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**Majority bloc in search of SONA venue**

**Rep. James Kolleh**

**P11**



**NPA boss in faceoff with Senate Pro-Temp**

**-Over Port autonomy**

**Sekou A.M. Dukuly** **Sen. Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence**

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# Continental News

## Mozambique opposition leader says he will return home from exile

Mozambique's opposition leader Venâncio Mondlane, who has been calling for

Facebook live address on Sunday, he sent out a defiant message to the authorities saying he "will be in Maputo.

to the 49-year-rule of the Frelimo party. He has previously said he would install himself as president on 15 January - on the presidential inauguration day - despite the court upholding his rival's victory. The electoral commission initially declared Chapo the winner of the election with 71% of the vote, compared to Mondlane's 20%. The final official results from the constitutional court two weeks ago gave Chapo 65% and Mondlane 24%. International election observers have previously said that the vote was flawed, pointing to doctored numbers and other irregularities during the counting process.

Security forces have sought to end the nationwide protests in a violent crackdown that has tested the country's stability. More than 270 people have been killed, including protesters, children and members of the security forces, according to rights groups. The unrest has also affected the economy, with more than 12,000 people losing their jobs and over 500 companies being vandalised. BBC

They don't need to chase me any more". He said he would arrive at 08:05 local time (06:05 GMT) on Thursday at the international airport in Maputo, calling for people to welcome him there.

"If they are killing my brothers... then I will be there. You can do what you want. If you want to murder, murder. If you want to arrest, arrest too. I will be there," he said.

Mondlane maintains that he won the election and has called for more protests until there is "electoral truth". His supporters have frequently staged violent protests across the country to demand an end

protests for weeks from exile, has said he will return to the country on Thursday. Mondlane said he would arrive ahead of the swearing-in of a new president next week. Daniel Chapo of the ruling Frelimo party is due to be sworn next Wednesday after a court confirmed his election victory.

But Mondlane, the runner-up, rejected the outcome, sparking violent protests that have left dozens dead since October. Mondlane left Mozambique the same month saying he feared for his life, after two of his aides were shot dead. In a

*Mondlane has been in exile since October*

## Five missing Kenyan youths freed amid uproar over abductions

Five young Kenyan men - including a popular cartoonist - who went missing just before the Christmas holidays have been found alive, family members and rights groups say. Kenya has been gripped by a wave of disappearances, with the state-funded rights group saying that over 80 people have been abducted in the last six months. The abductions generally target government critics and are widely believed to be the work of security agents, although the authorities have not admitted responsibility. They began in June last year during nationwide anti-tax protests, but increased in December, when AI-generated photos of the president in a coffin were widely shared. The youth-led protests forced President William Ruto to withdraw a series of planned tax rises and shook his government, leaving his authority badly undermined. Kibet Bull, known for his silhouette cartoon memes critical of the president, announced his

traumatised. "Mr Mwangi's father said his son was not able to discuss what he had gone through adding that he had been taken to hospital. "He came home around eight in the morning. He walked by himself - his mother and I saw him. We thank everyone who has prayed and supported him," he told the Daily Nation news site.

Last week, Mr Mwangi's father broke down in court as he pleaded for his son to be released.

A relative of 22-year-old Peter Muteti, who was seized in Nairobi, on 21 December, told the BBC on Monday that he had been reunited with the family but was disoriented and unable to speak about the ordeal. Amnesty International Kenya welcomed the releases and urged "the State to free all abductees and hold those responsible accountable". Two weeks ago the police denied responsibility for the abductions carried out by men in plain clothes across the country, some of which were captured on CCTV.

Rights groups and other Kenyans have linked the abductions to a shadowy intelligence and counter-terrorism unit of the security forces. Amid the public uproar, President Ruto said last month: "We



*Activists have vowed to maintain pressure against the government until all those missing are accounted for*

release on Monday afternoon on X to much fanfare.

He told his 105,000 followers that he had been dropped off in the town of Luanda, nearly 370 km (229 miles) from the capital, Nairobi, where he was last seen in December. Kibet Bull said straight after he was released he went to a disco.

His mother told the BBC she "rejoiced" after she heard the news that her son had returned.

"I gave him a call and we talked, we didn't talk much, the moment he told me 'I am Kibet' and I heard his voice, I screamed, I celebrated until he hung up," she said. The others released on Monday include 24-year-old student Billy Mwangi in Embu, in the central Mount Kenya region. Local MP Gitonga Mukunji told journalists that Mr Mwangi "was whipped and beaten while in a dark room. He is

are going to stop the abductions so that our youth can live peacefully and have discipline", while urging parents to take care of their children. Until now, no-one had been freed since he spoke on 27 December, with activists planning protests on Monday to push the government to act.

On Monday the police released an update acknowledging the freeing of the men, saying they were already in contact with one of the abductees, Bernard Kavuli, who had presented himself at a police station. The police said investigations into all cases of missing people were under way.

One other man - Ronny Kiplangat - has also been released, his family told local media.

Mr Kavuli, a content creator, was seized on the outskirts of Nairobi in December, while Mr Kiplangat is the brother of Kibet Bull. Two others were seized after posting AI-generated images of the president. At least 24 people are still missing. BBC

## Chinese nationals arrested with gold bars and \$800,000 cash in DR Congo

Three Chinese nationals have been arrested with 12 gold bars and \$800,000 (£650,000) in cash in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, officials say. The gold and money was hidden under the seats of the vehicle they were travelling in, according to Jean Jacques Purusi, the governor of South Kivu province. He said the operation to arrest the men had been kept secret after the recent release of another group of Chinese nationals accused of running an illegal gold mine in the area. Eastern DR Congo has abundant reserves of gold, diamonds and the minerals used to make batteries for mobile phones and electric vehicles. This mineral wealth has been plundered by foreign groups since the colonial era and is one of the main reasons why the region has been plagued by instability for the

last 30 years. Militia groups control many of the mines in eastern DR Congo and their leaders become wealthy by selling it to middle-men. Purusi said some of these dealers in precious metals enjoyed good relations with influential people in the capital, Kinshasa, and this was why the mission to carry out these latest arrests had to be kept quiet. He said they had been acting on a tip-off and that the gold and money was only found

after a meticulous search of the vehicle in the Walungu area not far from the border with Rwanda. He did not say exactly how much gold had been seized. Last month, the governor told reporters he was shocked to hear that 17 Chinese nationals, who had been arrested on allegations they had been running an illegal gold mine, had been freed and allowed to return to China. BBC



*The weight of the seized gold bars was not made clear (file photo)*



# EDITORIAL

## Looking forward to a smooth sailing

Liberians look forward with great hope in 2025 for the smooth sailing of the government and the state and for ultimate political and economic stability. 2024, which ushered in a new government here, saw the Motherland sailing on troubled waters characterized by political tension, uncertainty, fragility, and economic hardship.

Due to missteps, heightened tension, bickering, and near instability, 2024 did not achieve much for this country, with poverty staring at the population. Many parents could not afford to send their children to school while businesses, including commercial banks, were on the verge of closure because of insolvency and seeming recession.

But if we did not get it right last year, 2025 provides a fresh opportunity for the government, citizens, and our business partners to dream again, tighten the bolts, and take off for greater heights, for the upper space is the only option.

This means that the government that took an oath to provide an enabling environment for economic activities and stability must keep to its promise of creating a better country than it met rather than the other way around.

It is a disgrace that during the period in review under the new administration, the University of Liberia failed to reopen largely due to a lack of funds to pay part-time lecturers and to appoint a new president.

Mismanagement of public money took center stage in the first year of the Boakai administration from the 55th Legislature to the Executive, particularly the Ministry of Public Work to the National Port Authority, where millions were spent just on salary, so much so that the NPA could not contribute to the national budget.

The mismanagement of state resources in 2024 under the new administration left many ordinary Liberians wondering whether transparency and accountability no longer exist in public service.

