



CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA **MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR DATE **BUYING SELLING** MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 L\$193.5337/US\$1.00 L\$190.7067/US\$1.00

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



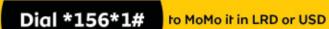




Boakai to deliver Annual PI Message at Capitol



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ontinenta

At least 70 die in explosion in Nigeria while collecting fuel from overturned tanker recognition. This was not the first he latest contingent of of their departure.

tanker overturned.

Tearly all the transfer the fuel into victims were another to locals who had they started the generator, rushed to collect the fuel the explosion happened," that spilled when the said eyewitness Abdulazeez.

"They finished scooping The Federal Road Safety the fuel and they brought Corps says most of them a generator to use to were burnt beyond

incident of its kind.

With the absence of an efficient railway system to transport cargo, fatal truck accidents are common along most of the major roads in Nigeria.

In addition, the petrol price has gone up by over 400 per cent since May 2023 when President Bola Tinubu scrapped a decades old fuel subsidy.

This has led many to risk their lives to recover fuel during tanker truck accidents.

In October last year, more than 170 people died in a similar incident in Jigawa State, in northern Nigeria.

217 Kenyan police officers arrived in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince on Saturday where they were greeted by Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime.

They are being deployed to the Caribbean country to provide back-up to an understaffed international security mission.

About 10 countries pledged troops for Haiti as part of a United Nations-backed antigang force, but few have so far been deployed.

Kenya began sending police to the country in June last year and now has more than 600 people on the ground.

President William Ruto has promised a total of 1,000 troops as part of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission.

Kenya's Interior Minister, Kipchumba Murkomen, addressed the latest group ahead

"I know many questions are being asked by some people to say, we haven't sorted every other problem [at home] and why are we donating our police officers."

"We don't usually do or give out of abundance of what we have. Giving is the spirit that is in us as Kenyans," he

Murkomen said the officers who have been there since last head had "contained so many of those gangs".

"I believe you are going to vanquish them, you are going to create a working environment for the Haitians and you are going to hand over a country to the locals," he said.

But the United Nations said more than 5,600 people were killed in spiralling gang violence in Haiti last year.

Fighting has also left more than 700,000 Haitians homeless in recent years, with many crowding into makeshift and unsanitary shelters.

The UN estimates that more than 80 per cent of the capital is still controlled by criminal gangs.



Kenyan start-up turning invasive plant into biodegradable packaging

The popular Lake we get between 10 and 15 hyacinth forus." Naivasha, a few hours kilogrammes," he said.

are threatening the livelihoods of on Lake Naivasha. local fishermen.

reduced oxygen in the water, biodegradable packaging. there are fewer fish.

"But when it affected the "How we do this is that we work breeding zones, the fish together with fishermen who are decreased. We used to catch up to affected at the lake, and we

drive north-west of the But now a young Kenyan, Joseph Kenyan capital, Nairobi, is Nguthiru, has come up with a famous for its flamingos and solution that started as a final year university project, following But the lake is being invaded by a disastrous field excursion that invasive water hyacinths which left him and his classmates stuck

His company, HyaPak, is The engines of their small boats working with the fishermen, and nets regularly get snarled up harvesting the plant and in the carpet of green. And with transforming it into

"What we are trying to look at is, Fisherman Simon Macharia says how do we use one problem he used to catch a good amount of which is water hyacinth to solve fish before the water hyacinth the other problem which is plastic waste pollution," says Nguthiru.

90 kilogrammes per day but now contract them to harvest the water

The plant is dried on site and then transported to HyaPak's facilities where it is combined with binders and additives, which is then mixed and shaped.

Nguthiru says the company is looking into spaces that have high plastic use but need to go sustainable and go green.

"One of these is agriculture, where we have a lot of seedlings being packaged in plastic bags," he says.

"We have our biodegradable bags that are inserted with the seedlings into the ground. As they decompose the release nutrients that accelerate the growth rate of plants as well reducing the irrigation."



Suitcases of 'cocaine' fo Sierra Leone embassy vehicle

ambassador from seven suitcases containing suspected cocaine were found in an embassy

On Monday, Guinean authorities amount of water used in impounded a vehicle belonging to accountable. its occupants on suspicion of possessing "substances suspected to be cocaine", Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Alhaji Musa Timothy Kabba said.

"In light of this serious development, the government has urgently recalled Sierra Leone's ambassador to Guinea, Ambassador Mr Alimamy Bangura, to Freetown to provide a full account of the incident," he

The recalled envoy was not in the car and is not under arrest, the minister said.

"It has not been proven that the ambassador is involved in this trafficking," Kabba said.

About \$2,000 (£1,600) in cash was found along with the seven suitcases, according to the minister, who did not specify the weight of the suspected drugs.

ierra Leone has recalled its Kush: Sierra Leone's new illegal drug

neighbouring Guinea after He said the two West African countries were cooperating in a "thorough" investigation of the incident, pledging that all responsible parties would be held

Sierra Leone's embassy and detained "Anyone found guilty of breaking Sierra Leonean and international drug trafficking laws will face full force of the law."

> West Africa is a major transit point for the trafficking of cocaine from Latin America, where it is produced, to Europe, one of the drug's main markets. But some drugs are also being consumed locally.





DITORIA

How St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital ignored professional medical standards, leading to death.

he incident that led to the death of a 21-year-old patient, Isaiah Benedicto Williams, at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia could have been avoided if the doctor and staff had taken dedicated care on duty. The unfortunate situation unveils the level of sheer recklessness by health authorities and health institutions across the country, resulting in countless deaths that usually go unchallenged.

But the family of the late promising Isaiah Benedicto Williams stood their ground in demanding the cause of death, especially so when there was no surgery performed on the patient for which the hospital had scheduled him to remove a hydrocele. The family complained to the Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC) for wrongful medication and overdose that might have caused the death of their son, who was a candidate for enrolment at Lay Adventists University in Kigali, Rwanda,

Though the Catholic Archdiocese Secretariat of Liberia, coordinated by Ms. Yah Wynn-Gaus, subsequently met with the bereaved family and regretted the incident, findings released by LMDC uncovered the depth of recklessness by administrators at the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital. The final verdict was released on Friday, January 17, 2025, by Chairperson of the Liberia Medical and Dental Council, Pediatric Doctor Benetta Collins Andrew, who found the hospital liable due to a lack of standard operation procedures.

