



#### CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES** 

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR DATE **BUYING SELLING** WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2025 L\$188.0629/US\$1.00 L\$186.2296/US\$1.00

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

# **French Version Inside**









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## ontinental News

## Explosive fertiliser in Ivory Coast harbour nothing to fear, officials say Dort authorities in Ivory dump was "environmental inside the vast vessel and with

Coast have dismissed safety fears about a moored boat loaded with

terrorism".

The remaining ammonium nitrate was then transferred to another



20,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, which is the same compound that caused a catastrophic blast in Lebanon four years ago. Ammonium nitrate is commonly used as an agricultural fertiliser, but is also potentially explosive.

Its presence in the waters off the busy city of Abidjan - home to more than six million people - has caused alarm among some residents.Part of this same cargo, which began its journey in Russia, ended up being dumped off the coast of England last year after it became contaminated by fuel oil following a rough sea voyage.A local MP in the county of Norfolk said that ship - called the Zimrida - which reached Ivory Coast eight days

"Following allegations of damage to the cargo transported and as a precaution to protect the population and property," the vessel will remain in the outer harbour, say port authorities.

Ivorian officials insist that what is now left on board the Zimrida has been subject to the most stringent safety checks. Wary locals still remember the impact of the unloading of toxic waste at the port of Abidjan nearly two decades ago. Seeking to reassure the local population, officials invited the BBC and other journalists on board the Zimrida on Tuesday to see the cargo. Once

all five of its holds opened up, hundreds of round, white bags containing the chemical are visible.

The main indicator of its deadly potential is a fire truck parked outside on the quay.

But when asked by the BBC why the goods still had not been unloaded, despite passing checks, port spokesman Aboubakar Toto said they were simply following protocol and waiting for the order to proceed.In a statement to the BBC, Paris-based environmental NGO Robin des Bois said it was dangerous for Abidjan port to be used as a "storage site" and that the goods should be sent onward to their buyer without delay. Ivorian authorities meanwhile say that ammonium nitrate deliveries are commonplace and that more than 40,000 tonnes of the compound were unloaded at the same port in 2024 without incident.

Of the shipment waiting currently on the Zimrida, 7,600 tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertiliser is destined for use in Ivory Coast.Once the Zimrida eventually leaves Ivory Coast, it will deliver the remainder of the cargo to Luanda in Angola and and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.BBC

## Macron accused of 'contempt' over Africa remarks

reacted strongly to remarks by French President Emmanuel Macron about African countries being ungrateful over France's role in helping fight militant jihadist insurgencies. On Monday, Macron said that

Sahel states "forgot" to thank France for its role, amid the continuing withdrawal of French troops from West African countries.

He said no Sahelian nation would be a sovereign nation without France's intervention that prevented them from falling under the control of militants.

In response, Chad's Foreign Minister Abderaman Koulamallah said Macron comments had revealed his contempt for Africa."Chad expresses its deep concern following the remarks made recently by [the French president], which reflect a contemptuous attitude towards Africa and Africans," he said in a statement on national TV.

He said "French leaders must

enegal and Chad have in other countries in the region. including Niger and Burkina Faso.

"We were right [to deploy]. I think someone forgot to say thank you. It's ok it will come with time." Macron said on Monday.

"But I say this for all the African heads of state who have not had the courage in the face of public opinion to hold that view. None of them would be a sovereign country today if the French army hadn't deployed in the region."Sonko said that in the case of Senegal's decision to ask French troops to leave, Macron's remarks were "totally wrong". He said there had been no negotiation with France regarding the move to close its military bases in the country. He said and the decision had stemmed from Senegal's "sole will as a free, independent and sovereign country". Both Sonko and Koulamallah also cited the role of African soldiers towards the liberation of France in the world wars."Had African soldiers, sometimes forcibly mobilised, mistreated and ultimately betrayed, not been deployed during the Second World War to defend France, it would, perhaps still be German today," Sonko said.Chad, learn to respect the African Senegal and Ivory Coast have



## Can Ghana's new president meet the voters' high expectations?

hana's former President John Mahama won last month's elections by a landslide but he will be under enormous pressure to meet the expectations of voters as he assumes office.

After more than three years of economic misery, Ghanaians want a quick fix. Mahama promised to create jobs and tackle corruption but that will be easier said than done. He swept back to power after eight years in opposition, running what political analyst Nansata Yakubu described as a "masterclass" in campaigning.

Mahama defeated Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia by 56.6% of votes to 41.6% to notch up the biggest margin of victory by a candidate in 24 years. His party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), also managed to land an overwhelming majority in

parliament, securing 183 seats

They are one seat short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass laws and approve budgets and contracts without the vote of MPs from the other side of the political divide.

The result of one parliamentary seat is yet to be declared because of discrepancies. Four other seats are being challenged in court by the NDC.But voter turnout was lower than in the 2020 election, especially in some of the

heartlands of Bawumia's New Patriotic Party (NPP), suggesting some people there disillusioned with its performance in government stayed at home. As Mahama's supporters celebrated his victory, Belinda Amuzu - a teacher in the northern city of Tamale, a stronghold of Mahama - summed up their hopes."I'm expecting the new government to change the economy.BBC



contributed to "destabilising certain African countries such as Libya" which had "disastrous consequences" for the region's security."France has neither the capacity nor the legitimacy to ensure Africa's security and sovereignty," he said in a statement.Macron made his comments at an annual ambassadors' conference in Paris, saying France was reorganising its strategic interests in the region and rejected the idea that it had been forced to withdraw from Africa.French troops were sent to Mali in 2013 in response to an Islamist insurgency. A year later the mission was extended to take

people and recognise the recently ended security value of their agreements with France - while sacrifices". Senegal's Prime Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger told Minister Ousmane Sonko said French troops to leave following France had in the past coups. France's influence in the region has been waning in recent years, amid accusations of neocolonialism and exploitative relationships with their former colonies. The junta-led governments in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso have moved closer to Russia after the French withdrawal from their countries. On Monday, Chad's foreign minister said France's contribution in the country was limited to "its own strategic interests" even as Chad had grappled with instability and other issues during their 60- year partnership.Chad ended its defence agreement with France in November, saying it was "time for Chad to assert its full sovereignty and redefine its strategic partnerships according to national priorities".BBC

## **EDITORIAL**

2025

## Looking forward to a smooth sailing

iberians 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!

## New Year to our Readers

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

By Mariana Mazzucato

#### **Good Growth Requires Getting Public-Private Partnerships Right**

ONDON - The United Kingdom's Labour ■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 With a mission-oriented strategy, the Labour 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 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, the government has set itself five "missions," they seem more like goals with some targets, government and industry work together.

government secretly gave Nissan £61 million (\$76 million) to build new cars in the UK. But Sunderland plant, and the promised jobs never materialized.

to operate public services such as prisons, schools, and hospitals before handing them back to the state, often in poor condition and without As I've said before, growth itself is not a mission; 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 For example, the National Wealth Fund should strings attached.

a living wage. Preference is also given to investment toward strategically important goals. 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 Mariana Mazzucato is Professor in the Economics 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 government has given serious thought to profit-sharing deal. This agreement safeguarded jobs and prevented consumers from incurring any extra costs.

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. strategy "green paper," Invest 2035, is a Consider the UK's net-zero-emissions target,

government could scale up and systematize this

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, as the government appears to be doing. While recent moves by the Labour government appear to fall short.

rather than being central to the way For example, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's deals with Macquarie (an investment bank), Blackstone (asset management), and others raised more For Labour to deliver on its agenda, it must get than £60 billion without setting clear, outcomesits public-private partnerships right. oriented expectations or ensuring that both risks Historically, public-private collaborations in the and rewards are shared. Equally, the UK have involved the state overpaying and the government's support of carbon capture and private sector underdelivering. Following the storage (to the tune of £22 billion so far) allows Brexit referendum, for example, the funds to flow to incumbent oil giants without holding them accountable in the green transition.

