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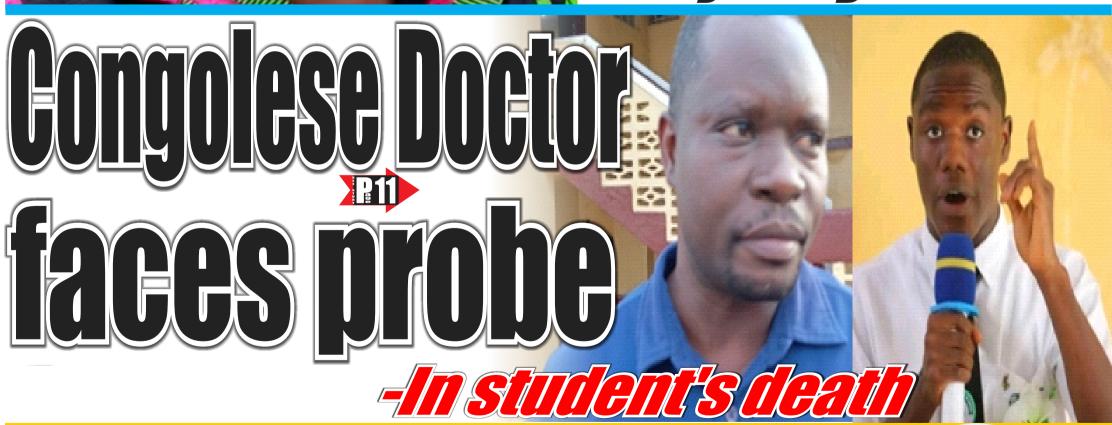
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ontinental News

How a freak space junk crash baffled residents and sparked concern arrangements to come and investigate the next day. But such was the objects force.

¶ It sounded like a bomb, I could approach it," said Ann looking around, also ondering if land where the object fell. it was gunshots," Stephen from Makueni county's Mukuku village, told the BBC.

"I looked up in the sky to see if look at it. there was smoke. Nothing.

was shocked. I started Kanuna, who told us she owns the

The giant ring took around two Mangoka, a 75-year-old farmer hours to cool down and turn grey - but it had already become a sensation with people arriving to

The rest of that Monday afternoon "I rushed to the road to check if - with few people working as it there had been an accident. was the day before New Year's

But such was the object's fame that Mukuku villagers feared it would be stolen overnight.

Together with local officers, some of them took it in turns to stand guard, lighting a fire nearby. They wanted to keep away potential scrap dealers and others wanting to make money out of the curiosity.

It is said to weigh more than 500kg (1,102lb) - around the same as an adult horse - and is around 2.5m (8ft) in diameter, roughly the size of child's fourseater merry-go-round.

With daylight came more onlookers on New Year's Eve followed by the KSA team and the media.

People flocked to Mukuku to see the object that had fallen from space

Mukuku had never seen such activity. When the object was carted away later that day by the KSA, the buzz gave way to concerns about what the villagers had had in their midst.

The KSA said its preliminary assessments indicated the object was "a separation ring" from a space launch rocket.

"Such objects are usually designed to burn up as they reenter the Earth's atmosphere or to fall over unoccupied areas, such as the oceans," its statement said the next day. -BBC



someone told me that something had fallen from the skies."

In fact, a massive round metal object had plummeted from above landing on farmland near a dry riverbed - and it was piping

"We found a big piece of metal that was very red so we had to wait for it to cool before anyone

Also, nothing. That is when Eve - crowds came to view the giant metallic ring.

> It was like selfie central, with people coming to pose next to it and great debates about what it could be.

The local authorities in Makueni county - which is around 115km (70 miles) south-east of the capital, Nairobi - were informed. The Kenya Space Agency (KSA) then heard about it and made

has captured a key city in . the country's east, one of its biggest gains yet in an almost two-year-long war against rebel forces.

Footage on social media showed people celebrating in the streets as army soldiers entered the city of Wad Madani.

The leader of paramilitary group the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti. acknowledged the loss in an audio message.

His admission was angry and rambling, attributing the defeat to the army's air superiority and use of Iranian-made drones.

But he vowed to continue fighting until victory, even if it took another 20 years.

Wad Madani is the capital of the

major town to Khartoum.

Sudan has been ravaged by war since April 2023, when fighting broke out between the RSF and the Sudanese army.

The RSF continues to control nearly all of Sudan's western Darfur region, as well as significant portions of the country's south. Meanwhile, the army controls the north and east, as well as parts of Khartoum.

The war has claimed tens of thousands of lives. And in what the United Nations has called one of the world's "largest displacement crises", about nine million people have been forced to flee their homes.

The country is also slipping into a famine, with 24.6 million people about half the population - in urgent need of food aid, experts said.

Earlier this month, the US sanctioned the RSF leader after it accused the



state of Al Jazira, and is 87 miles group of committing genocide. (140km) south of the country's capital, Khartoum.

Wad Madani serves as a strategic crossroads, connecting several states through key

Officials said he was being punished for his role in "systematic" atrocities against the Sudanese people during the 20-month conflict.

Guinea: opposition expressed doubt over election nitially, the junta had pledged the government. Trust is to outline a specific timeline for

to transfer power to elected broken," he said. due to international pressure, but the leader of the junta, expressed they have failed to fulfill that in his New Year's message that promise.

Ousmane Gaoual Diallo elections aimed at restoring indicated that either a constitutional order. presidential or legislative However, the authorities have yet Africanews election could be scheduled for October, following a referendum to establish a new constitution, which is expected to take place in

But Siaka BARRY, President of the MPDG Party - who spoke to Africanews has no confident in the Junta government.

"Now, when we ask whether we believe in the new promises of the junta, you know, to believe or not to believe, it's all a matter of trust. But I can assure you today that trust is broken. Trust is broken between all political actors and the junta, between all political actors and

officials by the end of 2024 General Mamadi Doumbouya, 2025 would be a pivotal year for

this process.

Mr. Diallo, along with other close supporters of Doumbouya, is advocating for him to enter the presidential race, even though Doumbouya has consistently declared his intention not to run. -



presidential election might occur before the close of 2025.

New securities exchange in Ethiopia aims to attract private investors

Thiopia inaugurated its Telecom, gearing up for an initial step in Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's exchange. efforts to liberalize the nation's heavily regulated economy and attract private investment.

Upto now, only Wegagen Bank was listed on the Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX), but Tilahun Kassahun, the exchange's CEO, anticipates that around 90 companies will be added over the next decade. State-owned telecom company Ethio

securities exchange on public offering, is anticipated to ✓ Friday, marking a significant make its shares available on the

> Ethiopia, the second most populous nation in Africa with approximately 130 million residents, once boasted a securities exchange during the 1960s and 70s.

> However, this financial institution was dismantled by the socialist military regime that came to power after the monarchy was overthrown in 1974. -Africa news



By Daron Acemoglu

EDITORIAL

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 In 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 semi-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 pay-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!

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Are High-Skill Immigrants a Problem?

coalition have appeared sooner than lower-skill workers. While this trend may have expected. By the end of December, the tech-been driven by other factors, too, the billionaire wing was in open warfare with availability of affordable high-skill workers MAGA's nativist wing over America's H-1B for the tech industry plausibly contributed to it. visa program, which enables US businesses Again, this effect reflects indifference on the to employ some 600,000 skilled foreigners part of business leaders and policymakers. It per year on a temporary basis.

excellent engineering talent. It is the skills or college degrees. workers.

program helps employers secure STEM from the knowledge flows. address this need.

into advocacy for, and investments in, STEM companies. education. But an overreliance on the H-1B part of business leaders, intellectual elites, at least for a while. and politicians.

the program's potential secondary effects.

A similar argument applies to choices about years remains to be seen. technology. Even as H-1B workers boost workers. Over the last several decades, Prosperity (Public Affairs, 2023).

OSTON - Fissures within US businesses have increasingly adopted President-elect Donald Trump's technologies that favor high-skill workers and "Make America Great Again" automate tasks previously performed by also suggests that if the US is going to rely on H-1B workers, policymakers should consider Speaking for the billionaires, Elon Musk, the other adjustments to ensure that corporate CEO of Tesla (a top H-1B employer), argues strategies and the designs of new technologies that, "There is a permanent shortage of seek to make use of workers without STEM

fundamental limiting factor in Silicon A final relevant question is whether programs Valley." Likewise, Vivek Ramaswamy, such as H-1B could harm source countries by another tech billionaire advising Trump, creating a brain drain. This, too, is open to <u>claims</u> that US companies need H-1B debate. Such programs could be a win-win if workers because, "Our American culture has destination economies have technologies, venerated mediocrity over excellence for way institutions, and other skilled workers that are too long (at least since the 90s and likely especially complementary to high-skill longer)." In response, MAGA activists like immigrants. In this case, an Indian STEM Laura Loomer and Steve Bannon – but also worker would contribute more to global output democratic socialists like Bernie Sanders – or innovation from the United States than from countered that the program helps large US India, and some of the additional scientific and corporations at the expense of American technical knowledge produced would flow back home.