According to Doctor Andrew, there was a serious medical error by the hospital, revealing that Patient Isaiah Benedicto Williams died as a result of a malfunctioning Anaesthesia Machine. According to her, the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital did not have a properly functioning Anaesthesia Machine to perform a standard surgery.

"We also want to hold the hospital liable because even the doctor who was in charge of the operation, Dr. Thadee's license has expired, and as a doctor, you do not practice Medicines for even a second without an active license", Doctor Andrew explains. The LMDC reveals that complications arose after the late Isaiah received anesthesia administered by a nurse anesthetist, resulting in a severe reaction that ultimately led to his death.

Accordingly, the Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital has been found liable and fined US\$30,000 for damages in the wrongful death of 21 year-old Isaiah Benedicto Williams.

We can vividly recall similar incident when the Management of John F. Kennedy Medical Center (JFK) in Monrovia was found liable and ordered to pay US\$1 million lawsuit as general damages and US\$3.1m special damages for a wrongful surgical operation performed on one of its patients identified as Karen Gaydou Sehkehporh of Paynesville City. The trial was held in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, but JFK Management pleaded not guilty and challenged the verdict that it argued was based on sentiments.

These lapses and more that go unreported should claim the attention of health practitioners and administrators on the need to exercise utmost due diligence and care in handling cases to curtail avoidable deaths in our health institutions, inflicting pain on families and loved ones.

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by Kevin Watkins, Gordon Brown

School Meals Provide Food for Thought – and Fuel for Develo

✓ Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, an additional year of schooling. 2020s are shaping up to be a lost decade for development – and the world's most vulnerable children are bearing the brunt of this slowdown.

The future envisaged by the SDGs is drifting out of reach. In 2030, some 620 million people are projected to live in extreme poverty (defined by the World Bank as an income below \$2.15 per day). Progress toward the eradication of hunger stalled over a decade ago. At the current pace, there will be 582 million people living with chronic undernutrition in 2030 – the same number as a decade ago, when the SDGs were adopted.

This widening gap between ambition and achievement disproportionately affects young people under 18. Children account for around one-third of the global population, but more than half of the world's poor. Currently, 237 million of the 333 million children living in extreme poverty are in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) According to our estimates, based on UN and World Bank projections, that number will increase to 326 million by 2030.

Undernutrition is taking a devastating toll. In the world's poorest countries, around 258 million children areliving with hunger – 56 million more than in 2015. For these children, hunger is not an occasional source of stress but a grinding reality of daily life. Chronic undernutrition means that millions of children are affected by stunting – one of the major risk factors for impaired brain development. Stunting rates are falling, but at just onequarter of the rate needed to achieve the SDG targets; they remain over 30% in South Asia and SSA. At the current rate of progress, there will be 36 million more children living with stunting than there would be if the SDG for hunger were met.

Poverty and hunger have devastating effects on educational outcomes and social mobility. Some 84 million children are at risk of being out of education by the 2030 deadline, undermining progress toward universal education. Without an education, adolescents are often forced into work and early marriage, dashing their hopes of a better future. And hunger in the classroom is a powerful impediment to concentration and learning.

luxury poor and hungry children can ill afford. They need practical policies that can make a difference in their lives by 2030. To that end, we are advocating a major initiative to achieve universal school meals in the poorest countries, backed by a new global funding mechanism.

Programs in India, Brazil, and many other countries have shown that providing a meal in school improves nutrition, allows children to learn free from the debilitating effects of hunger, and is the most cost-effective way to reduce child poverty. For the poorest families, a school meal is an in-kind transfer that eases pressure on the household budget, making it possible to keep children in education. As a result, school meals increase enrollment and poorest children. They also enable children to

DINBURGH – When governments learn more. Ghana's large-scale school meal adopted the United Nations Sustainable program led to learning outcomes equivalent to

they pledged to eliminate hunger and poverty. Procurement of school meals has the added But today, as the SDGs' 2030 deadline benefit of creating economic opportunities for approaches, a gulf separates their initial rural communities, where some 80% of the ambition and the reality on the ground. The extreme poor live. In Brazil, one-third of the school-meals budget is earmarked for smallholder farmers, linking healthy diets for children to more resilient and sustainable livelihoods.

According to research by the Sustainable Finance Initiative of the Free School Meals Coalition, providing another 236 million children in the world's poorest countries with free school meals would cost \$3.6 billion per year until 2030. Much of that funding could come from developing-country governments, but an additional \$1.2 billion annually in outside aid would be needed.

Current development assistance falls well below this amount and is hopelessly fragmented. Instead of investing in the development of national programs, donors throw aid around like confetti, funding smallscale, disconnected projects that often fail to deliver lasting results. Only a small amount of aid – around \$280 million annually – goes toward school feeding, and most of this comes in the form of food aid provided by the United States, which is less efficient and far less effective than buying food from local farmers.

There is an alternative. Global health funds most notably Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria – pool donor resources around a shared purpose, supporting national development plans and raising revenue through three-year replenishments and innovative financing mechanisms.

These principles should underpin a new global initiative for school meals. Momentum for change is already building. The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, led by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, has identified school feeding as a priority, while the World Bank has pledged to make it a central plank of a wider strategy to strengthen social safety nets worldwide. More than 100 governments have joined the School Meals Coalition working to achieve universal schoolmeal provision by 2030, and some countries, including Indonesia, Nepal, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Honduras, have drawn up their own ambitious plans.