With a new year here, we as Liberians, particularly those entrusted with public offices, should do things differently in the state's interest, for the Motherland is all we have as citizens.

We should all be reminded that no amount of foreign support will fix this nation unless we Liberians sincerely desire better for ourselves and for the next generation.

President Boakai and his government should stand up to the task of nation-building instead of paying lip service. We have heard lots in words, but we need deeds right now!

# Happy New Year to our Readers

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# COMMENTARY

By Mónica Araya, Saliem Fakir

## The Climate Crisis Is Also an Inflation Crisis

SLO/CAPE TOWN – Global inflation in recent years has pushed the prices of food, energy, and basic goods to unprecedented levels. As a result, the rising cost of living has dominated political discussion around the world, but especially in G20 countries. Ahead of this year’s presidential election in the United States, for example, 41% of Americans cited inflation as their top economic issue.

High inflation risks overshadowing another urgent crisis: global warming. But rising prices and climate change are closely linked. Extreme weather damages crops, spoils harvests, and drives up food prices, and its impact is growing more pronounced as heatwaves, droughts, and floods become more frequent and intense. These events also disrupt supply chains and energy production, pushing up the price of other essential goods.

Climate-induced inflationary pressures are especially acute in Africa and Latin America, where food accounts for a significant share of household spending. For example, an extensive drought exacerbated by El Niño raised the price of staples in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe earlier this year, creating a hunger crisis. By contrast, households in wealthier countries tend to spend a smaller share of their income on food and are thus better insulated.

Discussions about climate change often overlook its economic toll on vulnerable populations and how it deepens inequality, focusing instead on green growth and emissions reductions. But as inflation increasingly disrupts economic stability, this toll can no longer be ignored. Shifting weather patterns have raised the prices of oranges in Brazil, cocoa in West Africa, and coffee in Vietnam. A recent study by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the European Central Bank estimates that rising temperatures could drive up food inflation by 3.2 percentage points per year, with overall inflation increasing by 1.18 percentage points annually by 2035.

Rather than being treated solely as an environmental issue, climate change must be central to economic policy. Fiscal and monetary authorities should incorporate both immediate and long-term climate-related risks into their inflation forecasts and policies – as they already do with the “transition risks” of shifting to a low-carbon economy. Some institutions have begun to adapt. The South African Reserve Bank has acknowledged the importance of understanding climate risks. Since 2018, the Central Bank of Costa Rica has integrated the impact of global warming into its economic models.

Central banks and finance ministries should also work with climate organizations to create practical solutions that help cushion economies from the

interrelated shocks of extreme weather, soaring inflation, and food insecurity. For example, the African Climate Foundation (where one of us works) has developed Adaptation and Resilience Investment Platforms (ARIPs), which use advanced analytics that combine climate and weather data, biophysical models, and economy-wide models to facilitate investment and policy prioritization – a more comprehensive approach to building resilience.

The ACF used an ARIP in Malawi last year, after the country was devastated by Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone ever recorded. Using this financial tool enabled policymakers to identify lasting solutions that would mitigate the economic damage caused by the cyclone while protecting key industries and strengthening financial stability.

Other climate think tanks are pursuing similar goals. Iniciativa Climática de México is pushing policymakers to consider climate risks in economic planning, while the Institute for Climate and Society in Brazil has called for social-protection plans and climate-sensitive policies to shield low-income communities from the economic consequences of extreme weather.

Equally important is regional collaboration, which would allow countries in Africa and Latin America to develop and share economic policies that are specifically tailored to their climate vulnerabilities and support the most exposed communities. Initiatives like the Inter-American Development Bank’s Regional Climate Change Platform of Economy and Finance Ministries can serve as a blueprint for such efforts.

At the global level, greater coordination between climate and economic institutions is crucial. Tools like the European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism highlight the need for careful policy design to mitigate adverse effects – in this case, higher costs for consumers in developing countries. Brazil, as the host of next year’s BRICS Summit and United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), and South Africa, as the current G20 president, have a unique opportunity to redefine the global economic agenda, championing policies that address the twin crises of inflation and global warming.

Failure to act collectively and decisively could deepen inequality, erode economic stability, and jeopardize climate goals. But if policymakers develop innovative solutions that bridge the gap between climate and economic strategies, they can reduce the immediate risks of extreme weather and foster long-term stability and resilience. As both inflation and the planet heat up, the need for integrated, equitable policies has never been more urgent.



## OP-ED

By Kenneth Rogoff

## Will Trump Fire the Fed?

CAMBRIDGE - Nearly every cabinet or staff appointment announced by US President-elect Donald Trump has been met with a predictable wave of media outrage. Some of this hysteria can be attributed to deep-seated partisan biases, some reflects legitimate concerns, and some is pure nonsense.

When it comes to the US economy, however, the spotlight is on whom Trump might try to dismiss rather than whom he plans to appoint. Although Trump has said he will not seek to remove Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell - whose term ends in May 2026 - there is little doubt that Trump would love to tell Powell, “You’re fired.”

Trump’s antagonism toward Powell is baffling, given that Powell has been doing an excellent job. Though less visually thrilling than a SpaceX booster landing, the Fed’s success in achieving a soft economic landing amid aggressive interest-rate hikes is no less spectacular. Such a delicate balancing act has been pulled off only once before, in the 1990s, when monetary “maestro” Alan Greenspan headed the Fed. Given that sharp increases in interest rates typically trigger recessions, economists often consider it a success when the resulting downturn is mild or at least brief.

While no US president has been quicker to fire his appointees than Trump - the former star of The Apprentice - outgoing President Joe Biden moved too far in the opposite direction, refraining from dismissing any member of his cabinet. Most notably, Biden stood by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas despite Mayorkas’s role in overseeing the administration’s ill-considered “open borders” policy. And to Trump’s credit, the leading candidate to replace Powell, Kevin Warsh, is a highly regarded former Fed governor who has consistently been even more hawkish than Powell.

But regardless of whether he fires Powell, Trump’s bid to gain greater influence over the Fed’s decision-making risks destabilizing inflation expectations and driving up long-term interest rates. While this process will probably unfold more gradually than some critics suffering from “Trump derangement syndrome” might expect, the consequences could be dire.

In the long term, any attempt by Trump to undermine the Fed’s independence could severely impede its ability to respond to economic and financial crises. If inflation expectations are not firmly anchored, policymakers will struggle to stimulate the economy without triggering runaway price growth. Such a presidential “victory” over the Fed would reduce trust in other key institutions as well.

Fortunately, firing Powell is not so simple. While Fed chairs are appointed by the president, their terms are set by statute, which means the president does not have the authority to remove them. Trump could ask Powell to resign, but Powell has already made it clear that he will not step down.

That said, the Fed’s independence is not enshrined in the US Constitution. With sufficient support from the Senate and House, Trump could amend the law to dismiss Powell. But for now, the Fed is shielded by the near-certainty that any serious attempt to override its independence would roil financial markets.

If removing Powell is not an option, Trump might name a “shadow” Open Market Committee to undermine Powell’s authority and pressure the Fed. Trump has already done something similar with the presidency since being elected in November; the world pays far more attention to him than to Biden.

To be sure, this strategy is unlikely to have a meaningful impact on the Fed. Powell might face pointed questions about the policies of Trump’s shadow Fed during congressional hearings or press conferences, but such a group would not carry more weight than other external critics. Unless it consistently outperforms the Fed in forecasting economic trends - a highly improbable scenario - Trump’s shadow central bank will simply be ignored.

Still, the risks posed by Trump’s approach should not be underestimated. Central-bank independence is arguably the most important macroeconomic-policy innovation since the supply-side revolution of the 1970s. While inflation targeting and the “Taylor rule” have played a pivotal role in shaping modern monetary policy, they rely on central banks’ credibility and autonomy. Historically, central banks led by technocrats focused on maintaining price stability have consistently outperformed those plagued by political interference.

