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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.

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# Former Justice Ja'nah, others to challenge 2025 Budget

**Justice Ja'nah**

**P11**

# Lawmakers drag GOL to INCHR

## -Over alleged police brutality

**P11**

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# Continental News

## Mozambique court ruling sparks fresh poll protests

Protests have broken out once again in Mozambique after the country's highest court

police of threatening behaviour after two of his aides were shot dead in October. In a weekend social media message, he said

common in this region since the popular demonstrations began on 21 October. Mondlane, a 50-year-old evangelical pastor, told the BBC earlier this month that there was "no way" he could accept the election result. The electoral commission denied his allegation that the poll was rigged in favour of Frelimo, which has been in power since independence 49 years ago. But international election observers have said the vote was flawed, pointing to doctored numbers and other irregularities during the counting process. The weeks-long demonstrations have led to violent encounters with the police and at least 110 people have been killed, local monitoring group Plataforma Decide said. It is alleged that many of those who have died have been killed by security forces, but police commander Bernadino Rafael had previously told the BBC that his officers had been defending themselves after coming under attack. In a message on Sunday to the largely Catholic country, Pope Francis called for dialogue and the pursuit of the common good to prevail. Mondlane has been speaking to the outgoing President, Filipe Nyusi, but it is not clear what the outcome has been. BBC



Protesters have been taking to the streets of the capital since the results were first announced in October

confirmed that the ruling party candidate, Daniel Chapo, won October's disputed presidential election. Deadly protests erupted when the preliminary results were announced at the time. Venâncio Mondlane, who came second, has been calling on his supporters since the election to demonstrate against what he said was a rigged vote. On Monday, protesters could be heard chanting his name, burning tyres, barricading roads and throwing stones at police. The security forces have responded with tear gas. Mondlane, himself, is in exile. He fled Mozambique and accused the

there could be a "new popular uprising" if the result was not overturned. While maintaining that the candidate of the governing party, Frelimo, had won the election, the constitutional court revised his margin of victory downwards. Initial results in October said the victor gained a 71% share of the vote to Mondlane's 20%. The court has now ruled that Chapo won 65% to his main rival's 24%. Earlier in the day, the usual hustle and bustle that characterises the greater Maputo area on workdays and during the festive season was replaced by silence and empty roads - a scene that had become

## Mauritius hints Chagos talks stuck over money

Mauritius's deputy prime minister has hinted that negotiations with the UK over the future of the Chagos Islands are being held up over the amount of money involved. Under the terms of the original agreement, which was announced in October, the UK would relinquish sovereignty to Mauritius over the archipelago but maintain a 99-year lease for Diego Garcia, home to a major UK-US military airbase. As part of the deal, the UK said it would provide a package of financial support to Mauritius, including annual payments and infrastructure investment, but neither side has said how much is involved. However a new government in Mauritius, elected since the agreement was first made, has said it wants to see some changes. The proposed deal has also attracted criticism in the UK, with the opposition Conservative party calling it a "monumental failure of statecraft". When the agreement was first made public

after years of talks, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and the then Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth called it a "seminal moment in our relationship and a demonstration of our enduring commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes and the rule of law". It sought to end decades of uncertainty and dispute over the status of the islands. In a joint statement issued on Friday, the UK and Mauritius said they were

committed "to finalising a treaty as quickly as possible" that included both the "secure and effective operation of the existing base on Diego Garcia and that Mauritius is sovereign over the archipelago". They added that "ongoing conversations" were productive. The new Mauritian government, elected in a landslide last month, has not been explicit in public about what exactly its problems with the deal were. BBC



## BBC reveals fighters accused of massacre in Sudan

Analysis by BBC Verify of videos showing fighters boasting of a massacre and later mocking survivors has identified those responsible as apparently belonging to Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The BBC has confirmed that at least 80 people died in the October attack on al-Seriha in Gezira state, with the UN reporting that the death toll could be as high as 124. An eyewitness told BBC Verify he saw unarmed civilians gunned down by fighters at close range as they tried to flee.

The massacre appears to have been prompted by the defection of a senior RSF commander in Gezira state to the country's armed forces.

In a statement to the BBC, an RSF spokesman denied its fighters were involved in the killings adding that "the Rapid Support Forces work to protect civilians and promote security and peace, and not

to do the same as part of a wider amnesty offer. Shortly after Keikal's defection, fighters launched a series of at least 69 reprisal attacks on towns and villages in Gezira state between 20 October and 4 November, according data recorded by the war monitoring organisation Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED). BBC Verify has investigated one of these attacks in detail, using eyewitness testimony, satellite imagery, video footage and photographs, to understand what happened. How a massacre unfolded in al-Seriha

Mohammad Ismail was attending dawn prayers at a local mosque on 25 October when he heard the fighters approaching the outskirts of al-Seriha, a town of around 15,000 people, 90km (60 miles) south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum. He told the BBC that he ran home to protect his family as the violence erupted all around.

Gunmen had climbed up onto a mosque, he said, and were shooting "at whatever moved" below.

Many people were shot while trying



Former RSF commander Abu Aqla Keikal switched his loyalty to the Sudanese army

to target them." The brutal conflict, a 20-month power struggle pitting Sudan's military authorities against their former RSF allies, has been condemned by human rights groups for widespread atrocities committed by both sides. Warning: This story contains detailed descriptions of killings and images of dead bodies, which some readers may find distressing. How a defection led to reprisal attacks

On 20 October, the Sudanese military announced that Abu Aqla Keikal, a senior commander with the RSF in Gezira state, had defected to them along with a sizeable number of his forces.

Keikal's decision to return to the Sudanese army, where he'd served before the war, was hailed as a major propaganda success, and other RSF soldiers were urged

to escape, he said. Others were gunned down at close range in the fields surrounding the town. Many of his family members were among the dead. Identifying the perpetrators BBC Verify has obtained a series of videos filmed by fighters themselves, boasting of their actions and calling out to Keikal, the former RSF commander, to see for himself what they were doing to the people from his area. In one, troops with RSF insignia are seen celebrating their attack on the town and of killing locals. The circular insignia seen on their right shoulders, also visible in some other clips, has a black outline, a curved representation of the Sudanese flag and a round logo above this - the symbol used by the RSF. We have confirmed that this video was filmed in al-Seriha by comparing buildings and other elements within the videos with satellite imagery of the town. BBC



# 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

# COMMENTARY

By Mariana Mazzucato

## Good Growth Requires Getting Public-Private Partnerships Right

LONDON - The United Kingdom's Labour government has given serious thought to the public investment needed to get the economy back on track after 14 years of austerity, neglect of social infrastructure, and capital flight triggered by Brexit and uncertain economic conditions. It understands that the situation demands a new strategy to tackle big problems like child poverty, health inequities, a weak industrial base, and struggling public infrastructure.