Who's right? While economic research makes In fact, there is evidence suggesting that such clear that immigrants bring sought-after knowledge exchanges already occur through skills, creative dynamism, and useful cross-border ethnic networks. But this winknowledge that also helps domestic win scenario would not take place if nearly all innovators, that doesn't mean there is no skilled, innovative workers departed the downside to heavy reliance on H-1B visas. source country, because there would no longer For example, the argument that the H-1B be a critical mass of workers left to benefit

(science, technology, engineering, math) Moreover, for this win-win scenario to become skills ignores the fact that if there were no a reality, the sharing of knowledge about new such program, US educational institutions innovations and technical expertise must not would feel greater pressure from business to reach such a scale or pace that it undercuts America's own comparative advantage (which The idea of elites pushing the education is rooted in innovation). In the economics system to produce workers with useful skills literature, this issue is usually explored in the and attitudes goes back at least to Sam context of technology-product cycles. While Bowles and Herb Gintis's influential 1976 we currently have little evidence about what book, Schooling in Capitalist America. constitutes a flow of information that is too Applying their argument to the present, one fast, some believe that China has benefited would expect corporate America's growing unduly in this respect, improving its need for skilled STEM workers to translate technologies rapidly at the expense of Western

program may have broken this link and made Thus, a win-win scenario depends on American elites indifferent to the widely sufficient numbers of skilled workers recognized failures of the US education remaining in each source country, and on system. Put differently, the problem may not adequate international protections of be a cultural veneration of mediocrity, as intellectual property rights, so that innovators Ramaswamy argued, but rather neglect on the can reap the rewards from their contributions.

This is just a possibility, of course. We cannot The H-1B debate within Trump's MAGA say for sure that the response from the coalition raises some important questions for education system would be adequate even if it how the US should think about education and did feel more pressure from the business technology in an increasingly globalized community. But whatever the case, surely US knowledge economy. There are configurations policymakers should pay more attention to that could ultimately benefit advanced economies and poorer countries alike. But whether they will be found over the next four

innovation, their presence may affect the Daron Acemoglu, a 2024 Nobel laureate in direction innovation takes. My own work economics and Institute Professor of shows (theoretically and empirically) that Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with when the supply of skilled labor increases, Simon Johnson) of Power and Progress: Our technology choices start favoring such Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and

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by Daniel Gros

Is It the Hour of Europe Again?

RUSSELS — "If one problem can be solved by the Europeans, it is the Yugoslav problem," Luxembourg's then-foreign minister, Jacques Poos, asserted in 1991. The Soviet Union was formally, and largely peacefully, dissolved at the end of that year, but ethnic tensions in the Balkans were on the rise, and Poos was adamant that, since Yugoslavia was a European country, Europe, not the United States, should manage the growing crisis there. "This is the hour of Europe," he proudly declared. And yet, in the years that followed, Yugoslavia endured a bloody disintegration process, and Europe proved incapable of doing much about it.

Today, another European country is being torn apart: Ukraine. So, by Poos' logic, it is up to Europe to "save" it. Will Europe prove more effective this time around? There is a grain of truth in US President-elect Donald Trump's crude accusations that Europe is not sufficiently self-reliant when it comes to security. In fact, nobody in Europe harbors the illusion that Europe alone can solve the Ukrainian "problem"; the US was always expected to take a leading role. But this reality should not obscure Europe's contributions to Ukraine.

According to the Kiel Institute's Ukraine support tracker, Europe – including the European Union, its member states, Norway, and the United Kingdom – has overtaken the US as the leading source of aid to Ukraine, with about €125 billion (\$128 billion) having been allocated as of late last year, compared to \$88 billion from the US. This sum included just as much military aid as the US provided (about €60 billion). Moreover, Europe has already committed another €120 billion, to be disbursed in the next few years, whereas future US aid is in doubt.

When one considers the size of the donors' economies and military budgets, neither contribution is all that impressive. For the US — where output is running at \$27 trillion per year — \$88 billion over almost three years amounts to a rounding error, and \$60 billion represents 7.5% of total US military spending, which now runs at over \$800 billion annually. Europe's economy is somewhat smaller, but its total aid to Ukraine (including aid from Norway and the United Kingdom) has still cost less than 0.6% of GDP. The implication is clear: financial considerations are hardly an insurmountable barrier to "saving" Ukraine.

Things are looking reasonably good for Ukraine politically, too. Even as the war has dragged on for more than three years, public support for the country has held up well. While Europeans' enthusiasm for sending Ukraine aid has waned, as the David-versus-Goliath narrative that proved so rousing in the war's early days has lost its impact, popular majorities in almost every European country still favor continuing support for Ukraine.

EU policymakers regard it as self-evident that a Russian victory would threaten the Union's very existence. European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen has been especially clear on this, and has spearheaded an unprecedented array of sanctions and other measures aimed at compelling Russia to change course.

Crucially, most national-level European policymakers share the conviction that supporting Ukraine is in their countries' interests. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has made clear his disdain for the values and norms for which the EU stands, is already conducting a shadow war with the West. If he is allowed to claim Ukrainian territories by force, what is to stop him from pressing forward with his ambition to redraw the map of Europe?

This risk preoccupies not only Ukraine's closest neighbors, but also those for whom, to adapt Neville Chamberlain's infamous phrase, Ukraine is a faraway country of which people know little. This shared threat perception explains why, in late 2023, 26 EU member governments pushed through the decision to open accession negotiations with Ukraine. Such a step should be possible only with unanimous approval, but Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán refused to back the move, so EU leaders asked him to leave the room while the vote took place.

This episode highlighted how EU rules, which often require unanimity, can impede timely and effective responses to internal challenges and external threats. But it also showed that an overwhelming majority, if sufficiently determined, can avoid being stymied by mavericks from small countries. In fact, a large coalition of EU member states is now considering establishing a \in 500 billion joint fund for defense projects outside the EU treaties, so that it is not subject to veto.

No amount of European support can fully substitute for the political and military weight of the US. But when Trump attempts to negotiate a "peace deal" that benefits Putin at Ukraine's expense – Europe must be prepared to rise to the hour and provide Ukraine with the political and financial support it needs to sustain its resistance. While Europe cannot decide the war's outcome, it can improve Ukraine's prospects substantially. Its resolve will affect the calculations of both Trump and Putin.

by Peter Singer

Australia's Great Social-Media Experiment

ELBOURNE – Late last year, Australia's parliament, reacting to concerns about the effect of social media on children's mental health, amended the Online Safety Act to require users to be at least 16 years old to open an account on social-media platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, and X. The amendment is expected to come into effect by the end of 2025.

The law received widespread support in Australia, both in parliament and among the public, but it has also been criticized. Some dispute the link between social-media use and mental-health problems in teenagers. Others see a violation of the right to freedom of expression. Even those who support the effort wonder how it can be enforced.

There is little doubt that the mental health of teenagers, especially girls, has deteriorated sharply since the introduction of smartphones and the emergence of social media. The digital platforms targeted by the law design algorithms to keep people on their sites, because more clicks mean more advertising revenue. The result? A Gallup survey showed that US teenagers spend an average of 4.8 hours per day on social media.

That is a big slice of a teenager's free time, which could otherwise be spent interacting with friends in person and with places and objects in the real world. Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist and the author of The Anxious Generation, has said that social-media platforms have "rewired childhood and changed human development on an almost unimaginable scale."

Heavy teenage social-media use and higher levels of depression and anxiety clearly go together; what is disputed is whether this is merely a correlation or a causal relationship. Good studies that test whether sufficiently long periods of reduction in social-media use reduce depression and anxiety are difficult to carry out, because trials in which individual teenagers leave a platform while their friends remain on it can be expected to produce less benefit – and could even cause harm to the children who are now isolated from their friends.

It is important that groups of teenagers all go off social media together, so that social media use is replaced by real-world interaction. In addition, one would need other, randomly selected control groups whose members do not reduce social-media use. In the absence of such rigorous trials, the evidence we have does suggest that heavy social-media use causes anxiety and depression, but it is not conclusive.

Australia may therefore be doing the world a service by effectively running a national experiment. This assumes, of course, that Australia does substantially reduce the time young teenagers spend on social media. Policymakers plan to achieve their goal by imposing heavy fines on companies that operate the newly age-restricted social-media platforms if they fail to take "reasonable steps" to prevent those under 16 from opening accounts. The law assigns the task of outlining what counts as "reasonable steps" to Australia's eSafety Commissioner, an independent statutory office.

WhatsApp and similar messaging apps, as well as some online health and educational services, will be exempted from the legislation. Young people will continue to be able to view YouTube videos or pages on social media, such as business landing pages on Facebook, without an account. On the other hand, the government has announced its intention to introduce further legislation creating a "Digital Duty of Care" that will put the onus on digital platforms to prevent known or foreseeable harms.

Paradoxically, the Australian law may benefit social-media executives and programmers who are sufficiently aware of what they may be doing to children's mental health to be uneasy about it. Given the current lack of regulation, any social-media platform that gets serious about ensuring that children are not opening accounts will simply lose business to less scrupulous rivals. The law creates a level playing field for all platforms, thus overcoming the collective-action problem.

The Australian constitution does not make sweeping statements about basic rights. In general, and in contrast to the United States, courts accept the supremacy of the elected legislature. The High Court of Australia has, however, ruled that the provisions of the constitution establishing representative and responsible government imply that parliament should not place an undue burden on political communication.

One possible response to those who have suggested that Australia's legislation violates this principle is that children under 16 do not vote and hence have less need for political communication. Moreover, it could be argued that the burden is not disproportionate, because the harm caused by social media is sufficiently serious to justify the modest restriction contained in the legislation. The Australian government could also exempt social-media platforms that are limited to political communications, although that would require someone in government to determine which communications are political and which are not.