To understand the stakes, suppose Trump manages to fire Powell and pressures the Fed to keep interest rates low to boost economic growth, particularly during his first two years, before Democrats likely retake the House of Representatives. Longer-term interest rates - such as those on home and car loans, which the Fed does not control directly - would almost certainly rise, first gradually and then dramatically. Before long, the Fed would be forced to reverse course, eroding its credibility and weakening the US economy.

The good news is that for all his capriciousness, Trump is ultimately a pragmatist, not an ideologue. The long-term consequences of undermining the Fed’s independence would be in no one’s interest, including his own.

## OPINION

By Simon Johnson

## The Economic Consequences of Trump 2.0

WASHINGTON, DC - US President-elect Donald Trump’s second administration starts at noon on January 20. Trump’s non-stop election campaign since losing to Joe Biden in 2020 suggests a better organized redo of his first term, with the same focus on tax cuts to boost the economy, higher tariffs to reshape US trade with the world, and deporting as many immigrants as possible to generate more opportunities for American workers. But times have changed, and reality is unlikely to match rhetoric.

In 2016, when Trump first won the presidency, the United States was experiencing a prolonged period of low inflation. The Federal Reserve kept interest rates near zero throughout his administration. This time, however, is quite different. Inflation spiked during the COVID pandemic, and the Fed is still on guard against a resurgence - hence interest rates remain relatively high. Trump’s proposed tax cuts imply a fiscal stimulus for an economy with low unemployment. Any signs of overheating will be met by tighter monetary policy.

Trump has made noises about changing the leadership of the Fed, but he cannot fire Fed Chair Jerome Powell without risking both higher long-term interest rates and higher inflation. There will be tax cuts in 2025, mostly for rich people, and the consequent loss of revenue will undermine long-term fiscal sustainability. Larger deficits will keep interest rates higher than they would be otherwise, and the dollar may strengthen, creating difficulties for US exporters and for countries that have borrowed in dollars.

On tariffs, the world’s leaders (and financial markets) have come to understand that Trump talks loudly and carries a pretty small stick. He will no doubt noisily impose some high-profile tariffs, but US business interests will immediately begin seeking loopholes and lobbying for exceptions. Foreign leaders will make the pilgrimage to Mar-a-Lago, play some golf, and negotiate mutual carve-outs (we won’t tax your bourbon, if you don’t tax our cognac, and we’ll buy more US-made air defense systems).

Trump could ignore all this special pleading and insist on higher tariffs across the board. But that will bring more retaliation from trading partners and more protests from the big companies that now back him. The last thing Trump wants is to cause domestic job losses, which could happen if US-based companies must pay more for imports and lose competitiveness in export markets. If foreign leaders don’t make him look bad on the golf course and emphasize the jobs their companies create in the US (particularly in Republican-controlled states), everything will be up for reasonable discussion.

On illegal immigration, Trump is sure to have impact. The “border wall” is an illusion with no real meaning. But Trump is already threatening to punish Mexico and other countries (even Canada!) with high tariffs and other measures unless they hold back immigrants, and this will have some effect. Trump may also be clever enough to relax US sanctions on Venezuela, allowing more oil onto the world market and also helping the Venezuelan economy. That would reduce pressure on Venezuelans to emigrate, while also squeezing Iran and Russia (both of which rely on oil sales to finance purchases of electronic parts from China for use in weapons).

Trump could go further by rounding up and deporting millions of people who are in the US illegally. But mass deportation would harm major sectors of the economy (such as agriculture and construction), fuel massive social disruption, and cause his business allies to cut back on their investments (and job creation). Again, we should expect to see political grandstanding and sensational headlines, but the reality will not be much changed (illegal immigration has already fallen).

So, what will Trump really do? Will he purchase Greenland (or Canada!) or somehow reacquire control over the Panama Canal or reduce US support for NATO? None of Trump’s recent statements on these topics are meaningless, but nor should they be taken literally. Again, Trump wants to get what he considers (and what he can portray as) a “better” deal for the US. If he doesn’t say what that means now, it just means he is open to suggestion - or he can just define whatever the end point turns out to be as a strategic victory.

That’s what happened during Trump’s first administration, when NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) was renegotiated with Mexico and Canada. Trump had originally threatened to tear up NAFTA “on day one.” Eventually, he settled for small modifications (including amending the rules of origin in a way that was acceptable to all sides) and a rebranding that turned NAFTA into the USMCA (the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement).

A broader reshaping of the world is afoot, but this has nothing to do with the incoming administration, which is unlikely to respond effectively. For example, Trump is still using bellicose language about confronting China and Iran, but both are already in bad economic shape and hardly pose a threat to regional order - let alone international peace. And, as he did in his first administration, Trump promises to withdraw from foreign interventions (Afghanistan and Iraq then; Ukraine now). But Russia’s need for drones and missiles to launch at Ukraine has made President Vladimir Putin fully subservient to China. Does Trump (and the Republican Congress) really want to hand a weakened President Xi Jinping an illegitimate and bloody victory in Ukraine?

What American voters really care about is good jobs and the cost of living. But Trump’s “populist” agenda - a smoke-and-mirrors program, sustained by fear of imagined enemies - is a failure foretold. Trump inherits a strong economy, but his signature policies will do almost nothing positive for less educated workers or significantly improve the lives of most other Americans. Instead, the rich will get richer, the richest will get a lot richer, and everyone else will most likely struggle with higher inflation, cuts to public services, and the effects of runaway deregulation.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Boakai reflects late President Carter's Commitments to advancing Democracy

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai Monday signed the Book of Condolence of late United States President Jimmy Carter.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Tuesday, January 7, 2024/In his touching tribute on the behalf of the Liberian People, President Boakai reflected on the Life and Legacy of the 39th US President. Speaking at the United States Embassy Near Monrovia, Mr. Boakai shared his thoughts about

be remembered for this, but also the "Carter Center, an initiative, which has left an indelible mark on humanity and contributed significantly to Liberia's development during challenging times," President Boakai said. "President Carter was not just a leader of his nation but a champion for global

dedication to global humanity.

He was President of the of the United States from 1977 to 1981 and was widely recognized for his humility, empathy, and commitment to humanitarian causes. Even after leaving office, he remained an influential global figure, dedicating his life to building a better world.



the falling state-man. He hailed Carter for his resilience efforts to promoting equality, advancing democracy and promoting human rights. Mr. Boakai also reflected on late President Carter work here in Liberia, making emphasis on the the Carter Center an organization, whose works is combating diseases, resolving conflicts, while promoting free, fair and transparency elections globally. "The late President Carter works has touched countless lives, including Liberia, We are proud of his contributions toward, Peace and tranquility. He can not only

justice and human dignity," he added. Meanwhile, the Book of Condolence, opened at the U.S. Embassy near Monrovia has provided an opportunity for dignitaries, government officials, and members of the public to express their sympathies and honor Carter's memory. President Boakai visit embolized Liberia and the United States, deepest historical ties and mutual respect shared between the two nations. The late President James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. passed away on December 29, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of service and

Late President Carter's enduring legacy, particularly his post-presidency humanitarian work, has been widely celebrated. His efforts to eradicate diseases such as Guinea worm and his advocacy for global health initiatives resonated deeply with many in Africa, where he sought to uplift the most vulnerable communities.

Follow by President Boakai, the Ministry of State for Presidential affairs, Sylvester Grisby and Foreign affairs Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti, both signed the book of Condolence of the former United States President Carter.



Office of the Director General

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GSA-DG-GWK-339-2025/ RL

### Invitation for Bids

1. The General Services Agency (GSA) has received funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 budgetary allotment and intends to apply part of this funding for the Procurement of goods under the contract packages listed in the table below.