Under the leadership of Raj Shah, the Rockefeller Foundation has invested Too often, discussions about the SDGs significantly in the School Meals Impact descend into futile hand-wringing over Accelerator, which provides technical support disappointing progress. But hand-wringing is a to countries trying to scale up their programs. The Accelerator's initial goal is to reach 150 million children by 2030 – more than double the number currently receiving school meals in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

> The challenge now is to bring these initiatives together to expand their reach, making them more than the sum of their parts. A good first step would be to create a clearinghouse through which governments can submit school-feeding proposals and donors can pool and coordinate their funding.

As the final countdown toward the SDGs' 2030 deadline begins, we must develop practical, achievable, and affordable initiatives that can transcend political polarization and deliver reduce dropout rates, especially among the results that remind the world of what is possible. Universal school meals can do just that.

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by Gernot Wagner

The Climate Policy Pendulum

EW YORK – It is tough to be optimistic about the climate these days. While the costs of extreme weather events like the Los Angeles wildfires pile up, the US federal policy pendulum is swinging away from facts, reason, and basic human decency. Nonetheless, even as the US government moves in the wrong direction, trends in science, economics, and increasingly local politics indicate that the pendulum will swing back in due course.

After all, no one can argue with the physics of today's clean energy technologies. Heat pumps, induction stoves, and electric vehicles (EVs) – to name just three – are fundamentally better technologies than what came before. The best gas furnaces might reach 95% efficiency, meaning they are converting 95% of the energy they use into heat; but most heat pumps easily top 200%, with some reaching 400% or more. Similar comparisons can be made between induction and gas stoves, and between EVs and gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles. By and large, we know what technologies we should be using to eliminate greenhouse-gas emissions; and in cases where we don't, we know what kinds of things to try.

This knowledge extends well beyond EVs and heat pumps to entire industrial sectors like cement or iron and steel. Here, outgoing US President Joe Biden's administration has made an important contribution with the Department of Energy's Liftoff Reports, which chart pathways to commercialization for a broad selection of low-carbon technologies.

Consider cement, which accounts for some 8% of annual global greenhouse-gas emissions. Ordinary Portland cement, patented 200 years ago, has dominated the sector for decades. While measures like clinker substitution and efficiency improvements can abate up to 40% of emissions, getting to zero will require additional steps. These generally fall into two categories: cutting emissions from producing Portland cement or switching away from it altogether. Promising US start-ups like Brimstone and Sublime Systems are racing to demonstrate that either path is commercially viable.

One key ingredient is public subsidies to help firms climb the learning curve and slide down the cost curve toward faster commercialization. Both Brimstone and Sublime Systems received early research and development funding from the US Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and have now advanced to the deployment stage, receiving up to \$190 and \$90 million, respectively, to build their first commercial plants. All told, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act allocated around \$100 billion for such purposes, with public funding contingent on matching private investments.

Moreover, these sums are dwarfed by the Department of Energy's loan program. With just \$17 billion in taxpayer funds, the IRA authorizes the department's Loan Programs Office to lend \$350 billion for investments in clean energy and domestic EV manufacturing. And those public funds then catalyze multiples more in private investments. While some Republicans and members of Donald Trump's incoming administration want to cut this program, doing so would only hurt US competitiveness.

Can we restore sanity to our national policies? It might be trite to say that change begins at home, but what is trite is often true. A good place to look is New York. While the city has many problems, its climate policies are not among them. Around 70% of New York's direct emissions come from heating and cooling buildings, while the other 30% comes from cars and trucks. Fortunately, Local Law 97 is already addressing the former. The law is one of the most ambitious decarbonization measures for buildings anywhere, requiring most to reduce their emissions by 40% this decade, and by 100% by 2050. And while New York can do only so much about vehicle emissions, its long-delayed congestion pricing program is finally being implemented. That is a good start.

Given that New York used to be the world's most congested city, the quality-of-life improvement from less traffic can already be felt. The same goes for another measure that took an absurdly long time to address: the lack of trash bins. Over the past year, the city has finally issued official trash, recycling, and compost bins, with enforcement for residential buildings beginning this month. Cleaning up our own act – including with mandatory composting and other policies – will not save the planet. But effective government just might.

Physics alone will not push the pendulum all the way back to where it was before. That will require policies based on sound economics. As long as Trump does not break the fulcrum and bring the entire pendulum crashing down, policies pioneered by his predecessor and by local communities will continue to be a force applying pressure in the right direction.

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by Kenneth Rogoff

Will Trump Fire the Fed?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Examining the feasibility of President Boakai's ambitious development plan amidst the culture of dependency

ast week, President Joseph N. Boakai launched an ambitious five-year development plan worth over \$8 billion, with 70% of this funding expected to come from donor assistance, while his government shoulders 30%. This announcement has sparked a renewed debate about Liberia's persistent dependency on foreign aid and whether the nation can truly achieve sustainable development in such a framework. The ambitious plan, titled the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), outlines a comprehensive blueprint for the country's growth and transformation over the next five years.

Poverty amidst plenty

Liberia is a country blessed with an abundance of natural resources, including iron ore, gold, diamonds, and timber. Despite this wealth, it was ranked the 8th poorest country in the world in 2024, a stark contrast to its potential. This is based on its GDP per capita (PPP), which was estimated to be \$1,882.432 in 2024. This paradox of poverty amidst plenty raises critical questions about the management of resources and the country's economic strategies over the years.

A History of Dependency

Liberia has had a history of dependency on donor or bilateral fundings for most of its major projects in key sectors including but not limited to electricity, roads and health.

The United States Government, considered Liberia's traditional ally, has often led in terms of donor assistance. Since the country's founding, Liberia has enjoyed strong diplomatic and economic ties with the U.S., which have translated into significant bilateral aid. However, despite these generous contributions, the country has struggled to convert foreign aid into genuine economic progress.

The Boakai Regime's Development Plan-The ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID)

President Boakai's development plan is undoubtedly ambitious. It aims to transform Liberia's infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic sectors within five years. However, the heavy reliance on donor funding, which constitutes 70% of the US\$8.34 billion budget, is a significant concern. This dependency on foreign aid raises questions about the sustainability and sovereignty of Liberia's development efforts.