Nissan still abandoned a planned expansion at its 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 Likewise,under the failed "private finance situations like Thames Water (a water and waste initiative" schemes of the 1990s, the state utility) being saddled with over £2 billion in debt would pay inflated sums to private contractors after Macquarie became a major shareholder in

> 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.

government's COVID-19 bailout of Air France introduce conditionalities for public was conditional on the carrier curbing emissions investments; provide public access to per passenger and reducing domestic flights; by intellectual property and patents for research; contrast, the UK bailed out easyJet with no create subsidies and other incentives for missionaligned investments; and use loan guarantees and bailouts to move companies toward In the United States, the CHIPS and Science Act decarbonization, improved working conditions, required companies that benefit from public and fewer share buybacks. Procurement is also a funds to commit to climate and workforce strong lever, because it represents one-third of development plans, provide childcare, and pay the government's total spending and can direct

> Ultimately, the UK government must shift from a sectoral approach to a mission-oriented one that embraces a confident, outcomes-oriented form of public-private partnership, incentivizing the private sector to do its part. Labour understands the problem, but its proposed solution still needs some work.

100 million doses to the UK and allow the of Innovation and Public Value at University College London and author, most recently, of Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism (Penguin Books, 2022).

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By Helen Prejean

#### An Injustice That Biden Can Still Set Right

EW ORLEANS - For 40 years, I have devoted my life to advocating for reforms to America's broken criminal justice system and our deeply flawed use of the death penalty. After spending far too many painful final moments with those on death row, I now want to call attention to a different kind of case: a presidential pardon request that offers America a chance to redress an appalling miscarriage of justice by recognizing the innocence of those involved.

Nothing troubles me more than the punishment of people for crimes they didn't commit. That is precisely what happened to Chris Turner, Charles Turner, Clifton Yarborough, Levy Rouse, Russell Overton, and Timothy Catlett, who collectively have spent more than 200 years in prison for the 1984 murder of Catherine Fuller. Like the infamous case of the Central Park Five, in which innocent young men were convicted of brutally assaulting and raping a female jogger in Central Park, the two Turners, Yarborough, Rouse, Overton, and Catlett were the victims of a prosecutorial rush to judgment. All six were convicted despite the absence of physical evidence connecting them to the crime, and law-enforcement officials failed to investigate an obvious suspect, who later proved to be the likely killer.

A beloved mother and wife, Fuller was brutally assaulted and murdered on October 1, 1984, while walking home in the busy H Street Corridor of Washington, DC. Based largely on rumors, the police arrested 17 young people from the neighborhood, and after harsh interrogations, two of them agreed to testify against the others in exchange for leniency. The stories they told differed markedly, neither matched the physical evidence, and both witnesses later recanted under oath. Nonetheless, eight young men (two of whom have since died) were ultimately convicted and sentenced to life in prison. They have consistently proclaimed their innocence ever since.

We now have a good idea of what really happened. Another man, not among the 17 young people who were rounded up, likely killed Fuller. Police and other witnesses had noticed him loitering suspiciously on H Street before the crime, before fleeing the scene as police arrived. He was even spotted hiding the likely murder weapon as he fled. Two weeks later, he assaulted two other women just two blocks from 8th and H, leading to his arrest and conviction. Prosecutors never turned this information over to defense attorneys in the Fuller case, nor did they connect the dots themselves.

Subsequent events continued to point to the man's guilt. Released from prison in 1992, he returned to the neighborhood and committed an identical assault and murder just blocks from the original Fuller crime scene, and is now serving life in prison without parole for this crime. Yet because of a flaw in the justice system, a presidential pardon is the only way to help six innocent men. The Supreme Court denied them relief in 2017, partly because it could not consider the most compelling evidence of their innocence: the probable assailant's identical 1992 murder.

After the eight defendants were convicted, they were quickly cast aside by the District of Columbia. A prominent newspaper even published a commentary calling for their execution. These young men, the columnist wrote, warranted bringing back "Ole Sparky," the city's electric chair.

Vilified, humiliated, and unjustly imprisoned, the men could have given up. They could have admitted guilt in an attempt to win early release, or resigned themselves to a life behind bars. But they did neither. Instead, they displayed the kind of grit and spirit that we all aspire to. Theyall maintained their innocence, and they all committed to making the most of their time in prison.

Fortunately, the six surviving men have been released from prison over the last several years, and they have all committed themselves to bettering their community. It would be only natural for them to harbor hostility toward the place that wrongfully locked them away for so much of their lives, but they have demonstrated remarkable magnanimity. They have become pillars of their community, honored by the Greater Washington Urban League for their community service; working at local schools and the MLK Memorial Library; serving as a youth-safety ambassadors; volunteering through the Free Minds Book Club to mentor young inmates; thriving at their jobs; and building or rebuilding families.

And yet all of them remain what they never should have been: convicted murderers.

The president's clemency power is a tool of mercy. It is also a tool of justice. These innocent men deserve both, and a presidential pardon is the only way for them to receive what justice demands. Biden can recognize their wrongful conviction and years of post-release service to their community - and he can show mercy - by pardoning these men now.

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#### **OPINION**

By Indermit Gill and Aaditya Mattoo

## Services Are the New Road to Development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indermit Gill is Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics at the World Bank. Aaditya Mattoo is Chief Economist of the East Asia and Pacific Region at the World Bank.

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## Congratulations to the Government of Liberia for **Appointing the President of the University of Liberia**

n my first public opinion in 2025, I extended New Year Greetings to all and called on the Government of Liberia to Urgently Appoint the President of the University of Liberia where I currently serve as an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. As I saw it and see it, H.E President Joseph Nyuma Boakai needed to appoint the President of the University of Liberia. I argued that the government could not preside over a closed State University. I wondered why should the government kept the University closed and felt happy to continue to pay salaries of an entity that was dysfunctional? Absolutely, there was and there is no justification for this mishap and anomaly. I reminded that no government in the history of Liberia played around the integrity of the University and went free, and that this government would be no exception to that rule. I also indicated that former student leaders who graduated from the University and are part of this government must see it as their exclusive responsibility to ensure that the Visitor of the University needed to appoint the New President of the University (https://oraclenewsdaily.com/2025/01/03/the-government-of-liberia-needs-tourgently-appoint-the-president-of-the-university-of-liberia/). Congratulations to the President and the Government for listening to this request that several other Liberians made. This shows that the Government listens to its citizens. Listening to the citizens is good for any democratic government around the globe. I think the government has started the New Year on a good footing. Congratulations, President

In that first opinion piece of the year, 2025, I emphatically indicated that in Life, delays are dangerous and too many delays are too dangerous. I said that we, at the University, were not happy about its closure. Indeed, President Boakai graduated from the University, and we are now happy that he has appointed the new president to replace Dr. Nelson who resigned sometime ago. Now we request this government to support the very University. All the villages, towns, districts, and counties in Liberia are represented at the University. Therefore, the Liberian people are all interested in what happens at the University of Liberia . Liberians are now happy about the appointment of the New President of the University. I have been reading and listening to the different views about the appointment and  ${\sf I}$ do understand the diverse world views or perspectives of the different proponents. This emphasizes the recommendation I made before that there is a need to write the History of the University of Liberia (https://thenewdawnliberia.com/wewelcome-the-doctoral-programs-at-the-university-of-liberia/ ). I understand that Dr. Maparnyan is not a Liberian, but she is married to a Liberian. In the academic arena, tribe or race or citizenship does really matter. What matters is competence. In fact, the first President of the University was an American citizen. This is the country that hosts thousands of Liberians today and almost all Liberians wish to migrate to the United Sates of Liberia. I could become President of an American University tomorrow.