What should this look like? The UK Department for Business and Trade's recent industrial strategy "green paper," Invest 2035, is a promising start. However, in my own response during the public consultation period, I stressed that an industrial strategy should be oriented around key "missions" like achieving net-zero emissions, rather than around specific sectors, as the government appears to be doing. While the government has set itself five "missions," they seem more like goals with some targets, rather than being central to the way government and industry work together.

For Labour to deliver on its agenda, it must get its public-private partnerships right. Historically, public-private collaborations in the UK have involved the state overpaying and the private sector underdelivering. Following the Brexit referendum, for example, the government secretly gave Nissan £61 million (\$76 million) to build new cars in the UK. But Nissan still abandoned a planned expansion at its Sunderland plant, and the promised jobs never materialized.

Likewise, under the failed "private finance initiative" schemes of the 1990s, the state would pay inflated sums to private contractors to operate public services such as prisons, schools, and hospitals before handing them back to the state, often in poor condition and without any clear improvement to the service. This approach was widely used in the construction of National Health Service hospitals, with the first 15 contracts generating £45 million in fees - some 4% of the capital value of the deals - for advisers across the public and private sector. A UK Treasury analysis later showed that the general costs of PFIs were double that of government borrowing.

Fortunately, many public-private partnerships globally have produced more positive results. Germany's national development bank, KfW, offers low-interest loans to companies that agree to decarbonize. Similarly, the French government's COVID-19 bailout of Air France was conditional on the carrier curbing emissions per passenger and reducing domestic flights; by contrast, the UK bailed out easyJet with no strings attached.

In the United States, the CHIPS and Science Act required companies that benefit from public funds to commit to climate and workforce development plans, provide childcare, and pay a living wage. Preference is also given to companies that reinvest profits instead of using share buybacks.

The UK does have some experience in shaping markets around clear goals. In developing the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, the government used a risk- and reward-sharing model in which it provided 95% of the funding in exchange for certain commitments from the

company. AstraZeneca would provide the first 100 million doses to the UK and allow the government to donate and reassign surplus vaccines.

Similarly, Octopus Energy's acquisition of energy supplier Bulb allowed the UK government to reap £1.5 billion in profit as Octopus repaid the public support it had received through an earlier profit-sharing deal. This agreement safeguarded jobs and prevented consumers from incurring any extra costs.

With a mission-oriented strategy, the Labour government could scale up and systematize this type of public-private engagement. Rather than being "unreservedly pro-business," as it claims to be in its green paper, it should ensure that public investment targets clear objectives: to crowd in private capital, create new markets, and increase long-term competitiveness.

Consider the UK's net-zero-emissions target, which is not only about clean power but also about how we eat, move, and build. The state has a crucial role to play as a first-mover, shaping markets so that private incentives are aligned with public goals. Yet judged by this standard, recent moves by the Labour government appear to fall short.

For example, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's deals with Macquarie (an investment bank), Blackstone (asset management), and others raised more than £60 billion without setting clear, outcomes-oriented expectations or ensuring that both risks and rewards are shared. Equally, the government's support of carbon capture and storage (to the tune of £22 billion so far) allows funds to flow to incumbent oil giants without holding them accountable in the green transition.

These deals are structured to achieve growth at any cost, when what the UK really needs is growth that is inclusive and sustainable. That requires better corporate governance to prevent situations like Thames Water (a water and waste utility) being saddled with over £2 billion in debt after Macquarie became a major shareholder in 2006.

As I've said before, growth itself is not a mission; it is the result of public and private investment, and good growth is a result of directed investment. If the UK's climate transition is going to deliver for people and planet over the long term, the government's engagement with the private sector must reflect confidence, not capitulation. This can start by deploying tools that the government already has. The new National Wealth Fund and Great British Energy (a publicly owned clean-energy company that is expected to launch early next year) could make a huge difference, but only if policymakers get the implementation right.

For example, the National Wealth Fund should introduce conditionalities for public investments; provide public access to intellectual property and patents for research; create subsidies and other incentives for mission-aligned investments; and use loan guarantees and bailouts to move companies toward decarbonization, improved working conditions, and fewer share buybacks. Procurement is also a strong lever, because it represents one-third of the government's total spending and can direct investment toward strategically important goals.

Ultimately, the UK government must shift from a



OP-ED

By Gordon Brown

Gender Apartheid Is a Crime Against Humanity

EDINBURGH- Convinced that their interpretation of Islam is the only legitimate one, Afghanistan’s Taliban leaders continue to issue decrees that strip the country’s women and girls of their rights and freedoms. Their latest edict bans Afghan women - already prohibited from speaking in public - from praying aloud or reciting the Quran in the presence of other women. “When women are not permitted to call takbir [Allahu akbar]or athan [the Islamic call to prayer], they certainly cannot sing songs or music,” declared Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, the minister for the propagation of virtue and prevention of vice.

Just months ago, there was some hope that the Taliban might ease its restrictions on women and girls’ education. Instead, the regime seems intent on entrenching its gender apartheid system. In response, Richard Bennett, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan - who remains barred from entering the country - has launched a review of the Taliban’s repressive policies, calling its latest decree a “pivotal moment.”

Meanwhile, the UN’s Sixth Committee (Legal) recently approved a draft global treaty targeting crimes against humanity. As many human-rights groups, including Amnesty International, have argued, this treaty, which will be the subject of further discussion in January 2026, must recognize and codify gender apartheid as a crime under international law. Such a designation would represent a historic step toward ending the systemic discrimination, oppression, and subjugation of women and girls in Afghanistan, Iran, and beyond.

The Taliban’s gender apartheid underscores the urgent need to confront this profound moral failure. Over the past three years, the regime has denied Afghan girls and young women access to schools and universities, barred women from most forms of employment, prohibited them from traveling without a male chaperone, and excluded them from most public spaces. It also enforces a draconian dress code requiring women to wear burqas that cover them from head to toe.