The Greed and Corruption Challenge

One of the primary obstacles to the success of any development plan in Liberia is the pervasive issue of greed and corruption. Corruption has been a major impediment to progress, with resources often misappropriated and developmental projects left incomplete. For the Boakai administration's plan to be achievable, there must be a concerted effort to address these systemic issues. Transparency, accountability, and effective governance are crucial to ensuring that the funds allocated for development are used appropriately and effectively.

Economic Diversification and Self-Sufficiency

To break free from the dependency syndrome, Liberia must focus on diversifying its economy and utilizing its natural resources more effectively. By investing in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, the country can create jobs, increase revenue, and reduce its reliance on foreign aid. Additionally, improving the investment climate and attracting private sector participation is essential for sustainable economic growth.

The Role of International Partners

While reducing dependency on foreign aid is important, the role of international partners cannot be entirely dismissed. Strategic partnerships and collaborations can provide the necessary support, expertise, and investment needed for development. However, these relationships should be structured in a way that promotes self-sufficiency and empowers Liberians to take charge of their own development.

Conclusion

Liberia stands at a crossroads. The ambitious development plan proposed by President Boakai has the potential to transform the nation, but its heavy reliance on donor funding and the persistent issues of greed and corruption pose significant challenges. For Liberia to achieve sustainable development and break free from its dependency syndrome, there must be a focus on economic diversification, effective resource management, and transparent governance. Only then can the country harness its rich natural resources and realize its full potential.



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

his 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 oj 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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St. Joseph Catholic Hospital fined No escape for lawmakers, US\$30,000 over student's death Others linked to Capitol fire By Lincoln G. Peters The Chairperson of the Liberia

2025

Liberian health officials say student Williams died due to a malfunctioning Anaesthesia Machine at St. Joseph Catholic Hospital.

By Wise Wesseh Congo Town has been found liable Medical and Dental Council and fined US\$30,000 for damages (LMDC) says it has found St. over the wrongful death of 21- Joseph Catholic Hospital liable year-old Student Isaiah Benedicto on multiple pieces of evidence of Williams.

Williams accidentally passed Williams was due to depart away on January 3, 2025, in the Liberia for Kigali, Rwanda, to operation theater of the Catholic continue his education after hospital after his admittance there. completing his secondary However, the family of the education at the St. Edward deceased has claimed wrongful Catholic High School in 2022. medication.

They are demanding justice over onrovia, January 20, student Williams' death.

2025: Saint Joseph While the family seeks a lawsuit Catholic Hospital in for the damage, the Liberia the death of Williams.

The LMDC released its final The family suggested that an verdict on Williams' on Friday, Sinkor.

According to her, investigations discovered that the hospital did not have a single properly functioning anesthesia machine to carry out a standard surgery.

Medical and Dental Council,

Pediatric Dr. Benetta Collins

Andrew, said after adjudication

through a thorough evaluation,

the hospital was found liable due

to a lack of standard operation

She said there was a serious

medical error on the part of the

hospital while mentioning that

the student's death was caused

by a malfunctioning anesthesia

procedure.

machine.

"Through our investigation, we found out standard- operating procedure did not go on, and there was never a functional

Anaesthesia Machine," she said. "We also want to hold the hospital liable because even the doctor who was in charge of the operation, Dr. Thadee's license, has expired," she explained.

As a doctor, Dr. Collins Andrew noted that you do not practice medicine, for even a second without an active license.

She detailed that Dr. NGOY-MULUME Thadee, the

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Senator Johnson was troubled

Ex-rebel leader Senator Thomas Yaya Nimely of Grand Gedeh County

-Sen. Nimely notes in tribute

By Wise Wesseh

2025 - Grand Gedeh County now, talking about a WAR make you President, but you must Senator Thomas Yaya Nimely, a Crimes Court. I'm afraid, they former rebel leader, reacts might prosecute me", Sen, former President Ellen Johnson strongly here to the death of Nimely narrates in his tribute. Senator Prince Johnson, referring He argues that was the true despite the huge opportunity she colleague.

funeral of the late Senator pressure by the government to Nimely recalls. Johnson, held over the weekend establish War and Economic "The same thing with former He says it is important to clarify, as Nimely laments a deep betrayal warlords. in his friend's death.

a list of key former rebel leaders recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Comissionn for prosecution, including Sen. Nimely, Dr. George Boley, Sekou Damante Conneh, others.

"Senator Johnson was troubled; he was never given the time that he needed; he called me every night around 9-10 pm, to share with me his situation.

He was troubled. Senator Johnson called me and said, distinguish as he used to call me and I said yes my brother, and he said, 'I'm troubled, because I was promised time and was never given time after our agreement

says the late Sen. Prince Johnson was betrayed by the government, which led to his death. Ganta, Liberia, January 20, and you see what they are doing candidate came and he said. 'I can

to the man who founded the weight of betrayal, accusing the had; the opportunity to prosecute INPFL rebels as his friend and ruling Unity Party government of war crimes with over 15,000 President Boakai, for the death of peacekeepers in this country, but In a mind-blowing tribute at the Senator Johnson with immense yet, bought him time", Senator in Ganta City, Nimba, Senator Crimes court to prosecute former

The late Sen. Johnson was among always wanted to buy time and made Mr. Weah President, pray for his people; this is why, whenever a presidential

buy me time.' He did that with Sirleaf and she bought him time.

President George Weah. When Mr. Weah came, he asked Mr. "My brother Sen. Johnson has Weah to buy him time and he

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-Justice Minister Tweh

Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh says there will be no protection for anyone found culprible, including lawmakers in ongoing investigation into the December 18, 2024 fire incident at the Capitol Building in Monrovia.

onrovia, Liberia, January 20, 2025 - Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Liberia, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh, says anyone caught or implicated in going investigation in the commission of the crime of arson in the Capitol Building fire incident be it a lawmaker or not, that person will face full weight of the

Speaking over the weekend at the Ministry of Justice in Monrovia when he officially dedicated vehicles for Prosecutors, Minister Tweh emphasized that the safety and security of the Liberian people remain paramount concern of the government.