I understand that the New President is an African American. This means that she has a Black background. So, she is one of us. In fact, that she is married to a Liberian, I would not be surprised if she became a Liberian at any time. I therefore take this time to request all students and faculty as well as the public to openly welcome our New President. We need to write a comprehensive history of the University of Liberia. This would allow future generations to fully read, comprehend and appreciate its merits and demerits. Congratulations to H.E President JNB for appointing the University President, Dr. Layli Maparnyan, our new president. Congratulations, Madam President, on your appointment in line with the Charter of the University. Welcome to the University of Liberia, your new place if work. We avail our services as usual to collaborating with you collectively for the progress of the University. I am fully aware that this was a competition that you won. Therefore, I urge you to embrace all those who competed. Embrace all in the best interest of the University.

Welcome and congratulations once more, Dr. Maparnyan, on your appointment as the New President of the University. I, personally and official welcome you at the University of Liberia, the Lux Tenibris. You have our unflinching and unwavering support. Your appointment comes out of a rigid competition. You came out of twenty-two applicants and got shortlisted amongst the three finalists that later became 2 finalists due to the appointment of the third to another job. All the applicants had equally competitive academic credentials. Some are even full professors at the University of Liberia. Thank God that Dr. Zinnah, who we are reliably informed was with you as the singular finalist, has officially written and communicated his support to you. Accordingly, he promised to collaborate with you. I recommend that you welcome this offer and work with Dr. Zinnah and others. He is a former Vice President for Academic Affairs. Also, welcome and work with all other applicants at the University. I think they had exceptionally good plans to implement as well. All of them have personal and official experiences and competencies that your leadership needs. The ball is in your bosom now to lead the University. Our problems will now stop with you as the team leader at the

University. President JNB will rest small. You need to harmonize the interests of al the stakeholders. You need the experiences and guidance of all the professors. In every competition, there must be a winner. And in this process of the fina appointment the discretion of the President matters in line with the Charter. We therefore congratulate the Visitor to the University and the President of the Republic, H.E President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

Are there issues at the University that require your urgent administrative attention? Yes. I think one off the first things is to conduct a forensic audit of the University. I understand this is almost done. Also, you need to conduct a credentia audit of all lecturers and professors at the University. In any given academi community, professors who teach/lecture, conduct research and publish and execute community service need to have the rightful academic credentials Therefore, the University needs an urgent credential audit. This must be done i you must lead a professional team. We are aware some of those who thrive on fake degrees at the University, and we have been wondering why such people are kept in leadership roles in such a competitive environment where meritocracy should thrive. Gone should be those days that those with fake credentials who survive a the University. They got promoted extremely fast because of their alignment with the ruling parties in Liberia. This must stop. Thankfully, you have no tribal persor at the University. You do not hail from any of the counties besides been affiliated with your husband's tribe and county due to marriage. Your being an American gives you the advantaged role of being beyond tribes, clans, etc. You must take lead and run an inclusive leadership. Besides these two serious issues, there are several other issues that posed a challenge to those you have come to replace. For instance, the issues that you need address include but are not limited to:

- Restructure the Finance and Human Resource Offices or Departments. 1.
- 2. Fully utilize the University of Liberia Charter. The ULFA and ULSA teams highlighted the wanton violation of the UL Charter and the creation of several Vice Presidents and Organs at the University of Liberia. Time has changed, but until New Charter is enacted, fully work with the existing one. You need to drive the process to revise the Charter to meet contemporary realities. Such process must be consultative and inclusive.
- Fully implement the 2019 faculty promotion policy to its letter based or merit and the Faculty Promotion Policy of 2019.
- Ensure that the salaries of the University employees are paid on time Alternatively, since salaries are paid by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, allow the MFPD to directly deposit the salaries of all University employees to their designated accounts once you signa and approve the payroll. In the event of faculty promotion, where salaries are adjusted, that should be immediately communicated to the MFDP for immediate action the following
- Pay part-tine faculty should be paid monthly based on their contracts. I am 5. reliably informed that their arears will be cleared before you take office on Friday 10th January 2025. Please follow thru on this.
- Refurbish all the learning and leisure environment and lavatories. The Ul Administration has informed that refurbishing of the campuses and lavatories wil be done before January 13, 2025. The 4 campuses are fully renovated.
- Kindly constitute a committee comprising ULSA, ULFA and MFDP to work or faculty and staff salary disparities and the payment of the previous 40% increment agreed under President Weah.
- The UL Administration has informed that they have procured 2 buses for Sinje Faculty. We thank the Acting President for this and other efforts that he has
- 9. Conduct faculty performance review each and revery semester. We are not evaluated at all. Other Universities evaluate us each semester.
- Equip the campuses with unlimited internet. The provision of Wi-Fi and internet access on all campuses cannot be overemphasized.
- Fully equip the existing laboratories and libraries and open new ones. Also run an online library. Introduce technology for automated services at the University.
- Reward honour students who graduate from undergraduate colleges with 12. Masters scholarships at the graduate schools within the university and honoured graduates from the master's programs should provided PhD scholarships o fellowships at the University and abroad. This would help to enhance the faculties
- capabilities. 13. Open the University of Liberia Farm to help produce varieties of food for the country and allow students to practice what they learn.
- Particularly for the graduate and research programs, 14. Open a separate account for the payment of fees and tuition for students at the graduate and professional schools.

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### President Boakai Signs FY Gol unveils plans for 273-Km 2025 National Budget into Law Coastal road project **2025 National Budget into Law**

2025

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. signed into law the National Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, totaling 880,661,874 million United States dollars. T

resident Joseph Nyuma expressed satisfaction with the Boakai, Sr. signed into timely completion of the budget law the National Budget process and underscored the for Fiscal Year 2025, totaling urgent need for its effective 880,661,874 million United implementation. "The time for



States dollars. Tuesday, January action is here. This budget is not 8, 2025/ The signing ceremony took place at the President's Rehab Office in Paynesville City, marking a significant milestone in the governance and economic development of the President stated. remarks, President Boakai concluded its deliberations on the Press Release.

just numbers on paper; it represents our commitment to addressing the needs of our people and achieving national development goals," the

Republic of Liberia. In his The National Legislature

Budget on December 20, 2024, when the Senate concurred with the House of Representatives proposed financial instrument.

Now signed into law, the Budget serves as the legal and operational framework for the Government of Liberia's programs and activities in the coming fiscal year. The FY 2025 National Budget reflects the Administration's priorities of fostering economic growth, improving service delivery, enhancing social infrastructure, and creating opportunities for all Liberians. The signing ceremony was attended by key government officials, including the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Honorable Jeremiah Kpan Koung, and the Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Honorable Bill McGill Jones. As the Gopeople. - moves into the implementation phase, the President called on all stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure that the allocated resources translate into tangible outcomes for the benefit of the Liberian people. r-

The Government of Liberia announces a plan for a 273-kilometer coastal road project, targeting the country's southeast.

By: Kruah Thompson

onrovia, Liberia, January 8, 2025 The Government of Liberia, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), is set to commence construction of a 273kilometer coastal road connecting Buchanan, Cestos, and Greenville in southeast Liberia.

Deputy Minister for Public Affairs at the Ministry of Information, Daniel O. Sando, disclosed in a regular press briefing on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Minister Sando highlights the project's potential to enhance road connectivity, boost regional development, and improve transportation and economic opportunities in the country's southeast.