In August, the Taliban intensified its efforts to silence women, banning them from singing, reciting, and speaking in public. During multilateral negotiations in Doha earlier this year, Afghan women and women’s groups were excluded, while the regime refused even to acknowledge their plight.

Despite these restrictions, Afghan girls - many of whom were already in school when the Taliban returned to power in 2021 - continue to dream of becoming doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and entrepreneurs. At great risk to themselves and their families, some attend underground schools, participate in local home-schooling initiatives, or pursue remote learning. A few have managed to leave the country to study abroad. But these efforts fall far short of bridging the gap between the number of girls entitled to an education under international law and those who receive one.

The oppression of Afghan women has had far-reaching - and devastating - consequences. According to a recent UN Women report, child marriage has increased by 25%, owing partly to girls’ exclusion from secondary education. Mental distress, depression, and suicide attempts have also soared, and the risk of maternal mortality has surged by at least 50%, fueled by a rise in childbirth deaths among young girls.

Encouragingly, the international community has made progress in mobilizing a legal response to the Taliban’s oppressive policies. In March 2023, prominent Afghan jurists and women’s rights advocates launched the End Gender Apartheid campaign, calling for its recognition as an international crime.

Building on this momentum, the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls recommended including gender apartheid in the draft treaty on crimes against humanity. And during the April 2024 session of the UN’s legal committee on draft articles, several member states expressed support for its inclusion.

The discussions in January 2026 will consider the proposed definition of gender apartheid as “inhumane acts committed within the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic discrimination, oppression, and domination by one group over another or others, based on gender, and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime.” This definition encompasses violations of fundamental human rights, such as access to education, health care, and employment, as well as freedom of expression, assembly, and participation in political, social, economic, and cultural life.

But the question remains: Can the proposed treaty deliver justice to victims of systemic discrimination? While it obligates signatories to prosecute crimes against humanity, its enforcement mechanisms remain limited. Member states would be required to cooperate and provide legal assistance on matters like extradition, but the current draft lacks a firm commitment to suppress crimes - a key provision of the 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Moreover, the draft treaty focuses on the criminal responsibility of individuals, overlooking the role of institutions and organizations in establishing and sustaining gender apartheid.

The international community must make it clear that it will not normalize relations with the Taliban until the regime ends its war on women, and predominantly Muslim countries could play a critical role. Notably, Qatar - which has long acted as a mediator between the Taliban and the West - has condemned the Taliban’s policies, as has Saudi Arabia. The United Arab Emirates has gone further, denouncing Afghanistan’s ban on girls’ education as a violation of “the teachings of Islam” that “must be swiftly reversed.”

Now, Muslim-majority countries should lead the effort to bring a case against Afghanistan before the International Court of Justice for violating the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Doing so would send a clear message: there will be no creeping reintegration or de facto recognition of the Taliban regime as long as it maintains its oppressive policies.

Importantly, such a move would also deliver a message of solidarity and hope to Afghan girls and young women that their suffering has not been overlooked and that their oppressors will be held accountable. The world cannot afford another year of inaction while these egregious human-rights violations persist.

OPINION

By William Ruto

A New Deal for Developing Countries

NAIROBI - The recent, record-breaking \$100 billion replenishment of the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA) is a significant milestone. While the final tally fell short of the \$120 billion that I and other African leaders called for in April at the IDA21 Replenishment Summit in Nairobi, it nonetheless represents a critical step forward. The new funding offers hope to millions and signals that our global partners are committed to addressing the immense challenges we face.

The Nairobi summit not only underscored the importance of the IDA for development financing; it also called attention to Africa’s pivotal role in solving global crises such as climate change. Over the years, the IDA has been a lifeline for many, offering the kind of long-term, concessional financing that empowers countries to invest in critical sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure. By responding swiftly during crises and leveraging \$4 in capital market funding for every \$1 of donor contributions, it has proven its value as a force multiplier.

Even so, the challenges we face demand an even bolder response. According to the World Bank, developing countries’ foreign debt service reached a staggering \$1.4 trillion last year - a figure that dwarfs even the most ambitious climate-finance commitments. Africa’s debt burden has become a barrier to achieving sustainable development and climate resilience, with high interest payments diverting resources away from critical investments in health, education, and infrastructure.

As I noted at the Nairobi summit, this reality perpetuates a vicious cycle of vulnerability, compounded by the escalating effects of climate change. In the past year alone, eastern Africa has endured devastating floods that displaced thousands and destroyed vital infrastructure, while persistent droughts in southern Africa have crippled agricultural output in Zambia and Zimbabwe. In western and central Africa, floods have wreaked havoc in Nigeria, Niger, and Chad, displacing entire communities and submerging farmlands.

Meanwhile, desertification continues to encroach on arable land, threatening food security in countries like Mali, while extreme heatwaves have strained energy systems in parts of North Africa. These crises - which disrupt lives, livelihoods, and economies across the continent - heighten the need for concessional financing on a scale that matches the magnitude of the challenge.

While negotiations over the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) at this year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) stressed the urgency of mobilizing \$1.3 trillion in climate finance per year by 2035, the delegates ultimately fell short, with commitments reaching only \$300 billion. For Africa, this outcome illustrates the persistent inequities in global financing and highlights the need for institutions like the IDA to play an even greater role in plugging the gap.

The overlap between the IDA replenishment and the NCQG is clear: both aim to secure the resources needed to advance sustainable development. The IDA’s \$100 billion replenishment must be leveraged for maximum impact, particularly in addressing vulnerable countries’ need to invest in climate resilience. The world cannot achieve its mid-century net-zero emissions target without Africa’s full participation. With sufficient investment in our renewable energy resources, Africans can lead the global decarbonization agenda while providing electricity to the 600 million people on the continent who currently lack access.

I and other African leaders commend the IDA for its continued focus on innovative solutions such as debt-for-climate swaps, and for its support for climate-positive growth. But our economic transformation requires a collective global commitment to structural reforms. We must do more to leverage Special Drawing Rights (the International Monetary Fund’s reserve asset), reallocate fossil-fuel subsidies, and strengthen the lending capacity of multilateral development banks. As I emphasized in Nairobi, the G20 Independent Expert Group’s recommendation to triple the IDA’s financing capacity to \$279 billion by 2030 remains a sound and necessary target.