He says investigations have revealed that the fire incident was an arson attack, which is a first degree felony under the Liberian criminal law therefore, they want to Justice wishes to inform the public

Capitol Building! We should refrain, cease and desist from making callous and frivolous statements and comments and inciting violence through misrepresentation and misleading propaganda!

The Ministry of Justice is committed to following the legal process established in our laws", the Attorney General assures.

He notes that that in the event that charges are warranted against anyone, lawmakers included, all will be afforded their rights to a fair trial as guaranteed by the Constitution.

He says on allegations of torture in the ongoing investigation of the fire incident that occurred at the Capitol on December 18, 2024, resulting in the burning of the Rotunda of the Capitol Building, the Ministry of



assure the public that anyone accused and arrested will be given his/her day in court in keeping with due process of law.

"The Ministry of Justice hereby strongly states that it will not shield or fail to arrest any individual, who the investigation reveals play a role in the commission of the crime of arson. If any person is implicated, be it a lawmaker or not, that person will face the full weight of the law, like any other ordinary person", Cllr. Tweh maintains.

delineated in Article 42 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, that while lawmakers enjoy certain protections from arrest, these protections do not offer immunity in the face of allegations such as felonies.

He further indicates that should any lawmaker be implicated in commission of the crime of arson, due process will prevail, and appropriate legal actions will be

The Liberia National Police had spoken with two lawmakers -Representative Frank Saa Foko and embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa in connection with the fire incident besides arrest of scores other suspects.

"Therefore, we like to call on the public to immediately reframe from

misrepresentation of the facts of the

matter, as it relates to the fire at the

and its international partners that these statements, comments, assertions and utterances are false, condemnable and border on undermining the investigation and efforts being made by law enforcement to investigate the incident.

At the same time, the Ministry of Justice denies allegation of alleged coercion, and fabrication and torture by Thomas Etheridge, a person of interest in the ongoing investigation.

"This government condemns such statements which threaten to disrup the fragile peace that our nation has worked tirelessly to maintain. These false claims are indicative of a disconcerting pattern of misinformation that seeks to incite fear and unrest among the citizenry", Cllr. Tweh reacts.

"We also wish to reiterate our commitment to transparency. We therefore, urge all citizens and public to exercise restraint, abide by the rule of law, and collaborate with the Government in bringing the perpetrators to justice", the Attorney General says.

The Ministry of Justice says it will keep the public informed as investigations progress, reaffirming its dedication to upholding justice and accountability in "this democratic society." Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE

from page 6 St. Joseph Catholic Hospital fined \$30,000 Congolese-trained pediatrician Dr. Andrew, continued that as of reiterated that the investigation

2025

Williams' death.

She noted that perhaps Thadee other critical medication. perform surgery.

severe reaction that ultimately led country. to his death.

complications.

theater, Dr. Ngoy attempted to surgery on the late Williams. resuscitate the patient.

hampered by non-functional and cardiac arrest was not clear, complications. equipment, preventing the proper per the kind of surgery that was to During her suspension, she will resuscitation phase.

The Chairperson of the LMDC, Meanwhile, Dr. Andrew

who has been at the center of the January 1, every year, according was done by the LMDC through investigation, perhaps was caught to Medical protocols, every evaluation of the patient's corpse on the web for wrongfully doctor or nurse practicing from the hospital morgue, and before performing surgery or and Dr. Zoebon Kpadeh.

not meet in time and has been find the hospital Administration She stressed that complications held liable and fined the amount \$30,000 United States Dollars for arose after the deceased received of USD\$1,500 to be paid fully damages. anesthesia administered by a and registered before he "Based on the Investigation and

facility in time for the Surgical procedure, Dr. Andrew said. As the only trained CPR procedure was not properly She added that the Council has

investigation found.

She noted that the LMDC, did not have an active license to Dr. Andrew said Dr. Thadee did through its board, came out to

nurse anesthetist, resulting in a continues medical practice in the all of the findings towards our evidence, the St. Joseph Catholic Dr. Andrew also mentioned that hospital is hereby held liable for The lead surgeon, Dr. Thaddee as part of holding the hospital the death of Student Isaiah, a Ngoy, was unable to proceed with liable, the consent form that is potential student whose life was the surgery due to the said usually given by the medical cut short due to lack of standard

practitioner in the operating documented as required per the also suspended nurse Miatta Dahn for six months due to her She explained that the consent role in the administration of However, his efforts were form in the possibility of death anaesthesia, which led to

management of the critical be done on the deceased, the work under the supervision of a designated anesthesiologist.

-Amid internal crisis

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

administering a medication that medicine in the Country must assessment by both Liberian The UNDP in Liberia says it is scaling down support to the National might have caused the late have an active license to practice Pathologists Dr. Benedict Kolee Election Commission in the wake of growing internal crisis.

> onrovia, Liberia, of engaging in financial LUnited Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says it is scaling down support to the National Elections Commission, expressing concerns over the Commission's ability to function effectively.

National Elections Commission (NEC) alleged here recently that the NEC has been grappling with significant internal issues for the past three months, leading to a fractured working environment and a toxic atmosphere.

At a press conference in Monrovia on Friday, January 17, 2025, NEC employees' spokesperson, Madam Dedded Pursah, catalogued ongoing challenges confronting the Commission.

Pursah and other workers'

January 20, 2025 - The malpractices within the institution, which they believe contributed to the ongoing institutional crisis.

Madam Dedded Pursah, Director of Civil Voter Education, stated that Madam Lansanah's leadership was marked by Aggrieved workers of the authoritarian practices, mismanagement, and corruption, which warranted decisive action. She noted that by choosing suspension instead of outright dismissal, President Boakai had shown a preference for institutional reform rather than punitive measures, signaling an intent to address the underlying issues within the NEC.

> According to Pursah, NEC employees endured a difficult work environment for over five

moving into the tranches", he President simultaneously as led fighters to the Freeport of

further narrates.