Code	Contract Package	Quantity	Bid Closing Date	Bid Opening Date
IFB#: GSA/NCB/ 001/25	Building Materials	Assorted	February 21, 2025 10:00AM	February 21, 2025 10:30AM
IFB#: GSA/NCB/ 002/25	Supply of Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted	February 21, 2025 10:30AM	February 21, 2025 11:00AM
IFB#: GSA/NCB/ 003/25	Supply of Cleaning Materials	Assorted	February 21, 2025 11:30AM	April 22, 2025 12:00PM

2. The GSA now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of goods stated above.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and is open to all eligible bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the General Services Agency and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of \$100.00 US for each set from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.
6. All submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked with the code and name of contract package that is being bid for and must be delivered to the address below at date and time stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of bid submission. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount as required in the Bid Data Sheet, in the form of a Bank Guarantee, Manager's Check, or an Insurance Bond. Late bids will be Rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders or their representatives and those who choose to attend at the address below.
7. The General Services Agency (GSA) reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason therefore; Invitation for Bids and Award of Contract will be issued to qualified bidders in accordance with procurement procedures applicable under the Republic of Liberia Amended and restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act published and approved September 18, 2010.

Signed:

Director of Procurement

Approved:

Director General

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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# Majority bloc rejects appeal to lift suspension on colleagues

*Most members of the majority bloc in the House of Representatives have rejected an appeal to lift a suspension imposed on their colleagues from the minority bloc.*

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, January 7, 2025: Members of the majority bloc of the House of Representatives have rejected an appeal to lift a

referencing Article 50 of the Liberian Constitution.

“As we have entered the festive season, a time dedicated to family and community support, I strongly advocate for our

not only reflect their commitment to supporting one another as colleagues. He suggested that it also embodies the values of empathy, unity, and solidarity that Representatives of the people hold dear.

After reading the communication, the appeal was rejected by most of his colleagues. Margibi County Representative Clarence Gahr made a motion to dismiss the request.

He insisted that the lawmakers should remain suspended without benefit.

The suspended lawmakers are Rep. Frank Saah Foko of Montserrado County Electoral District #9, Rep. Eugene Kollie, Rep. Zinnah Norman, and Rep. Alex Sonnyboy Noah. Others are Rep. Marvin Cole, Rep. Abu Kamara, and Rep. Edward Papay Flomo. While their session was ongoing, suspended lawmaker Eugene Kollie entered the session. But Presiding Officer Richard Koon told Rep. Kollie to leave because he could not be part of the session. According to Speaker Koon, Rep. Kollie is under suspension. He, therefore, instructed the sergeant at arms to escort him outside.

colleagues to receive their full salaries and benefits for December 2024, after which their suspensions can be resumed in January 2025,” he said. He said this action would enable them to fulfill their responsibilities to their families, communities, and constituents during this significant time of the year. The Montserrado County lawmaker added that such a gesture would

suspension imposed on seven of their colleagues for the month of December 2024.

Montserrado County Electoral District #8 Representative Prince A. Toles urged members of the majority bloc to consider granting their colleagues a pardon for that period.

Rep. Toles said his appeal is in light of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's intervention,

# Sen. Brown gives back to people of Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland, Liberia, January 7, 2025 - Maryland County Senator, J. Gbe-bo Brown, breaks grounds for the construction of an elementary school in Gbiabo, Taayetowiso Karloway, Maryland Electoral District #3. The ground breaking ceremony brought together local officials, including Karloway statutory Superintendent, Township Commissioners, former Statutory Superintendent Samuel Johnny, traditional chiefs and elders, youths, women groups, and students, amongst others.

Speaking in Gbiabo, Taayetowiso, Senator Brown expressed excitement for citizens' turnout for a “thank you program” that was followed by ground breaking for a modern elementary school project, as his way of giving back to the people. Sen. Brown recalls that on numerous occasions when he visited the areas while serving his first term before his re-election in 2023, he normally observed students working distances to acquire education. He says despite the age of

Liberia, to have seen school students working distances just to acquire education drew his attention to undertake the school project.

He notes that though the students are meeting up with the Ministry of Education lesson policy, distances they covered to getting better education has degraded the standard of learning.

He stresses that it's always good to provide a comfortable learning environment for students because from among them could be a future president, speaker, senator, representative or and

superintendent.

“So Mr. Superintendent and my people, I'm fully prepared to construct this modern elementary school as a commitment for the trust imposed in me by the people of the town during the just ended election”, he pledges.

Brown as one of the first Senators since the establishment of the County to have gotten elected for a 2nd term, believes it was the doing of God and the people, so he has promised to give back to the people of Maryland.

While on his thank you tour in the County, Brown presented several



Maryland County Senator gives back to electorate in Christmas gifts.

# Police, National Bar lament decline in rule of law

*The Liberian National Bar Association and the Liberia National Police are attributing wave of mob violence-related deaths across the country to decline in the rule of law and lack of public trust in the judicial system.*

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, January 7, 2025 - Liberia National Police and the Liberian National Bar Association express serious frustration about law enforcement and the Justice sector of the country in the wake of rising mob violence and lack of public trust and legitimacy in the judicial system.

However, the Inspector General of Police Gregory Coleman, attribute the situation to lack of trust and legitimacy in law enforcement and the justice system here.

Addressing a press conference over the weekend when he provided update on several crimes committed across the country, IG Coleman explained that there are multiple reasons why mob violence is on the increase in Liberia. According to him, one of the major challenges is low trust in the

but they don't control what happens beyond that point. "I think it's one of the things we should fight for not just in the law enforcement sector but the entire local justice sector is public trust and legitimacy."

At the same time the National Bar Association through its Secretary General, Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, condemns all acts of mob violence recently carried out by some citizens against some alleged criminals, lamenting that the upward trend in mob violence undermines the rule of law.

According to him, the increase is particularly disturbing, as these activities are seemingly more violent, with a tendency to kill victims and turn against security forces, who attempt to intervene.

Cllr. Varmah reminds all Liberians that since the end of Liberia's civil war, mob violence has become a frequent occurrence for alleged criminals to be literally lynched, sometimes to death, by an angry mob, including bystanders, who simply have no inkling about the



law enforcement sector.

"The lack of trust and legitimacy in the law enforcement sector and the Justice system are extended just beyond law enforcement, but it goes to the entire justice and rule of law sector of the country. Something people believe that the court can't help and they question the working of the system in terms of taking law in their hands; that is why we're doing community engagement to build trust and legitimacy", Coleman says.

He discloses that the Police will do arrest and ensure that those that committed crimes against the state and people are brought before the law through the court

issue in the controversy or the person involved."All that is required to instigate mob violence is to simply shout rogue in a crowded area, and to point at somebody. Before the victim realizes, a mammoth crowd descends on him or her and the consequence is instant death, severe aggravated bodily injury", he notes.

Cllr Varmah underscores that any person accused of committing a crime is presumed 'innocent until proven guilty' in a competent court, which exercises appropriate jurisdiction over such matters and persons, and that an accused person is entitled to bail as a constitutional right, unless in capital offense.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Happy New Year to all our Readers



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## GoL signs MoU with Arthur Energy Africa to Develop Hydropower Scheme on St. John River

*In a significant step towards addressing Liberia's electricity deficit and advancing renewable energy, the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), National Investment Commission (NIC), and Ministry of Justice (MOJ) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Arthur Energy Africa (AEA) to conduct comprehensive studies towards the development of the hydropower potential of the St. John River Basin.*

Monrovia, Liberia – meet its energy needs sustainably. The study will focus on a 193 km stretch of the St. John River Basin from the

diligently to bring it to life. Our goal is to generate approximately 300 Megawatts of electricity from different locations along the river, and we are also developing strategies to address seasonal generation challenges, particularly during the dry season."

The MOU grants AEA exclusive rights to conduct the studies in this area, with AEA committing to fund the studies and secure the necessary financing for the development, construction, and operation of the hydropower projects.

