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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 09, 2025	L\$180.9950/US\$1.00	L\$182.9071/US\$1.00

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

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Capitol fire confirmed as arson
-As Police contact suspects

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Death at St. Joseph Catholic Hospital
Family claims overdose of patient

P11

Isalah Benedicta Williams

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Continental News

US accuses RSF of Sudan genocide and sanctions its leader

The US has accused the Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of committing genocide and imposed sanctions on its leader. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday said Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, was being punished for his role in "systematic" atrocities against the Sudanese people during the 20-month conflict. He said the RSF and allied militias

now concluded that members of the RSF and allied militias have committed genocide in Sudan," he said. In response, the RSF accused the US of double standards and failing to effectively address the ongoing crisis. "The decision... expresses the failure of the [US President Joe] Biden administration to deal with the Sudanese crisis and the double standards it followed [with regards to the crisis]," Hemedti's adviser, El-

about its conduct during the war. The US had previously determined that the RSF and other militias had engaged in war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing in the western Darfur region, where the group has been accused of targeting and killing non-Arabs. Both sides have been accused of atrocities, with the conflict leading to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. In May, US special envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello said that some estimates suggested up to 150,000 people had been killed in the conflict. Famine has been declared in several parts of the country, with 24.6 million people - about half the population - in urgent need of food aid, according to experts. Blinken said neither the RSF nor Sudan's military were fit to govern Sudan.

"Both belligerents bear responsibility for the violence and suffering in Sudan and lack the legitimacy to govern a future peaceful Sudan," he said. The sanctions bar Hemedti and his immediate family members from visiting the US, and any personal assets there are blocked.

Seven RSF-owned companies based in the United Arab Emirates and one other individual are also being sanctioned for helping the paramilitary group procure weapons. The UAE has denied numerous accusations that it is funding and arming the RSF. -BBC



Allies of RSF leader Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo accused the US of double standards

were responsible for the murder of "men and boys - even infants", as well as brutal sexual violence against women on ethnic grounds. The militias have also targeted fleeing civilians and murdered innocent people escaping the conflict, Blinken said. "Based on this information, I have

Basha Tbaeq, said in a post on his X account. He added that this may complicate the Sudanese crisis and hinder negotiations to address the root causes of the conflict. The RSF has been fighting the Sudanese military since April 2023, and there has been a growing outcry

UN: More than 5,600 people killed by gang violence in Haiti in 2024

The wife of a journalist, who was shot during an armed gang attack on the General Hospital, cries as an ambulance arrives with his body, at a different hospital in Port-au-Pri -

More than 5,600 people were reported killed in Haiti last year as a U.N.-backed mission led by Kenya struggles to contain rampant gang violence, officials said Tuesday. The number of killings increased by more than 20% compared with all of 2023, according to the U.N. Human Rights Office. In addition, more than 2,200 people were reported injured and nearly 1,500 kidnapped, it said. The Human Rights office, he said, "documented 315 lynchings of gang members and people allegedly associated with gangs," and they also report "281 cases of alleged summary executions involving specialized police units." Volker Türk, U.N. high commissioner for human

rights, said in a statement "these figures show the unrelenting violence to which Haitians are being subjected, adding that impunity for human rights violations and abuses, as well as corruption, remain prevalent in Haiti." Among those killed last year are 315 suspected gang members or people associated

with them who were lynched and more than 280 people killed by police in alleged summary executions, the U.N. said. Coordinated gang attacks on prisons, police stations, and the primary international airport have escalated in Haiti since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. Gangs are estimated to control approximately 85% of the capital.



6 soldiers and 34 extremist rebels die in a clash in northeastern Nigeria, military says

The rebels, riding on motorcycles and gun trucks, launched a surprise attack on the troops, who resisted and engaged them in a gun battle, Nigerian military spokesperson Edward Buba said in a statement. Borno has been the center of extremist violence in Nigeria since the Boko Haram extremist group launched an insurgency in 2009 to enforce their interpretation of Shariah law. The insurgency, which has spilled over to Nigeria's three neighbours in the Lake Chad region, has killed more than 35,000 people and displaced 2.6 million others.

against the recent killing of their commander and combatants by troops," Buba said. The attack was seen as a setback for the Nigerian military, which often claims the rebels have been "degraded." Despite such claims, deadly ambushes and suicide bombings have continued in the last year. Ending the war has been challenging because of a lack of political will and the ability of the extremists to operate freely across the borders with Nigeira's northern neighbours, said Senator Iroegbu, an Abuja-based security analyst. He said the military has also struggled to obtain "accurate and timely intelligence on Boko Haram's



The latest attack occurred Sunday in Sabon Gari village in the Damboa council area, a hot spot that has been mostly deserted by residents. "The terrorists had attempted to surprise troops and retaliate

movements and plans." Boko Haram gained international attention in April 2014 when it abducted 276 schoolgirls from Chibok village in Borno. Dozens of the girls remain missing. -Africanews

Christmas arrives in Ethiopia

Ethiopia, one of the earliest nations to embrace Christianity, continues to honour its rich religious heritage. This year, thousands of Ethiopian pilgrims and international tourists gathered in the historic town of Lalibela to celebrate Orthodox Christmas at one of the world's oldest and most unique churches. Lalibela's churches, built in the 12th century during the reign of King Lalibela, are UNESCO World Heritage Sites and remain a pilgrimage destination for millions of Christians each year. The churches, carved directly into solid rock, stand as a reminder of Ethiopia's ancient connection to Christianity and its unique religious practices. The Orthodox Christmas, known as "Lidet" in Ethiopia, takes place on January 7th. The three-day festival, filled with religious ceremonies and family gatherings, draws believers from across the country and around

the world. This year, thousands of worshippers attended a church service in Lalibela to mark the birth of Jesus, showcasing Ethiopia's enduring commitment to its Christian faith. Samuel Choi, a tourist from Hong Kong, was among the visitors who marvelled at the cultural richness of the celebration. "You have such a wonderful, rich heritage. It's very unique in the world," Choi said. "There are no other places you can find that I am quite free, when I came and saw all these people all come in for one reason, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. And so I'm actually very thrilled and very happy to be able to be in Ethiopia." -Africanews



EDITORIAL

Looking forward to a smooth sailing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Happy New Year to our Readers

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COMMENTARY

by George Papaconstantinou,
Jean Pisani-Ferry

Global Cooperation in the Age of Trump

PARIS – With Donald Trump's presidential inauguration approaching, the mood in Brussels and across European capitals ranges from panic to resignation, with many hoping that a transactional *modus vivendi* might be found. But ad hoc dealmaking will not answer the big question hanging in the air: What will another Trump presidency mean for global cooperation? What hope is there for collective efforts to safeguard global public goods such as the climate and public health, and to preserve prosperity by upholding economic interdependence?