According to Nimely, the late Senator Johnson had enjoyed the six years under former President Weah, building school and preaching the word of God, while begging for forgiveness. "Senator Johnson was always

preaching redemption; he was preaching for forgiveness for 20 years, and always wanted to buy time, but this did not happen when the Rescue government took power, he was betrayed and carried pressure from the same very system he supported", adds. Sen. Nimely: "When Mr. Weah left, came the Rescue; Sen. Johnson told Mr. Weah I'm not going to support you. I'm going to Rescue because I want to be rescued, and he came and supported and did even more now I challenge you - I do," than what he did for Madam Nimely urges. Sirleaf and Mr. Weah. He Then leader of the disbanded

promised, but when time came, he was never given time. Senator Johnson was troubled; they betrayed him."

He highlights that the late Senator Johnson was faced with turmoil on the establishment of a war crime court.

He further notes that despite the troubling time, the late PYJ had deep desire for reconciliation between Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties, whose relations remain strained since Johnson's forces killed President Samuel Doe, a native of Grand Gedeh, in 1990.

"I believe Senator Johnson wanted to see a genuine relationship between Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties. We have not had the guts to reconcile, but

Monrovia and captured President Doe, a native of Grand Gedeh and slain him, cutting off his ears. In support of Senator Nimely's touching tribute, the Bong County Chapter of the late PYJ's Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party notes that its fallen politica leader suffered suppression up t his death, coming from the UF led government.

But Vice President Jeremia Koung disagrees, clarifying that the Unity Party exerted n pressure for establishment of War Crimes Court that caused the late Senator Johnson's death.

According to VP Koung, the lat Senator Johnson was a hero, wh supported the idea of a wa crimes court to clear his name, s he deserves an honor. Editing by Jonathan Browne

representatives criticized the suspended NEC Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Brown Lansanah, for her actions, which they claimed violated the rights of employees' and undermined public trust in Liberia's electoral

The NEC staff further accused Madam Lansanah of consistently violating established procedures and statutes that govern the commission's operations. They claimed that she did not only show disrespect for her fellow commissioners, but also repeatedly disregarded them accounts without meeting its throughout her five-year tenure, undermining the collective authority of the commission.

process.

The spokesperson also added, "Madam Lansanah exhibited similar behavior toward the Executive, consolidating powers that the law had reserved for the seven commissioners". This, they argued, was a clear

violation of sections 2.10 and 2.4 of the 1986 Elections Law, which outline the roles and responsibilities of the commissioners in managing the commission.

The NEC staff called on the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to conduct a thorough audit of the commission to ensure transparency and accountability. They accused the suspended Chairperson, Madam Lansanah,

years under Lansanah's leadership. They described her "management style as dictatorial", with reports of her regularly dismissing senior officials, disregarding established procedures, and suppressing dissent within the commission.

Director Pursah highlighted that allegations of financial malpractice further intensified concerns within the NEC. She pointed to a controversial deal with Unique Solutions, a company accused of withdrawing large sums of money from NEC's contractual obligations. The company allegedly provided nonfunctional solar systems worth over \$200,000, while offering fully operational systems as kickbacks to Lansanah and NEC Executive Director Anthony K. Sengbe.President Boakai suspended NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne-Lansanah indefinitely last week, amid concerns over her leadership. This suspension comes as Liberia is set to hold by-elections in two months. Browne-Lansanah had made unilateral decisions, including the dismissal of 25 employees, without obtaining approval from the NEC Board of Commissioners. Editing by Jonathan Browne





Le gouvernement libérien renforce la sécurité

libérien a ordonné le déploiement de forces de sécurité armées pour protéger la tombe de l'ancien sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson (PYJ), don't l'inhumation est prévue ce samedi 18 janvier à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba. Cette

e gouvernement PYJ son rôle dans la capture et la torture à mort de l'ancien président Samuel K. Doe pendant la guerre civile libérienne. Ils soutiennent que, puisque le président Doe n'a pas de tombe officielle, PYJ, leader de l'ex-Front national patriotique indépendant du Liberia (INPFL), ne devrait pas non plus bénéficier d'un lieu de sépulture ou d'un mémorial.



des rumeurs faisant état d'un projet d'exhumation de sa dépouille par des individus non identifiés.

Selon des sources locales, ces individus reprocheraient à

L'épisode tragique remonte à 1990, lorsque les forces rebelles de PYJ avaient attaqué le président Doe à la Free Zone Authority, près du port de Monrovia, où ce dernier accueillait les forces régionales de maintien de

la paix de l'ECOMOG. Après avoir perdu sa garde rapprochée, le président avait été capturé, torturé et exécuté. Son corps avait ensuite été exposé publiquement à la Island Clinic sur Bushrod Island, une scène immortalisée par des

Après la chute de sa base de Caldwell face aux forces de Charles Taylor, PYJ avait trouvé refuge auprès de l'ECOMOG avant d'être exilé au Nigeria. Il était revenu au Liberia à la fin de la guerre civile pour embrasser une carrière politique.

Jeudi après-midi, la dépouille de l'ancien sénateur a été rapatriée à Ganta après avoir été exposée au Capitole à Monrovia. Plusieurs dignitaires, don't le viceprésident Jeremiah Kpan Koung et des membres du Sénat, lui ont rendu hommage. Le président Joseph Boakai et son prédécesseur George Weah avaient, quant à eux, signé le livre de condoléances la veille. Originaire du comté de Nimba,

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Editorial

Le Libéria doit agir sans délai pour sécuriser la donation de l'Union africaine

Par Daron Acemoglu

e gouvernement libérien tarde à mobiliser les fonds nécessaires au transport d'équipements logistiques offerts ✓ par l'Union africaine (UA) aux Forces armées du Libéria (AFL). Cette donation, d'une valeur estimée à 20 millions de dollars, comprend des véhicules militaires, des engins de chantier, des camions de pompiers et d'autres matériels stratégiques. Ces ressources vitales, capables de renforcer significativement les capacités opérationnelles de l'AFL, restent immobilisées à la Base logistique continentale de l'UA à Douala, au Cameroun.