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MONDAY

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Let the Capitol Building Fire suspects be held accountable

should be held accountable has been the cry of every peace-loving Liberian since the fire incident on Capitol Hill. The move will serve as a deterrent to those emboldened by impunity to stop their attacks on the nation's fragile democracy, most Liberians angered by this display of irresponsible greed for power have said.

It appears this call to bring the fire suspects to book is gaining traction, and rightfully so. The arson attack clearly exposed the actual intention of people, including some lawmakers, who mobilized citizens to protest at the Capitol against the removal of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Despite repeated advice from the international community, it is a shame that Liberians, especially those at the echelon of power who should know better, would conduct themselves in such a manner that even rebel soldiers who fought during the country's three decades of the civil war did not-attacking national assets such as the Capitol Building.

Last week, authorities at the Liberia National Police confirmed widely held public perception that the fire outbreak at the Capitol Building, the seat of the Liberian Legislature, was an arson attack. "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," Police Inspector General Col. Gregory Coleman said.

According to Col. Gregory Coleman, the confirmation was an outcome of a joint investigative effort of the LNP and officers of the Liberia National Fire Service with forensic experts from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Liberia National Petroleum Company (LPRC).

Although Col. Coleman revealed during the briefing that the government had invited foreign experts to investigate the evidence, he quickly added that the unnamed foreign experts would agree with their preliminary findings.

Late last year, fire gutted the Rotunda of the Capitol Building here early Wednesday morning, December 18. 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 of Representatives who had at the time refused to sit under the gavel of embattled House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Weeks before the arson attack, unidentified individuals entered the same joint chamber and removed all chairs with no report of arrest. Other uncouth behaviors were displayed, such as throwing tear gas into the chambers while the majority of members held their session.

It was in the wake of these activities amidst the unresolved political turmoil between members of the majority bloc led by Representative Richard N. Koon on the one hand and a minority bloc headed by embattled Speaker Koffa that the fire incident occurred.

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, and a dozen others considered persons of interest among them was Representative Frank Saah Foko.

A day before the fire incident, the Montserrado County District #9 Representative Foko had announced on Spoon Talk that he was reporting for work at the Capitol and would be accompanied by his people from the district.

Also among the arrested individuals were security officers who were present on duty the night of the arson. Some were immediately released based on the information provided.

In this case, the public expects nothing less than accountability at the highest level if the country and its people are to be taken seriously, regardless of political persuasions.

Liberia is a country of law, and as such, this should be demonstrated. The country cannot progress in an environment where uncouth individuals with state power continue to undermine the very democratic process that brought them to stardom in the first place.

No one is above the law, and this is why these suspects should be made to account for their actions against the Liberian people. If it is established that sitting lawmakers were behind this arson, they should be barred from holding public office for life.

AS I SEE IT



NEW DAWN

with By Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr.; PhD.

The AU Must Reconceptualize Regional Integration on the Continent to Achieve Peace and Sustainable Development

This opinion piece summarizes the PhD dissertation for Prof. Thomas Kaydor, Jr. from the Faculty of Government and European Studies, New University, Slovenia. The topic for the PhD research was 'reconceptualizing Africa's regional integration for peace and sustainable development'. Chapter five of the UN charter focuses on peace, and security; and Chapter VIII on regionalism. The dissertation investigated how AU utilizes its authority to mitigate conflicts on the continent. The research also evaluated whether Africa's regional integration leads to economic growth and development in Africa. You can read a full summary of the research at https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2024.807139.

The research has established that unless the continent engages in deeper economic integration, regionalism will not lead to regional development. It recommends how Africa might alleviate extreme poverty and attain sustainable development in the 21st Century and beyond. Its' four specific objectives were to: a) identify the benefits and challenges of Regionalism in Africa. b) ascertain why extreme poverty is widespread in Africa and propose what should be done through regional integration to alleviate the extreme poverty in Africa. c) find out the impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA) on Africa's regional development and propose ways to strengthen the impact of aid on poverty alleviation and economic development in Africa, and d) propose what Africa should do to Achieve Sustainable Development.

This research was Qualitative. Researchers use this method to explore meanings; investigate and study social phenomenon; or unpack meanings ascribed to activities, situations, events, or artifacts; and build a depth of understanding about some dimension of social life with detailed information from a small sample. Qualitative research is appropriate when one's primary purpose is to explore, describe, and explain.

Chapter one provided the research background, explained the research topic, discussed the research problem, and stated the research questions. It also contained the research aims, purpose and objectives. Chapter one further discussed the research methods used to undertake the research and described the chapters of the dissertation. It discussed other research already done on this subject matter. The chapter also indicates the anticipated research results and contribution that the research made to scholarship in general and specifically to international relations theory. It finally indicates the application of the research results. Narrative and explanatory methods were used in writing this chapter. The second chapter provided the theoretical perspective of this dissertation. It evaluated additional research already conducted is in this chapter. This chapter discusses what other authors and scholars have written and published about regional integration in Africa and other parts of the world. It found the research gaps in these previous scholarly works reviewed. These pieces of research have gaps that the dissertation attempts to bridge. The methods used in this chapter were historical, exploratory, and evaluative.

Chapter 3 in the PhD dissertation constituted the Review of Related Literature. This chapter reviewed not less than 100 academic pieces of literature related regional integration in African and globally. Chapter Four is the presentation, analysis, and discussion of field data. Chapter four presents, analyses, and discusses data collected through key informant interviews at the AU Commission. As indicated earlier, the AU has a chairperson who heads the AU Commission and a Deputy Chairperson who assists the Chairperson. The Union also has six commissioners responsible for thematic areas. The six commissioners are elected by the AU Executive Council and appointed by the Assembly for a four-year term renewable once. These commissioners head thematic areas, including Technology, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment; Political Affairs, Peace, and Security; Infrastructure and Energy; Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining; Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation; Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development. The heads of the departments of women, gender and youth, and civil society and diaspora were also interviewed.

AS I SEE IT, for Africa to have peace and achieve sustainable development through the continent's regional integration mechanism, the African Union (AU) needs to implement the 1991 Abuja Treaty; fully arm, equip and support the African Standby Force to make and keep peace. Africa needs a United States of Africa under one army, one border, one government, one foreign policy and one currency. The AU also needs to ensure that 80% of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in African states goes towards infrastructural development. Africa needs to constitute an AU sovereign fund for all Africans to contribute a dollar for infrastructural development on the continent. The AU needs to manage the environment appropriately and sustainably. The AU should focus on agricultural productivity, value addition and provision of safe drinking water to address the extreme hunger, malnutrition, water issues, hunger, and poverty on the continent. Finally, the AUC needs to become a Permanent Member of the UNSC.

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

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2025

Authority (LCAA) and Brussels in the 2022 International Civil this vital endeavor. This Airlines today announced a Aviation Organization (ICAO) partnership reflects our significant partnership to enhance audit findings, aligning with the commitment to fostering air traffic control training within LCAA's strategic focus on sustainable aviation Liberia.

through a Memorandum of "This partnership marks a safer and more efficient air Understanding (MOU) signed by significant milestone in our transport system." LCAA Director-General Julius D. commitment to enhancing The signing ceremony follows Dennis, Jr., and Brussels Airlines aviation safety and operational months of productive Country Manager Marjolein J. efficiency in Liberia," stated negotiations between the LCAA Six, will provide crucial training Director-General Dennis. "By and Brussels Airlines, to six Approach Controllers and investing in the training of our solidifying a collaborative three Aerodrome Controllers.

to commence in Accra, Ghana, standards but also bolstering the within Liberia. will encompass a one-month overall capacity of the Liberian Brussels Airlines is the flag duration for Approach Controllers aviation sector." and a three-month period for Ms. Six emphasized the of the Lufthansa Group.

onrovia, Liberia – Aerodrome Controllers. This importance of this collaboration, The agreement, formalized within the aviation sector.

air traffic control personnel, we approach to advancing aviation The training program, scheduled are not only improving safety safety and service delivery

January 13, 2025 - The initiative directly addresses stating, "Brussels Airlines is Liberia Civil Aviation critical training gaps identified proud to support the LCAA in human resource development development in Liberia and contributing to the growth of a

carrier of Belgium and a member Founded in 2002, the airline operates a comprehensive network across Europe and Africa, with a strong commitment to safety and operational excellence.

The Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) is the regulatory body responsible for overseeing all aspects of civil aviation within Liberia. LCAA plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and efficiency of air travel within Liberian airspace.

troubling development "From Person of Interest" to "Suspect"

for press freedom in Liberia, Daily Observer Managing Director Bai S.G. Best and reporter David A. Yates have endured threats, detention, and coercion at the hands of the Liberia National Police (LNP) following their reporting on the death of the Boulevard Palace Hotel's General Manager, Anwar Futloo. Despite delivering a formal complaint to Inspector General Gregory Coleman on January 8, 2025, the police leadership has yet to respond, while the journalists continue to face intense interrogation.

The ordeal began on January 6, when the journalists were "invited" to the LNP headquarters by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Simeon Frank, ostensibly to discuss the Daily Observer's online report on the death of the hotel manager. However, what unfolded was an egregious abuse of authority. Frank, in the presence of his staff. threatened the journalists, stating he would have arrested them if they had not complied with his invitation.

"I asked him, 'Why would you even consider arresting a journalist for a story they published?" recounted Best in his letter to Inspector General Coleman. Instead of engaging in a professional dialogue, DIG Frank accused the Daily Observer of derailing his investigation and dismissed the journalists' rights to pursue an independent inquiry into the death, which they suspect could be a homicide.