The Nairobi Declaration, adopted at last year’s Africa Climate Summit, provides a blueprint for aligning development financing with climate action. By focusing on African-led initiatives, leveraging our vast renewable energy potential, and driving industrialization, we can create millions of jobs while also securing a sustainable future for the continent.

Africa is ready to play its part. We are committed to fiscal discipline and enhanced governance to create a conducive environment for investment and sustainable development. But to succeed, we will need our global partners to match this commitment with sustained support and collaboration, which means exceeding the current IDA replenishment levels in future rounds.

For all of us in Africa, the \$100 billion replenishment is a step, not a destination. Together, we must build on the momentum generated this year to ensure that the IDA and the NCQG deliver on their promise of equitable, effective, and accessible financing. It is up to us to transform today’s challenges into opportunities to secure a prosperous future for all Africans.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Woman kills husband in pastis fight

*Suspect Esther Jenteh has told the police that it was not her intention to kill her husband.*

By Ramsey N Singbeh  
Jr in Margibi

Borlorla, Margibi County, Liberia, December 23, 2024: A 63-year-old

which took place in their yard in Gaylayla, Borlorla Township.

During the fight, Toleh was said to have bitten the

attacked her and she bit him and pushed him in return.

She said she didn't know that he would have died in no time.

She told the police that it was not her intention to kill her husband. She has since been charged with manslaughter and sent to court awaiting trial.

A corona jury team, according to the police, was set up to check the body, and it was found that the man was bitten on his right arm. The jury has pronounced him dead. A nurse who is an officer in charge of a clinic in the region also checked and confirmed the death of Mr. Toleh, the police added. The police have called on the family to take delivery of the body for burial.

However, the police said the family appears not to be ready to take the responsibility for burial.

Contrary to Esther's explanation, it is also reported that she allegedly knocked the man on his neck with a stake. Another report said the woman held and pressed the man's private parts while they were fighting. It allegedly caused the victim's death.

Someone in the town remarked that the man

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



woman known as Esther Jenteh (Yatta) has reportedly killed her husband in Margibi County during a brutal fight over a strong alcoholic drink called pastis.

The victim, Amos Toleh (Keney), believed to be in the same age group as Esther,

went unconscious for a while before he died.

The accused is said to have bit victim Toleh's right arm and pushed him during the fight,

accused, and two of them had already taken several glasses of alcohol. Our investigation gathered the victim was hungry when they drank the pastis before the fight. Pastis is also a very strong drink that is sometimes diluted with water before drinking to lessen the alcohol content.

Esther Jenteh has told police investigators that Toleh felt cheated in sharing the alcohol and got angry with her. At that moment, she added that Toleh



# CNDRA cries for more budgetary allocation

The CNDRA manages and preserves Liberia's documentary and cultural heritage to honor the nation's memories.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, December 23, 2024: The Director-General of the Center for National Documents and Records Agency (CNDRA), D. Nelson Bearngar, has called for increased financial support for the agency.

Mr. Bearngar says the request is meant to improve the agency's ability to preserve important national documents and records. In a recent interview with journalists in Sinkor, Mr. Bearngar emphasized that the CNDRA is a revenue-generating institution for the Government of Liberia. He suggested that its employees deserve better pay to stay motivated.

The Liberian government, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, recently announced a salary increase for civil servants starting in January

2025.

Bearngar also appealed to the government and its partners for additional support to make the agency more efficient in carrying out its responsibilities.

He stated that preserving Liberia's heritage requires a comprehensive approach and called on the government, development partners, and

private individuals to assist in any way possible.

He indicated that their assistance could be through financial contributions, materials, or technical support. The DG specifically reached out to international and regional partners, including the United States Government, USAID, UNDP, UNESCO, the African Union, ECOWAS, and others, to help

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



# Chinese Embassy donates 2,000 helmets to Police

*The Government of China donates 2,000 helmets to the Liberian National Police to boost public safety in Liberia.*

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia December 23, 2024 - The Chinese Embassy in Liberia donates 2,000 pieces of motorcycle safety helmets to the Liberia National Police (LNP).

The donation ceremony, which took place here on Monday, December 23, at the LNP headquarters in Monrovia aims to help improve road safety and raise awareness about the importance of traffic safety across Liberia. Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Yin Chainwal emphasizes the importance of motorcyclists in Liberia's transportation system, while noting high risks they face in the traffic.

"Every year, many accidents occur due to a lack of proper safety measures. A helmet is one of the simplest and most effective tools to protect riders from serious injuries,"

Coleman, expresses gratitude to the Chinese government for its continued support in promoting peace and security in Liberia.

He highlights the importance of traffic safety, particularly during the festive season when road usage tends to increase. "Our intent with the road safety campaign is not to punish anyone but to keep people safe," Coleman notes. "We focus on education rather than enforcement, but we hope safety becomes a way of life for everyone." The LNP announces that the helmets would be distributed immediately, with some allocated to the leadership of the Motorcycle Union for further dissemination.

He adds that the portion remaining with the police will be distributed during their road safety awareness campaign, which begins today, December 24, 2024.

Furthermore, the Minister of



Ambassador Yin states.

He explains that the donation of the helmets is a demonstration of the strong partnership between Liberia and China, which has grown significantly since both nations elevated their relationship to a strategic partnership during the recent British Summit.

"We have been working together in multiple sectors, including infrastructure, education, and health, to improve the lives of Liberians," the ambassador says, and adds, "This donation aims to enhance traffic safety in Liberia, ensuring citizens can enjoy a happy and safe life."

Ambassador Yin also stresses that public safety remains a top priority and that a safe and efficient transportation system is vital not only for Liberia's economic growth, but also for the well-being of its citizens.

Liberia National Police Inspector General, Gregory O.W.

Justice and Attorney General, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh, praises the donation and urges everyone to adhere to traffic laws. Minister Tweh says the donation aligns with the Liberian government's development agenda and President Boakai's focus on public safety.

According to him, the reason they continue to emphasize the importance of motorcyclists abiding by laws and regulations set by the Liberia National Police is because motorcycles are highly vulnerable in the streets, and riders can easily get injured without proper protection.

He explains that while wearing a helmet may not prevent all injuries, it significantly increases the likelihood of saving lives in the event of an accident.