Trump's election is undoubtedly bad news for those who believe that we all have a duty to the global commons, and that interdependence must be managed with clear, stable, and consistent rules. Trump is a die-hard nationalist who fundamentally regards global governance as an obstacle to American primacy. Rather than adhering to principles and rules, his approach is wholly transactional. He has already threatened Canada and Mexico with trade tariffs unless they stop fentanyl and migrants from entering the United States, as well as warned the nine BRICS countries that any attempt to create a rival to the dollar will be met with harsh retaliation and told Europe to buy more oil and gas from the US or face tariffs.

Worse, there is good reason to think that Trump is not a temporary aberration, as US President Joe Biden said in 2020, but rather an aberrant expression of a fundamental shift in US attitudes toward global leadership. With America tiring of its longstanding role at the helm of the international community, the world has come to a crossroads. Recall economic historian Charles Kindleberger's analysis of the Great Depression: the crisis reflected not only Britain's relative loss of power but also America's unwillingness to assume the mantle of global leadership.

Since World War II, however, the US has fully embraced that role – one that combines exorbitant privileges with outsize duties. America reaps enormous benefits from the US dollar's global supremacy – which provides international seigniorage revenues, among other things – while bearing responsibility for global monetary and financial stability. This implies providing dollar liquidity to partner central banks in times of monetary stress (as in 2008-10) and keeping the US goods market open when global demand is low.

But the US no longer accepts this implicit contract, and today's world is too fragmented and diverse for any single country to dominate. Though America remains the sole financial superpower (with a near \$60 trillion stock-market capitalization, against China's \$9.5 trillion, and an even larger lead in innovative market segments), it no longer wants the obligations that come with leadership. Europe's declining demographic and economic weight have effectively eliminated it from the running. And China is too inward-looking to become the next hegemon. It may be the world's manufacturing superpower (accounting for 35% of global production), but it is a long way from assuming global responsibilities.

Fortunately, not all problems require leadership from a single dominant country. In the third decade of the twenty-first century, the world must move to new arrangements whereby global responsibilities are more

widely distributed. In *New World New Rules: Global Cooperation in a World of Geopolitical Rivalries*, we analyze governance arrangements across a variety of policy domains – from the global commons to traditional economic interdependence and what we call “behind-the-border integration” issues. In each case, the goal is to salvage collective action in a world defined by fragmentation and divergent preferences.

On climate, the most emblematic – even existential – global commons, the US is likely to repeat its withdrawal from the 2015 Paris agreement (which the Biden administration rejoined). But the US is a secondary player here, accounting for only 13% of global emissions, and many US state-level emissions-reduction efforts will continue. Moreover, the European Union and China could jointly provide the necessary leadership to rally big emerging economies, mobilize private financing toward net-zero targets, and galvanize civil society.

On international trade, the main channel of economic interdependence, Trump's tariffs could be the final nail in the coffin of the multilateral rules-based regime. He will attempt to divide European countries by differentiating tariffs to punish or blackmail individual governments. Still, Europe can resist by maintaining a united front (along with the United Kingdom). That would allow it to offer Trump a deal that includes energy and defense purchases, retaliate effectively, or form coalitions with third countries (hence the importance of the EU's recent trade agreement with Latin America's Mercosur countries).

In any case, it has become apparent that prevailing multilateral trade rules are too demanding for a fragmented world. The EU should liaise with key partners to distinguish behavior that is truly unacceptable from behavior that is merely undesirable.

On macro finance, the other main channel of international economic interdependence, the trend toward deglobalization began some time ago. While the institutions at the core of the system (the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank) remain robust, Trump could use America's veto power to change their policies on a range of issues, not least climate mitigation and adaptation – which accounted for a whopping 44% of World Bank loans last year.

To preserve the international financial safety net, Europe should focus on the complementarities between regional institutions. But to foster constructive cooperation, it will need to accept that its role in the main global organizations should be diluted to accommodate the rise of China and various middle powers.

Beyond these core policy areas are behind-the-border integration matters such as competition, banking, and tax governance, where widespread acceptance of extraterritoriality and informal networks can produce desirable results even in the absence of hard rules. Tax cooperation seems unlikely to survive another Trump administration, at least as far as multinationals are concerned; but some technical discussions and processes could still continue below the radar. A more incremental, granular approach may be the best way to preserve the progress that has been made to date.

On all these issues and more, policymakers will have to adapt to a world in which no single power is in charge. That requires defining, for each field, which forms of global governance are best suited to an irreversibly more diverse and more fragmented terrain.

OP-ED

by Chelsea Hodgkins

The False Promise of “Responsible Mining”

WASHINGTON, DC – In July, the Serbian government reinstated the permits for Rio Tinto's lithium mining project, after canceling them in 2022 following public protests. The decision triggered demonstrations, with thousands of people taking to the streets of Belgrade over concerns that the mine would pose a threat to water sources and public health. After all, Rio Tinto had already demonstrated its willingness to circumvent the country's environmental regulations.

Rio Tinto has a long history of alleged human-rights violations and water mismanagement and contamination at its mines around the world. But it is not just Rio Tinto: corruption and negligence are endemic in the mining industry. A US judge ordered Glencore to pay \$700 million in fines for its decade-long scheme to bribe officials in several countries. Mining giant BHP and its Brazilian partner Vale are tied up in legal battles over the collapse of the Fundão tailings dam – Brazil's worst environmental disaster.

As the European Union plans to increase domestic mining of materials that are essential to the green transition, as well as to numerous defense technologies and digital products, policymakers and populations are seeking reassurance that such efforts will be sustainable. To that end, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) – an association that Rio Tinto helped establish and includes Glencore, Vale, and BHP – and other major industry players are working to create a global standard, called the Consolidated Mining Standard Initiative (CMSI), to certify minerals as responsibly produced. Given their track record, can these mining giants be trusted to set their own rules and hold themselves accountable?

Voluntary standards and certifications are hardly new. They exist across a range of industries, from agriculture to construction, and many such initiatives already exist in the mining sector. In fact, the four associations leading the CMSI – the ICMM, the Mining Association of Canada, the World Gold Council, and the Copper Mark – each have their own assurance framework.

But evaluations of these voluntary schemes, conducted by Germanwatch, Mercedes-Benz, and others, have shown that most lack transparency, rigor, and oversight, and cannot ensure that their requirements are implemented. In short, they constitute a sophisticated form of greenwashing. In February, Lead the Charge published an assessment of third-party assurance and accreditation programs in the raw-materials sector, evaluating each one against a series of minimum criteria for credibility. Tellingly, the ICMM's Performance Expectations Validation process met only 16% of the criteria.

These failing grades have real-world implications for indigenous peoples, workers, and local communities. According to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, ICMM member companies, whether through direct ownership or joint ventures, account for more than half of the 20 firms responsible for the majority of alleged human-rights violations in critical minerals mining.