Coercion and Detention Under the Guise of an Inquiry

Best and Yates were subjected to hours of detention and coercion under DIG Frank's directive. They were held in the office of Investigator Varney Samah, where Yates was required to fill out a form labeling him as a "person of interest" and to write a statement without legal counsel present. Attempts to consult their lawyer were delayed, as their attorney was in court at the time.

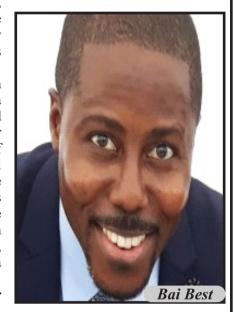
Matters escalated when Samah presented a stack of papers resembling the Daily Observer's Best's formal complaint to page to attest to its authorship. "We refused, as we could not verify where the printout originated or whether it had been altered," said Best. DIG Frank later insisted they produce a printout of the story themselves, leading to an absurd sequence in which the journalists were escorted to another office to facilitate the request.

After enduring hours of intimidation and unsubstantiated demands, the journalists were only allowed to leave after Best was coerced into signing a release note guaranteeing Yates' return for further questioning. The release note was classified as a "police document," and Best was prohibited from photographing it for his records—a restriction he described as "deeply concerning

The harassment did not end there. On January 9, Yates and Best returned to the LNP headquarters with their lawyer, Cllr. Frank Nimley, only to face more delays and opaque procedures. Yates was handed a questionnaire but was not allowed to consult with his lawyer while completing it. To their shock, Yates' designation on the questionnaire was later changed from "person of interest" to "suspect" without explanation.

"This sudden shift was alarming," said Best. "It underscores the hostile environment in which we were forced to operate and raises serious concerns about entrapment."

Each response Yates provided was reviewed by Frank's office before the interrogation could continue, prolonging the ordeal. After over an hour of this tedious process, Cllr. Nimley intervened, convincing the



investigators to release them for the day. They were instructed to return yet again on Tuesday, January 14.

The Daily Observer team's ordeal exemplifies a worrying trend of state harassment of journalists in Liberia. "This is not about cooperation; it's about intimidation," Best asserted. "The LNP's actions undermine the role of the press as a watchdog in our society. Instead of working with us to uncover the truth, they've turned us into targets."

story and demanded Yates sign each Inspector General Coleman demands accountability for Frank's actions, including a written apology and assurances that such treatment will not recur. However, as of the publication of this story, there has been no response from the Inspector General's office, leaving the journalists in a state of uncertainty.

Outrage from Civil Society

The lack of accountability has sparked outrage among media professionals and civil society advocates, who see the LNP's conduct as an assault on press freedom. "This is a blatant abuse of power," said one media analyst. "Journalists have a right to investigate matters of public interest without fear of intimidation or detention."



Gov't announces readiness to Launch of Liberia's Development Agenda

development plan, the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development The development of the ARREST (AAID) and the County Development Agendas, on January 15, 2025, in Buchanan, Grand Bassa

In an interview with Minister Ngafuan, he emphasized that the independent consultants. occasion but a critical milestone in the nation's development trajectory.

Minister Ngafuan highlighted that Liberia's national development plans traditionally have a lifespan of six years, aligned with the length of the political regime. Each new administration, upon taking office, has the responsibility to craft a new development agenda, guided by the political manifesto of the ruling party, which encapsulates the president's vision and aspirations for the country. "The launch of this national development plan is a culmination of an extensive, inclusive process involving key stakeholders from across the country," said Minister

"The ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development is not just a technical document; it is a roadmap that reflects the President's vision for Liberia's future.

Ngafuan.

Liberia- Finance and the importance of broad national guide Liberia's efforts in achieving Development Planning participation and collaboration sustainable and inclusive Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan among government ministries, development across sectors says all is now set for the official development partners, civil society promoting economic growth launch of Liberia's national organizations, and other stakeholders."

> Agenda was overseen by a dedicated inter-governmental technical team, which engaged in comprehensive consultations with national and subnational stakeholders, as well as chapter of development.

setting up a technical committee, from these discussions, producing initial drafts, and conducting a rigorous validation process.

The AAID will now move into the

onrovia, January 13, 2025/ It is a call for action that underscores implementation phase, where it wil reducing inequality, and improving the well-being of all Liberians.

> Minister Ngafuan expressed his commitment to ensuring that the plan's objectives are realized, with the full participation of all Liberians. as the country embarks on a new

The launch event in Buchanan, Grand launch is not merely a ceremonial The roadmap for the plan included Bassa County, will bring together government officials, development conducting nationwide stakeholder partners, civil society groups, and engagements, compiling findings citizens, marking a moment of collective hope and determination as Liberia strives to build a prosperous and inclusive future.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE

Bank Group enate resumes today

second session of the 55th income. Monday, January 13, 2025

administration's legislative income. program for the ensuing session A press release issued over the use the ceremony to outline January of each year.

Legislature on the state of the oftheir respective county flags. Republic.

expected to officially resume the cover expenditure as well as January.

The Legislature is preparing for present to the Liberian people the Senate Chamber and observe the delivery of the State of the through a joint session of the the official program. Nation Address (SONA) by Liberian Legislature his During the program, President President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. programs for the ensuing session. Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Constitution mandates the the nation's economic condition statement and set the Senate's President to present the including expenditure and

on the fourth working Monday in weekend by the Liberian Senate accomplishments during the first said the ceremony for the opening session. The Constitution further of the second session will be They include legislation passed Article 32(a) of the Liberian

Constitution mandates the onrovia, January 13, In presenting the economic Legislature to assemble in 2025: Members of the condition of the Republic, the Regular Session once a year on Liberian Senate are Constitution says the report shall the second working Monday in

www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Following the traditional National Legislature today, In line with constitutional duty, formalities in keeping with the President Boakai is expected to law, the Senators will proceed to

Article 58 of the Liberian The report is expected to cover Lawrence will deliver an opening agenda for the second session. Pro-Tempore Lawrence will also

mandates that once a year, the marked by a parade of members confirmations, and other President shall report to the of the Legislature and the hosting instruments in the committee room, as well as expectations during the second session.

Immediately after the opening program, members of the Senate will join their counterparts of the House of Representatives for a reception which is expected to be graced by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Other officials of government, members of the diplomatic corps, and international partners, among others, will grace the occasion.

onrovia, January 11, 2025 – World Bank -Vice President for Western and Central Africa, Mr. Ousmane Diagana, will visit Liberia from January 13 to 14, 2025, accompanied by Mr. Ethiopis Tafara, Regional Vice President for Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and Chief Finance, Risk, Legal and Sustainability Officer.

During the visit, Mr. Diagana and Mr. Tafara will meet with President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and senior officials of the Liberian Government and the Development Trust Fund Partnership Council to discuss the World Bank' Group's engagement in Liberia over the next five years.

The delegation will also visit key projects including the Mount Coffee Hydro Powerplant and Afropa Factory Liberia, Inc,

showcasing the World Bank Group's investments in energy access and private sector development. The World Bank Group is currently investing in Liberia's energy sector to support the country's ambitious energy access goals. IFC has invested in Afropa, one of Liberia's leading local corporates with diversified businesses across automotive trading, real estate, fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), and beverages.

The World Bank has been a development partner to Liberia since 1962, with a current portfolio of 19 active projects amounting to US\$922 million. These projects span critical sectors such as: infrastructure (roads & energy), health systems strengthening & disease surveillance, agriculture and fisheries, education, social protection, governance, water, women empowerment and finance.



CESS calls for speedy investigation into Capitol Hill fire outbreak

The Program Director of CESS has suggested that the fire incident at the Capitol Building has ruined the image of Liberia.

LEconomic Crimes & sense of urgency. fire outbreak at the Capitol scientific approach. Building.

joint Chamber of the Legislature matter to its logical conclusion. the Legislature.

recently, described the burning of with caution," said Mr. Seeton. attack on Liberia's democracy.

Seeton suggested that the fire incident undermines frantic efforts made towards the maintenance of the country's peace.

Further, he noted that the ugly devastation signifies a blatant disregard for the rule of law and portrays a gloomy picture of some selfish politicians.

He pointed out that millions were spent to construct the chamber at the Legislature, but evil men chose to destroy it.

The Program Director of CESS stressed that the situation has

onrovia, January 13, ruined the image of the country, averred. 2025: The Center for and it has not been treated with a

He urged the government to cause of the fire outbreak.

CESS Program Director Mr. majority blocs has huge --Press release Christopher K. Seeton, consequences to the stability of addressing a press conference our country and should be treated

the legislative chamber as an ... "Respect for the rule of law and adherence to constitutional

procedures should guide the daily activities of the Legislature", he

The Program Director challenged the Government of Security Studies (CESS) calls for He indicated that the world is Liberia to go beyond threats a speedy and empirical rapidly changing, and the fight made by Representative Saah investigation into the unfortunate against crimes requires a Foko and institute empirical measures to derive the actual

The tragic fire incident burnt the concentrate on bringing the He urged the government to punish perpetrators of such on December 18, 2024, a day "The struggle for power at the devilish acts as ignoring such after a violent protest was held at House of Representatives investigation would set a between the majority and precedent in the country's history.



lother cuts 1-year-old daughter's throat in Paynesville

Police are investigating a mother here for slashing the throat of her one-year-old daughter in their bedroom.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh aynesville, Liberia, January 13, 2025 - A woman believed to be in her 30s, Hannah Mulbah, has been arrested by Police for allegedly slitting the throat of her one-year, eight-month-old daughter in F-Sham Community, Soul Clinic, Paynesville.

