui technique et financier international dont nous avons un besoin urgent », a-t-elle



survivre ressentiront le plus violemment les conséquences de ces revers », a-t-elle souligné.

Un conflit politique prolongé Cette déclaration intervient alors que le bras de fer politique autour de la destitution du président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa, persiste. Malgré l'intervention de la Cour suprême, le différend reste irrésolu, et les partisans des factions opposées continuent de s'affronter sur Capitol Hill.

Mercredi, un incendie s'est déclaré au Capitole, quelques heures après une manifestation menée par des législateurs et leurs partisans pour dénoncer la destitution de Koffa. Les causes de l'incendie demeurent inconnues.

Une année marquée par des épreuves personnelles

Madame Sirleaf a qualifié l'année écoulée de « bouleversante et

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



nation à l'occasion des fêtes de fin d'année, Madame Sirleaf a déploré que le bâtiment du Capitole, construit en 1957 sous la présidence de William V. S. Tubman, soit aujourd'hui

déclaré.

Elle a averti que les répercussions de cette crise n'épargneront personne: ni l'administration, ni les partis politiques, ni les entreprises, ni les organisations de la société

# Un haut responsable indien visite l'usine de transformation de caoutchouc de Jeety

Le conglomérat Jeety joue un rôle majeur dans le soutien aux Libériens défavorisés, notamment les enfants, tout en renforçant les liens économiques entre l'Inde et le Liberia.

e vice-ministre indien des Affaires extérieures, M. Sevala Naik Mude, a effectué une visite officielle à Jeety Rubber LLC et à la Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) le mercredi 18 décembre 2024, à Weala, dans le comté de Margibi. Accompagné par l'homme d'affaires indien M. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, plus connu sous le nom de « Jeety », directeur général du conglomérat Jeety, le vice-ministre a visité une usine de transformation de caoutchouc d'un investissement majeur de 44,5 millions de dollars.

Cette visite s'inscrit dans le cadre du renforcement des relations économiques entre l'Inde et le Liberia, mettant en avant le rôle croissant des investissements indiens dans le secteur agricole libérien et leur impact positif sur la création d'emplois et le développement durable.

Une étape clé pour le secteur agricole

La visite a débuté sur la plantation de la SRC, un domaine de plusieurs centaines d'hectares récemment revitalisé sous la direction de Jeety suite à son acquisition. Le vice-ministre a été accueilli par une délégation comprenant Jeety, son personnel et des leaders locaux.

Lors de cette visite guidée, M. Mude a reçu une présentation détaillée des étapes de la production de caoutchouc, depuis la plantation jusqu'à la récolte, ainsi que des innovations mises en œuvre pour améliorer la productivité.

Engagement pour le développement durable

S'exprimant après la visite, M. Mude a salué l'engagement de Jeety envers des pratiques agricoles durables et son rôle crucial dans l'amélioration des conditions économiques au Liberia.

« Votre investissement ici va bien audelà des affaires. Il s'agit de transformer des vies, de renforcer les à la pointe de la technologie, fruit communautés locales et de contribuer à la croissance globale du Liberia », a déclaré le vice-ministre.

> Il a également insisté sur l'importance des investissements directs étrangers pour favoriser la stabilité économique

et le développement à long terme des pays émergents.

Impact social et économique

Grâce à cette usine de transformation de caoutchouc, équipée des dernières technologies, plus de 1 000 emplois ont été créés, et des produits de haute qualité sont désormais destinés tant aux marchés locaux qu'internationaux. Cet investissement a permis de réduire significativement le

En outre, M. Mude a été impressionné par les initiatives de responsabilité sociale de l'entreprise, telles que les bourses d'études pour les enfants, les soins de santé accessibles et le soutien à l'amélioration des infrastructures dans les camps voisins de la SRC.

chômage dans la région.