Additionally, the President of the Motorcycle Union of Liberia, John Cayon, expresses appreciation for

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING  
INVITATION FOR BID FOR Stationery Materials

DATE: December 24, 2024

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 national budget for the procurement of **Stationery**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Stationery. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the purchase of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on **December 24, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**; and the final date of submission is **January 23, 2025 @ 1:00 PM** for Stationery Supplies.  
Package: Stationery

IFB NO.	Lot	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/001/2025	Lot -1	Stationery	Assorted	2% of bid cost

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Stationery Supplies that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US \$100.00**

5. Qualification requirements include the following:  
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.  
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);  
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);  
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;  
(e) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate  
(f) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.  
(g) Include Business Activity Code.  
(h) Bid security should be two (2 %) percent of the bid price in the form Bank Guarantee.  
(i) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.  
(1) **IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the purchase of Stationery for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA


8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest **January 23, 2025 @ 2:00 P. M.** Moreover, electronic bids will not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **January 17, 2025 @ 12:00 noon** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.

10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **January 23, 2025 @ 2:00 PM**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. **Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed:   
Director of Procurement

Approved:   
Court Administrator



Republic of Liberia  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
P.O Box 10-9010  
1000 Monrovia-10, Liberia



# Season's Greetings from the Minister of Agriculture



The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah extends heartfelt season's greetings to His Excellency, Joseph Nyuma Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia, Honorable Vice President Jeremiah Koung, the speaker and members of the Honorable Legislature, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Hon. Supreme Court, Partners and Donors of the Agricultural sector of Liberia.


May the spirit of peace, love, and unity fill your hearts and homes as we celebrate this joyous Christmas season. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year filled with continued wisdom, good health, and success in your leadership of our great nation.

May this festive season inspire hope and resilience for all Liberians as we work together for a brighter future.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING  
INVITATION FOR BID FOR Printing Materials

DATE: December 24, 2024

IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 national budget for the procurement of **Printing Materials**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Printing Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the purchase of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on **December 24, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**; and the final date of submission is **January 23, 2025 @ 1:00 PM** for Printing Materials.  
Package: Printing Materials

IFB NO.	Lot	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2025	Lot -1	Printing Materials	Assorted	2% of bid cost

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Printing Materials that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US \$75.00**

5. Qualification requirements include the following:  
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.  
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);  
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);  
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;  
(e) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate  
(f) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.  
(g) Include Business Activity Code.  
(h) Bid security should be two (2 %) percent of the bid price in the form Bank Guarantee.  
(i) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.  
(1) **IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the purchase of Printing Materials for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

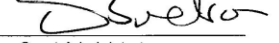
8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest **January 23, 2025 @ 1:00 P. M.** Moreover, electronic bids will not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **January 17, 2025 @ 11:00 AM** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.

10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **January 23, 2025 @ 1:00 PM**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.


11. **Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed:   
Director of Procurement

Approved:   
Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING  
INVITATION FOR BID FOR Cleaning Materials

DATE: December 24, 2024

IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/002/2025

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 national budget for the procurement of **Cleaning Materials**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Cleaning Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the purchase of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on **December 24, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**; and the final date of submission is **January 28, 2025 @ 1:00 PM** for Cleaning Materials.  
Package: Cleaning Materials

IFB NO.	Lot	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/SBA/NCB/002/2025	Lot -1	Cleaning Materials	Assorted	2% of bid cost

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Printing Materials that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US \$75.00**

5. Qualification requirements include the following:  
(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.  
(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);  
(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);  
(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;  
(e) Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate  
(f) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.  
(g) Include Business Activity Code.  
(h) Bid security should be two (2 %) percent of the bid price in the form Bank Guarantee.  
(i) Manufacture authorization.

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/ 505, Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.  
(1) **IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/002/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the purchase of Cleaning Materials for the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year 2025.


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

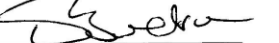
8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest **January 28, 2025 @ 1:00 P. M.** Moreover, electronic bids will not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **January 17, 2025 @ 1:00 PM** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.

10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **January 28, 2025 @ 1:00 PM**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. **Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed:   
Director of Procurement

Approved:   
Court Administrator



# Season's Greetings from the National Port Authority



*The Board of Directors, Management, and Staff and Port Users of the National Port Authority (NPA) extend heartfelt Christmas and New Year greetings to his excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakia and First Lady Kaitumu Boakia, Vice President Jeremiah Koung, and Hon. Joseph Koon the Speaker of the house of Representative and the people of Liberia.*

*May this season remind us of the strength of unity, the hope of new beginnings, and the enduring spirit of nation-building. Together, we have navigated challenges, embraced progress, and remained steadfast in our commitment to the prosperity of our beloved Country.*

*Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!*

*From the National Port Authority - "The Gateway to Liberia's Economy"*



# Français

## Le PNUD inaugure une pompe à panneau solaire à Donfah

La communauté de Donfah, située dans le comté de Bong, bénéficie désormais d'une infrastructure moderne d'approvisionnement en eau, réalisée grâce à la

moderne alimentée par énergie solaire dans la communauté de Donfah, située dans le comté de Bong, au centre du Libéria. Ce projet fait partie du Programme de Développement Communautaire Accéléré

l'opération et à l'entretien de tracteurs, et de remise de l'infrastructure au gouvernement libérien et à la communauté de Donfah.

Boye Johnson a rappelé que l'ACDP reflète la vision commune du gouvernement libérien et du PNUD pour répondre aux besoins des populations rurales vulnérables. Ce programme, mis en place après une étude de faisabilité menée entre 2019 et 2020, a permis d'identifier les communautés les plus pauvres du Libéria, nécessitant une intervention urgente. Une étude de terrain effectuée en 2018 dans des pays voisins tels que le Sénégal, le Togo et la Gambie a servi de modèle pour l'ACDP. À la suite de cette étude, une série d'ateliers et de missions de sensibilisation ont été menées pour recueillir l'avis des citoyens, ce qui a conduit à l'élaboration du document final du programme. L'ACDP a été officiellement lancé le 24 octobre 2022, à l'occasion de la Journée des Nations Unies, avec un engagement

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



collaboration entre le PNUD et le gouvernement du Libéria.

Le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), en partenariat avec le gouvernement du Libéria, a inauguré une station d'eau

(ACDP), qui vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations rurales les plus vulnérables.