By increasing the country's electricity supply, the project will bolster Liberia's economic development and overall quality of life. The implementation of the hydropower projects will also create numerous employment opportunities, enhance electricity supply for residents in the area, and contribute to improving the livelihoods of communities along the St. John River.

About Arthur Energy Advisors (AEA)

Arthur Energy Africa (AEA), formerly known as Arthur Energy Advisors, is a specialist energy infrastructure firm specializing in the development of energy infrastructure in West Africa. With extensive experience in the energy sector, AEA prioritizes more climate-friendly energy projects, (especially hydropower) aimed at improving electricity access, indigenous livelihood improvement, and fostering economic growth in the region.



NIC Chairman Hon. Jeff B. Blibo (left) presents a copy of the MOU to Ing. Jabesh Amissah-Arthur (right), Managing Partner of Arthur Energy Africa.

2024, at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in Monrovia, was attended by key government officials and representatives from AEA. The MOU was co-signed by the Justice Minister Cllr. Natu Oswald Tweh, the Mines & Energy Minister Hon. Wilmot J. Paye, and the NIC Chairman Hon. Jeff B. Blibo on behalf of the Government of Liberia and Ing. Jabesh Amissah-Arthur, Managing Partner of Arthur Energy Africa (AEA).

The hydropower study aims to identify opportunities and prepare plans to reduce Liberia's electricity deficit while fostering long-term partnerships in the renewable energy sector. This collaborative effort will lay the foundation for multiple hydro power plants along the St. John River, positioning Liberia to

Nuan (Nuehn) River Confluence to the Atlantic Ocean.

The NIC Chairman Hon. Jeff B. Blibo expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, saying, "This is a major step forward for Liberia's energy development. We are thrilled to welcome Arthur Energy Africa to our country, especially since they bring expertise from a neighboring country. This partnership holds immense promise for the future of Liberia's electricity sector."

On behalf of Arthur Energy Africa, Ing. Jabesh Amissah-Arthur reassured stakeholders of the project's success, stating, "We are confident that this project will come to fruition in the shortest possible time. The St. John River holds tremendous potential, and we are committed to working

## Sen. Brown gives back

Starts from page 6

food and non-food items including cash to several sectors in the county.

During his recent visit at J.J Dossen Referral hospital in Harper, he presented 25 bags of 25Kg rice, One Hundred Thousand Liberia Dollars and a cow as way of thanking nurses for their services.

He also provide food ration and LRD40, 000 to disadvantaged youths and cash donations to Joint Security at Pedebo border. The senator similarly gave to the

people of Wartiken, Karloken, Wuluken, and Manolu, amongst others.

He also announced plans to break grounds for a bus stop in Harper to serve students of Williams V.S. Tubman University, noting that the project was initiated following a formal request by the student council leadership.

He highlights the significance of the William V.S. Tubman University as Liberia's second state-run university and

emphasizes its contributions to concession companies in the county.

In response, the Superintendent of Karloway statutory district, Kumar hailed Senator Brown for the projects, noting that when completed, they will benefit the people of Maryland

Superintendent Kumar notes that works done in the district by Senator Brown cannot be overemphasized. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Edith Gongloe-Weh tight-lipped on PYJ replacement

*In previous elections, Madam Gongloe-Weh contested the senatorial seat in Nimba but unsuccessfully.*

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, January 7, 2025: Former Nimba County Superintendent Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh remains tight-lipped in the race to replace deceased Nimba Senator Prince Yormie Johnson.

Johnson died last year, but some politicians from his county are probably careful in expressing their interest to replace him because he is yet to be laid to rest.

Johnson was regarded as Nimba's political godfather for decades and did influence the election of presidential and other legislative candidates. In previous elections, Madam Gongloe-Weh contested the senatorial seat in Nimba but unsuccessfully.

When quizzed by panelists on the Spoon midnight conversation late Sunday, Madam Gongloe-Weh could not deny nor confirm that she would contest for the Senate seat.

somebody dies, you wait until the person is buried," Madam Gongloe-Weh explained. "To put it simply, you don't talk about replacement at all culturally until the person is buried."

"So, to the extent that people are talking about replacement, it just beats my cultural imagination that this is a head up. It also means that politics has made us so inhumane," she stated.

"However, when we reach the bridge of making pronouncement and declaring ambition for the Senate when we get on that bridge, we will cross it," she stated further.

Now, Madam Gongloe-Weh said what is most important to her is the befitting burial and funeral service of Senator Prince Y. Johnson. She stated that it's her expectation and prayer to ensure that all those services will go on successfully.



Madam Edith Gongloe

However, she said it was too early and against her traditional belief to discuss the vacancy of Senator Johnson when he had not been laid to rest.

She noted that when the time comes to answer regarding her ambition, she will do so.

"I'm a traditional, cultural woman. The culture I come from, when

According to Madam Gongloe-Weh, she will come to Liberia soon and attend the funeral service and burial of Senator Johnson. "This is the focus of the entire Nimba County. When you ask me [about ] it after his burial, I will cross that bridge," she noted.

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# Français

## Le Sénateur Brown lance la construction d'une école primaire moderne dans le comté de Maryland

Dans le cadre de sa tournée de remerciements, le Sénateur J. Gbe-bo Brown a procédé à la pose de la première pierre d'une école primaire moderne à Gbiabo, dans la localité de Taayetowiso, circonscription électorale n°3 du comté de Maryland.



La cérémonie a réuni de nombreuses personnalités locales, notamment le surintendant statutaire de Karloway, des commissaires de township, l'ancien

surintendant statutaire Samuel Johnny, des chefs traditionnels, des anciens, des jeunes, des groupes de femmes et des élèves. **Un projet pour réduire les obstacles à l'éducation** Lors de son discours, le Sénateur Brown a exprimé sa gratitude envers les citoyens pour leur participation à cet événement et leur soutien continu. Il a rappelé

« Malgré l'ancienneté de notre nation, il est inconcevable que des enfants doivent marcher de telles distances pour aller à l'école. Cette situation m'a profondément touché et m'a poussé à initier ce projet », a déclaré le Sénateur. Il a également souligné que bien que les élèves respectent les politiques éducatives du ministère de l'Éducation, les longues distances qu'ils parcourent dégradent la qualité de leur apprentissage. « Créer un environnement d'apprentissage adapté et accessible est essentiel, car ces enfants représentent l'avenir de notre nation : de futurs présidents, sénateurs, députés ou surintendants peuvent émerger de ces salles de classe », a-t-il ajouté. **Un engagement renforcé pour un second mandat** Réélu comme le premier sénateur du comté de Maryland à accomplir un second mandat, le Sénateur Brown a affirmé que ce mandat supplémentaire reflète la confiance des citoyens et la volonté divine. Il s'est engagé à intensifier ses efforts

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## Le Gouvernement libérien clôture une campagne de sensibilisation sur le projet de budget 2025 dans le comté de Montserrado