Policymakers and financial institutions are channeling billions of dollars into mining projects around the world based on voluntary certifications like the proposed CMSI. For example, the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act uses these assurances as a proxy for determining whether companies are responsibly sourcing raw materials. And 78% of automakers evaluated in Lead the Charge's assessment reported using them to inform sourcing decisions – especially as the uptake of electric vehicles increases.

In fact, a recent analysis of the proposed CMSI, conducted by indigenous groups, civil-society organizations, and policy experts, highlights several gaps in the framework that would harm communities and, crucially, pose risks for automakers. The standard is divided into three practice levels: foundational, good, and leading. But the requirements for the foundational level – which, it should be noted, companies are permitted to fall below during the assurance process – do not align with international laws, legal norms, or widely accepted standards, such as the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards. Mining firms will therefore not be forced to address serious human-rights abuses, which could lead to penalties for automakers down the line.

Moreover, the draft standard does not protect the right of indigenous peoples – who are disproportionately harmed by mining – to free, prior, and informed consent, which is derived from their right to govern their territories and resources and to self-determination. Protecting this right must be a minimum requirement for the foundational practice level. But the very notion that respect for fundamental rights can be broken down and parceled into varying levels of performance reflects the CMSI's flawed design. This approach would cause even more harm to indigenous communities, given that more than half of critical minerals are on or near their lands.

Despite the efforts of the ICMM and its partners, including CMSI advisory group members like BMW and Tesla, to market the standard as a tool for responsible mining, it is nothing more than an attempt by the industry to present a clean, green face to the public. If successful, the CMSI will consolidate the power and influence of mining giants like Rio Tinto, Glencore, and BHP, and allow them to act with impunity while providing false assurances to all major stakeholders.

Instead of delivering a just energy transition, the CMSI would allow extractive industries to prioritize profit over clean air and water, human rights, and a livable planet, and expose automakers, governments, and investors to reputational risk. Given the increasing demand for minerals to fuel the energy transition, setting high expectations and establishing strong, enforceable rules for the mining sector is more important than ever.

OPINION

by Jorge G. Castañeda

A New Deal for Developing Countries

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

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

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

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

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

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

The overlap between the IDA replenishment and the NCQG is clear: both aim to secure the resources needed to advance sustainable development. The IDA's \$100 billion replenishment must be leveraged for maximum impact, particularly in addressing vulnerable countries' need to invest in climate resilience.

The world cannot achieve its mid-century net-zero emissions target without Africa's full participation. With sufficient investment in our renewable energy resources, Africans can lead the global decarbonization agenda while providing electricity to the 600 million people on the continent who currently lack access.

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

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

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

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

Happy New Year to all our Readers

FEATUREARTICLE

A Call to Action: The Role of University of Liberia Students in National Healing and Economic Revitalization

By: Austin S Fallah-A Fellow Academician in Your Struggle for a Better Nation:

In a nation striving to reclaim its identity and progress toward a sustainable future, the students of the University of Liberia stand at a critical crossroads.

As a country's intellectual vanguard still grapples with the scars of conflict and turmoil, it is incumbent upon these students to lead the charge in fostering national healing and economic health for themselves and the broader community of ordinary Liberians.

Now more than ever, we must reject the temptations of nihilism and dissent that can only serve to drag us backward.

Instead, students must rally around constructive engagement with the government and the newly appointed University President to catalyze the dynamic changes necessary for the University's growth.

The Power of Unity and Collective Purpose; The phrase "strength in numbers" rings profoundly true within the halls of TH-50 of the University of Liberia.

In a time when division threatens to undermine the progress of our society, students must recognize the power of unity, collaboration, and the collective will to effect change.

Rather than resorting to divisive actions that will fracture the fabric of our society, students must channel their energies into developing a coherent strategy emphasizing collaboration and constructive dialogue.

The stakes are far too high for students to engage in counterproductive actions, such as disrupting the State of Nation Address (SONA).

Such disruptions may be borne of frustration, but they ultimately send the wrong message that risks branding students as hooligans rather than valiant champions of their cause.

Students must remember that, as representatives of their generation, their actions reflect not only on themselves but on the future of the nation at large.

By welcoming the new University President with open arms and readiness to collaborate, students can help foster an environment conducive to open communication that prioritizes national healing and educational advancement.

The Economic Isoquant Shift:

At the core of economic stability are the isoquant lines representing the various combinations of inputs that produce a given output level, as we learned from the economic development of our alma mater, the University of Liberia.

The metaphorical "isoquant Lines" encompassing Liberia's current financial landscape demands a strategic shift, and students must understand that

their engagement with government and society can alter the trajectory of their nation's economic reality.

The current conditions facing everyday Liberians include high unemployment rates, poverty, and underdevelopment, demanding pragmatic solutions that are borne out of educational institutions.

Students equipped with knowledge and analytical skills must actively participate in reshaping the policies that dictate their living conditions instead of retreating into protest and negative actions.

Engaging with the government isn't merely a favor but an obligation of the academic community, which possesses the intellectual tools to drive Liberia forward.

An Urgency for Dialogue:

As Liberia stands at a precipice, the university community must embrace the urgent need for dialogue with governance.

should be seen as a fresh start and a chance to unify goals and aspirations that transcend past grievances and communal divisions.

By aligning students' interests with national objectives, a cohesive movement for progress can emerge, demonstrating that the University of Liberia can embody hope for the nation.

Liberians United for Progress:

Unity is essential, and Liberia is a time of critical transition where each citizen's involvement is needed.

The call for every student and every Liberian to unite for the good of the country can not be stressed enough.

Division or disruption can open old wounds and halt progression.

However, collaboration can lay the foundation for national healing, creating an inclusive environment where every voice is valued and every community

comes together in the spirit of rejuvenation.

Graduates and former students from the University of Liberia have the unique power to shape the narrative of a brighter future.

The responsibility rests not solely on the government's shoulders but also on the conscientious students who can step up and embody the change they wish to see.

Every student has a stake in Liberia's future, a country where hope should no longer be merely an aspiration but a palpable reality.



Constructive engagement that prioritizes listening, understanding, and collaboration is fundamental to building the platforms necessary for future socio-economic growth.

Liberia has faced much adversity over the years, and students should channel their frustrations into meaningful dialogues that aim to educate policymakers concerning the realities of young people and ordinary citizens.

Students must approach government officials not as adversaries but as partners in crafting a better future for all Liberians.

The potential for impactful change is contingent upon the willingness of students to articulate their goals and aspirations clearly and persuasively, relying on the critical dialogues fostered within academic settings.

Overcoming Historical Divisiveness:

Liberia's tumultuous history, marred by civil strife, misunderstanding, and division, has led to a stagnation of trust in institutions and processes.

The clamor for change is palpable, and amidst it all, students have the unique opportunity to be the harbingers of a new order.

By acknowledging the vices that have historically divided the nation, students can work towards dissolving these barriers through understanding, education, and collective action.