'The project's initial focus

Sando encourages affected property owners to engage in the process to ensure fair compensation and assistance. He also announces plans to establish a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to address concerns and ensure transparency throughout the project.

In addition to improving road safety and transportation efficiency, he notes the project is expected to unlock significant economic potential in the region, fostering greater trade and mobility and tackling the Energy Deficit with a New Hydropower Initiative.

He also discloses a landmark agreement with Art of Energy Africa, a Ghana-based energy consulting firm, to address Liberia's energy deficit.

He says signed in late 2024, the partnership will conduct comprehensive studies along a 193-kilometer stretch of the St.



will include a 74-kilometer John River Basin to identify Cestos Bridge and a 31- opportunities. impact assessments and Action Plan, are currently underway." He reveals. According to him, from security and sustainability.'

January 7 to 16, the Ministry of Public Works will conduct property identification, socio-economic assessments, and valuations along the designated road corridor, which covers a 75areas and 50 feet in urban Browne

zones.

stretch from Buchanan to hydropower development

kilometer section from "The findings will form the basis Cestos Junction to Cestos for multiple hydroelectric plants City. Pre-construction aimed at expanding Liberia's activities, such as renewable energy capacity. environmental and social Supported by the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Authority. developing a Resettlement the initiative underscores the government's commitment to achieving long-term energy

Meanwhile, the deputy minister adds that these infrastructure and energy projects represent key components of Liberia's broader strategy to drive economic growth and improve living standards across the foot right of way in rural country. Editing by Jonathan

#### Nimba business tycoons reject blood money clain

Locals link successful businesses in Nimba County juju they said. activities, but some successful business owners dismiss The observation was made the claim.

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County

imba, Liberia, January 8, 2025 - Several business owners in Ganta and surrounding successes of some of their communities in Nimba County dismiss speculations in the county about their being in business for over 20 involvement in making human years, they have yet to reach sacrifices or blood money to the top, but those who just got become prosperous.

They are distancing them. themselves from such public "What our big bosses are saying characterization, which some believe is responsible for their sudden prosperity ahead of other businesses in Nimba.

Ruling Unity Party former county chairman Pharaze Depah, chief executive officer (CEO) of Jungle Water Group of Investments, Tomah S. Floyd, Sr., among others, said they are not involved in blood money, attributing their successes to long-term standing plan and perseverance.

The NEW DAWN gathers that though they were never asked or coerced to come out, the local business tycoons are from such practices.

However, other business people in Nimba seem to believe this is true that hidden supernatural powers drive the colleagues.

According to them, despite into business are ahead of

is not the real story; we are part of them, but we've not been able to move ahead",

during the official dedication of the Dekpah commercial complex over the weekend in Ganta, Nimba County.

A total of 250 stores, including shops, warehouses, and office spaces, among others, will help create job opportunities for the people of Nimba and Liberians, particularly Mr. Pharaze Depah, proprietor, noted in Ganta.

Because of the rapid emergence of business entities, mainly in Ganta, many locals think they are abnormal. Editing by Jonathan Browne



#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### Acting UL President defends VP Koung to lead Gol successor Dr. Layli Maparyan

Acting president of the University of Liberia, Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh defends the appointment of Dr. Layli Maparyan as the 16th president of the state-run university.

By: Kruah Thompson

onrovia, Liberia, candidates. January 8, 2025 - The And that after adhering to

abroad before shortlisting three

Acting President of the internationally recognized University of Liberia (UL), Dr. criteria for selecting university Al-Hassan Conteh, strongly presidents, the search



defends the appointment of Dr. Layli Maparyan as the 16th president of the state-run university, emphasizing her qualifications and leadership experience despite mounting criticism.

Dr. Conteh's defense comes after President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, in his capacity as a Visitor to the University, appointed Dr. Maparyan on January 4, 2025.

The appointment followed the approval of the UL's Board of Trustees, as outlined in the university's charter.

In his appointment letter, President Boakai expresses full confidence in Dr. Maparyan's ability and integrity, underscoring her extensive experience in higher education.

However, the appointment has faced backlash from local political and student activists. who question Dr. Maparyan's foreign background, suggesting that it contradicts the President's promises made during his inaugural address.

the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, Dr. Conteh emphasized that Dr. Maparyan's academic credentials, leadership skills, and proven track record in higher education make her fully qualified to lead the University of Liberia.

He explains that the search process for the university's new president was thorough and transparent and that the Search Committee, chaired by Sister Mary Laurene Browne, former President of Stella Maris Polytechnic University, reviewed 20 applicants, -12

from Liberia and eight from

committee presented its findings to President Boakai, who subsequently nominated Dr. Maparyan, the only female applicant for the role.

Dr. Conteh reassured the public that the process was rigorously investigated, and all documents related to the candidates were thoroughly double-checked and reviewed.

Additionally, he says follow-ups were conducted with each institution referenced in the applications to ensure accuracy and completeness.

However, he emphasizes that the committee, in its search for a new president, prioritized identifying a candidate with the ability to secure funding for the university, as they consider this a critical responsibility for the institution's growth.

According to Dr. Conteh, the University serves approximately 22,000 students, supported by 1,214 faculty members (both full-time and adjunct) and 1,463 staff across its campuses: the Main Campus at Fendall, the Health Sciences Campus, Capitol Responding to the criticism at Hill, and the Straz-Sinje campuses.

> The institution encompasses nine undergraduate colleges and programs, eight graduate programs, three professional schools, three institutes, and one center. However, it faces a range of interconnected challenges affecting its administration, faculty, staff, and students.

> These challenges include prolonged governance issues, financial constraints, operational inefficiencies, infrastructural deficiencies, and student-related concerns that hinder its smooth operation.

He advocated for increasing the UL budget from 35 million to 45

million, but the proposal did not come to fruition. Currently. 80% of the University's budget is allocated to personnel salaries, leaving only 20% to cover other operational expenses.

www.thenewdawnliberia.com

"Therefore, we need someone with the expertise to ensure that the University develops its sustainable funding sources," Dr. Conteh says, highlighting the critical importance of building the institution's endowment fund.

Regarding the criticism of Dr. Maparyan's experience and foreign background, he clarifies that relevant experience does not necessarily have to be specific to Liberia.

He explains that work in other developing countries with similar challenges can be transferable to Liberia's context. "If anyone has worked in another developing situation with high-ranking experience, they can apply that knowledge to their work here," he says.

Dr. Conteh also points to historical precedents, recalling past instances when African Americans, such as Professor J. Max Bond, Sr., and Professor James Jenkins Dossen, served as presidents, respectively, of the University of Liberia.

He argues that the question should not be about where Dr. Maparyan comes from but whether her experience can help the university move forward.

He urges critics to focus on Dr. Maparyan's transferable skills and long-standing involvement with Liberia, including her engagement with the country since 2010.

Dr. Conteh also reassures the public that Dr. Maparyan's leadership will be grounded in innovation and commitment to Liberia's development.

He describes Dr. Maparyan as a "master dribbler" in higher education, hoping she will deliver the progress the university needs, particularly in securing adequate funding and advancing academic excellence.

Meanwhile, her investiture, along with the conferral of an honorary degree on President Boikai, is scheduled for Friday, January 10, 2025, at the Convocation Pavilion of the Administrative Building on the Fendall Campus of the University, located in Fendall, Montserrado County, Liberia, with classes scheduled to resume Monday, January 13, 2025. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## delegation to Kampala

onrovia, Liberia, the African food system from Koung and Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah are expected to depart the country this week to attend the Kampala **Declaration Comprehensive** African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) meeting.