Le Gouvernement du Liberia, par l'intermédiaire du Bureau de l'Initiative du Budget Ouvert du Ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement (MFDP), a récemment conclu une campagne de sensibilisation d'une semaine sur le projet de budget national pour l'exercice fiscal 2025 dans le comté de Montserrado. Cette initiative s'inscrit dans les efforts stratégiques du gouvernement visant à renforcer l'accès des citoyens à l'information publique tout en promouvant la transparence et la redevabilité dans la gestion des affaires publiques. **Impliquer les citoyens dans le processus budgétaire** La campagne de sensibilisation au projet de budget 2025 avait pour objectif de fournir au public un accès direct aux informations budgétaires et d'offrir aux citoyens l'opportunité de participer activement au processus d'élaboration du budget aux niveaux communautaire et départemental. M. Julius Boakai, Directeur de la Politique Budgétaire et de la Coordination au MFDP, a souligné que le budget national constitue un plan essentiel définissant les sources de financement ainsi que les priorités des dépenses gouvernementales. « Le budget identifie non

seulement d'où proviendront les fonds, mais précise également comment ces ressources seront allouées pour financer les activités prioritaires définies par le gouvernement », a-t-il expliqué. Il a ajouté que l'équipe budgétaire s'était rendue dans le comté de Montserrado afin de recueillir les contributions et les retours des citoyens représentant différents secteurs de la société. **Appel à un engagement fiscal des citoyens** Mme Carolyn Myers, Directrice Adjointe de la Diffusion Budgétaire et de la Transparence Fiscale au MFDP, a exhorté les citoyens à soutenir les initiatives de développement du gouvernement à travers un paiement régulier des taxes. « Le paiement des taxes est crucial pour permettre au gouvernement d'améliorer les infrastructures et les

services publics, tels que les hôpitaux, les écoles, les routes et les ponts. Cela contribue également à renforcer le secteur éducatif et à dynamiser l'économie nationale », a-t-elle affirmé. Elle a ajouté que la campagne visait à atteindre les communautés rurales et urbaines afin de recueillir une diversité de perspectives pour orienter les priorités budgétaires du gouvernement. **Une démarche saluée par les communautés locales** Dans la communauté d'Old Matadi, M. Kermo Sheriff, président de la communauté, a exprimé sa satisfaction face à cette initiative sans précédent. « En 62 ans, je n'ai jamais vu une équipe du ministère des Finances venir dans notre communauté. Cette démarche est nouvelle et très appréciée. Elle montre que le



# 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 8Le Sénateur Brown lance la construction d'une école

pour répondre aux besoins des habitants et réaliser des projets durables. Dans le cadre de sa tournée de remerciements, le Sénateur a distribué des dons aux communautés locales et aux institutions du comté. À l'hôpital de référence J.J. Dossen, il a offert 25 sacs de riz de 25 kg, 100 000 dollars libériens et une vache, en guise de soutien au personnel médical durant les fêtes. Il a également apporté une aide financière et matérielle aux jeunes en difficulté, aux forces de sécurité à la frontière de Pedebo, et à d'autres secteurs.

Le Sénateur s'est également rendu dans plusieurs localités, dont Wartiken, Karloken, Wuluken et Manolu, pour identifier les besoins prioritaires des habitants et discuter des initiatives à venir.

**Des projets structurants pour l'avenir**

Outre l'école de Gbiabo, le Sénateur Brown a annoncé son intention de construire un arrêt de bus à Harper, qui permettra aux étudiants de l'Université William V.S. Tubman de se déplacer plus facilement, aussi bien pendant la saison des pluies que pendant la saison sèche. Ce projet répond à une demande formelle du conseil étudiant.

## Starts from page 8Le Gouvernement libérien clôture une campagne de sensibilisation

gouvernement s'engage véritablement à rendre des comptes à la population », a-t-il déclaré.

**Des activités de sensibilisation étendues**

La campagne de sensibilisation s'est déroulée dans plusieurs localités du comté de Montserrado, notamment à West Point, Central Monrovia, Old Matadi, Thinker's Village, Careysburg, Joe Bar (Paynesville) et au lycée SDA.

Ces rencontres ont réuni des étudiants, des représentants des administrations scolaires, des

Kumar, le surintendant statutaire du district de Karloway, a salué les efforts du Sénateur et son engagement en faveur du développement. « La construction de cette école et de l'arrêt de bus représente une avancée majeure pour nos communautés. Ces infrastructures renforceront l'éducation et amélioreront la qualité de vie de nos citoyens », a-t-il affirmé.

Le surintendant de Karloken a également souligné que les habitants de Gbiabo et de Taayetowiso attendaient depuis longtemps cette école, qui constitue une réponse concrète aux préoccupations locales.

**Un appel à l'unité et à la paix**

Le Sénateur Brown a conclu en réaffirmant son engagement à promouvoir l'unité et la paix dans le comté de Maryland. « Le développement ne peut être durable que si nous travaillons ensemble dans un climat de paix et d'harmonie », a-t-il déclaré.

Avec ces projets, le Sénateur Brown s'inscrit dans une vision de progrès et de renforcement des infrastructures éducatives, sociales et économiques du comté, tout en honorant la confiance des citoyens qui l'ont reconduit à ce poste prestigieux.

## Moye dément les accusations de distribution d'argent à des responsables publics

**L**e sénateur de Bong, Prince Moye, a formellement rejeté les accusations de distribution d'argent à des responsables publics lors des périodes budgétaires précédentes, rapportées par certains médias. Dans une déclaration sans équivoque, il a menacé de démissionner de son poste de législateur si des preuves tangibles venaient étayer ces allégations.

Le 31 décembre 2024, un journal local a publié un article affirmant que le défunt directeur général de l'hôtel Boulevard Palace, Anwar Futloo, détenait une vidéo montrant des responsables gouvernementaux distribuant de l'argent. Parmi les figures présumées apparaissant dans la vidéo figuraient le vice-président libérien Jeremiah Koung, le sénateur Moye et le vice-président de la Chambre des représentants, Thomas Fallah.

Le journal a allégué que ces responsables distribuaient des sommes importantes à des députés et à des ministres. La vidéo, supposément enregistrée par une caméra de surveillance dans la chambre 1026 de l'hôtel, aurait été présentée comme un élément de preuve dans une affaire de corruption de haut niveau.

**"Des accusations sans fondement"**

Dans une interview accordée le 2 janvier 2025, Moye a qualifié ces accusations de « pure propagande sans fondement ». Il a attribué cette désinformation à ses adversaires politiques, notamment au sein de la Chambre des représentants, les accusant de propager ces rumeurs en raison de son soutien au gouvernement dirigé par le parti Unity Party, sous la présidence de Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

Le sénateur a également critiqué le journal pour avoir publié ces informations sans avoir pris la peine de recueillir sa version des faits, dénonçant une pratique journalistique contraire à l'éthique. Il a ajouté que des « propagandistes du CDC » étaient responsables de la fabrication de ces accusations.

**"Jamais de réunion secrète"**

Le sénateur a réaffirmé qu'il n'avait jamais rencontré de collègues ou de membres de l'exécutif dans la chambre 1026 de l'hôtel Boulevard Palace pour discuter du budget national ou pour participer à des activités financières illégales. En tant que président de la commission sénatoriale des voies et moyens, des finances et de la planification du développement, il a précisé que toutes les réunions budgétaires se tenaient dans des salles de conférence officielles du Capitole, et non dans des chambres d'hôtel privées.

Moye a également souligné que les pratiques de mauvaise gestion financière observées sous l'administration précédente du CDC, notamment l'allocation controversée de 1,4 million de dollars pour le bureau de l'ancien vice-président Fonati Koffa, ne se reproduiraient pas sous sa direction.



## Progrès sous la nouvelle direction de la Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC)

**C**omté de Margibi, Libéria — La Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC), l'un des principaux producteurs de caoutchouc du Libéria, a été confrontée à de vives protestations de ses travailleurs au mois de juillet dernier, principalement en raison de conditions de vie insatisfaisantes sur ses plantations. Ces protestations ont mis en lumière des problèmes persistants, notamment des logements vétustes, des soins médicaux insuffisants, des salaires faibles et des pratiques de gestion douteuses. Les manifestations ont conduit à des destructions importantes, notamment l'incendie du bâtiment administratif.

SRC, fondée en 2007 à la suite d'une fusion, était précédemment détenue par la multinationale belge Socfin. Jusqu'à cette récente crise, la société était critiquée pour ses conditions de travail difficiles. Les logements de ses employés étaient jugés insalubres et anciens, certains datant des années 1950, et la gestion des soins de santé laissait à désirer, avec un accès limité aux services médicaux.

**Un changement radical de direction**

L'année dernière, l'entreprise a été rachetée par l'homme d'affaires indien, le Dr Upjit Sinch Sachdeva, également connu sous le nom de M. Jeety. Bien que le montant de la transaction soit resté confidentiel, ce changement de propriétaire a marqué une nouvelle ère pour SRC et ses employés. Une récente visite d'investigation de *The New Dawn*, le 3 janvier 2025, a permis de constater les améliorations notables sous cette nouvelle gestion.