La somme requise pour assurer leur acheminement au Libéria, fixée à 1,3 million de dollars, n'a toujours pas été débloquée. Le général de brigade Davidson F. Forleh, chef d'état-major des Forces armées, multiplie les appels au gouvernement pour obtenir ce financement crucial, mais l'administration sous la direction du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai semble avancer à un rythme préoccupant face à l'urgence de la situation.

Ce retard met en lumière une certaine négligence qui pourrait avoir des conséquences graves. Si le Libéria ne prend pas rapidement des mesures, d'autres pays pourraient revendiquer ces équipements, compromettant ainsi une opportunité précieuse pour moderniser les capacités de ses forces armées. Une telle inaction constituerait une perte stratégique majeure pour le secteur de la défense, déjà fragilisé par des défis logistiques importants.

Il est impératif que le Libéria accorde une priorité absolue à son secteur sécuritaire. Une armée insuffisamment équipée affaiblit non seulement la défense nationale, mais expose également le pays à des vulnérabilités dans une région où les défis sécuritaires sont croissants. Le Libéria, bien que petit par sa taille, a toujours été reconnu pour son courage et sa résilience. Laisser cette opportunité lui échapper serait un affront à ces valeurs fondamentales.

Selon le général Forleh, les négociations pour cette donation avaient été initiées dès 2018, lorsqu'il représentait le Libéria en tant qu'attaché de défense auprès de l'UA. Aujourd'hui, il revient à la 55° Législature de démontrer la même réactivité dont elle a fait preuve récemment en allouant 1,8 million de dollars pour rénover une section endommagée du bâtiment du Capitole. Les priorités budgétaires doivent refléter les enjeux stratégiques du pays.

Le transport de ces équipements au Libéria représente bien plus qu'une simple opération logistique. Il s'agit d'une opportunité unique de moderniser les Forces armées et de renforcer leur capacité à protéger la souveraineté nationale. Ce soutien logistique est essentiel pour faire des AFL une force véritablement opérationnelle et efficace, capable de relever les défis sécuritaires contemporains.

Dans un contexte mondial marqué par des menaces croissantes et des attentes élevées en matière de sécurité, le Libéria ne peut se permettre d'hésiter. Il en va de l'avenir de ses forces armées, de la sécurité de ses citoyens et de l'honneur de la nation. Fin.

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Financier (FIA) a donné un ultimatum de 72 heures à Metech Scientific, exigeant que l'entreprise fournisse des informations essentielles sur ses activités pour l'année 2024. A défaut, elle s'exposera à des sanctions sévères, a annoncé l'Agence dans un communiqué officiel.

Selon la FIA, Metech Scientific n'a pas respecté l'échéance initiale du 13 transmettre les documents requis sur ses opérations. Une nouvelle date limite fixée au 7 janvier 2025, à la suite d'une correspondance datée du 18 décembre 2024, n'a également pas été honorée. Face à cette persistance dans la nonconformité, l'Agence a décidé de durcir le ton.

Dans le communiqué signé par Mohammed A. Nasser, responsible par intérim, la FIA qualifie l'attitude de Metech Scientific de « défiance délibérée » à l'égard de la Section 67, Sous-section 3.1 de la Loi de 2021 sur le Renseignement Financier.

A g e n c e d e Cette disposition confère à Renseignement l'Agence le pouvoir légal de demander et d'obtenir les informations nécessaires à l'exercice de ses fonctions.

« Vous avez 72 heures, à compter de la réception de cette communication, pour justifier votre non-conformité et fournir les documents demandés », avertit la FIA. « En cas de manquement, nous appliquerons les sanctions administratives les plus strictes, conformément à la Section 15.3.29 de la Loi de 2021.»

pratiques commerciales

que Metech Scientific fait face à des critiques croissantes de la

part des acteurs économiques locaux. Plusieurs organisations, don't l'Association des Hommes d'Affaires Fula et l'Association Nationale des Courtiers en Douane, dénoncent une taxe de 1,2 % imposée par l'entreprise sur les importations. Ils qualifient cette mesure de « fardeau financier supplémentaire » qui pénalise les opérateurs économiques du pays.

Un contrat controversé sous l'administration précédente décembre 2024 pour Critiques sur la taxe et les En outre, un contrat de dix ans signé entre l'ancien Cette affaire intervient alors gouvernement de la Coalition pour le

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



cai

Starts from page 8 Le gouvernement libérien renforce la sécurité

Prince Yormie Johnson reste une figure controversée mais largement admirée par de nombreux habitants de la région. Il est considéré comme un héros pour avoir résisté au régime de Samuel Doe, accusé de persécutions et d'exécutions arbitraires à l'encontre des populations de Nimba.

Avant son inhumation à sa résidence dans la communauté LPRC de Ganta, la dépouille sera présentée dans plusieurs localités du comté, notamment Sanniquellie, Karnplay, Bahn et Saclepea.

Cette décision d'enterrer l'ancien sénateur à domicile a toutefois suscité des inquiétudes parmi les professionnels de santé publique, qui soulignent les risques sanitaires liés à ce type de pratique. Malgré ces préoccupations, le gouvernement semble résolu à respecter la volonté de la famille, qui souhaite que le sénateur repose dans sa résidence, où se trouvent également l'Université polytechnique PYJ et une usine de production d'eau minérale.

Depuis l'arrivée de la dépouille à Ganta, une forte présence des forces de sécurité, y compris les Forces armées du Liberia, a été observée, témoignant de la sensibilité de la situation et de l'importance accordée à la protection de l'ancien sénateur. Article édité par Jonathan Browne.

es prostituées venues de Monrovia, des comtés de Grand Bassa, Lofa et Bong se sont rendues à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, à l'occasion de la cérémonie funéraire de l'exsénateur PYJ. Sur place, elles se sont violemment affrontées avec leurs consœurs locales, en raison de la concurrence pour attirer les clients masculins.

Les travailleuses du sexe locales ont exprimé leur mécontentement face à l'arrivée de leurs homologues venues d'autres régions, insistant sur le fait qu'elles ne permettraient pas à ces dernières de dominer le marché, en particulier avec l'afflux des invités en provenance de Monrovia pour les rites funéraires.