Engaging with the new University of Liberia President

It is time to counter the philosophical and economic stagnation that has left the nation feeling like it is 1,000 years behind.

Students hold the keys to their empowerment, and their refusal to ignore the present circumstances could dictate the pace and direction of national development.

The Voices of Progress:

The need for economic rejuvenation and national healing is paramount.

As torchbearers of knowledge and change, the students of the University of Liberia must rise to the occasion.

Rather than retreating to the sidelines in anger and frustration, it is time to engage constructively, leveraging the political landscape to realize collective goals.

Liberia needs its students to be its voices of progress, proclaiming that the road to national healing is paved with collaboration, empathy, and understanding.

In welcoming and partnering with leadership, students will advocate for their future and work to uplift every ordinary Liberian's aspirations.

The time is now for the students of the University of Liberia to show their resilience and commitment, lighting the way for a better tomorrow for the nation.

Their student bodies (SUP, SIM, etc) should stand as beacons of hope, capable of transforming despair into a new reality grounded in progress and unity.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gov't asked to hold Capitol fire suspects accountable

Rev. Capehart has condemned the recent fire outbreak at the Capitol, terming it as barbaric and unpatriotic.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, January 9, 2025: The Liberian Government has been asked to hold accountable those responsible for burning portions of the Capitol Building. Defeated Montserrado County Electoral District #17 Representative Candidate Rev. Adolphus Capehart has called for

was a regular meeting point of a majority of members of the House of Representatives who dethroned House Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa. The majority bloc subsequently elected Montserrado Representative Richard Nagbe Koon as the new Speaker. The Capitol gutted fire just a day after a violent protest there. Through a social media post,

recognized at the international level. "Rebuilding of our nation begins with those who gave their all to put Liberia on the map. Citizens must respect and cherish their efforts; respect for our elders and rule of law, putting country first." Rev. Capehart wants Liberians to protect and cherish what the country has gained since its independence. Meanwhile, Rev. Capehart has attributed the underdevelopment



a full-scale investigation into the incident. He has suggested that drastic actions should be taken against individuals responsible for burning portions of the Capital Building. On December 18, 2024, a devastating fire gutted the joint chambers of the Liberian Legislature leaving citizens in complete shock. The fire destroyed the William R. Tolbert Joint Chamber, which

Rev. Capehart condemned the recent fire outbreak at the Capitol, terming it as barbaric and unpatriotic. Rev. Capehart said recent action by unknown individuals to set the Capitol ablaze signifies disrespect to the efforts of those who struggled to put Liberia on the map. For Liberia to progress and achieve major development, he suggested that citizens must respect those who sacrifice their lives to ensure the country is

of the country to poor decisions by the electorate in electing their leaders. He claimed that politicians use the vulnerability of citizens by trucking them to their respective destinations during elections to get elected. "A nation built on dishonesty, legislators elected by trucking, playing on the vulnerability of our impoverished citizens, will only continue to sink us deeper," he warned.

EPA, NPHIL partner to reduce lead exposure in Liberia

Two Liberian public health institutions – the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia have signed Lead Paint Regulations to reduce exposure by limiting lead content in residential and decorative paints.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, January 9, 2025 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in collaboration with the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) has officially signed the

Lead Paint Regulations for Liberia. This new regulation aims to significantly reducing lead exposure by limiting lead content in residential and decorative paints to 90 parts per million (ppm), in accordance with ECOWAS standards. Over the next three years, the goal is to eliminate the

production, sale, and importation of lead-based paints to Liberia. The initiative followed a study by a UK team revealed high levels of lead in locally-produced paints, prompting the EPA to take swift action. Mr. Rafael Ngumbu, Manager of Environmental Research and Radiations Safety at the EPA, explains that consultations started in 2019, leading to the development of the regulation and formation of a technical working group. It is in compliance with Liberia's Environmental Management Law, which mandates collaboration between various agencies to tackle environmental hazards. Speaking during the signing ceremony, Dr. Emmanuel King Urey Yarkpawolo, EPA's Executive Director, emphasized the harmful effects of lead exposure, particularly on children and pregnant women. "Lead poisoning causes irreversible damage to the brain and nervous system, decreases IQ, and increases the risk of behavioral problems," Dr. Yarkpawolo notes. He extolls the government, NPHIL, and international partners, including



MFDP kicks off budget execution workshop today

The three-day workshop will help ensure that public funds are used effectively to meet the needs of citizens and support the government's broader development goals.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, January 9, 2025: The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) is set to host a comprehensive workshop for the effective execution of the Fiscal Year 2025 National Budget with key spending entities. The workshop aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the 2025 budget execution and public service delivery.

The workshop, according to the MFDP, takes place at the famous Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Oldest Congo from January 9-11, 2025. The three-day intensive workshop, according to MFD, P, is designed to refresh and deepen the understanding of policymakers and technical staff from spending entities on key fiscal rules, budget execution procedures, monitoring, and reporting. "This initiative is critical to enhancing the capacity of spending entities to execute their budgets efficiently and responsibly," the Ministry said. By equipping participants with the necessary knowledge and tools,

the workshop will help ensure that public funds are used effectively to meet the needs of citizens while supporting the government's broader development goals. The objectives of the workshop are to ensure the FY2025 budget is executed in alignment with the approved National Budget. It's also intended to deepen the understanding of fiscal rules, policies, processes, and procedures associated with budget execution, monitoring, and reporting. It seeks to strengthen the capacity of spending entities to deliver timely and responsible financial and performance reports. Further, it will foster better inter- and intra-ministerial coordination to promote the efficient, accountable, and responsible use of public funds. The workshop will bring together a total of 596 participants, including officials from 108 spending entities. The first two days of the workshop will focus on all participants, while the final day will specifically target spending entities responsible for implementing projects.



the Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP) for their support in drafting and implementing the regulation. The EPA boss observes that lead in paint is a significant source of exposure, especially as paints decay and release toxic dust and flakes into the environment. He assures the public of the EPA's commitment to strict implementation, including testing paint samples, creating awareness, and supporting manufacturers in transitioning to lead-free production. For his part, the Director General of National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), Dr. Dougbeh Chris Nyan, describes the signing as a "historical milestone" and stresses the importance of rigorous enforcement of the regulation. "This is not just another signing ceremony. It's about ensuring that our enforcement teams go out and monitor compliance, especially among manufacturers producing lead-based paints," Dr. Nyan states.