Sous la direction de M. Jeety, plusieurs des problèmes qui avaient été signalés précédemment ont commencé à être résolus. Des améliorations significatives ont été apportées en matière de logement, de soins médicaux et de rémunération, apportant un nouvel espoir aux travailleurs.

**Des améliorations dans les soins de santé**

L'une des premières mesures prises par M. Jeety a été la rénovation du Centre de santé SRC-Jeety Conglomerate. Le Dr Ahson Malik, médecin généraliste



à la clinique, a expliqué que l'établissement était resté fermé pendant plusieurs mois avant son intervention. "Il a réhabilité la clinique, recruté du personnel et élargi les services. Aujourd'hui, la clinique fonctionne 24 heures sur 24 et 7 jours sur 7, offrant des soins d'urgence, des consultations externes et des services de maternité", a précisé le Dr Malik.

Les soins médicaux pour les travailleurs et leurs familles sont désormais gratuits, avec des tarifs réduits pour certains services, comme les accouchements. Les frais, qui étaient autrefois compris entre 3 000 et 5 000 dollars libériens, sont désormais fixés à seulement 1 000 dollars libériens. La clinique offre également des traitements gratuits pour des maladies telles que le VIH, la syphilis et le paludisme.

Le Dr Malik a noté que le nombre de patients a augmenté de manière significative depuis la rénovation de l'établissement. "Nous recevons entre 20 et 25 patients par jour et assurons des urgences nocturnes, y compris des accouchements", a-t-il ajouté. "Nous avons également lancé des programmes de prévention du paludisme et de la tuberculose, ce qui montre que la communauté commence à avoir confiance en nos services."

**Amélioration des conditions de travail et des salaires**

Les travailleurs ont salué les améliorations apportées aux conditions de travail et à la rémunération. Joseph Sackie, responsable du Camp Deux, a expliqué que sous l'ancienne direction, les travailleurs se sentaient souvent délaissés. "Les conditions étaient vraiment mauvaises, mais depuis l'arrivée de M. Jeety, nous avons vu des améliorations notables", a-t-il déclaré.

Fatu Fallah, une nettoyeuse de tasses, a évoqué une augmentation de son salaire sous la nouvelle direction. "Avant, je gagnais seulement 15 USD par mois, maintenant je touche 85 USD, plus un sac de riz de 25 kg", a-t-elle précisé. Elle a également noté que la situation financière des travailleurs s'était améliorée avec des primes de Noël et la possibilité de demander des avances sur salaire.

D'autres travailleurs, tels que Abenego S. Cooper, superviseur au Camp Un, ont évoqué les efforts déployés pour améliorer les logements et la sécurité de l'emploi. "Il y a encore des défis, mais l'initiative de M. Jeety est claire : il veut améliorer la vie de ses employés", a ajouté M. Cooper.



# LIBERIANS DEBATE

**Topic:** *The mysterious death at Boulevard Palace* *By Naneka Hoffman*

*Residents of Monrovia are still digesting news of the mysterious death of the Manager of Boulevard Palace on 12th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia - Mr. Anwar Futloo, who was a South African. Circumstances that led to the discovery of his dead body suddenly in his car on December 30, 2024 have become a public debate amid conflicting accounts and disagreement between the Police and the Ministry of Justice.*



Richard Sheriff

"I don't trust the Liberian government coming up with

"It's necessary that the government carry on a tough investigation on what happened at the Boulevard Palace because the Palace is one of Liberia's biggest areas that tourists go on a daily basis, so for the fact this can happen to the General Manager, it means that those people that are staying in the Palace are unsafe. As we learned, all alleged that the man was poisoned. Maybe he was poisoned thru food or drinks. It means that the credibility of Boulevard Palace is unstable, so government has to make sure that they bring in tough

investigation, including an autopsy on the lifeless body of Mr. Futloo. We need an independent pathologist from the international community to come and do an autopsy on that body because people are accusing some top officers within the government, so you cannot be the player and be the referee. So, I don't trust the government to bring in pathologist to conduct an autopsy."



Maclean Renner

investigators from outside to see how best they can find the perpetrators quickly. We don't want to scare investors in our country."



Stanley S. Dunbar

"It's a good thing for the government to carry on the autopsy; it is very important because there are a lot of argument over the death of Mr. Futloo, who passed away few days ago. Because the argument from the Ministry of Justice is different and the argument from the police is different, so to balance the arguments, I think autopsy is needed."



William B. Sando Jr.

"The issue that has to do with the government carrying on an autopsy on remains of the Boulevard Palace Boss Mr. Futloo, for me, I will call for transparency and transparency

"Firstly, let me extend my condolences to the Boulevard Palace family; he was my former Boss. I regret his passing but I think the government isn't serious. The reason why I say the government isn't serious is they found the previous decision for them to have said the man died of frustration and hanged himself, so it has already been pre-judged and it has been politicized. They want to cajole the minds of the Liberian people on the real issue. The real issue is the man was killed. You know the government has a track of targeting people who are critical and Room 1024 in Boulevard Palace is the area the so-called Majority Bloc used to go and have a meeting; information was distributed how they planed the coup to remove Speaker Cllr. Koffa. And all the recordings were in the hands of the manager of the Palace and they sent messages to the man and threatened the man to not expose the information, so if

come in where the government must relate with the bereaved family members because I think he was an important person and even a management as whole, because there are some allegations of some government officials are involved in the death of this individual, so to see this same government acting as a player and referee, we call for transparency. And transparency can only be done where both parties can be represented to ensure that the autopsy shouldn't be tempered with in terms of foul play. So that is our concern and we hope that it will be done accordingly."



Robert Political Zlatan

the man remained, he will expose some information so they killed the man. How will you say the man hanged himself then icy water was placed in the man's mouth? So I think coming up with an autopsy is just a belated issue, just to cover up and the autopsy report will not prove anything different because this same government's report we saw it under this same Unity Party that autopsy was done and nothing came out of it as it relates to the late Harry Greaves."



Augustine Jegbadai

"I think the government needs to be serious in this country because

anytime a new regime takes power, there will always be a mysterious death occurrence in this country. They had done a lot of autopsies in Madam Ellen and George Weah's regimes. We didn't see anything then it is Boakai regime we will get better results? We need to stop this thing in the country or else, investors will be scared to come do business in our country. I think it is timely and good for the government to come in with the autopsy but the question is, is that going to change things in the country? We are setting bad record in our country; we need to stop it."

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# NPA boss in faceoff with Senate Pro-Temp

The National Port Authority strongly opposes effort by the Liberian Senate to make local ports across the country autonomous.

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Monrovia, Liberia, January 7, 2025 - All is not well between the Managing

Public Corporation and Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims, and Petitions. The bill is consistent with the decentralization strategy of the

to disagree with the Pro-Temp? I will not gross [disrespect] you. But I can tell you that the arguments are flaws", Mr. Dukuly counters.

The NPA boss clarifies that he is not against outstation ports becoming autonomous; rather what he wants are facilities and infrastructures that are best suited with international standard and development to make them sustainable when granted autonomy. MD Dukuly continues that he is frustrated over the way things are going and if he were to tell anyone that he is not stunned by those actions, he would be lying. Providing suggestion for a potential mitigation of the process, he reveals that within coming days, he will engage the Executive and the Speaker of the House of Representatives since there is now a clarity on the speakership, concerning the bill and how it's not intended to boost job opportunity but rather to please some political actors.

"We were talking to the House before that leadership issue. Now, that it getting some clarity, we will be talking to the Speaker on where our positions are and we will talk to the President at the end of the day, who will make the final decision on what he wants. We trust his decision for the country. So, we leave it with the House." He notes that there are even some legislators who don't understand there is a Port Director here in Monrovia, and some of them call him Port Director.