« Il est admirable de voir un chef d'entreprise investir autant dans le



# Éditorial

## La chute de la maison Assad

Par Daron Acemoglu

EL 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 <u>évacué</u> <u>leurs troupes</u> 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 <u>ordonné</u> 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'El 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 <u>'sattendent</u> 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 <u>attaques</u> 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).

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DECEMBER 23

miséricordieuse ». Elle a évoqué la perte de ses deux fils : l'un conduit à son dernier repos cette année, tandis qu'elle se prépare à commémorer la disparition de l'autre.

« Grâce à Dieu, j'ai trouvé la force de surmonter ces épreuves », a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle a également mentionné le 5e anniversaire du EJS Center, une institution ayant traversé des défis inattendus, notamment le départ de certains amis et collaborateurs.

« Je demeure reconnaissante malgré tout. »

Madame Sirleaf a toutefois indiqué que son silence devait être rompu pour défendre la paix et la démocratie, valeurs pour lesquelles de nombreux Libériens se sont sacrifiés.

« Comme je l'ai déjà dit : "Le silence nous rend tous complices des mauvaises actions." »

Un appel à l'unité et au dialogue

Elle a appelé les différentes composantes de la nation—églises, entreprises, partis politiques, chefs tribaux et surtout les jeunes citoyens-à rejeter la violence et à privilégier le dialogue.

« Même si vous vous sentez lésés ou ignorés,

votre droit à la libre expression est sacré. Cependant, aucune autorité n'a le droit de répondre par la violence », a-t-elle averti.

Dans un appel vibrant à la raison, elle a rappelé que de nombreux Libériens ont payé un lourd tribut pour bâtir et préserver la paix, l'harmonie et les valeurs démocratiques du pays.

« Réveille-toi, Libéria! Le monde est moins indulgent aujourd'hui qu'il ne l'était autrefois. Les nations sont jugées sur leur capacité et leur volonté à atteindre les objectifs qu'elles se fixent.

« Réveille-toi, Libéria! Personne ne viendra nous sauver de nos propres faiblesses. Notre dignité, notre prospérité et notre crédibilité sur la scène internationale dépendent de nos actions collectives.»

Un message d'espoir

Madame Sirleaf a conclu son message en priant pour que Dieu guide le peuple libérien à travers les défis de cette saison de Noël et aide à dissiper les nuages sombres qui planent sur la nation.

## Nous ne céderons pas face aux tentatives de déstabilisation

#### - Le gouvernement répond aux manifestations

e gouvernement libérien a réaffirmé son engagement indéfectible à maintenir la paix et la stabilité dans le pays, en dépit des manifestations et des appels de certains membres de l'opposition à la destitution du président Joseph Boakai.

Dans une déclaration officielle, les autorités ont fermement condamné ces initiatives, qualifiées de tentatives délibérées pour fragiliser la paix et la cohésion nationale.

L'opposition accusée d'incitation au désordre

Lors du point de presse hebdomadaire organisé le 17 décembre par le ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT), le ministre Jerolinmek Mathew Piah a dénoncé des membres de l'opposition qui, selon lui, utilisent les médias locaux pour critiquer l'administration et promouvoir des actions anticonstitutionnelles, notamment des appels à la destitution du gouvernement.

« Nous ne ferons pas d'eux les héros qu'ils aspirent à devenir », a déclaré le ministre, soulignant la détermination de l'administration Boakai à protéger la démocratie libérienne et à garantir une atmosphère paisible, particulièrement en cette période de fêtes.

Manifestation et escalade de violence

Le mardi 19 décembre, des manifestants se sont rassemblés devant le bâtiment du Capitole pour exiger une résolution aux tensions politiques au sein de la législature, notamment autour de la destitution controversée du président de la Chambre, Koffa. Ce qui a débuté comme une manifestation pacifique a rapidement dégénéré en affrontements entre les protestataires et les forces de sécurité.