Dr. Nyan also highlights the collaboration between EPA and NPHIL as a model for inter-agency cooperation, ensuring that public health and environmental protection are addressed holistically. "As President Boakai has said, this will not be business as usual. Implementation and enforcement will be key," he adds. The EPA, in partnership with LEEP, plans to expand studies on lead content in paints, raise public awareness, provide technical advice to manufacturers for reformulating paints, and monitor compliance. Both the EPA and NPHIL have pledge to work closely together to enforce the regulation, monitor compliance, and support manufacturers in transitioning to lead-free paint production. This effort, backed by international partners like the Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP), is a vital step in creating a safer, healthier Liberia by eliminating a major source of environmental lead exposure.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA boosts Customs Officers' skills

Buchanan, Liberia, January 9, 2025 – A team from the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) headquarters, comprising Customs, Communications, and Taxpayer Education units, has conducted a one-day knowledge-sharing engagement with customs officers assigned to the Port of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The initiative aimed to enhance officers' skills and performance in executing their revenue collection duties effectively. Organized under the auspices of the Customs Modernization Unit, the engagement

Additionally, Bazzie Akoi, Supervisor of the ASYCUDA Functional Team, facilitated practical sessions on the processing and collection of customs revenue using the LRA's upgraded digital platforms. Mr. William Gegeh, Manager for Customs Modernization, highlighted the significance of these engagements in equipping customs officers with the tools and knowledge to excel. “Unofficially, the Customs Department exceeded its revenue target in 2024, and this ongoing engagement is part of our efforts to sustain and build on that success,” Mr. Gegeh



Wednesday, 8 January 2025 centered on emerging customs issues and ongoing automation processes, with updates on the ASYCUDA World system. According to a press release, the exercise aligns with LRA's strategic move to modernize operations, bolstered by the deployment of Starlink internet devices across Customs and Tax Business Offices nationwide. Participants benefited from specialized sessions led by Communication Manager D. Kaihenneh Sengbeh and Taxpayer Services Division Senior Officer Martina Brooks. These sessions focused on effective taxpayer engagement, particularly with importers and cross-border traders, equipping customs officers with essential communication and customer service skills to enhance domestic resource mobilization.

stated. “We are committed to achieving similar feats as we work towards meeting the 2025 target.” He assured participants that similar engagements would be conducted at other Customs Business Offices nationwide to further enhance the department's collective capacity. Mr. Gegeh also encouraged customs staff to remain diligent and committed in supporting Commissioner General James Dorbor Jallah and the LRA senior management in achieving the ambitious billion-dollar revenue collection milestone in the coming years. The LRA continues to prioritize workforce empowerment and operational modernization as part of its broader mandate to drive domestic resource mobilization and national development. **Press Release**

Gov't to allocate US\$79,000 for new buses at Straz-Sinje Technical College

The buses are expected to significantly ease the challenges faced by the students and faculty in commuting to and from the UL Sinje campus.

By Kruah Thompson
Monrovia, January 9, 2025: The Liberian government is providing two new 17-seater buses worth US\$79,000 to the David A. Straz-Sinje Technical and Vocational College at the University of Liberia (UL) to improve transportation for students and staff. These buses are expected to significantly ease the challenges faced by the students and faculty in commuting to and from the college, which is located in a rural area with limited transportation options. On Friday, October 4, 2024, the Acting President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh, accompanied by the University's Interim Management Team visited the campus to assess the condition of its facilities and structure. The visit aimed to identify and address critical issues of the institution in preparation for the resumption of classes following an extended closure. During the tour, Dr. Conteh observed significant structural and logistical challenges, including leaking buildings, equipment shortages, limited faculty space, and poor road conditions leading to the campus. At the end of the tour, he pledged to address these issues, with a focus on resolving the transportation challenges that he believes could delay the resumption of classes. Shortly after, he announced a bid to procure two buses to facilitate commuting for students and staff. Speaking at a press briefing in Monrovia on Tuesday, January 6, 2025, Dr. Conteh confirmed that the procurement process had been completed and that the two new buses valued at US\$79,000 would soon be presented to the campus, signaling a step forward in creating a conducive learning environment. “We have been working closely

with students to address their concerns,” Dr. Conteh said. “The resumption of classes and planned renovations on the campuses will help alleviate their fears and provide a more amicable learning environment.” For this reason, he explained, the University has completed the procurement process for the two buses and will soon be presenting it to the campus. Dr. Conteh underscored the University of Liberia's dedication to enhancing student life across all its campuses. He emphasized that 25% of his time on campus was directed toward fostering student engagement. As part of these efforts, the university organized a retreat for leaders of all student political parties. This event provided a platform for dialogue and collaboration, culminating in the signing of the “Fendall Declaration.” Through this declaration, the student leaders committed to promoting peace and fostering a spirit of cooperation within the university community. “We worked with students to address their concerns and hope that the resumption of classes and planned work on the comprehensive renovation of the campuses will address their fears of providing an amicable learning environment,” he stated. “We have also been engaged in improving student activities for a new path for student life on all campuses. We have spent 25 percent of my time engaging students.” “And we had a retreat for all student leaders organized by our Office for Student Affairs during which all parties signed the Fendall Declaration.” When questioned about the enforcement of the declaration, Dr. Conteh stated that any violations would be dealt with according to the student handbook.

TENDER NOTICE (30 days)



The **WILD CHIMPANZEE FOUNDATION (WCF)**, invites **sealed bids** from eligible bidders in Liberia and business owners that are in compliance with the Liberian laws for the below listed items (**vehicles**), to be submitted by Friday, 7th, of February 2025, 4pm:

LANDCRUISER Hardtop (LC 76 4.2L STANDARD 5-MT 4X4	4 Units	WCF/EU (04)/LC Hardtop Series /1/25

Details and Terms & Conditions are available in the tender documents that can be obtained from our office: **Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Opposite German Embassy, Congo Town, Monrovia, liberia@wildchimps.org**. WCF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Français

Ja'neh critique la gouvernance de Boakai et appelle les Libériens à reconsidérer leur choix

L'ancien juge associé de la Cour suprême et fervent partisan du président Joseph Boakai, Me Kabinah M. Ja'neh, a lancé une critique cinglante contre la gestion de l'administration actuelle. Lors d'une récente intervention à la radio, il a



appelé les Libériens à reconsidérer leur soutien à l'administration Boakai, dénonçant une gouvernance marquée par un déclin inquiétant des valeurs

fondamentales et un mépris croissant pour l'État de droit. « Lorsque je regarde la manière don't le pays est dirigé, je ne peux m'empêcher de penser que j'ai contribué à façonner cette situation. Aujourd'hui, je crois sincèrement que les Libériens ont des raisons valables de reconsidérer leur

décision », a déclaré Me Ja'neh. Déception face à l'administration actuelle Répondant aux questions sur son soutien passé à Joseph Boakai, Me Ja'neh n'a pas caché sa profonde

déception envers le président et son cabinet. Lorsqu'on lui a demandé s'il pourrait soutenir une éventuelle candidature de Boakai en 2029, il a été catégorique : « Je ne soutiens que ceux qui sollicitent mon appui. Si le président Boakai voulait mon soutien, il ne me le demanderait même pas. C'est aussi simple que cela. » Sur son rôle dans les orientations politiques de la communauté musulmane, il a indiqué que celle-ci prendra ses propres décisions. Cependant, il s'est dit prêt à fournir des conseils si la communauté venait à solliciter son avis. Un déclin inquiétant de l'État de droit Me Ja'neh a également exprimé ses préoccupations quant à la détérioration des institutions juridiques et constitutionnelles. « Depuis janvier 2024, les signaux sont clairs : le Liberia est sur une mauvaise trajectoire. La seule garantie de justice et de stabilité pour un pays, c'est le respect de la loi. Peu importe que je vous apprécie ou non, la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Les députés du camp minoritaire m la direction de Richard Nagbe Koon