Lors de la cérémonie, Boye Johnson, responsable intérimaire du programme ACDP, a expliqué que cette station d'eau s'inscrit dans un projet plus large de formation de jeunes à

## L'Université Nationale de Taongi lance un programme de prêts étudiants

L'Université Nationale de Taongi (TNU), située à Salala City, dans le comté de Bong inférieur, a récemment lancé un programme innovant de prêts étudiants destiné à faciliter l'accès à l'enseignement supérieur pour ceux qui rencontrent des obstacles financiers, tout en leur permettant de poursuivre des études de qualité.

Ce programme, qui est désormais en vigueur, permet aux étudiants de commencer leurs études sans être freinés par le coût des frais de scolarité. En

effet, au lieu de devoir payer 258 USD par semestre, les étudiants bénéficiaires du prêt n'auront à verser que 20 USD ou plus par mois pendant la durée de leurs études. Le solde restant sera ajouté à leur compte et devra être réglé après l'obtention de leur diplôme.

Le 22 décembre 2024, lors d'une interview accordée au New Dawn, le Dr Mike M. Sonpon, président de l'Université Nationale de Taongi, a déclaré : « Le programme de prêts étudiants de TNU est maintenant opérationnel. Venez étudier dès maintenant et payez plus tard. Les frais de scolarité à TNU s'élèvent à 258 USD par semestre,

mais vous n'avez pas à vous soucier de tout payer immédiatement. Il vous suffira de payer 20 USD chaque mois jusqu'à votre diplomation. Le solde sera ajouté à votre compte et devra être réglé après la fin de vos études. »

Accréditée par la Commission nationale de l'enseignement supérieur du Libéria pour proposer des programmes de baccalauréat, l'Université Nationale de Taongi dispose de son propre campus à Salala City, dans le comté de Bong inférieur, et compte déjà des étudiants inscrits.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### La chute de la maison Assad

Par Daron Acemoglu

**T**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 [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 [sattendent](#) 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 Le PNUD inaugure une pompe

financier de 100 millions de dollars pour les trois premières années de mise en œuvre. M. Johnson a exprimé sa reconnaissance envers le gouvernement libérien, qui a déjà contribué à hauteur de 3 millions de dollars, en plus des fonds du PNUD, permettant la réalisation de plusieurs projets. Il a également précisé que l'objectif du programme est de réduire les inégalités territoriales et d'améliorer l'accès aux infrastructures de base dans les zones les plus reculées du Libéria.

Louis Kuukpen, représentant adjoint du PNUD pour le programme, a souligné que cette station d'eau est un projet phare qui, au-delà de l'approvisionnement en eau potable, propose également des opportunités économiques pour les femmes. Ces dernières bénéficieront de kiosques commerciaux, avec un capital de départ pour gérer ces espaces, en plus des transferts monétaires destinés aux foyers dirigés par des femmes.

M. Kuukpen a également annoncé des projets visant à favoriser l'inclusion financière, notamment en permettant aux kiosques d'offrir des services d'argent mobile, avec des femmes jouant un rôle clé en tant qu'agentes

de monnaie. Rappelant l'importance cruciale de l'eau, M. Kuukpen a insisté sur le fait que l'accès à l'eau potable est essentiel pour prévenir les maladies d'origine hydrique et améliorer la qualité de vie des communautés.

La station d'eau de Donfah, qui dessert une population d'environ 1 450 habitants, est équipée d'un système solaire garantissant une alimentation en énergie propre et une distribution continue d'eau. Un système de chloration a également été installé pour assurer la potabilité de l'eau. Le coût total de l'installation, y compris les kiosques, est estimé à 83 711,82 dollars.

Le PNUD a annoncé que quatre autres projets similaires sont en cours, dont deux sont presque terminés dans le comté de Gbarpolu (Mardina et Totoquelleh), et seront inaugurés en janvier 2025.

La cérémonie d'inauguration a réuni des responsables locaux et gouvernementaux, ainsi que des membres de la communauté de Donfah, parmi lesquels Boye Vakpeh, commissaire administratif de Yellequelleh, ainsi que des chefs communautaires.

## Starts from page 8 L'Université Nationale de Taongi lance

L'université, qui accueille des étudiants issus de Bong, Margibi, Montserrado et d'autres régions du Libéria, œuvre selon la devise : « Rendre l'enseignement supérieur de qualité accessible et abordable pour tous. »

Un résident de Kakata, s'exprimant sur ce programme de prêts étudiants, a salué l'initiative, soulignant qu'il s'agit d'une première au Libéria, un modèle novateur permettant aux étudiants d'accéder à l'université grâce à un prêt.

Le Dr Sonpon a également précisé que l'Université Nationale de Taongi s'efforce de devenir une institution de classe mondiale, en

mettant l'accent sur la recherche, la créativité et l'innovation, et en suivant les tendances mondiales dans ces domaines.

Enfin, il a ajouté que l'université adopte une approche philosophique critique de l'enseignement supérieur, avec une attention particulière à l'analyse littéraire et à la pensée critique.

Le personnel enseignant de l'université comprend le Dr Dewey E. Painter, Sr., Chancelier, et le Dr Kenneth Lierle, Président international et Directeur, entourés de professeurs titulaires de maîtrises et de doctorats.

## L'État de droit menacé : Dr. Whapoe appelle à un règlement urgent de la crise au sein de

Le leader du parti Vision for Liberia Transformation (VOLT), Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe, a exhorté le gouvernement à intervenir rapidement pour résoudre la crise de leadership qui secoue la Chambre des représentants. Il met en garde contre les graves conséquences pour l'État de droit et la stabilité démocratique du pays.

Lors d'une conférence de presse organisée au siège de VOLT à Monrovia, Dr. Whapoe a dénoncé les tentatives de certains parlementaires visant à destituer le président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa. Selon lui, ces actions relèvent d'un calcul politique égoïste qui risque de paralyser les institutions publiques et d'entraver la fourniture des services essentiels à la population.

« Nous constatons avec une profonde préoccupation ces manœuvres visant à destituer le président de la Chambre, au mépris total de la Constitution et des principes fondamentaux de l'État de droit », a déclaré Dr. Whapoe.

Il a souligné que, conformément à la Constitution libérienne, une majorité des deux tiers, soit 49 députés, est nécessaire pour destituer un président de la



## Nous ne céderons pas face aux tentatives de déstabilisation

### - Le gouvernement répond aux manifestations

Le 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



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 déclaré.