The incident happened here on Friday, 10 January. Eyewitnesses reveal the suspect suffers from mental- disorder. She allegedly committed the act after instructing an elder child to go and buy food.

The child, identified as Annie Mulbah, was seen lying in a pool of blood in their bedroom before dwellers discovered her.

"We just hear screaming from the room, and when we rushed in to know what was happening, Hannah was nowhere to be found, and only the little girl was lying in a pool of blood," a resident, Lorpo Shark, narrates.

"This woman we are talking about hasn't been behaving normally in the head",

another resident, Passawe, adds.

Eyewitnesses further detail that Suspect Helena has been a very talkative person, showing signs of mental disorder.

Though what might have led to her action remains unknown, Police are probing the matter, while community dwellers have buried the remains of the infant.

The Grandfather of the deceased, Mr. Sam Kiamue, pleads with the Liberia National Police to swiftly investigate the incident. Editing by Jonathan Browne





Des jeunes militants en colère perturbent le siège de l'Union pour l'Unité

e mécontentement face à l'exclusion des emplois ravive les tensions au sein du parti

MONDAY

Le siège de l'Union pour l'Unité (UP), situé sur Broad Street, a été le théâtre d'une agitation sans précédent jeudi, lorsque des membres de la jeunesse du parti ont perturbé une conférence de presse

président national de la jeunesse, M. Togar M. Cephus, accompagné de son entourage. Des jeunes militants, se disant abandonnés par la direction, ont exprimé leur colère en interrompant bruyamment la conférence de presse.

Une contestation qui dégénère

Les manifestations des jeunes ont



prévue, dénonçant leur exclusion des emplois promis. Ce qui devait être un événement ordinaire s'est transformé en une scène chaotique dès l'arrivée du nécessaire pour éviter des

rapidement pris une tournure houleuse: slogans hostiles, tables renversées, échanges d'insultes. La tension était telle que l'intervention de plusieurs responsables a été affrontements physiques.

Les militants reprochent à la direction du parti de ne pas tenir ses promesses. « Nous avons donné tout ce que nous avions pour cette cause, mais nous avons été oubliés. Nous sommes laissés à l'abandon, sans emploi, tandis que des étrangers occupent les postes qui nous reviennent », a déclaré David Nagbe, un militant présent sur les lieux.

M. Nagbe a également critiqué l'absence prolongée des dirigeants de la jeunesse au siège du parti. « Depuis que l'UP est au pouvoir, c'est la première fois que nos dirigeants viennent ici. Nous nous sentons trahis. »

Une direction sous pression

En réponse aux accusations, M. Togar M. Cephus a tenté de calmer les esprits en exprimant sa sympathie pour les jeunes militants et en promettant des solutions.

« Nous comprenons les frustrations de nos membres, et nous avons décidé de placer cette question au cœur de notre agenda lors de la réunion

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Incendie au Capitole : des critiques dénoncent l'ingérence du président Boakai

e président Joseph N. Boakai fait face à de vives critiques pour avoir qualifié l'incendie récent du Capitole d'acte de vandalisme perpétré par des hooligans, avant même que la police n'entame une enquête officielle.

Des voix s'élèvent pour reprocher au chef de l'État d'avoir compromis l'intégrité de l'enquête conjointe des forces de sécurité en émettant des conclusions précipitées. Ces critiques rejettent par avance les résultats des investigations, qu'ils estiment manquer de preuves crédibles et impartiales.

Un incendie dans un contexte de tensions politiques

Le 18 décembre 2024, un incendie a ravagé la Rotonde du Capitole, siège des sessions communes de la législature libérienne. Les autorités ont rapidement qualifié cet incident d'acte criminel. Ce sinistre s'inscrit dans un climat de tensions politiques exacerbées, où le bloc majoritaire des députés avait récemment utilisé les lieux pour élire Richard Nagbe Koon au poste de président de

la Chambre, en remplacement

de J. Fonati Koffa. Cette élection controversée s'est déroulée en dépit d'obstacles juridiques persistants.

Le bloc majoritaire n'a pas obtenu les 49 voix nécessaires sur 73, comme l'exige la Constitution, pour destituer Koffa, mais a justifié son éviction en avançant des accusations de corruption et de conflit d'intérêts.

Des arrestations controversées

Le lendemain de l'incendie, le colonel Gregory Coleman, directeur général de la police nationale, a annoncé l'arrestation de 73 personnes impliquées dans une manifestation antigouvernementale sur les lieux la veille du sinistre. accusé le président Boakai Parmi les suspects figurent des agents de sécurité présents lors de l'incendie et le député de

l'opposition Frank Saah Foko. interrogé pour des déclarations antérieures jugées troublantes.

Le 8 janvier 2025, le colonel Coleman a officiellement confirmé que l'incendie était un acte intentionnel, ajoutant que des suspects avaient été identifiés et convoqués.

Des accusations d'ingérence et de partialité

Ces déclarations ont suscité l'indignation de l'opposition, notamment de Moses A. Gray, ancien député du district de Montserrado. Lors d'une intervention médiatique, il a d'avoir influencé le déroulement de l'enquête :



Editorial

L'immigration de travailleurs hautement **qualifiés est-elle un problème ?**

Par Daron Acemoglu

OSTON – Les fissures au sein de la coalition « Make America Great Again » du président élu Donald Trump apparaissent plus tôt que prévu. Fin décembre, la branche des milliardaires technologiques était déjà en guerre ouverte avec l'aile identitaire du mouvement MAGA concernant le programme américain de visas H-1B, qui permet aux entreprises américaines d'employer temporairement quelque 600000étrangers hautement qualifiés chaque année.

S'exprimant au nom des milliardaires, Elon Musk, le PDG de Tesla (l'un des principaux employeurs de visas H-1B), évoque une « pénurie systématique d'excellents talents en ingénierie ». « Il s'agit du principal facteur de limitation de la Silicon Valley », considère-t-il. De même, Vivek Ramaswamy, autre milliardaire du secteur technologique comptant parmi les conseillers de Trump, explique que les entreprises américaines ont besoin de travailleurs H-1B dans la mesure où « la culture américaine laisse primer la médiocrité sur l'excellence depuis bien trop longtemps (au moins depuis les années 1990, voire plus loin encore) ». De l'autre côté, un certain nombre de militants du mouvement MAGA tels que Laura Loomer et Steve Bannon – mais également des socialistes démocratiques tels que Bernie Sanders – <u>rétorquent</u> que ce programme favorise les grandes entreprises américaines au détriment des travailleurs américains.

Qui a raison ? Si les recherches économiques démontrent clairement que les immigrants apportent des compétences recherchées, un dynamisme créatif et des connaissances utiles qui bénéficient aux innovateurs nationaux, cela ne signifie pas pour autant qu'il n'existe aucun inconvénient à un recours massif aux visas H-1B. A titre d'exemple, l'argument selon lequel le programme H-1B permet aux employeurs de s'assurer des compétences en STIM (science, technologie, ingénierie et mathématiques) néglige le fait que si ce programme n'existait pas, les établissements d'enseignement américains seraient davantage poussés par le monde des entreprises à

L'idée de cette pression des élites sur le système éducatif aux fins de la production de travailleurs aux qualifications et compétences utiles remonte au moins à l'ouvrage Schooling in Capitalist America, publié en 1976 par Sam Bowles et Herb Gintis, En appliquant leur argument à la période actuelle, on pourrait s'attendre à ce que le besoin croissant des entreprises américaines en travailleurs qualifiés dans le domaine des STIM se traduise par la promotion de l'enseignement de ces matières et par des investissements à l'appui. Or, il est possible que le recours excessif au programme H-1B ait rompu ce lien, et rendu les élites américaines indifférentes aux échecs largement reconnus du système éducatif américain. Autrement dit, le problème ne réside potentiellement pas dans une vénération culturelle de la médiocrité, comme l'affirme Ramaswamy, mais plutôt dans une négligence de la part des chefs d'entreprise, des élites intellectuelles et des dirigeants politiques.

Bien entendu, il ne s'agit là que d'une hypothèse. Nul ne peut affirmer avec certitude que la réaction du système d'enseignement serait suffisante s'il était soumis à davantage de pression de la part du monde des affaires. Il n'en demeure pas moins que les dirigeants politiques américains auraient tout intérêt à prêter davantage attention aux potentiels effets secondaires du programme H-1B.

Une réflexion similaire s'applique aux choix technologiques. Certes, les <u>'travailleurs H-1B stimulent linnovation</u>, mais leur présence est susceptible d'influencer la direction que prend l'innovation. Mes propres travaux démontrent (théoriquement et empiriquement) que lorsque l'offre de maind'œuvre qualifiée augmente, les choix technologiques commencent à favoriser ces travailleurs. Au cours des dernières décennies, les entreprises ont de plus en plus adopté des technologies qui favorisent les travailleurs hautement qualifiés, et qui <u>automatisent des tâches</u> auparavant effectuées par des travailleurs moins qualifiés. Bien que d'autres facteurs aient pu être à l'origine de cette tendance, la disponibilité de travailleurs hautement qualifiés à un prix abordable pour l'industrie technologique y a vraisemblablement contribué.