Les députés minoritaires, auparavant fidèles à l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa, ont annoncé leur décision de rejoindre le bloc majoritaire sous la direction de Richard Nagbe Koon, récemment élu président de la Chambre. Ce changement marque une étape importante dans la résolution des tensions politiques au sein de l'Assemblée nationale. Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le mardi 7 janvier, le représentant Musa Bility, leader de ce groupe et député du comté de Nimba, a déclaré que cette décision vise à promouvoir les intérêts du peuple libérien. Selon lui, leur caucus, connu sous le nom de Caucus législatif pour l'État de droit, avait attendu en vain une clarification de la Cour suprême concernant une décision récente. Face à ce silence, ils ont choisi d'adopter une approche axée sur le dialogue et l'interaction législatifs pour résoudre leurs différends. Un désaccord persistant sur la légitimité Musa Bility a critiqué l'élection de Richard Nagbe Koon, affirmant que J. Fonati Koffa avait été élu

conformément à la Constitution et aux règles de la Chambre. Il a également dénoncé des pratiques qu'il juge arbitraires, notamment la suspension des salaires de certains députés, la dissolution et la reconstitution des comités sans consultation, ainsi que le refus de libérer les avantages financiers pourtant déjà transférés par le ministère des Finances.

« Ces décisions vont à l'encontre des règles établies. Nous continuerons à exprimer notre opposition à travers les mécanismes législatifs disponibles tout en restant fidèles à nos principes », a-t-il déclaré. Un appel renouvelé à l'État de droit

Malgré leur ralliement au bloc majoritaire, le caucus reste fermement engagé dans la défense de l'État de droit. Musa Bility a souligné que son groupe envisage de nouvelles actions judiciaires pour protéger leurs droits, tout en poursuivant leurs efforts pour des solutions internes au sein de la Chambre des représentants.

Ce rapprochement pourrait marquer le début d'une collaboration plus constructive au sein de l'Assemblée nationale, permettant ainsi de mieux répondre aux attentes des citoyens libériens.



Éditorial

La chute de la maison Assad

Par Daron Acemoglu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Français

Starts from page 8 **Ja'neh critique la gouvernance de Boakai et**

loi protège tout le monde de manière équitable. Mais si nous commençons à mépriser la loi, alors tout le monde doit s'inquiéter », a-t-il averti.

Selon lui, les « signes et symptômes » actuels, notamment l'adoption douteuse du budget national, reflètent une gouvernance dysfonctionnelle et un affaiblissement des principes démocratiques.

La répression des manifestations : un abus de pouvoir

Concernant les protestations populaires et la gestion des forces de l'ordre, Me Ja'neh a rappelé que le droit de manifester est inscrit dans la Constitution et ne dépend pas de la volonté du président ou de son administration.

« Le droit de rassemblement et de manifestation est garanti par notre Constitution. Ce n'est ni un privilège ni une faveur octroyée par le président. Lorsque des manifestants pacifiques sont

brutalisés et que leurs droits fondamentaux sont violés, cela montre un mépris total pour l'État de droit. Et que dire lorsque le chef de la police lui-même est accusé d'actes répréhensibles comme le kidnapping ? Que peut-on attendre dans de telles circonstances ? », s'est-il indigné.

Me Ja'neh a également accusé l'Inspecteur général de police, Gregory Coleman, d'avoir, sous couvert de la nuit, orchestré la libération illégale d'un détenu emprisonné sur ordre de la justice, à la demande de l'Exécutif.

Un sombre avertissement pour le Liberia

« Ces actions révèlent un mépris alarmant pour la justice et l'État de droit. Je suis profondément déçu, et ma plus grande crainte est que le Liberia soit désormais dirigé par un gouvernement qui ne respecte pas les lois du pays. Cela devrait inquiéter tout le monde », a conclu Me Ja'neh.

Le président Boakai promulgue le budget national de l'exercice 2025

Le président de la République, Joseph Nyuma Boakai, a officiellement promulgué le budget national de l'exercice fiscal 2025, d'un montant total de 880,661,874 millions de dollars américains.

La cérémonie de signature s'est tenue au bureau présidentiel de Rehab, à Paynesville, marquant une étape significative pour la gouvernance et le développement économique du Liberia.

Dans son discours, le président Boakai a salué l'achèvement dans les délais du processus budgétaire et a souligné l'urgence de sa mise en œuvre effective. « Ce budget ne se limite pas à des chiffres ; il reflète notre engagement à répondre aux attentes de nos concitoyens et à réaliser nos objectifs de développement national », a-t-il affirmé.

Un cadre légal pour le développement Adopté par la Chambre des représentants et validé par le Sénat le 20 décembre 2024, ce budget devient le cadre légal et opérationnel des politiques publiques pour l'exercice fiscal en cours.

Le budget 2025 met en avant les priorités de l'administration

Boakai : Stimuler une croissance économique inclusive, Améliorer l'accès et la qualité des services publics, Renforcer les infrastructures sociales, Créer des opportunités économiques pour tous les Libériens.

Un appel à la responsabilité collective La cérémonie a réuni plusieurs personnalités de haut rang, notamment le vice-président de la République, Jeremiah Kpan Koung, et le vice-ministre de l'Administration au ministère des Finances et du Développement, Bill McGill

Jones.

Le président Boakai a exhorté toutes les parties prenantes à collaborer pour garantir que les ressources allouées soient utilisées de manière efficace et qu'elles produisent des résultats concrets pour améliorer la vie des citoyens.

« La réussite de ce budget dépend de notre capacité collective à le traduire en actions tangibles. C'est un engagement envers le peuple libérien et un défi que nous devons relever ensemble », a conclu le président.



Kailondo appelle la société civile à s'engager pour lutter contre la corruption

L'homme d'affaires libérien George Kailondo a exprimé son mécontentement face à la corruption systémique qui sévit au sein du gouvernement et a lancé un appel à la société civile pour qu'elle s'exprime ouvertement afin de mettre fin à ce fléau.

Dans une déclaration faite le 6 janvier 2025, après avoir reçu le prix de l'Ambassadeur de la Non-Violence 2024, Me George B. Kailondo, Sr., PDG et fondateur du groupe Kailondo, a souligné que le développement du Libéria dépend de la réduction de la corruption, en particulier dans le secteur public. « Le Libéria ne pourra se développer que si la corruption publique est maîtrisée. Nous devons tous nous unir pour l'éliminer. C'est la seule voie qui permettra au pays de progresser », a-t-il affirmé.