The Extraordinary Meeting of African Heads of State of the Kampala Declaration will kick off on Thursday, January 9-11, in Kampala, Uganda, bringing together high-level delegates comprising leaders of the continent, agriculture ministers, private sector actors, civil society agriculture annually. members, and others.

Rural Development and Blue accelerate growth for

January 8, 2025 - A 2026 to 2035, as well as approve report reaching this the 10-year CAADP Strategy and paper says Liberia's Vice Action Plan 2026-2035 that President Jeremiah Kpan provides details on how to achieve the goals and target in the draft Kampala CAADP Declaration. CAADP is the African food security framework that has been crucial in driving agricultural transformation across Africa since its inception in 2003. The program is aimed at increasing food security and nutrition, reducing rural poverty, creating employment, and contributing to economic development while safeguarding the environment. CAADP aims for a 6 percent annual growth rate in the agricultural sector, with African Union member states allocating at least 10 percent of their budget to

Liberia became a signatory to The meeting is being the framework in 2008. But like organized by the African many African countries, the Union Commission, nation is yet to allot 10 percent Department of Agriculture of the total national budget to



Agency New Partnership African Development (AUDA-NEPAD).

post-Malabo CAADP agenda of the draft 10-year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan with its associated draft of the Kampala Declaration on Advancing Africa Inclusive Agrifood System Transformation for Sustainable Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity. According to the report, the extraordinary draft Kampala CAADP

Declaration, which provides

the vision for transforming

Economy and Sustainable agriculture, despite Environment (DARBE), and pronouncements by previous African Union Development administrations to make agriculture a priority to reduce poverty and improve food and nutrition security.

It will deliberate on the The country has depended largely on external sources over the years to support agriculture and despite the external funding as loans and grants, the nation's agriculture is still faced with numerous challenges.

The government is struggling to address the challenges of improving the economy. A fiveyear ambitious plan has been developed to guide the country in galvanizing more resources to assembly will endorse the support agriculture in line with the CAADP principles and Editing by processes. Jonathan Browne

### rança

#### Le bloc majoritaire cherche un nouveau lieu pour le discours sur l'état de la Nation

2025

l'état de la Nation **■**(SONA) ne se tiendra pas dans les chambres conjointes William R. Tolbert du Capitole, en raison des travaux de rénovation en cours. Cette annonce a été faite par l'honorable James Kolleh.

e discours annuel sur Lors d'un point de presse, M. Kolleh a expliqué que les travaux de rénovation. entrepris après un incendie en décembre 2024, ne pourront être achevés avant le 30 janvier 2025, date constitutionnelle pour ce discours présidentiel.« Il serait irréaliste d'espérer terminer les travaux dans un

institutionnelle en toile de

L'incendie qui a ravagé les chambres conjointes du Capitole s'inscrit dans un contexte de tensions politiques. En décembre 2024, le bloc majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants avait destitué le président de la Chambre, Jonathan Fonati Koffa, et élu Richard Nagbe Koon à sa place. L'incendie s'est déclaré un jour après une manifestation violente devant le Capitole, accentuant la gravité de la crise.

Face à ces événements, la Législature est désormais contrainte de trouver un lieu alternatif pour permettre la tenue du discours sur l'état de la Nation, un rendez-vous constitutionnel clé.

Une consultation en cours Selon M. Kolleh, les discussions pour identifier un nouveau site sont déjà

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



président du Comité des délai aussi court. Par règles, de l'ordre et de l'administration de la Chambre représentants.

conséquent, nous avons décidé d'explorer d'autres options d e s pour organiser cet événement majeur », a déclaré M. <u>Kolleh.Une crise</u>

#### Bras de fer entre le directeur de la NPA et le Pro-Temp du Sénat

la National Port ■Authority (NPA), Sekou A.M. Dukuly, s'oppose fermement à une initiative du Sénat libérien visant à accorder l'autonomie aux ports locaux. Cette démarche, soutenue par la présidente pro tempore du Sénat, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, provoque un bras de fer institutionnel.Un projet de loi contesté

Le 19 novembre 2024, le Sénat libérien a adopté un Ports Maritimes du Liberia (Liberia Sea Port Regulatory Authority) et à décentraliser la gestion des ports. Si ce texte est confirmé par la Chambre des représentants, il accordera l'autonomie administrative et opérationnelle aux quatre principaux ports du pays : le Freeport de Monrovia, le Port de Buchanan, le Port de Greenville et le Port de Harper.

Présenté comme une étape clé dans la stratégie nationale décentralisation, le projet de loi prévoit également d'assurer un développement durable et transparent des infrastructures portuaires

e directeur général de tout en réglementant leurs activités.

Les réserves de la NPA

Dans une interview accordée au NewDawn, Sekou A.M. Dukuly a vivement critiqué ce projet, qu'il considère comme prématuré et mal adapté aux défis actuels des ports libériens.

« Les arguments avancés par le Sénat sont fondamentalement biaisés et reflètent davantage des intérêts politiques que des préoccupations de développement », a-t-il déclaré. Selon lui, les ports libériens projet de loi visant à créer manquent cruellement l'Autorité de Régulation des d'infrastructures modernes et de pratiques conformes aux standards internationaux. « Accorder l'autonomie à ces ports sans avoir d'abord investi dans

leur mise à niveau serait irresponsable et contreproductif », a-t-il ajouté.

Des désaccords internes au Sénat

M. Dukuly affirme avoir tenté de convaincre plusieurs sénateurs du danger que représente ce projet. Il rapporte que certains parlementaires ont admis avoir soutenu la loi sous la pression politique.

« Certains m'ont dit : "Nous avons voté ainsi pour ne pas contrarier le Pro-Temp." Estce ainsi que des décisions nationales doivent être prises ? Je respecte les institutions. mais je persiste à dire que les arguments avancés pour ce projet sont erronés », a-t-il



## Éditorial

#### La chute de la maison Assad

Par Daron Acemoglu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Français

Starts from page 8

#### Le bloc majoritaire cherche un nouveau lieu Pour une bonne croissance, il faut des

ampleur », a-t-il indiqué.

coordination étroite entre le Comité exécutif, le Comité des affaires étrangères et l'exécutif. M. Kolleh a également précisé que la présence de dignitaires étrangers lors de cette choisir un lieu approprié. Une l'assainissement et le tourisme. obligation constitutionnelleConformément à

engagées. « Nous examinons les chaque année, le quatrième lundi options possibles pour un lieu à la fois ouvrable de janvier, un rapport sur symbolique et fonctionnel, capable l'état de la République. Ce rapport d'accueillir un événement de cette couvre les conditions économiques du pays, incluant les revenus et les Cette décision nécessite une dépenses, et expose le programme législatif pour l'année à venir.Cette année, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai devrait mettre en avant les priorités de son agenda ARREST, axé sur l'agriculture, les infrastructures cérémonie renforce l'urgence de routières, l'éducation,

Une décision imminente Bien qu'aucun lieu n'ait encore été officiellement l'article 58 de la Constitution désigné, M. Kolleh a assuré que des libérienne, le Président doit présenter consultations intensives sont en cours

## partenariats public-privé efficaces ONDRES - Le gouvernement travailliste

du Royaume-Uni a sérieusement réfléchi aux investissements publics nécessaires pour remettre l'économie sur les rails après 14 années d'austérité, de négligence des infrastructures sociales et de fuite des capitaux provoquée par le Brexit et des conditions économiques incertaines. Il comprend que la situation exige une nouvelle stratégie pour s'attaquer à des problèmes majeurs tels que la pauvreté des enfants, les inégalités en matière de santé, la faiblesse de la base industrielle et les infrastructures publiques en difficulté.