Cet effet reflète ici encore une indifférence de la part des chefs d'entreprise et des dirigeants politiques. Il suggère par ailleurs que si les États-Unis entendent compter sur les travailleurs H-1B, les dirigeants politiques vont devoir envisager d'autres ajustements pour veiller à ce que les stratégies d'entreprise et les conceptions de nouvelles technologies fassent appel à des travailleurs sans qualifications ni diplôme universitaire en STIM.

Une dernière question pertinente consiste à savoir si les programmes de type H-1B pourraient nuire aux pays d'origine en provoquant une fuite des cerveaux. Le débat est ouvert sur cette question. Ces programmes pourraient constituer une démarche gagnant-gagnant si les économies de destination disposaient de technologies, d'institutions et d'autres travailleurs qualifiés particulièrement complémentaires aux immigrants hautement qualifiés. Dans ce cas, un travailleur indien en STIM contribuerait davantage à la production mondiale ou à l'innovation depuis les États-Unis que depuis l'Inde, et une partie des connaissances scientifiques et techniques supplémentaires produites se diffuserait en retour dans le pays d'origine.

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Des jeunes militants en colère Starts from page 8

nationale prévue du 30 janvier au 2 février 2025 à Nimbia County. Cette rencontre vise à renforcer notre base et à répondre aux préoccupations légitimes de nos militants », a-t-il expliqué.

M. Cephus a également dénoncé ceux qu'il a qualifiés d'« opportunistes », accusés d'avoir détourné les bénéfices de la révolution menée par le parti. « Nous envoyons un avertissement clair à ceux qui tentent de dénaturer notre mission. Ce mouvement appartient aux jeunes, et nous agirons dans leur intérêt.»

Une fracture inquiétante

Cet incident met en lumière une fracture croissante au sein du parti entre la base militante et ses dirigeants. La réunion nationale de Nimbia County sera cruciale pour apaiser les tensions et rétablir la confiance. L'Union pour l'Unité, qui fête bientôt sa première année au pouvoir, devra prouver qu'elle reste fidèle aux idéaux qui ont mobilisé ses partisans.

Incendie au Cap Starts from page 8

« Dès le départ, le président a qualifié cet acte de vandalisme commis par des hooligans, sans attendre les conclusions des enquêteurs. Cela compromet l'impartialité du processus et montre une volonté de cibler l'opposition », a-t-il déclaré.

Gray a également dénoncé le rôle de la police nationale, qu'il accuse de partialité dans le conflit entre les blocs majoritaire et minoritaire. Il a demandé la récusation du colonel Coleman, estimant qu'il n'était pas en mesure de mener une enquête indépendante.

Réactions partagées au sein de la classe politique

Malgré ces critiques, Mohammed Ali, directeur général de la Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation et porte-parole de l'Union pour le Progrès (UP), a défendu le travail de la police : « La mission de la police est de rassembler des preuves solides qui seront examinées par le

tribunal. Ce n'est pas à elle de juger, mais aux cours de justice.»

Foday Fahnbulleh, député du bloc majoritaire, a également exprimé sa confiance dans l'enquête : « Les preuves disponibles, les menaces proférées avant l'incendie, tout pointe vers un acte criminel. Je crois que la police fait un travail objectif et professionnel.»

Appel à la retenue et à la patience

Edwin Massally, un citoyen engagé, a appelé au calme et à la patience : « Nous devons laisser l'enquête suivre son cours et éviter de politiser cet incident tragique. Toute conclusion doit être fondée sur des preuves tangibles, pas sur des allégations partisanes », a-t-il insisté.

Alors que le débat fait rage, l'incendie du Capitole reste un sujet hautement sensible, mêlant enjeux politiques et interrogations sur la crédibilité des institutions en charge de l'enquête.

Crise à la Chambre des représentants : L'ex-ministre Akerele interpelle la Cour suprême sur son avis ambigu

des représentants.

Rendu public le 6 décembre 2024, l'avis de la Cour suprême a abordé la légalité constitutionnelle des actions menées par certains Une crise amplifiée par interprétations contradictoires.

l'inquiétude Mme Akerele de la décision. « Bien que le déplore l'ambiguïté de cet avis, en ministre de la Justice ait affirmé particulier l'usage du terme *ultra* que le gouvernement applique la vires, qui complique sa compréhension. « Les citoyens méritent des explications juristes compétents a laissé les accessibles et cohérentes sur les implications juridiques de cette souligné lors d'une retraite décision », a-t-elle déclaré, appelant le Barreau national du Liberia (LNBA) à intervenir pour fournir des éclairages. L'avis découle d'un différend concernant une résolution adoptée le 17 octobre 2024 par un groupe de 47 députés s'autoproclamant « bloc majoritaire ». Ils avaient alors décidé de destituer J. Fonati Koffa, qu'ils accusaient de mauvaise gestion et d'incompétence administrative. Cette décision a été confirmée par un vote officiel le 21 novembre 2024, réunissant 50 voix en faveur

Toutefois, la Cour suprême a

de sa destitution.

lubanke King Akerele, rappelé dans son avis la nécessité ancienne ministre des de respecter strictement les Affaires étrangères sous articles 33 et 49 de la l'administration Sirleaf, appelle la Constitution, qui régissent les Cour suprême du Liberia à procédures internes de la clarifier son avis sur la crise de Chambre. Elle a précisé que toute leadership qui divise la Chambre action menée en dehors de ce cadre constitutionnel serait considérée comme ultra vires, c'est-à-dire au-delà des limites légales de l'autorité.

membres de la Chambre, l'Exécutif L'ambiguïté de l'avis a notamment la destitution du conduit le ministère de la Justice, président J. Fonati Koffa. au nom de l'Exécutif, à adopter Cependant, il n'a pas tranché une interprétation en faveur du clairement en faveur du bloc bloc majoritaire. Cette prise de majoritaire ou de M. Koffa et ses position a été critiquée par Mme partisans, alimentant des Akerele, qui estime qu'un tel manque de consensus juridique Des ambiguïtés qui suscitent nuit à la compréhension publique décision, l'absence d'une interprétation unifiée par les citoyens perplexes », a-t-elle organisée par le groupe Voices of Elders le 9 janvier 2025.

Un plaidoyer pour une clarté juridique Se décrivant comme une « patriote engagée », Mme Akerele insiste sur l'importance d'une transparence juridique accrue. Elle a exprimé son souhait de rencontrer le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai afin de discuter de la situation et de solliciter des explications supplémentaires. Ce plaidoyer intervient dans un contexte de pression croissante sur la Chambre des représentants pour qu'elle se conforme aux exigences constitutionnelles. Mme Akerele a également évoqué son expérience passée, rappelant que l'ancien président George Weah avait refusé de rencontrer les aînés du groupe Voices of Elders.

Une voie vers la stabilité constitutionnelle Dans son avis, la Cour suprême a réaffirmé son rôle d'arbitre ultime des différends constitutionnels, conformément à l'article 66 de la Constitution. Elle a également souligné l'urgence d'aligner les opérations législatives sur les dispositions constitutionnelles, notamment en ce qui concerne la gestion des absences et les mécanismes de vote.



Ngafuan appelle à une gestion rigoureuse des dépenses publiques

-Le ministre des Finances insiste sur la maîtrise des fonds alloués dans le budget national

ugustine K. Ngafuan, ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, a appelé ses collègues du gouvernement et les responsables des institutions publiques à adopter une gestion stricte des fonds alloués dans le budget national, en évitant toute dépense superflue.

Lors de son intervention le jeudi 9 janvier 2025, au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, à Congo Town, à l'occasion de l'ouverture d'un atelier de trois jours sur l'exécution du budget national pour l'exercice fiscal 2025, Ngafuan a insisté sur la nécessité de limiter les dépenses inutiles et de gérer avec parcimonie les ressources disponibles. « Je vous invite, chers ministres et responsables d'institutions publiques, à mettre en place des restrictions sur les dépenses superflues et à gérer de manière responsable les ressources qui vous sont allouées », a-t-il déclaré.

Une gestion prudente pour une exécution efficace

Le ministre a particulièrement mis en garde les responsables nommés en avril dernier, leur conseillant de ne pas adopter une approche consistant à épuiser leurs budgets en seulement neuf mois. Selon lui, cette méthode pourrait entraîner une rupture de financement avant la fin de l'exercice budgétaire.

« Pour assurer une gestion budgétaire efficace, il est essentiel d'adopter des mesures de restriction strictes. Sans cela, vous risquez de vous retrouver sans fonds avant la fin de l'exercice », a averti Ngafuan.

Il a aussi rappelé que le budget est conçu pour une période de 12 mois, et non de trois, six ou neuf mois, soulignant l'importance d'une planification trimestrielle et annuelle pour une gestion budgétaire

La gestion des ressources : un défi constant



Le ministre a insisté sur le fait que ce n'est pas la taille du budget qui importe, mais la manière dont il est géré. « Deux ministères peuvent avoir des budgets similaires, mais I'un peut réussir son exécution tandis que l'autre échoue, en fonction de la gestion financière de chaque entité », a-t-il expliqué.

Ngafuan a fait état des difficultés rencontrées l'année précédente, notamment les ajustements budgétaires tardifs et les problèmes liés à la transition gouvernementale. Cette année, a-t-il ajouté, les ministères ont suffisamment de temps pour mieux préparer et exécuter

Fort de son expérience, ayant déjà servi sous l'administration de l'exprésidente Sirleaf, Ngafuan a souligné que l'administration actuelle attend une gestion plus rigoureuse et une exécution plus transparente des budgets pour l'année en cours.