Des témoins ont rapporté que plusieurs manifestants ont été



### Starts from page 8 Un haut responsable indien visite l'usine de

bien-être des communautés locales. Vos actions sont une source d'inspiration pour un avenir meilleur », a-til ajouté.

Une vision pour l'avenir

Lors de son intervention, Jeety a réaffirmé son engagement envers des pratiques respectueuses de l'environnement et la durabilité.

« Nous croyons fermement que des pratiques responsables sont essentielles pour garantir la réussite à long terme de nos investissements, tout en contribuant au bien-être des communautés que nous servons », a-t-il souligné.

Cette visite a également renforcé l'idée d'un partenariat solide entre l'Inde et le Liberia, un partenariat axé sur une vision commune de progrès et de prospérité partagée.

Revitalisation et expansion

En septembre dernier, Jeety Rubber LLC a officiellement pris possession de la plantation de 4 400 hectares de la SRC, à la suite d'un appel d'offres remporté face à Firestone Liberia et à un ancien actionnaire du groupe Socfinaf.

Ce rachat a non seulement ajouté près de 900 employés à la main-d'œuvre de Jeety, mais il a également permis de surmonter les défis liés à l'approvisionnement en latex, garantissant ainsi une

production optimale et la stabilité des opérations. Soutien aux communautés locales

En dehors de ses activités industrielles, Jeety continue de faire preuve d'un engagement remarquable envers les communautés locales. Il a notamment construit une clinique moderne de 25 chambres à Weala, équipée d'installations médicales avancées, notamment une salle d'opération, un laboratoire et des services d'urgence.

Ce centre médical joue un rôle crucial dans l'amélioration de l'accès aux soins pour des milliers de résidents locaux, tandis que plus de 55 patients y reçoivent actuellement des traitements.

Par ailleurs, Jeety a également initié des actions sociales telles que la fourniture de repas aux détenus des prisons de Monrovia et de Kakata.

Un modèle de développement

Par ces multiples initiatives, Jeety s'impose non seulement comme un acteur économique majeur, mais aussi comme un modèle de développement social au Liberia.

Grâce à ses investissements et à ses efforts de responsabilité sociale, il continue de renforcer les liens économiques entre l'Inde et le Liberia, tout en transformant la vie des communautés locales.

## <u>Le Liberia désormais éligible pour un partenariat avec la MCC</u>

le Liberia est désormais gouvernement libérien, de la éligible pour le développement disponibilité des fonds et de d'un nouveau compact. Cette l'approbation du programme décision marque la parle Conseil d'administration reconnaissance des progrès de la MCC. gouvernance démocratique.

les principes de gouvernance démocratique inclusive, qui constituent les critères d'éligibilité de l'agence.

Il convient de noter que cette éligibilité ne garantit pas l'octroi d'un programme de compact. La MCC, en collaboration avec l'ambassade des États-Unis, est impatiente de travailler de près avec le gouvernement du Liberia pour entamer le processus de développement du compact.

La taille et le contenu du

a Millennium programme final dépendront Challenge Corporation des analyses menées **∠**(MCC) a annoncé que conjointement par la MCC et le

réalisés par le pays en matière Créée en 2004, la MCC est une de réformes économiques et de agence gouvernementale américaine visant à réduire la Le 20 décembre 2024, la MCC pauvreté mondiale par la a précisé que tous les pays croissance économique. Elle partenaires doivent maintenir offre des subventions à durée un engagement continu envers limitée, combinant

investissements dans les infrastructures et réformes institutionnelles, aux pays qui respectent des normes strictes en matière de bonne gouvernance, de lutte contre la corruption et de respect des droits démocratiques.

« La MCC est fière de son partenariat de longue date avec le Liberia et se réjouit de commencer ce nouveau chapitre afin de créer de meilleures opportunités pour le peuple libérien », a déclaré Alice Albright, Directrice générale de la MCC.

violemment réprimés, certains blessés ayant dû recevoir des soins médicaux. Plusieurs arrestations ont également eu lieu.