À quoi cela devrait-il ressembler? Le récent « livre vert » sur la stratégie industrielle du ministère britannique des affaires et du commerce, Invest 2035, est un début prometteur. Toutefois, dans ma propre réponse lors de la période de consultation publique, j'ai insisté sur le fait qu'une stratégie industrielle devrait s'articuler autour de « missions » clés, telles que la réduction à zéro des émissions nettes, plutôt qu'autour de secteurs spécifiques, comme semble le faire le gouvernement. Bien que le gouvernement se soit fixé cinq « missions », celles-ci ressemblent davantage à des objectifs assortis de quelques cibles qu'à des éléments centraux de la collaboration entre le gouvernement et

Pour que le parti travailliste puisse réaliser son programme, il doit mettre en place des partenariats public-privé corrects. Historiquement, les collaborations publicprivé au Royaume-Uni ont impliqué que l'État paye trop cher et que le secteur privé ne fournisse pas assez. Après le référendum sur le Brexit, par exemple, le gouvernement a secrètement accordé à Nissan 61 millions de livres sterling (76 millions de dollars) pour construire de nouvelles voitures au Royaume-Uni. Mais Nissan a tout de même abandonné un projet d'expansion de son usine de Sunderland et les emplois promis ne se sont jamais concrétisés.

De même, dans le cadre des projets ratés d'« initiative de financement privé » des années 1990, l'État payait des sommes exorbitantes à des entrepreneurs privés pour exploiter des services publics tels que des prisons, des écoles et des hôpitaux, avant de les restituer à l'État, souvent en mauvais état et sans que le service ne soit amélioré de manière évidente. Cette approche a été largement utilisée pour la construction des hôpitaux du Service national de santé (NHS), les 15 premiers contrats avant généré 45 millions de livres sterling d'honoraires - soit environ 4 % de la valeur en capital des contrats - pour les conseillers des secteurs public et privé. Une analyse du Trésor britannique a montré par la suite que les coûts généraux des PPI étaient deux fois plus élevés que ceux des emprunts d'État.

Heureusement, de nombreux partenariats public-privé à l'échelle mondiale ont produit des résultats plus positifs. La banque nationale de développement allemande, KfW, propose des prêts à faible taux d'intérêt aux entreprises qui acceptent de décarboniser leurs activités. De même, le renflouement d'Air France par le gouvernement français (Covid-19) était conditionné à la réduction des émissions par passager et à la diminution des vols intérieurs ; à l'inverse, le Royaume-Uni a renfloué EasyJet sans conditions.

Aux États-Unis, le Chips and Science Act oblige les entreprises qui bénéficient de fonds publics à s'engager dans des plans de développement du climat et de la maind'œuvre, à fournir des services de garde d'enfants et à verser un salaire décent. La préférence est également donnée aux entreprises qui réinvestissent leurs bénéfices, plutôt que de procéder à des rachats d'actions.

Le Royaume-Uni a une certaine expérience de l'organisation des marchés autour d'objectifs clairs. Pour développer le vaccin Covid-19 d'Oxford/AstraZeneca, le gouvernement a utilisé un modèle de partage des risques et des récompenses dans lequel il a fourni 95 % du financement en échange de certains engagements de la part de l'entreprise. AstraZeneca devait fournir les 100 premiers millions de doses au Royaume-Uni et permettre au gouvernement de donner et de réaffecter les vaccins excédentaires.

De même, l'acquisition du fournisseur d'énergie Bulb par Octopus Energy a permis au gouvernement britannique d'engranger 1,5 milliard de livres sterling de bénéfices, Octopus ayant remboursé l'aide publique qu'il avait reçue dans le cadre d'un accord antérieur de partage des bénéfices. Cet accord a permis de préserver des emplois et d'éviter aux consommateurs des coûts supplémentaires.

Avec une stratégie claire, axée sur la mission à accomplir, le gouvernement travailliste pourrait intensifier et systématiser ce type d'engagement publicprivé. Plutôt que d'être « sans réserve favorable aux entreprises », comme il le prétend dans son livre vert, il devrait veiller à ce que les investissements publics visent des objectifs clairs : attirer des capitaux privés, créer de nouveaux marchés et accroître la compétitivité à long terme.

Prenons l'exemple de l'objectif de zéro émission nette fixé par le Royaume-Uni, qui ne concerne pas seulement l'énergie propre mais aussi la façon dont nous mangeons, nous déplaçons et nous construisons. L'Etat a un rôle crucial à jouer en tant que pionnier, en façonnant les marchés de manière à ce que les incitations privées soient alignées sur les objectifs publics. Pourtant, à cette aune, les récentes mesures prises par le gouvernement travailliste ne semblent pas être à la hauteur.

Par exemple, les accords conclus par le Premier ministre Keir Starmer avec Macquarie (une banque d'investissement), Blackstone (gestion d'actifs) et d'autres, ont permis à ces derniers de lever plus de 60 milliards de livres sterling sans leur fixer d'attentes claires, axées sur les résultats, ni garantir le partage des risques et des bénéfices. De même, le soutien du gouvernement au captage et au stockage du carbone (à hauteur de 22 milliards de livres jusqu'à présent) permet aux géants pétroliers en place de bénéficier de fonds sans leur faire rendre des comptes sur leur transition écologique.

Ces accords sont structurés de manière à assurer la croissance à tout prix, alors que le Royaume-Uni a en réalité besoin d'une croissance inclusive et durable. Cela nécessite une meilleure gouvernance d'entreprise afin d'éviter des situations comme celle de Thames Water, un service public de distribution d'eau et de traitement des déchets qui s'est retrouvé avec une dette de 2 milliards de livres sterling, après que Macquarie soit devenu un actionnaire maieur en 2006.

#### **Bras de fer entre le directeur de**

déclaré.

Une stratégie pour infléchir le processus Pour tenter de bloquer l'avancée du projet, le directeur de la NPA prévoit de s'adresser à l'exécutif et à la Chambre des représentants. Il compte sur le président de la République et le président de la Chambre pour reconsidérer la question.

« Nous allons engager des discussions avec le président et le président de la Chambre pour présenter notre position. Nous avons confiance dans le jugement du président, qui prendra une décision

dans l'intérêt du pays », a-t-il affirmé. Une priorité pour le développement

M. Dukuly insiste sur le fait que sa position n'est pas opposée au principe d'autonomie, mais qu'il souhaite que celle-ci repose sur des bases solides, notamment des infrastructures modernes et des pratiques efficaces. « Ce débat ne devrait pas être guidé par des considérations politiques, mais par une vision claire de ce qui est réellement bénéfique pour le Liberia », a-t-il conclu. Rédaction: Jonathan Browne

#### Le chef Cyril Allen exhorte le président **Boakai à faire preuve de leadership décisif**

Conseil consultatif de la Coalition pour ■le Changement Démocratique (CDC), appelle le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à mobiliser son expérience exceptionnelle pour orienter le Liberia vers un développement économique durable.

Face aux attentes croissantes, le chef Allen insiste sur l'urgence pour le président de prendre des décisions stratégiques fermes afin de repositionner le pays sur la voie de la croissance et de la prospérité.

Exploiter une riche expérience

Réagissant aux propos d'Edith Gongloe-Wreh, ancienne candidate au Sénat du comté de Nimba, qui avait salué les décennies de service public du président Boakai lors de l'émission Spoon Talk du 5 janvier 2025, le chef Allen a souligné l'importance de tirer parti de cette vaste expérience.