Renforcement des capacités des responsables publics

De son côté, Tanneh Brunson, ministre adjointe des Finances en charge du budget, a insisté sur l'importance de l'atelier pour renforcer les compétences des responsables publics. « Aujourd'hui, nous ne sommes pas seulement des représentants d'institutions, mais des gardiens de la confiance publique, chargés de gérer efficacement les ressources financières de la nation dans l'intérêt de tous », a-t-elle souligné.

Elle a rappelé que la 55e législature a récemment adopté un budget national de 880 millions de dollars pour l'exercice fiscal 2025, une somme importante qui représente une occasion unique de stimuler le développement du pays. Cependant, elle a averti que cette opportunité impose également une responsabilité accrue en matière de gestion financière transparente et de respect des principes budgétaires.

L'atelier, qui se termine le samedi 11 janvier 2025, réunit des responsables ministériels, des agences gouvernementales, des commissions ainsi que des partenaires au développement. L'objectif est de renforcer les connaissances sur la gestion des finances publiques et d'assurer une exécution efficace du budget national.

ARTICLE ARTICLE

Boakai: No Silver Lining in One Year

By Seltue Karweaye

MONDAY

t is a well-established truth that the performance of any government is scrutinized based on the success or failure of the promises it made both before and after assuming office. During the presidential campaign of the previous year, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, representing the Unity Party, made many commitments to the Liberian populace. These promises were later encapsulated by his campaign team into what they called his 6-point Arrest Agenda. The agenda aimed to address critical issues such as agribusiness, roads, and infrastructure development, establishing the rule of law and good governance, enhancing education and human capital, and promoting tourism in Liberia.

As Boakai's administration nears the one-year mark in office, it is important to reflect on the outcomes of his governance thus far. Unfortunately, it is not an exaggeration to state that his administration has faced significant challenges and has produced a record that many would consider dismal.

Throughout the past year, there has been a conspicuous lack of effective planning and a sense of impulsiveness that has marked many of his administration's decisions, raising questions about their sincerity and commitment to fulfilling their promises. The 2024 in review has undoubtedly been a difficult journey for Boakai, who aspired to lead the country as its President and Commander-in-Chief. Regrettably, instead of delivering on the envisioned progress and prosperity, the reality for many Liberians has been one of struggle and despair. The rising costs of essential goods and services have plunged ordinary citizens into a state of economic hardship, resulting in increased pain, sorrow, and hardship. Many families are grappling with the harsh realities of hunger and poverty, as the prices for basic necessities have soared to levels that are simply unattainable for the average citizen.

The stories of struggle and disillusionment that fill the lives of most Liberians today are truly harrowing. There is an abundance of evidence to substantiate these claims, and it is all too apparent in the daily lives of the citizens. As we take stock one year into Boakai's presidency, it becomes glaringly evident that Liberia is in a more precarious position. The need for decisive and effective leadership has never been more critical, as the nation seeks to find a way out of the mounting challenges it faces.

Since taking office, the inflation rate in Liberia has surged to a concerning level of 10.74 percent, marking a significant economic challenge for the nation. Concurrently, the monetary policy rate has escalated to 17.5 percent. Such high rates of inflation are particularly harmful to local businesses, making it difficult for them to maintain profitability and for potential investors to see Liberia as an attractive destination for investment.

Food inflation is especially alarming, having reached an unprecedented high of 11.5 percent during this period. This rise has directly impacted the cost of basic necessities. For instance, the national average price for a 25 kg bag of rice has soared to LRD 3,700, reflecting a staggering 21% increase compared to the same time frame in 2023. Currency dynamics also play a critical role in the current economic climate; as of last week, the exchange rate for the Liberian dollar stood at L\$186.2296 per US

Moreover, Liberians and various industries are facing a confluence of economic hardships. These include exorbitant energy costs, which burden both households and businesses, as well as ongoing challenges related to foreign exchange (FX) liquidity. The situation is compounded by multiple layers of import taxation that hinder trade, and the country's power supply remains inconsistent and unreliable, further straining economic activities. Amid these challenges, the political climate has also become tense, as evidenced by the arrest of protesters—a troubling incident that raises serious concerns about the state of civil liberties and the freedom to assemble in the country.

In light of these difficulties, many citizens are left wondering about the effectiveness of the so-called "Arrest Agenda." Questions are being raised regarding the whereabouts of the economic reboot and rescue mission that President Boakai promised to deliver. In his inauguration speech delivered on January 22, 2025, he emphasized his commitment to expanding the economy

through strategic investment in agriculture.

Now, as we reflect on the year since his inauguration, reports from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund reveal that Liberia's GDP ranks among the lowest in the world. The economy continues to struggle with stagnation, currently at a mere 5.3 percent growth rate. It is undeniable that the President inherited a challenging economic landscape, marked by a substantial debt profile, high levels of debt servicing, persistent shortages of foreign exchange, a fragile power supply, a depreciating Liberian dollar, and declining iron ore production—all of which have historically driven significant contributions to the economy.

Despite these initial challenges, it appears that President Boakai has managed to surpass the failures of his predecessor, George Weah, across several crucial indicators. Over the past year, his administration has significantly increased borrowing, racking up over US\$236 million in debt in one year, despite former assurances to curtail borrowing practices. This reckless financial strategy has led to a troubling escalation of the national debt, which climbed to over US\$2.5 billion by the end of September 2024, according to the latest figures released by the Debt Management Office in the third quarter fiscal report. This alarming trend raises critical questions about fiscal responsibility and the government's long-term economic strategy moving forward.

In his inaugural address, the president made a strong commitment to both local and foreign investors, vowing that his administration



would create a more favorable investment environment aimed at expanding the private sector and generating employment opportunities for Liberians. However, the situation is complicated by the continued presence of certain companies operating within Liberia's borders.

One such company is Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions (GTMS), which was previously expelled from Sierra Leone after being accused of defrauding the Sierra Leonean government of more than US\$11 million. Despite this troubling history, GTMS is currently permitted to operate in Liberia, where it provides container tracking services at all the country's ports. The company charges over \$270 for each container it tracks, leading to concerns among local businesses about the fairness of such fees.

Another notable player in this scenario is MedTech Scientific Limited (MTS), a company from Qatar that was introduced to Liberia by the Weah administration in 2019. MTS is responsible for conducting destination inspections of containers arriving at Liberia's seaports and charges a fee of \$250 per container inspected. This operational setup has raised significant concerns from local businesses that feel marginalized and burdened by the costs imposed by these foreign companies.

Overall, while the administration's goal to improve the investment climate is questionable, the ongoing operations of GTMS and MTS, especially in light of their controversial backgrounds, continue to provoke frustration and discontent among local enterprises struggling to thrive in such an environment.

If Boakai inherited a Liberia that was already divided along various lines, he has only succeeded in further polarizing the nation. The divisions that separate us have deepened significantly during his time in office. A thorough examination of the President's appointments thus far reveals a troubling continuity with the previous administration, where a system that heavily favors the president's county of origin has played a significant role in decision-making. Specifically, the appointments to key positions have predominantly favored Lofa County, the President's home county, raising concerns about regional bias in

overnance.

Furthermore, basic necessities, particularly staple foods like rice, are increasingly becoming unaffordable for the average Liberian. The economic strain has reached such a level that this is perhaps one of the worst times to be ill in Liberia; the costs associated with medical care and prescription medications are now well beyond the financial reach of most citizens. This situation prompts a critical question: Is your life genuinely better now than it was before Boakai assumed power? The prospect of relief from the current state of extreme hardship seems bleak and uncertain.

It is fair to argue that the benchmarks for judging President Boakai's effectiveness as a leader are exceptionally high and difficult to achieve, given the damages set by previous administrations, but Boakai promised to rescue the country. The President must take responsibility for the hasty and thoughtless decisions he has made in a remarkably short timeframe. Many of his policies have led to profoundly negative repercussions that resonate across multiple sectors of the economy and society. As such, we find ourselves in a scenario where despair has overshadowed hope for a brighter future. This pervasive sense of hopelessness stands as a troubling indicator of the current administration's track record in governing the country effectively, raising serious concerns about the path forward for Liberia.

The current situation in Liberia under this administration is quite troubling and deserves careful examination. This President, akin to his predecessor, appears to regard the presidency not as a solemn responsibility, but rather as a coveted prize to be claimed. This perspective undermines the gravity of the office and the profound responsibilities that come with it. In a nation facing numerous challenges, the starting point for this government—and, more specifically, for this President—should have involved a period of introspection and thorough self-assessment. Such a process is critical for any leader aiming to understand the complex dynamics of governance. Unfortunately, there is a noticeable absence of these essential elements in the current administration's approach.

Let's clarify an important point: the success of Boakai directly correlates with the success of Liberia as a nation. It is crucial to recognize that for him, the acquisition of power seems to take precedence over all other considerations, which is deeply concerning for the future of the country. Governing is not a matter of trial and error;

yet, unfortunately, this administration has operated in such a manner over the past year. We have witnessed a troubling and consistent pattern of ineffective policies that have permeated most of its reform efforts.

One of the fundamental issues plaguing this administration is its inability to acknowledge the significant and, at times, catastrophic mistakes that have been made. Rather than admitting these failures, there appears to be a reluctance to make necessary adjustments and improvements as we move forward. This lack of accountability is alarming, especially since there is a well-established principle of second chances. Many religious texts, including the scriptures, emphasize the importance of recognizing one's shortcomings and seizing the opportunity to correct them. These chances are often pivotal for personal and societal growth, but they require a sincere acknowledgment of past errors.