Cette manifestation faisait suite aux déclarations de Frank Saah Foko, député de la circonscription #9 du comté de Montserrado et membre de l'opposition (CDC). Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue au Capitole, M. Foko avait vivement critiqué le gouvernement et accusé l'administration Boakai de mauvaise gouvernance.

Une réponse ferme et mesurée

En réaction aux événements de mardi, le ministre Piah a précisé que le gouvernement ne se laissera pas distraire par les manœuvres des opposants cherchant à semer le chaos.

« Ces individus souhaitent transformer une période festive en une saison de troubles. Nous ne tomberons pas dans leur piège », a-t-il

Il a également condamné les efforts de certains pour provoquer des réponses des autorités, afin de se poser ensuite en victimes ou en martyrs. « Ils n'obtiendront pas cette satisfaction de notre part », a-t-il affirmé avec fermeté.

Engagement pour la sécurité et la stabilité

M. Piah a souligné que le Liberia reste un État démocratique, où les droits des citoyens sont respectés. Cependant, il a insisté sur la responsabilité première du gouvernement de protéger les vies et les biens.

« La paix que nous connaissons aujourd'hui est précieuse, et chaque Libérien souhaite qu'elle perdure », a-t-il déclaré, avant d'appeler les citoyens à rester vigilants face à ceux qui cherchent à troubler cette

Enfin, le ministre a réaffirmé que l'administration Boakai reste concentrée sur ses priorités de développement et refuse de se laisser détourner par les tentatives répétées de déstabilisation.

## Taongi National University launches student loan program

The Taongi National University located in Salala City, Lower Bong County, launches a student loan program with an aim of accommodating people desirous of attending the school but face financial challenges.

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

The Taongi National University have to worry about paying all this innovation. attending the school but face to be paid after graduation." financial challenges.

taken effect intends to ensure that higher education in Liberia to all interested persons wanting offer bachelor programs, has quality higher education will not its own campus in Salala City, stay out of school because of Lower Bong County with tuition.

The University says the program Having students from Bong, will allow students to go to school Margibi, Montserrado and now and pay rest of the tuition after other parts of Liberia, TNU is graduation. Instead of paying operated under the motto: US\$258 per semester, all students "Making quality higher benefiting from the loan program education affordable and may pay US \$20 or more per available to all." month up to the time of completion A resident of Kakata speaking of their studies, while the balance about the Student Loan payment will be credited to Program said, this is the first students' accounts for payment in the country to see a after graduation.

Speaking to the New Dawn on to go to school on loan. Sunday, December 22, 2024, the Dr. Sonpon also says Taongi President of the Taongi National National University is an University, Dr. Mike M. Sonpon, emerging world class stated: "TNU student loan program university working very hard to PhD holders serving as lecturers has started. Come to school now meet and exceed global academic Editing by Jonathan Browne. and pay later. Tuition at TNU is standards with emphasis on

located in Salala City, Lower Bong money now. You only need to pay County, launches a student loan \$20 USD every month until you program with an aim of graduate. The balance will be accommodating people desirous of credited to your account as a debt

The program, which has already by the national commission on Director with master's degree and

students already enrolled.

university allowing students

\$258 per semester but, you don't research, creativity and innovation

promoting and practicing global trend in research, creativity, and

He says the institution practices philosophical higher criticism with emphasis on critical literary forms. Staff include Dr. Dewey E. Painter, Sr., Chancellor, Dr. Kenneth The University which is approved Lierle, International President and



Residents of Donfah Community, Bong County, Central Liberia enjoy modern water facility provided by UNDP in collaboration with Government of Liberia.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

ong County, Liberia, December 23, 2024 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Government of Liberia under the Accelerated Community Development Programme (ACDP) dedicates a modern solar-powered water facility in Donfah Community, Bong County, Central Liberia.