Engagement pour le développement du Libéria

Kailondo a réaffirmé son engagement envers le développement économique du pays, en mentionnant plusieurs projets en cours, notamment la construction d'un magasin moderne à Buchanan, dans le comté de Grand Bassa, ainsi qu'une nouvelle structure à Congo Town. « Aucun autre peuple que les Libériens eux-mêmes ne peut mieux développer le Libéria. Nous devons prendre la responsabilité de faire avancer notre pays », a-t-il ajouté.

Un appel à la patience et à l'unité nationale

Tout en remerciant le Consortium des Organisations de la Société Civile pour la reconnaissance de ses actions, Kailondo, également théologien, a rappelé que l'année 2024 avait été particulièrement difficile pour le Libéria, marquée par des manifestations et des tensions



Cllr. George Kailondo

sociales. Il a appelé les Libériens à faire preuve de patience à l'égard du président Boakai, afin de lui permettre de résoudre les difficultés économiques du pays, tout en exprimant son optimisme pour une année 2025 plus favorable.

Le businessman a également demandé aux autorités de travailler davantage pour améliorer les conditions de vie des Libériens. « Les responsables politiques doivent agir pour alléger les souffrances du peuple libérien et améliorer leur quotidien », a-t-il insisté.

Lutte contre la cupidité et l'inégalité sociale

Dans son discours, le révérend Kailondo a vigoureusement condamné la cupidité et l'inégalité qui existent au Libéria. Il a appelé les plus riches à partager leurs ressources avec les plus vulnérables : « Certains d'entre vous sont trop égoïstes. Si vous mangez, laissez quelqu'un d'autre manger. Le partage est essentiel. Un homme ne peut pas tout posséder pendant que d'autres souffrent de la faim. »

Une vision pour un Libéria modèle en Afrique

Kailondo a encouragé les organisations de la société civile à continuer de défendre les droits humains et à promouvoir la paix et le progrès social. Il a exprimé sa vision d'un Libéria comme modèle de démocratie en Afrique, déclarant : « Depuis 1847, le Libéria doit être une référence pour les autres pays africains, prouvant que la démocratie peut réussir sur notre continent. »

Plus tôt, Peal John D. Nyekan Pangbe, secrétaire du Consortium des Organisations de la Société Civile, a salué l'engagement du révérend Kailondo pour la paix, la démocratie et le développement économique. « Votre leadership et vos initiatives novatrices ont eu un impact profond pour créer une communauté plus harmonieuse et prospère au Libéria », a-t-il conclu.

Communiqué officiel

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PRESS





LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: *The mysterious death at Boulevard Palace*

By Naneka Hoffman

Residents of Monrovia are still digesting news of the mysterious death of the Manager of Boulevard Palace on 12th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia – Mr. Anwar Futloo, who was a South African. Circumstances that led to the discovery of his dead body suddenly in his car on December 30, 2024 have become a public debate amid conflicting accounts and disagreement between the Police and the Ministry of Justice. The NEWDAWN randomly solicits views of some Monrovia residents on the matter. Read their comments, as compiled below.



Richard Sheriff

“I don’t trust the Liberian government coming up with

immediate investigation, including an autopsy on the lifeless body of Mr. Futloo.

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

“It’s necessary that the government carry on a tough investigation on what happened at the Boulevard Palace because the Palace is one of Liberia’s biggest areas that tourists go on a daily basis, so for the fact this can happen to the General Manager, it means that those people that are staying in the Palace are unsafe.

As we learned, all alleged that the man was poisoned.

Maybe he was poisoned thru food or drinks. It means that the credibility of Boulevard Palace is unstable, so government has to make sure that they bring in tough investigators



Maclean Renner

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



Stanley S. Dunbar

“It’s a good thing for the government to carry on the autopsy; it is very important because there are a lot of argument over the death of Mr. Futloo, who passed away few days ago.

Because the argument from the Ministry of Justice is different and the argument from the police is different, so to balance the arguments, I think autopsy is needed.”



William B. Sando Jr.

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

where the government must relate with the bereaved family members because I think he was an important person and even a management as whole, because there are some allegations of some government officials are involved in the death of this individual, so to see this same government acting as a player and referee, we call for transparency.

And transparency can only be done where both parties can be represented to ensure that the autopsy shouldn’t be tempered with in terms of foul play. So that is our concern and we hope that it will be done accordingly.”

“Firstly, let me extend my condolences to the Boulevard Palace family; he was my former Boss. I regret his passing but I think the government isn’t serious.

The reason why I say the government isn’t serious is they found the previous decision for them to have said the man died of frustration and hanged himself, so it has already been pre-judged and it has been politicized.

They want to cajole the minds of the Liberian people on the real issue. The real issue is the man was killed.

You know the government has a track of targeting people who are critical and Room 1024 in Boulevard Palace is the area the so-called Majority Bloc used to go and have a meeting; information was distributed how they planed the coup to remove Speaker Cllr. Koffa.

And all the recordings were in the hands of the manager of the Palace and they sent messages to the man and threatened the man to



Robert Political Zlatan

not expose the information, so if the man remained, he will expose some information so they killed the man. How will you say the man hanged himself then icy water was placed in the man’s mouth?

So I think coming up with an autopsy is just a belated issue, just to cover up and the autopsy report will not prove anything different because this same government’s report we saw it under this same Unity Party that autopsy was done and nothing came out of it as it relates to the late Harry Greaves.”

anytime a new regime takes power, there will always be a mysterious death occurrence in this country. They had done a lot of autopsies in Madam Ellen and George Weah’s regimes.

We didn’t see anything then it is Boakai regime we will get better results? We need to stop this thing in the country or else, investors will be scared to come do business in our country.

I think it is timely and good for the government to come in with the autopsy but the question is, is that going to change things in the country? We are setting bad record in our country; we need to stop it.”



Augustine Jegbadai

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

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Starts from Back page**GOL announces launch of ARREST Agenda in Bassa**

included in the extensive consultative process. The process leading to the formulation of the AAID began in 2024, with a series of nationwide consultations aimed at identifying the aspirations, needs, and challenges of the Liberian people. The plan is designed to respond to the specific aspirations of the citizens of Liberia. Further, it is designed to address key development challenges and leverage the country's unique resources for transformative growth. "This inclusive process reflects Liberia's commitment to a democratic and transparent development agenda that prioritizes the well-being of all citizens, especially those in rural and underserved areas," the MFDP has said.