« Avec plus de 40 ans dans la gouvernance, le président Boakai doit faire preuve d'un leadership transformateur pour améliorer les conditions de vie des Libériens », a-t-il déclaré. Il a ajouté que les connaissances accumulées par le président sur les cycles économiques du pays doivent désormais être mises à profit pour répondre aux défis pressants de la nation. Valoriser les ressources naturelles

Le chef Allen a rappelé que le Liberia, souvent perçu comme un pays pauvre, regorge en réalité de ressources naturelles inexploitées, notamment l'or, les diamants, le bois et les eaux côtières. Il propose des mesures concrètes, telles que l'installation d'usines de traitement de l'or, de forage de diamants et d'infrastructures de transformation du bois, afin d'assurer une valorisation locale avant l'exportation.

« Le Liberia dispose d'un potentiel immense

e chef Cyril Allen, figure influente du pour transformer ses ressources naturelles en moteurs de croissance économique, de génération de revenus et d'amélioration des infrastructures », a-t-il souligné.

> Relancer l'agriculture et l'industrie de la pêche

Dans ses recommandations, le chef Allen exhorte la 55 législature à revoir les concessions actuelles pour garantir une plus grande part des bénéfices au Liberia. Il appelle également à ressusciter des projets agricoles emblématiques, tels que le Lofa County Agriculture Development Project et le Bong County Agriculture Development Project, qui avaient autrefois généré des milliers d'emplois et contribué à la sécurité alimentaire du pays.

En outre, il met en lumière le potentiel considérable de l'industrie de la pêche. Exploiter les 300 miles de littoral libérien grâce à des navires modernes et des installations de transformation pourrait créer une industrie florissante et durable. S'inspirer des réussites passées

Faisant référence aux succès de l'administration de l'ancien président Charles Taylor, le chef Allen a évoqué l'importance stratégique de l'industrie du bois et du contreplaqué. Il a notamment cité une usine de contreplaqué de 33 millions de dollars, située à Buchanan, dans le comté de Grand Bassa, qui exportait vers l'Asie et les pays voisins.

## ARTICLE ARTICLE

## Embracing the African Roots: A Crucial Step for Liberia's Future

By: Austin S Fallah-A True Nationalist:

WEDNESDAY

iberia, a nation steeped in rich history and complex socio-political landscapes, stands at a critical juncture in its development. The pressing need for unity and inclusive growth has never been more paramount. As we evaluate the future of this great nation, we must consider uniting, inviting, and granting our African (Born African American) brothers, sisters, and children the unconditional right to their motherland. This action, far from being a mere policy initiative, is an essential strategy that will shape Liberia's social, economic, and infrastructural development while providing an opportunity for a shared narrative within the 21st century. The legacy of our ancestors demands that we not only acknowledge our past but actively engage in rewriting Liberia's history.

To fully grasp the significance of this proposition, we must reflect on the historical context of our nation. The American Colonization Society purchased Providence Island (Not the nation), on Bushrod Island in Liberia, for the resettling of our people who were brought from the United States back to their motherland, Shebro Island in Sierra Leone, who

were dying from malaria, and that gave rise to the name Liberia today in the early 19th century.

There were gracious inhabitants of the land, and because of their hospitality, they positioned themselves as the beacon of hope and a home for those seeking refuge from the pains of colonialism. While it embodied the ideals of liberty and freedom, Liberia's narrative is also marred by complexities, including socio-economic disparities and ethnic tensions. Yet, it is precisely these complexities that offer lessons for Liberia's present and future. Ghana serves as an illuminating model for Liberia.

During the transatlantic slave trade, Ghana acted as a critical shipping point for countless Africans, a land that witnessed the heart-wrenching nature of human displacement. However, in stark contrast, Liberia was first envisioned as a sanctuary for those resilient souls. It became synonymous

with hope and a fresh start amidst a traumatic past. This duality between Ghana as a point of suffering and Liberia as a point of solace commands respect and gratitude. It begs the question, how can Liberia as a nation honor this legacy in a manner that promotes national healing and collective progress?

By granting unconditional citizenship to our African (Born African-Americans) brothers, sisters, and children who were displaced and separated from their roots, Liberia would signal a commitment to inclusivity and social justice. This move would enable these individuals to partake in the rich tapestry of our national identity and empower them to contribute meaningfully to Liberia's socioeconomic landscape. Citizens with diverse experiences and backgrounds can infuse innovation, creativity, and resilience, qualities essential for national development in the 21st century. Imagine a Liberia where every person, regardless of their heritage, is empowered to participate in shaping the socio-economic landscape.

An inclusive society fosters collaboration and

dialogue, essential for our myriad challenges, from unemployment and poverty to inadequate infrastructure and healthcare. Liberians can build a society grounded in solidarity and shared purpose by positioning themselves as a welcoming nation akin to Ghana. Granting unconditional citizenship is not merely an administrative action but a profound acknowledgment of our shared humanity and interwoven destinies. Many of our displaced African brothers and sisters bear the stories of resilience that can inspire future generations of Liberians.

Their unique perspectives can drive innovation and entrepreneurship, bridging gaps between disparate communities and ultimately forging a more cohesive society. They have experienced the harsh realities of displacement firsthand, yet they carry an immense potential for upliftment if given the opportunity. Further, the socio-economic benefits of this invitation can not be understated. A diverse citizenry fuels economic growth. With a broader base of experienced contributors, Liberia can tap into a wealth of knowledge and resources.

Skilled labor, entrepreneurial spirit, and cultural



diversity can transform Liberia's economic landscape, attracting foreign investments and paving the way for sustainable development.

As our African (Born African-American) brothers and sisters become integral community members, we will witness an infusion of creativity that spurs technological advancement and positions Liberia as a competitive player in the global market. Nevertheless, we must approach this integration process with sensitivity and respect for the rich cultural heritage that our brothers, sisters, and children will bring. Embracing our African kin is not merely an act of benevolence but an acknowledgment that diversity is a strength rather than a weakness.

("Buy and Read" my book "Diversity as the New World Currency" on Amazon and Barnes and Noble).

The future of Liberia rests on our ability to celebrate and leverage this diversity, fostering an environment where various cultural narratives, be they from within Liberia or its African diaspora, are recognized and valued. It is crucial to recognize that each individual who joins our motherland, whether through newfound citizenship or legacy, carries the burden of history.

They are not mere statistics but individuals with dreams, aspirations, and a desire for connection to their homeland. Their stories resonate with the historical traumas of Africa, echoing the longing for identity and belonging that have seeped through generations. By extending unconditional citizenship, we can help heal these historical wounds, unearthing a collective narrative that honors our struggles and triumphs. Furthermore, embracing our African (Born African-American) brothers and sisters aligns with a global trend toward inclusivity.

In an increasingly interconnected world, nations recognize the importance of welcoming immigrants and refugees as integral parts of their social fabric.

By adopting similar practices, Liberia can position itself as a progressive nation committed to human rights and dignity. This move can uplift Liberia's global standing, foster diplomatic relations, and inspire other African nations to acknowledge their shared heritage.

In an era where identities are becoming more fluid, belonging takes on a new dimension.

Liberia can lead by example, as she has done in the past

liberation struggle for independent African nations. It is also crucial to address the concerns and misconceptions surrounding this proposal.

Critics may argue that the influx of new citizens will overburden our strained resources.

However, this perspective oversimplifies the wealth of potential that inclusion brings.

By welcoming our African kin, we can harness their talents and perspectives to address existing challenges, encouraging innovation in resource management, education, and social services. Furthermore, implementing programs that support integration can help ensure a smooth transition for new citizens, creating a harmonious and productive community.