The ACDP Interim Programme Manager, Boye Johnson reading the overview of the Program says the program was is to certicates young individuals trained in tractor operation, servicing and repair and to dedicate/handover to the Government of Liberia and people of Donfah Community a modern water facility.

Speaking at certification and formal handover of the facility over the weekend in Donfah, ACDP Interim Programme Manager, Boye Johnson explained that the Accelerated Community Development Programme is a shared and renewed vision of the Government of Liberia and UNDP to addressing real needs of the most vulnerable rural populations in the

Mr. Johnson says it is also a flagship programme conceived in 2019/2020 after a feasibility study was conducted across Liberia and about 35 to 40 communities identified and selected as the poorest and most vulnerable populations in Liberia that needed missions in Liberia and community tours, culminating in the preparation and endorsement of the ACDP Programme Document.

He notes that subsequently, on 24th October 2022 (UN Day) the ACDP was launched by the Government of Liberia as a flagship initiative designating the UNDP to implement the ACDP for an initial period of 3

He says during its official launch, the

Government of Liberia committed itself to providing US\$100m in the first three years of implementation saying, "We are grateful that the GoL has so far provided \$3m USD of this amount which we (UNDP) have been using along with our contributions (a little over \$1m USD) to achieve some of the results you are seeing today." He notes that the ACDP aims to reduce spatial (territorial) inequalities and transform living conditions and living environment of Liberians who in areas with little or no access to basic social and economic infrastructure and services. UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Programme, Louis Kuukpen, buttresses that the Government of Liberia in collaboration with UNDP has achieved another major milestone by constructing the Donfah Modern Water Facility, a multipurpose

facility under the Accelerated

Community Development

## Paynesville: Ex-boyfriend stabs **0-year-old Woman to Dea**t

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

man identified as Bill Princess Zuo. New Dawn, Sunday.

incident occurred late the two love birds had been on Station, while Princess's body 21, 2024, at a local month, when the late Princess funeral home as the Entertainment Center in had decided to abort Jallah's investigation continues. Paynesville.

the two love birds were in the relationship dormant until confrontations after suspect Jallah had allegedly insulted the deceased mother and immediately stabbed her multiple times to death.

Further reports indicated suspect Jallah was already married with two kids and was reportedly having an extra love affair with the deceased, which later collapsed after several attempts from the

suspect's unidentified wife, the suspect sister asked to aynesville, December who had rendered several Intervene in the relationship at 23, 2024/A 38-year-old death threats to the late a nearby entertainment center,

white, to death after a reported Princes afraid, and hence, she resulting in her death. breakup, witnesses told the decided to put an end to the Meanwhile, suspect Jallah has relationship.

calls and refuse to respond to Developing Story for our next Timothy Sony, a witness, said his text messages, which had edition.

where the incident occurred.

Jallah has stabbed his ex- Sources in the know of the She was reportedly staffed girlfriend, Princess Zuo, love story said threats from multiple times in her stomach, affectionately Little Snow- suspect Jallah's wife made her neck, and her back,

since been apprehended and Witnesses detailed that the According to a family source, forwarded to the nearer Police





urgent intervention.

According to him, prior to the feasibility He states that the facility is not just study, a study tour was conducted in Saturday evening, December a breakup for apparently a has been deposited at a local 2018 in neighboring countries such as Senegal, Togo and The Gambia by a team comprising UNDP and Government of Liberia representatives led by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to see a model of ACDP (PUDC for the French-speaking countries) and how the programme has impacted lives of poor people in those countries, and how it could be replicated

> He says upon the team's return, a National Sensitization Workshop was held in Ganta to garner citizens' feedback about the PUDC model, which received overwhelming acceptance, with citizens recommending its immediate replication in Liberia.

He continues that this led to a feasibility study, and then a high-level meeting followed by several other scoping Browne.