According to a Ministry, the event will bring together key figures from the Liberian government who will discuss the strategic priorities and operationalization of the plan. Local Officials from across Liberia as well as representatives from Liberia's Development Partners, will also be in attendance, underscoring the broad-based support for this transformative agenda. President Boakai will deliver the keynote address at the launch, emphasizing the critical role of national unity, collaboration, and collective action in the successful implementation of the ARREST Agenda. At the launch of the AAID, it is expected that President Boakai will outline his vision for a prosperous and inclusive Liberia.

Capitol Building fire confirmed as arson

Police authorities in Monrovia confirmed on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, that preliminary findings from the ongoing investigation into the fire incident at the Capitol Building point to an arson attack on the building.

By Kruah Thompson
Police authorities in Monrovia confirmed on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, that preliminary findings from the ongoing investigation into the fire incident at the Capitol Building point to an arson attack on the building.

Monrovia, January 9, 2025/ "Today, January 8, 2025, at this point, we are here to officially inform the nation that we have sufficient evidence to call the act at the Capitol Building an act of arson," Police Inspector General Col. Gregory Coleman told journalists here on Wednesday.

Police IG Coleman, flanked by the Director General of the Liberia National Fire Service, G. Warsuwah Barvoul, told journalists that they had already identified the suspects in the arson attack and that contacts had been made with messages sent for them to come forward.

"Those people of interest have been reached and sent clear messages to come in and continue the investigation, and if they don't show up, they will be arrested. We will not tolerate such lawlessness," IG Coleman added.

"Those who did the act know themselves," he said, "and so, I hope that they will start to come in because, if they don't come or corporate, we will go for them," Col. Coleman went on.

Fire gutted the Rotunda of the Capitol Building here early Wednesday morning, December 18, 2024. The Rotunda is the Joint Chambers of the Liberian Legislature. Until what has now been confirmed as an arson attack, it was being used by members of the majority bloc from the House.

The fire incident occurred in the wake of an unresolved political turmoil between members of a majority bloc led by Representative Richard N. Koon on the one hand and a minority bloc headed by embattled House Speaker Fonati Koffa.

A day after the incident, Col. Coleman announced the arrest of 73 persons who were part of an Antti-government demonstration at the Capitol a day before the fire incident in addition to a dozen others considered persons of interest among them was Representative Frank Saah Foko, who embattled House Speaker Koffa also accompanied.

Also among the arrested individuals were security officers who were present on

system. The breaker switches off and shuts down the power system in the building whenever there is a shock.

He argued that up to the time the building was still in flames, the breaker did not switch off, instead it was still supplying power to the building. Col. Colman said this alone dismissed the fear of an electrical shock.

He explained that another thing investigators found out, which led to them dismissing the electrical shock fear, was that the smoke of the fire was consistent with an arson attack because it (smoke) was heavy and thick black.

Expanding on the investigation, Fire Chief Barwoul disclosed that the color of the flame on that day and the movements of the fire in separate directions of the smoke led investigators to conclude it was an arsonist attack.



duty the night of the arson. Some were immediately released based on the information provided,

The fire did cause significant damage to the entire joint chamber.

The Investigation

Col Coleman narrated that as part of the investigation, which was jointly conducted by the police and the National Fire Service, the team analyzed the electrical system of the Capitol Building and found out that it had an automatic breaker

The Fire Chief further explained that evidence gathered from the scene by the Liberia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation (LPRC), and their forensic team shows a container that had flammable substance within it on the scene.

Foreign experts

Col. Coleman revealed during the briefing that the government had invited foreign experts to investigate the evidence.

"So, the scene is still preserved

Death at St. Joseph Catholic Hospital
Family claims overdose of patient

Circumstances that have led to the death of 21-year-old Isaiah Benedicto Williams at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Congo Town, Monrovia are yet to be unrivaled, but family suspects overdose and wrongful administration of medication here, demanding investigation.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Monrovia, Liberia, January 9, 2025 - Grieving family members of the late Isaiah Benedicto Williams, are blaming the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Congo Town, Monrovia for his death.

21-year-old Williams, a 2022 graduate of St. Edward Catholic School here, reportedly died on Friday, January 3, 2025 at 12:46 pm



The late Isaiah Benedicto Williams & his mother Veronica Tayeah

in the operation theater of the Catholic Hospital, but the family alleges negligence by the hospital which led to the death of their son, accusing the institution of administering overdose injection. Investigation by the NEW DAWN indicates that the late Williams, who reportedly developed bilateral inguinal hernia or hydro-sea condition, before he was admitted at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, allegedly died after being overdosed with wrong medication, leaving him shivering, itching his private parts, and ejaculating several times before succumbing to death. "Academic Gladiator", as he was affectionately called, the 21-year-old promising student was said to be the only child of his mother. He was a candidate of University of Lay Adventists of Kigali, Rwanda, having completed admission process before his sudden death. Family sources say he was never sick, prior to his admittance at the hospital, suspecting that he might have died of wrong injection administered on him. In a touching story, the family says the late Williams was allegedly overdosed with the wrong medication without even going thru surgery for which he was admitted at the hospital.

just as it was," he said, adding, "When the foreign experts come, they will put the icing on the cake (he suggests that the foreign experts will agree with their preliminary findings). However, from the day that incident occurred and based on the expertise on the ground, we knew that the occurrence was consistent with that of arson," Col. Coleman said.

He noted that the final investigation is also being done in line with criminal investigation. "In this investigation, we have sufficient evidence to speak to facilitation, conspiracy, and execution thereof, which we have evidence that the burning is arson" he

"Catholic hospital killed my son, my only son; they killed my only flourishing fruit; a child who had begun making me proud, and had graduated from the St. Edward Catholic School, with seven honors", Veronica Tayeah, a weeping mother, narrates. "They killed my son; my only child; I don't know what kind of injection they gave him, but when I

asked Doctor Thaddle, he said they did not do operation. His skin was not cut. There was no mark of razor blade to say he bled or they performed a surgery that caused his death; nothing of such was don't on him. But they killed my son", she continues in tears.

According to Madam Tayeah, who is a volunteer guidance counsellor of the Ministry of Education (MOE) assigned in Clay, Bomi County, she was allegedly asked by the hospital to sign a possibility casualty form, which didn't provide death option, but potential wounds, major injury, intestine problem, prior to her son's admission in the operation theater of the Catholic Hospital.

"My son wasn't sick, and had no symptoms of fever, but was only admitted due to swollen of his private part, and a back pain, so I didn't want him to travel this week to Rwanda with any complaint. Effort by the NEW DAWN in contacting Mr. Peter Dawoh, said to be administration of the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital did not materialize up to press time, as this paper gathered Mr. Dawoh was relieved of his post by a foreign national, whose name was not disclosed. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

stated.

Commenting on the question regarding the names of persons of interest, he said that the investigation is classified for now, and they can't disclose names, but that will be done based on the National Security Council.

"We will brief you all again fully when the briefing has been done at the level of the National Security Council, and some of our findings are declassified, and we will be able to give them out to the press," he said. **-Editing by Othello B. Garblah**