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 tranquillité.

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.



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# Rev. Victor calls on Liberians to embrace peace

*Bishop Padmore of the Lutheran Church in Liberia has prayed for divine intervention in Liberia, asking for wisdom from its leaders.*

**By Naneka A. Hoffman**  
Monrovia, December 23, 2024: The Right Reverend G. Victor Padmore, Bishop of the



Lutheran Church in Liberia, has called on all Liberians to embrace peace, reconciliation, and unity as they celebrate Christmas. He noted that Christmas arrives at

a time of uncertainty and tension in Liberia. He cited the ongoing legislative impasse that threatens the nation's socio-

political disagreements are a natural part of any democracy. But he admonished that it should not hinder the progress or stability of the nation. The Clergy urged Liberians to remain hopeful and prayerful and to unite in prayer for their leaders, institutions, and the country as a whole. He reminded the public that Christmas symbolizes the light that shines brightest in dark times. Bishop Padmore urged people to become instruments of peace and change, reflecting the love and humility of Jesus Christ. He also encouraged care for the vulnerable, such as the poor, hungry, and displaced, echoing Christ's mission to serve and save. Bishop Padmore prayed for divine intervention in Liberia, asking for wisdom for its leaders, unity among the people, and peace throughout the nation. He concluded by praying that love and light would shine across the land, dispelling darkness and inspiring all Liberians to be peacemakers, embodying the true meaning of Christmas.

economic stability, causing anxiety among the people. Bishop Padmore's Christmas message, titled "Let the Prince of Peace Rule in Our Hearts," emphasized that

Starts from page 5

## Chinese Embassy donates

the donation and the recognition of motorcyclists' safety needs. However, he highlights that there are over 350,000 motorcyclists across Liberia, appealing for additional support. According to him, they understand the risks involved in riding without safety gear, which is why they have decided to cooperate with the police by adhering to traffic

regulations. Mr. Cayon requests the Chinese Ambassador to assist the union by providing scholarships to help its members further their education. "Motorcycle riding is not just a career; it's a stepping stone to better our lives," Cayon notes. He also calls on the Chinese Embassy to provide scholarships for motorcyclists, noting that many riders are seeking

opportunities to improve their circumstances. "We will be coming to your doorstep to request scholarships, and I hope you listen closely," he says. Amid severe joblessness here, Liberian youths, who constitute about 60 percent of the population, turn to motorcycle and tricycle taxis for survival. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 5

## CNDRA cries for more

mobilize the necessary resources for CNDRA. Beargar stressed that adequately compensating employees of government ministries and agencies would help reduce corruption. He explained that poor wages could lead to unethical practices, asserting that top management should prioritize the welfare of employees and support the

President's agenda. He criticized leaders who indulge in luxuries while employees struggle to meet basic needs. He also clarified that the National Archives is more than just a place to obtain marriage certificates, as many people perceive it. He highlighted that the institution's primary function is to manage and preserve Liberia's documentary and cultural

heritage to protect and honor the nation's memories. In conclusion, Beargar expressed gratitude to President Joseph N. Boakai for entrusting him with the responsibility to serve in his current role. He acknowledged the significant challenges the agency faces, many of which are still being addressed.

Starts from page 5

## Woman kills husband

consistently embarrassed the woman until they fought. Some sources say she started the fight against the man. In a related development, family members and friends of the victim from the Barclay farm area along the

Kakata-Weala highway have angrily moved to Gaylayla town, threatening revenge over Amos Toleh's death. But police intervened and kept the situation under control on the night of the incident. Despite police intervention, the angry family and friends

staged an attack against the town on Monday, December 23, 2024. Again, the police swiftly responded and restored calm. A house belonging to Satta, the elder sister of Yatta, got damaged in the process.

# Govt. supports lowland rice project in Bong

*Government of Liberia boosts lowland rice project in Bong County.*

**By Judoemue M. Kollie**  
Monrovia, Liberia, December 24, 2024 - As the Liberian government strives to improve domestic rice production, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), under the World Bank and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) projects, has once more supported a significant lowland rice production project in Fuanah District, Lower Bong County.

The support represents the government's continuous support of smallholder farmers, who struggled to some extent to improve their incomes to support their families. On Saturday, December 20, 2024, the Ministry launched the harvest of the project at a program attended by lawmakers, including Bong County Senator Prince Moye, and Bong County District 5 Representative Foday E. Fahnbulleh. Agriculture Minister, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, and other stakeholders of the agricultural sector also attended the event. The lowland rice project covers over 900 hectares and is owned by the Fuamah District Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Bong Mines. The project aims to ensure a main income source for 918 farm families who are cooperative members with support from the Ministry's funded projects, the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)

Minister Nuetah emphasized that before the tenure of the Boakai-Koung administration, the country should have been able to reduce rice imports. The Fuamah District Cooperative rice project is one of several projects that the Ministry is currently partnering with to scale rice production within the next few years. The minister is optimistic that the support provided to the farmers will ensure sustainable income opportunities for them. He promised to immediately construct a temporary warehouse to store the harvest to reduce post-harvest losses. The Minister further disclosed that a plan is underway to construct a processing center and install an irrigation system to enable farmers to grow rice throughout the year. "We are working with the WFP to construct a warehouse to temporarily store the rice that will be later bought from you to process and to put it on the local market," the minister assured the farmers. However, he encouraged the farmers not to just rely on the support of the ministry but to see reason to work harder to reinvest in the project. Bong County Senator, Prince Moye, who launched the harvest,



and the Smallholder Transformation Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAP). Both projects seek to increase productivity and market competitiveness of the critical agricultural value chains by ensuring access to finance and promoting farm mechanization. Making remarks at the occasion, Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah reiterated the Liberian government's unwavering commitment to agriculture, stating that the government will do all it can to create an enabling environment that will make farmers of the country grow more rice to reduce rice importation. "Rice importation has become a serious burden on the government, so supporting farmers to grow more rice for the country will solve many of our problems," he said.

said he was impressed with the level of work done, promising that he would work with his colleagues to ensure that the budget for agriculture is increased. "I pledged my fullest support to work with my colleagues to ensure a better appropriation for agriculture in the National budget," Senator Moye stated. He praised the minister for the support provided to the farmers describing the effort as unprecedented. Bong County District 5 Representative, Foday Fahnbulleh, thanked the Ministry for supporting farmers in his district and promised to work with the Ministry in mobilizing the farmers for agriculture ventures. Press Release



# Former Justice Ja'nah, others to challenge 2025 Budget

Ex-Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'nah says he is mobilizing lawyers to challenge the legality of the 2025 National Budget in court.