Programme (ACDP).

water, as it is complemented by livelihood opportunities for women business service windows at each kiosk, for small businesses. "We have provided start-up cash for two (2) women each who will operate the kiosks. This is in addition to the cash transfers to women-headed households who were assessed during our Local Multidimensional Poverty Indicator Study conducted early this year", he explains.

The ceremony was graced by ACDP Interim Programme Manager, Boye Johnson, residents of Donfah, government officials and local authorities, including Yellequelleh Administrative Commissioner Boye Vakpeh, Paramount Chief, Clan Chief and General Town Chief, among others. Editing by Jonathan

#### www.thenewdawnliberia.com DECEMBER 23 **025 Budget illega**

**-As Senate concurs with Majority bloc on US\$880.07m hudget passage** Monrovia City Hall (MCC).

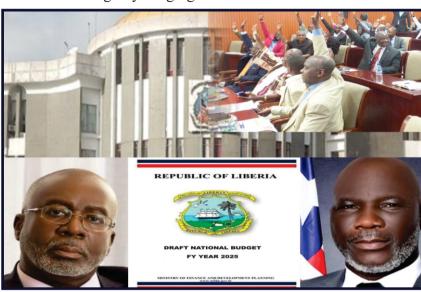
The Liberian Senate concurrence with the House Majority bloc on the The House members held their passage of the 2025 National Budget has raised questions of its legality amidst the recent controversial Supreme Court ruling.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, December 23, 2024: Amidst the legality hanging

following a motion from Grand Kru County Senator Numene Bartekwa.

But embattled House Speaker



over Representatives Richard Koon's "Speakership" the Liberian Senate over the weekend concurred with the Majority bloc of the House of Representatives on the passage of the Fiscal Year 2025 National Budget of US\$880.07 million.

Members of the Liberian Senate took the decision late Friday, December 20, 2024,

Fonati Koffa who remains the legitimate Speaker has described both the Senate and the Majority bloc action as ultra

Meanwhile, of the 30 senators, 19 voted in favor of the passage of the budget.

Earlier, the majority bloc of the House of Representatives passed the budget during a special emergency session at the legal authority.

special session at the City Hall following a fire incident that ravaged the Joint Chamber of the Legislature, where they had been meeting throughout political turmoil with the minority bloc.

In November, the majority bloc voted to remove Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa, but he has termed his removal as illegal.

The majority bloc subsequently elected Montserrado County Representative Richard Nagbe Koon as the new House Speaker.

A Supreme Court intervention did not resolve the political turmoil.

A violent protest ensued on Capitol Hill last week Tuesday in the wake of Koffa's removal before the fire destroyed the chamber a day after.

Following the passage of the 2025 National Budget by the two legislative chambers. embattled House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa labeled it as ultra vires.

When an action is considered ultra vires, it depicts that a person or an entity that took such action had done so without

#### Finance Minister Ngafuan Holds Meeting with MCC **Vice President on Liberia Compact Development**

Just days after the United States Government qualified Liberia to participate in the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan has held talks with the MCC Board's Vice President.

onrovia, December 23, 2024 — In the weak of Liberia selection by the Board of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for the second Compact, Finance and Development Planning Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan has had a very productive high-level engagement with senior officials from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to discuss the roll-out of the eagerly anticipated second MCC Compact.

During the visual meeting with MCC Vice President for Compact Operation, Kyeh Kim and Interim Country Director for Liberia, Jason Small, Minister Ngafuan reechoed President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's appreciation to the CEO and the Senior Management of the MCC, and the American Government for the country's selection. He recalled the transformative impart the first MCC grant has had on Liberia through the restoration of the Mont Coffee Hydro dam, the setting up of

the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission, and support to the LWSC for the restoration of water pipes to Monrovia, among others.

The virtual meeting also focused on the next steps for the second MCC Compact, with both sides emphasizing the need for strategic planning and leadership. Vice President of the MCC, Ms. Kim, expressed her enthusiasm for continuing the partnership, saying, "We're excited to continue working with Liberia."