"But, at the end of the day, they made decision that they think is in the best interest of the country. So, do I believe their decision? Of course not. Now, our goal is to educate the Executive and make the President understands the overall establishment of the NPA. I think one thing that the President has stressed over and over is best practices. We are also going to be engaging the Speaker of the House of Representatives to make them understand that this is not about opportunity; rather, political point", Mr. Dukuly says. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Majority bloc in search of SONA venue

The House leadership says the Legislature is in talks to identify a more suitable venue for the President to deliver the State of the Nation Address because of ongoing renovation work at the Capitol.

Monrovia, January 7, 2025: The majority bloc of the House of Representatives says the 2024 State of the Nation Address (SONA) will not be held in the William R. Tolbert Joint Chambers at the Legislature.

The bloc's Chairman on Rules, Order, and Administration at the House of Representatives, Rep. James Kolleh, says the decision is due to ongoing renovation work at the Capitol Building.

Briefing journalists, Kolleh argued that it is impractical to complete the renovation work before January 30, 2025, the constitutionally mandated date for the President to deliver the SONA.

"It is not possible for us to do renovation work from now to return on January 13, 2025. So, the issue of talk of having SONA at the Capitol is hereby cancelled," Kolleh disclosed.

In December 2024, the Joint Chamber of the Capitol Building was destroyed by fire at the height of a political crisis that rocked the Legislature.

The joint chamber was the meeting point of the majority bloc of the House of Representatives which dethroned House Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa and elected Richard

appropriate? Where would be conducive enough for such an event? That is the discussion we have," he continued.

He noted that the decision involves collaboration between the Committee on Executive, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Executive branch.

Kolleh went on to say the Committee on Executive is very instrumental in working with the Executive branch of government to give feedback to Rules, Order, and Administration, as well as the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He indicated that foreign signatories will grace the program.

Article 58 of Liberia's Constitution mandates that the President shall, on the fourth working Monday in January of each year, present the administration's legislative program for the ensuing session.

It mandates the President to once a year report to the Legislature on the state of the Republic.

In presenting the economic condition of the Republic, the Constitution mandates that the report shall cover expenditure as well as income.

This year's address is expected to shed light on key initiatives under President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's



Rep. James Kolleh

Director of the National Port Authority (NPA) Sekou A.M. Dukuly and Senate President Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence.

The bad blood is brewing from a legislation making ports under the NPA autonomous much to the dislike of Director Dukuly, who expresses frustrations against Pro-Temp Kangar Lawrence over the passage of a bill that seeks to establish a Sea Port Authority that will grant autonomy to smaller ports across the country and in effect, scratch the power of the National Port Authority that he presently heads.

The Liberian Senate on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 controversially passed into law a bill seeking to create the Liberia Sea Port Regulatory Authority and the Liberia Sea Port Decentralization, thereby granting ports across the country autonomy.

The bill, when concurred by the House of Representatives, will provide for the regulation and sustainable development of Seaports and Inland Ports' operations and services in Liberia. It will also facilitate a safer, orderly, and transparent development of port facilities and services and other purposes.

The Senate made the decision following a recommendation by the Joint Committee on

Government, which includes but is not limited to, decentralization of the Management and operation of the four seaports that had been managed by the National Port Authority, including the Freeport of Monrovia, the Port of Buchanan, Port of Greenville, and the Port of Harper, respectively.

However, speaking in an interview with The NEWDAWN over the weekend in his Office on Bushrod Island, Director Dukuly said arguments provided by the Senate for the enactment of the bill are marked with flaws and are incorrect, purely meant to support selfish desire of few people.

He names nobody but according to him, it's too early for the Senate to remove the rug from under his administration, being fully cognizant that ports in Liberia lack facilities and best practices to become self-sustainable. He notes that after the decision was made by the Senate, he spoke with some senators, expressing his disagreement privately, why ports should not be granted autonomy.

"I have communication; I have discussed with lots of them and they will tell you I'm sorry; we just have to do it because we don't want to disagree with the Pro-Temp. Fine. Is that how you're going to make national decision because you don't want



Sekou A.M. Dukuly

Sen. Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence

Nagbe Koon as the new Speaker. Fire engulfed the chamber a day after a violent protest at the Capitol. Kolleh has disclosed that the Legislature is currently in talks to identify a more suitable venue for the event. "The next destination for the State of the Nation Address is a discussion that is ongoing," he explained. "Where can we have SONA? Where would be

ARREST Agenda, focusing on Agriculture, Roads, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism.

While no specific venues have been named, the urgency to finalize a location is mounting. Representative Kolleh assured the public that consultations are ongoing to ensure a venue that reflects the significance of the occasion.

Starts from back page

## Chief Allen urges Boakai to demonstrate leadership

Chief Allen, who also serves as Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), recalls success of the timber and plywood industry during the administration of jailed former Liberian President Charles Taylor in which he (Allen) served, where a US\$33 million plywood plant built in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, exported products to neighboring countries and Asian markets.

"Liberians' cocoa and coffee were once traded on the stock market in Great Britain," he recalls, urging President Boakai to remember these past successes as he formulates policies that could harness Liberia's natural resources to boost the economy, generate revenue, and improve national infrastructure.

The Chairman emeritus of Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Party wants President Boakai to reflect on Liberia's rich resources and take decisive action to transform the country's economy in ensuring a brighter future for all Liberians.

Eighty-year-old President Boakai, who served as Vice President under Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for 12 years, defeated George Weah in a runoff poll in November 2023 to clinch the Presidency, but his critics says he is proceeding slowly despite over 40 years of governmental experiences. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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*President Boakai is under immense pressure to put Liberia on the right trajectory for economic development and growth.*

Monrovia, Liberia, January 7, 2025 - A member of the Advisory Council of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), Chief Cyril Allen, urges President Joseph Nvuma Boakai to harness

President Boakai's wealth of experience in public service when she appeared on Spoon Talk on Sunday, January 5, 2025, Chief Allen argued that Mr. Boakai's decades of involvement in governance, spanning over 40 years, should be leveraged for the

resources, a fact that should not be overlooked, and urges the President to demonstrate firm leadership to ensure the country's resources are used effectively.

He notes that Liberia is endowed with abundance of natural wealth, including gold, diamonds, timber, and coastal waters, as untapped assets that could transform the economy, suggesting establishment of diamond drilling machines, gold processing plants, and a more sustainable approach to natural resource management, including establishment of sawmills and plywood plants to process timber here for export.

The Liberian politician also calls on the 55th Legislature to review existing concessions to ensure that Liberia receives more benefits from its natural resources.

Additionally, Allen calls on the President and his government to look back at past initiatives, such as the Lofa County Agriculture Development Project and the Bong County Agriculture Development Project, which he notes, once provided thousands of jobs and contributed significantly to the country's agricultural output. He also references Liberia's potential in the fishing industry, citing the country's 300 miles of coastal waters and the opportunity to invest in modern fishing boats and processing vessels.



his vast experience and demonstrate strong leadership to guide Liberia towards prosperity. Chief Allen emphasizes that the President should take control of the country's direction and use his extensive experience to improve the nation's trajectory.

Responding to a statement made by former Nimba County senatorial candidate, Edith Gongloe-Wreh, who praised

betterment of Liberia.

He says Boakai has witnessed the nation's economic highs and lows, and it is now time for him to apply that knowledge to lead effectively.

"The President, with over 40 years of experience, must use it to dispense quality leadership to change the lives of the people," Allen urges. He emphasizes that Liberia, despite being labeled a poor nation, is actually rich in natural

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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a magazine cover with the headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections', a calendar with a grid of dates, and a brochure with the word 'BROCHURE' at the bottom. The publications are set against a background of colorful, abstract, wavy shapes in shades of blue, green, and yellow. The New Dawn logo is visible on several of the items.