Therefore, I would offer my unsolicited advice to President Boakai: do not allow your legacy to become merely a footnote in the annals of history. While the image of an 'imperial' presidency might offer certain immediate advantages—such as consolidating power and enacting swift decisions without opposition—this approach carries significant risks. Such a concentration of power can undermine democratic institutions and erode public trust, leading to long-lasting and profound damage to our democratic framework. It is crucial to recognize that the opportunity for meaningful change and reflection still exists. By embracing a more inclusive and transparent approach to governance, President Boakaia can move away from the trappings of authoritarianism and work toward fostering a healthier democratic environment that respects the voices of all citizens. It is not too late to chart a new course that prioritizes the nation's and its people's wellbeing over personal ambition. I rest my pen.

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ingolese Doctor faces probe

The Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC) with support from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is interrogating a Congolese medical Doctor here, NGOY-MULUME Thadee in the death of a 21-year-old patient, Isaiah Benedicto Williams.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

onrovia, Liberia, January 13, 2025, _- The Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC) with support from the

the late Student Isaiah B. Williams, but the operation did not occur as planned. But he died after an injection was administered to him in preparation for the surgery.



Ministry of Justice (MOJ) commences investigation here into allegations of medical malpractice and wrongful death of 21-year-old Isaiah Benedicto Williams, during a medical procedure at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia.

The LMDC, through its Register-General, Dr. Augustine G. Quiah, Friday, January 10, 2025, disclosed that it is investigating a doctor of the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, identified as Doctor Papy NGOY-MULUME Thadee, for wrongful medical procedure, causing the death of a student, after the deceased's family filed a complaint of Medical Malpractice.

According to Doctor Quiah, it is the duty and responsibility of every patient in the country to submit an application for an unsatisfactory medical procedure at any hospital, leading to death or casualty, to ensure justice.

Dr. Thadee, born in Congo but is a Senegalese-trained Pediatric, is allegedly accused of administering wrongful medication to the late Williams, a 2022 graduate of St. Edward Catholic High School and candidate for enrolment at Lay Adventist University of Kigali, Rwanda.

The New Dawn gathered Dr. Ngoymulum Thadee was one of the pediatricians, surgeons, or foreign doctors hired by the Ministry of Health, Republic of Liberia.

As usual, he was in a private medical practice and was hired by Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital as its main doctor

when the incident occurred. Further investigation indicates that Doctor Thadee was

required to perform surgery on

This paper also learned that the Congolese specialist wasn't the one who injected the patient multiple times but one of the nurses at the hospital. However, Doctor Thadee was head of the surgery team working on the late Isaiah Williams.

Prior to his sudden death, the deceased had been scheduled to travel to Rwanda this January 2025 for studies.

The late Williams had visited the hospital to treat a swollen cele or hydrocele testis, a condition he had been suffering from before his admittance by the hospital.

His family blames his death on an overdose of wrongful injection by the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, as preliminary investigation shows there was no surgery performed on their son that could have had him bleeding to succumb to death.

Doctor Thadee, who is said to be in his late 30s, ignored NEW DAWN's queries as part of a preliminary investigation into the death of the late Isaiah Benedicto Williams, maintaining that it is too early to comment on what transpired that led to the demise of the patient.

The hospital administration also refused to respond to questions, pending investigation.

Meanwhile, the ethics and disciplinary committee chair of the Liberia Medical and Dental Council, Professor Peter S. Coleman, assures the council's commitment to an independent, fair, and transparent investigation.

Dr. Coleman, also a former minister of health of Liberia, consoles the bereaved family for the loss of their son while urging the public to remain calm as the investigation progresses, reassuring them the process will be thorough and credible.

The LMDC is responsible for regulating medical activities and investigating malpractices or negligence in the profession to bring the culprits to book.

The late 21-year-old Williams, a 2022 graduate of St. Edward Catholic School here, reportedly died on Friday, January 3, 2025 at 12:46 pm in the operation theater of the Catholic Hospital Still, the family alleges negligence by the hospital,l which led to the death of their son, accusing the institution of administering an overdose injection.

An investigation by the NEW DAWN indicates that the late Williams, who was admitted at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, allegedly died after being overdosed with the wrong medication, leaving him shivering, itching his private parts, and ejaculating several times before succumbing to

"Academic Gladiator," as he was affectionately called, the 21-year-old promising student. was said to be the only child of his mother.

Family sources say he was never sick prior to his admittance at the hospital, suspecting that he might have died of the wrong injection administered to him.

In a touching story, the family says the late Williams allegedly overdosed on the wrong medication without even going through surgery for which he was admitted at the hospital.

"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 the 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 done 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. Editing by Jonathan Browne

From Back Page LEC to reduce power outage

project, funded by the World Bank's hydroelectric dam, SP2, to be LESSAP initiative, has been awarded to SINOHYDRO Corporation Limited. Repairs are slated to begin in March 2025 and conclude by March 2026, restoring the plant's 88MW capacity.

Additionally, construction of a \$16 million, 20MWp solar power plant at Mt. Coffee, financed by the World Bank's RESPITE Project, is underway and expected to be completed by October 2025.

The expansion of the Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant, funded with \$62 million from the World Bank, will add two new turbines, increasing capacity by over 50%.

Plans are also in motion for a new

constructed upstream of the St. Paul River in Bong County. The project, expected to generate 150-200MW, is currently in the feasibility study phase with an estimated cost of about \$700 million.

LEC's management reiterates its commitment to addressing the nation's energy challenges and ensuring a more reliable and sustainable electricity supply for Liberia's future.

The availability of uninterrupted or stable electricity is crucial for vibrant economic activities across the country. Editing by Jonathan

lassive preparation in Ni

The people of Nimba are gearing up to receive the remains of fallen kinsmen, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, this week for burial following his death late last year.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County imba, Liberia, January 13, 2025 – Final preparations are in progress in Nimba County for the final journey of late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, who reportedly collapsed in his bathroom and died on 28 November 2024.

The leader of the disbanded rebels **Independent National Patriotic Front** of Liberia (INPFL) was on the path of spending 27 years (2006 to 2024) in the Liberian Senate when he suddenly died at 72.

Dubbed a kingmaker in Liberian politics for successfully helping to bring two former presidents and current President Joseph Boakai to power, the late PYJ was an influential leader in his native Nimba County.

The ex-rebel general-turnedevangelist and politician was prominent on the list of key actors named by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for persecution for heinous crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberian Civil War.

His death came at a time when the current administration that he helped in winning the election, established an Office of War and Economic Crimes that would eventually lead to the formation of a hybrid tribunal with the help of the international community to make major actors from the civil conflict account for atrocities committed.

A high-powered delegation led by former culture ambassador Juli Endee, Ganta City Mayor Samuel Saye Hardt, alongside Superintendent Kou Meapeh Gono and other Nimbaians late last week

embarked on massive preparations ahead of funereal rites for the fallen statesman that begin from January 14 to 18 in the politically-charged county.

Remains of the late Senator, who was also revered as the godfather of Nimba politics, are expected to be interred this Saturday, January 18, in Ganta after a tour of major towns and cities in Nimba.

Addressing reporters in Ganta City, former culture ambassador Juli Endee said they are working hard to give the fallen Senator a befitting funeral.

She said works are ongoing in several parts of the country, adding that Nimbaians worldwide and in the country support the exercises, which are intended to give a heroic burial to PYJ.

According to her, the body will tour six cities in Nimba before burial in the premises of the PYJ Polytechnic University that the late senator constructed.

Superintendent Kou Meapeh Gono, who is leading the ongoing process, notes that the late PYJ was the face of Nimba, so they are jointly involved in the preparations.

Superintendent Gono said they will cease the homegoing of the late PJY as an opportunity to unite the people

The Mayor of Ganta, Samuel Saye Hardt, says all is set to receive the body for its final journey.

Mayor Hardt thanks the Joint Security in Ganta, the business community, and residents, among others, for supporting the process. Editing by Jonathan Browne





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-Expands energy infrastructure

Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) promises to address persistent power outages and improve the reliability of services in the wake of the dry season.

By Naneka A. Hoffman onrovia, Liberia, January 13, 2025 - The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

management strategy aimed at minimizing outages and ensuring that no community experiences power cuts exceeding eight hours. He

January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027. The revision aims to ensure the tariff is fair and reflects LEC's operational needs while prioritizing customer interests.

Management announces successfully negotiating a new Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Côte d'Ivoire Energies (CI-ENERGIES), securing a 50MW energy supply via the CLSG Transmission Line. An additional 20MW of "Extra Energy" has also been procured for flexibility during peak demand periods.

However, Gonkewon cautions that unforeseen technical the corporation's control.

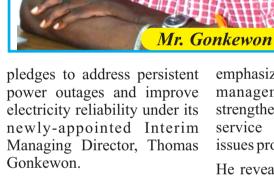
to insulation failure.

The \$5.5 million repair

issues might occasionally lead to load adjustments beyond The LEC discloses that three of its four turbines at the Mt.

Coffee Hydropower Plant in White Plain, Montserrado County, are operational, while repairs are planned for the fourth turbine, which is temporarily out of service due

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Addressing a press conference in Monrovia, Mr. Gonkewon outlines a series of initiatives,

emphasizes transparency in load management schedules and strengthening 24-hour customer service to address technical issues promptly.

He reveals that the corporation has revised a tariff proposal initially submitted to the Liberia Electricity Regulatory including an enhanced load Commission (LERC) covering





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