Ms. Kim was happy to reveal that there was strong enthusiasm for Liberia among MCC Board members at their last board meeting where the country was selected for the second compact.

Meanwhile, she informed that Mr. Small will visit Liberia to be followed by Vice President Kim to engage with the Minister of Finance and other senior government officials and stakeholders on the Liberia Compact.



#### Starts from page 7

#### **C demands rudimentary evidence** the meeting, showcasing the groundbreaking for Liberians' steadfast to Liberians'

elevation of their bilateral relationship to a strategic two heads of state.

He added that the project Chinese government. cooperation.

Hands to Advance Community with a Shared Future.

Boakai said the across the country. the National Clinical Diagnosis & Laboratory is a significant milestone in the preparation of Liberia's health care and infrastructure.

Boakai, they are present to support the betterment of economy's critical needs.

& laboratory.

partnership announced by the President Boakai described it as Gen. George indicated that the a remarkable project by the Ministry of Defense has

serves as a symbol of a He continued that China and by receiving a lot of donations common commitment to Liberia have been friends for a for capacity-building initiatives mutual development and long time in partnership of in the Defense Ministry and the development.

appreciated the Government of Liberian nation.

Minister, Brig. General Geraldine J. George also embraced the huge development project by the Chinese government through China Aid. According to President According to her, the driving partnership between Liberia and China has been instrumental in

forward.

future national clinical diagnosis developmental journey in various sectors of government.

benefited from the partnership Armed Forces of Liberia.

He detailed it embodies the According to President Boakai, Minister George stressed that vision set forth during the it's a testament to a true the contribution by China has Summit, that is "Joining commitment to improving the enhanced the Ministry's health and well-being of Liberia. capabilities for its preparedness Modernization and Build a President Boakai also to better serve and protect the

China and a development In addition, she emphasized that Officially breaking ground for partner, China-Aid, for their the establishment of the health the construction, Liberian high support towards Liberia in care facility is a groundbreaking President Joseph Nyuma the growth of infrastructure achievement that helps the Liberian health care system.

groundbreaking ceremony of Meanwhile, Liberia's Defense She added that the facility will enhance treatment capability to hard medical services, and it will play a vital role in Liberia's healthcare challenges, improving patient outcomes and contributing to overall health and prosperity.

"We are not laying the Liberians' social and the driving Liberia's development foundation for a building, we are laying a foundation for better He also spoke of leading the She stated that China has been health care for our nation," she Read the NewDawn everyday

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# HAT EXILOS

### --Along Monrovia - Gharnga highway

Liberian police authorities have warned that they will investigate some accidents as criminal cases.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah onrovia, December 23, 2024: At least six people have

The collision caused a fiery explosion, resulting in the death The aftermath was equally tragic, with 13 confirmed dead at the scene and five others passing away at medical facilities in Margibi and Montserrado Counties.

Residents and passengers have expressed ongoing concerns about the safety of these busy routes, calling for stricter enforcement of traffic laws and more frequent police patrols to ensure order and control.

Inspector General of Police, Col. Gregory Coleman, addressed the situation in an interview with state broadcaster ELBC.

He emphasized that investigations into some accidents would be treated as criminal cases.

Col. Coleman underscored that both drivers and vehicle owners who repeatedly violate traffic laws are contributing to the rising fatalities.

tragically lost their lives in a of six passengers on the spot.



devastating car accident involving a van and a pickup truck carrying rubber in Gbarnga, Bong County.

Eyewitnesses report that the van, carrying ten passengers on its way to Ganta, collided with two other vehicles near the Old Gbarnga Iron Gate on the evening of Friday, December

This incident is the second after another deadly crash in October 2024, where at least 18 people lost their lives.

That crash occurred along the #7 route, which connects Redlight to Kakata when a speeding bus carrying 18 passengers collided with a packed truck loaded with planks.

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