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Monrovia, Liberia,  
December 24, 2024 -  
Former Associate



Justice, Kabineh M. Ja'nah vows here to sue the Government of Liberia, particularly the Executive Branch of Government, if President Joseph N. Boakai signed the controversial Fiscal Year 2025 budget. Speaking on Spoon Midnight conversation, Cllr. Ja'nah said that he has spoken to a few senior lawyers, and they are planning that the moment President Boakai signs the Budget, which they believe was passed illegally, they will take the matter to the Supreme Court. "If the President signed this Budget into law that we believe was not legal at all

and didn't meet the requirements, we will take the government to the Supreme Court to ask for a Legal Declaratory of

Properties as to the way this budget was passed. Now, we are not doing this to say oh, this is what we're going to do to the Supreme Court; we will bring it to the court and say: please make a declaration whether the passage of this budget met the legal requirements under our system", he explains. According to him, the way they want to do it is by starting from the lower court and after that, they will go to the Supreme Court based on the decision from the lower court, adding that they want the court to clearly state the procedure. The Liberian Senate over the weekend

unanimously concurred with the Majority bloc of the House of Representatives on the passage of the Fiscal Year 2025 National Budget in the amount of US\$880.07 million. Members of the Liberian Senate took the decision late Friday, December 20, 2024, following a motion from Grand Kru County Senator Numene Bartekwa. However, of the 30 senators, 19 voted in favor of the budget. Prior to the senate passage of the Budget, the majority bloc passed the budget at the Monrovia City Hall (MCC) in a special emergency session. Meanwhile, following the passage of the 2025 National Budget and subsequent concurrent by the Liberian Senate, embattled House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa labels the Majority Bloc's recent passage of the 2025 national budget as ultra vires. "Ultra vires", Cllr. Koffa posted on his official Facebook page on December 21, 2024. Ultra vires is a Latin phrase that means "beyond the powers" or "lack of power." It's a common law principle that describes when a person or entity acts without legal authority. The doctrine of ultra vires is most relevant in corporate law, administrative law, and constitutional law. It ensures that laws are made legally, and that corporations and government agencies act within their powers. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Lawmakers drag GoL to INCHR

Rep. Collins and Rep. Debee have accused the Minister of Justice and Liberia's Police Chief of allegedly ordering officers to brutalize them.

Monrovia, December 23, 2024: Two members of the House of Representatives have separately filed complaints before the Independent National Commission of Human Rights (INCHR) against two government institutions. Gbarpolu County Electoral District #2 Rep. Luther Sandy Collins and Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #3 Rep. Jacob Cheategbea Debee have accused the Ministry of Justice of ordering the Liberia National Police (LNP) to brutalize them. In his communication addressed to INCHR chairperson Cllr. Dempster Brown, Rep. Debee alleged brutality, harassment, and violation of his constitutional rights by members of the LNP on the alleged orders of Justice Minister Cllr. Oswald Tweh on December 9, 2024. At about 9 am on Monday, December 9, 2024, Debee said he was at his office on Capitol Hill for his usual constitutional responsibilities, citing law-making, representation, and advocacy. At that time, Debee said he

tussled with police officers who were stationed outside a chamber during a budget hearing. The House of Representatives has been engulfed in months of political turmoil which has seen a majority bloc dethrone House Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa. Koffa has denounced his removal as illegal, but a Supreme Court intervention did not solve the problem. The majority bloc elected Montserrado County Representative Richard Nagbe Koon as the new House Speaker under whose gable the 2025 National Budget was passed last week. During the tussle with police, Rep. Debee continued that the furniture and equipment at the reception of his office were all destroyed. "My staff and visitors were held hostage for more than two hours," complained further. "Honorable Chairperson, these were not only violations of my right to associate, move, and represent my people," he stated. Debee lamented that these acts caused him physical

Starts from back page

## Cllr. Gongloe lauds EPA boss

the output of Dr. Yarkpawolo's work and productivity is speaking for him, reflecting that when he selected him as his vice running mate, many questioned him but he knew that he has chosen a diamond from Bong County. "Obviously, this is a prospective future President of Liberia. Liberians will no longer buy pig in the basket. I believe that Liberians are seeing his impact. He has a great future. The day Liberian people are wise enough to give power to good people, it will rise again. Better Liberia is possible. Institutional progress and selflessness work is what's making impact at the

EPA. Individual progress is never the way. I want to thank all the staffers for the support", he expresses. Cllr. Gongloe urges President Boakai to institute a young cabinet of young professionals which he believes will help him get votes in 2029, on grounds that young ministers, who have not tasted government before, will be willing to work diligently, honestly and transparently because they want to show who they are. "LPP was the first to endorse President Boakai in the runoff. When the President proposed on making me Minister of Justice, I

refused because I too am an old minister. And so, I recommended my vice running mate, who has not worked in government before. Moreover, he has a PhD in environmental science and so, I told the President to take him there and he will see the difference. I want to thank President Boakai for listening. I always check on my vice running mate because if he fails, I will be blamed. Your Deputy is progressive and so, I want to assume that he is progressive here too" he concludes. Editing by Jonathan Browne



heard about another group on the same floor where his office is allegedly performing "legislative duties." "Curious to know what was going on, I came out of my office and saw a group of well-armed officers believed to be members of the Liberia National Police," Rep. Debee wrote. For more than two hours, Debee said Capitol Hill was tear-gassed, and he was allegedly brutalized by the police. He complained that they pulled his clothes with excessive force and batons for getting out of his office to perform the duties he was elected to perform. On 9 December, tension erupted on Capitol Hill when some lawmakers and their supporters

harm. For his part, Rep. Collins requested the INCHR to investigate the Minister of Justice and the Police Chief, Col. Gregory Coleman, for allegedly brutalizing him for no reason. Collins alleged that he was beaten while attempting to attend a hearing for the 2025 National Budget. Collins said he sustained bruises while one of his office staff Eric Scott's left hand got broken from the alleged brutalities. Following the incident, Rep. Collins said he and Scott were admitted at the Hope of Women clinic located in Paynesville.

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