Uniting, inviting, and granting unconditional citizenship to our African brothers, sisters, and children represents an opportunity beyond political rhetoric or social policy. It invites the very essence of humanity, an acknowledgment that we are

not defined solely by our borders but rather by our shared experiences and aspirations. In shaping Liberia's social, economic, and infrastructural development, we are rewriting the narrative of our history.

By embracing our African kin, we fortify our commitment to a brighter future, a future that recognizes the power of unity, inclusivity, and social justice. Liberia must not only aspire to emulate the admirable example of Ghana but must also dare to embrace its unique narrative of healing, resilience, and hope. Together, let us build a Liberia where every citizen, regardless of their past, can partake in the promise of the future.

By extending an invitation to those who share our roots, we breathe vitality into our national identity, ensuring that Liberia emerges as a flourishing example of what a united, inclusive society can achieve.

Our paths may have diverged in the past, but it is in our hands to steer them toward a promising, shared destiny. The time for change is now, and the time to embrace our collective strength is upon us.

President Joseph Boakai faces strong criticism from a key supporter over his handling of the affairs of the state here.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, Liberia, January 8, 2025 -Former Associate Justice and staunch supporter of President

ask for his support, and if he would support President Boakai for a second term or give him his blessings, the President would dare not ask

he only supports people who and symptoms that he is seeing don't look good for the country, and it clearly shows that Liberia is on the wrong path.

> He wonders if all those who are contributing to the state of affairs of the country today are passing the national budget illegally, which is questionable, where their consciousness

Providing justifications for protest across the country and police subsequent action, he says the right for people to assemble and protest is not a privilege from any President nor President Joseph N. Boakai; rather, it is a constitutional right.

Firstly, the rights to assemble and protest are prescribed under our constitution. These are not things that the President gives. Now, if the Government is a group of people that were running all over the place, talking about the rule of law and harming people who come on the street to protest, that says it all. But, again, you have a director of police, who himself is a kidnapper. So, what do you expect?" He continues.

According to him, the Inspector General of Police Gregory Coleman allegedly went to the Monrovia Central Prison under the cover of darkness and removed somebody who was placed behind bars by the court on the directive of the Executive.

"And so, what else should these people do to show that they don't have respect for the rule of law? I am just disappointed; I mean hugely disappointed. My fear is that Liberia now has a government that has no regard for the rule of law, which is scaring", he cautions. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Boakai, Cllr. Kabinah M. Ja'neh says the ruling Unity Party has provided enough reasons for Liberians to rethink their decision, noting that the governing signs and symptoms don't look good and that Liberia is on the right path.

Speaking on a radio talk show recently, Cllr. Ja'neh said that the fabric of the society is experiencing a drastic decline here, especially, respect for the rule of law and justice.

"When I look at the way the country is being run, I have every reason to get up when I believe that I, too, was part of the making of this. Now, I think the Liberian people have good reason to rethink their decision", Ja'neh expresses.

Responding to questions about his support for President Boakai, the former Justice bluntly says he is completely disappointed in the country's administration, mostly with how the the state.

On whether he would support President Boakai in 2029, Cllr. Ja'neh says that

for his support.

"If I give my support and blessings to President Boakai, we should wait for some years, but now, President Boakai will not want my support. It's simple. I only give support to those who ask. If he asked me, President Boakai would not ask for my support."

Commenting on his influence on the Muslim community in Liberia for political direction, he says the Muslim community will make such a decision. Still, if they ask for his advice, he will give them can't say it, but if they ask now, he needs not to speak but act.

"The pattern that we have seen from January 2024 to now doesn't show us that we are on the right path. It shows that we are not on the right path as far as I'm following and the law is concerned in Liberia. And you know that the only thing that can protect us is the law. I don't have to like you, and you don't have to like me, but with the law, we are President and his cabinet all okay. If it's something are steering the affairs of that we have no regard for, that is a ground for all of us to be worried", Ja'nah stresses.

According to him, the signs

### Minority bloc makes U-turn

Supporters of embattled Speaker J. Finati Koffa have abandoned him here, returning to the majority bloc lawmakers presided over newlyelected Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon.

By Bridgett Milton

onrovia, Liberia, January 8, 2025 - A group of minority lawmakers in support of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa under the banner Rule of Law Legislative Caucus U-turns here to sit under the leadership of Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon and do the work of the Liberian people.

Speaking in a news conference Tuesday, January 7, the head of that group, Representative Musa Bility of Nimba County, said they have waited for the Supreme Court to clarify its last ruling but to no avail. Thus, they must take a different approach to resolve their differences through Legislative interactions.

According to Rep. Bility, they intend to use Legislative legitimately elected in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules of the House.

He adds that they also intend to address the suspension and withholding of their colleagues' salaries in total contravention of the rules, including dissolution and reconstitution of all committees.

He cites the refusal to release benefits due to members of the Rule of Law Caucus, which the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has fully remitted into the account of the House of Representatives. He emphasizes that they

remain committed to the rule of law, which includes taking further appropriate legal actions while pursuing legislative resolutions on the



engagement to express their floor of the House of objection to the election of Representatives. Editing by another Speaker when there is already a Speaker who was

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#### **Kailando urges civil society to speakout** Starts from back page He also encourages civil society organizations to remain outspoken in advocating for societal improvement and peace. Rev. Kailondo expresses his vision for Liberia as a model democracy in Africa, saying, "From 1847 until now, Liberia should be the light that other African countries look to as proof that democracy

Earlier, the Consortium of Civil Society Organizations' Secretariat head, Peal John D. Nyekan Pangbe, lauded Rev. Kailondo's contributions to peace, democracy, and economic growth. Amb. Pangbe says the successful Liberian businessman's unwavering dedication to humanity and non-violence has set a remarkable example for others. "Your leadership and innovative initiatives have significantly contributed to creating a harmonious and thriving community in Liberia." Editing by Jonathan Browne



VOL. 14 NO. 232 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2025

PRICE LD\$50.00

## Kailando urges eivil soeiety to speakout

#### -Calls for reduction of corruption

Liberian businessman George Kailondo decries systemic corruption in government, calling on Civil Society to speak out.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

onrovia, Liberia, January 8, 2025 - The CEO and founder of Kailondo Group of actively report corruption.

He says Liberia will only develop if public corruption is minimized, adding, "We all



Companies, Cllr. George B. Kailondo, Sr., says Liberia's development hinges on curtailing corruption, particularly in the public sector.

Speaking on Monday, January 6, 2025, after receiving the 2024 Ambassador of Nonviolence Award, Kailondo called on all Liberians to

eliminate it; this is the only way Liberia will move forward."

He reiterates his commitment to Liberia's growth, revealing eight ongoing projects, including plans to build a modern store in Buchanan, Grand Bassa, and a modern structure in Congo Town.

"Nobody can develop Liberia

better than Liberians. We must take responsibility for our nation's progress."

Acknowledging the Consortium of Civil Society Organizations for recognizing his contributions, Kailondo, also a theologian, reflects on 2024, describing it as a challenging year that was marred by protests and threats.

He urges Liberians to give President Boakai time to address the nation's economic difficulties while expressing hope for a better 2025.

He calls on government officials to improve lives of the people, stating: "Those in authority must do better for the Liberian people to reduce hardship and make life enjoyable."

Rev. Kailondo, proprietor of hotels, petroleum business, law firm, among other entities, condemns greed and inequality, urging wealthier individuals to assist those in need.

"Some of you are so mean. If you eat, let someone else eat. It's good to share. He notes that one man cannot own everything, while others go hungry".

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Cllr. George Kailando

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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
UN Drive, P. O. Box 1266

Opposite the National Investment Commission Monrovia - Liberia.

Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529 0886978282 / 0775407211

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