La situation est devenue particulièrement tendue après l'annonce de la présence de hautes personnalités gouvernementales, y compris l'exprésident George Weah et ses partisans.

Bien que les prostituées se livrent fréquemment à des rivalités pour obtenir des clients dans ce quartier commerçant animé, l'idée qu'elles choisissent de perturber un événement aussi solennel qu'un enterrement d'un homme d'État était inattendue.

Aucune arrestation n'a été effectuée jusqu'à présent, mais les personnalités visées par ces altercations sociales incluent des responsables gouvernementaux, des législateurs et d'autres invités, pour la plupart mariés.

Rédaction par Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 8

Changement Démocratique (CDC) et Une affaire sous haute surveillance Metech Scientific Liberia Limited suscite des interrogations. Ce contrat est accusé de violer les lois nationales sur les marchés publics et la gestion financière publique. Selon des allégations, ces infractions auraient permis une utilisation détournée des fonds publics qui auraient dû être collectés dans le cadre de cet accord, soulevant de graves inquiétudes sur la transparence et la légalité de ce partenariat.

L'ultimatum de la FIA marque une étape décisive dans ce bras de fer entre l'Agence et Metech Scientific. L'affaire est suivie de près, car ses conséquences pourraient redéfinir les relations entre les régulateurs et les entreprises opérant au Liberia. La résolution de ce conflit sera déterminante pour restaurer la confiance dans le respect des lois financières et des pratiques commerciales dans le pays.

L'Archidiocèse catholique présente ses excuses après le décès d'un étudiant à l'hôpital Saint-Joseph

derreur médicale à prévu. l'origine du décès d'Isaiah Isaiah Benedicto Williams a été Benedicto Williams, un étudiant admis à l'hôpital le 2 janvier de 21 ans, survenu à l'hôpital 2024. Moins de 24 heures plus Saint-Joseph à Monrovia. Bien tard, il est décédé, alors qu'il que l'institution ait présenté ses avait été placé en salle excuses à la famille endeuillée, d'opération pour une procédure cette dernière a rejeté cette qui n'a finalement pas eu lieu. demande, affirmant qu'elle Des informations indiquent que attendait les résultats de l'étudiant serait décédé à la suite l'enquête menée par le Conseil d'une injection erronée médical et dentaire du Libéria administrée par le Dr Thadee, avant de prendre toute décision. chef du département pédiatrique

Isaiah Benedicto Williams, de l'hôpital. diplômé de l'école catholique Depuis son décès, la famille erreur médicale à l'hôpital Saint- l'enquête en cours. dentaire du Libéria ait mis en poursuite judiciaire. La famille a évidence des erreurs de

responsible lors de l'incident. D'après les informations disponibles, le Dr NGOY-MULUME Thadee, pédiatre et chirurgien congolais, était en charge au moment de l'incident. Le jeune étudiant, sur le point de partir pour le Rwanda, avait été admis à l'hôpital pour une opération visant à retirer une hydrocèle. Cependant,

procédure, notamment

l'identification du médecin

'Archidiocèse catholique l'intervention chirurgicale ne du Libéria a reconnu une s'est jamais réalisée comme

Saint-Edward à Monrovia et dénonce une erreur futur étudiant à l'Université des médicamenteuse et une Adventistes de Kigali, au overdose, qu'elle considère Rwanda, est décédé le 3 janvier comme les causes principales de 2024 après avoir subi une son décès. Elle attend overdose médicamenteuse et une maintenant les conclusions de

Joseph. Ce tragique incident a Le 16 janvier 2024, bouleversé sa famille et la l'Archidiocèse catholique, par communauté locale. La famille l'intermédiaire de son Secrétariat Williams envisage d'intenter une de la santé, a présenté ses action en justice contre l'hôpital condoléances à la famille et après que l'enquête préliminaire sollicité leur pardon, tout en leur menée par le Conseil médical et demandant d'abandonner toute

cependant rejeté cette demande, insistant sur le fait qu'elle attendait le rapport d'enquête pour prendre les mesures nécessaires.

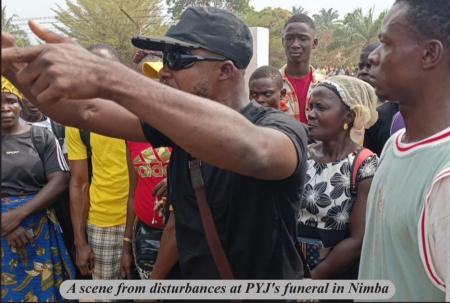
Mme Yah Wynn-Gausi, coordinatrice du Secrétariat de la santé catholique, a reconnu l'existence d'une erreur médicale et a exprimé ses regrets auprès de la famille endeuillée. « Nous sommes venus voir la famille pour lui présenter nos condoléances et lui assurer que nous sommes à ses côtés en cette période difficile », a-telle déclaré.

Elle a ajouté : « Nous sommes profondément désolés de ce qui s'est passé. Notre intention était de le sauver, pas de perdre une vie. La famille avait la possibilité de l'emmener dans d'autres établissements, mais elle a choisi de nous faire confiance, et cette tragédie nous affecte tous.»

Mme Gausi a évoqué la possibilité que l'anesthésie administrée par une infirmière soit à l'origine de la mort de l'étudiant. Elle a précisé que la procédure subie par le patient consistait en un examen médical et non en une opération chirurgicale.

Rédaction par Jonathan Browne





Le gouvernement reconnaît son échec dans la récupération des actifs volés

e gouvernement libérien admet l'échec de son équipe de récupération des actifs, mise en place par le président Joseph → Boakai, dans sa mission de récupérer les biens publics volés. Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le 16 janvier 2025, Daniel O. Sando, ministre adjoint de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme (MICAT), a exprimé sa frustration face à l'incapacité de l'équipe de récupération des actifs à accomplir sa mission. Un an après sa création, l'équipe n'a en effet pas récupéré un seul centime des fonds ou des biens publics détournés.

Depuis sa création le 5 mars 2024, sous le décret exécutif n° 126, l'équipe était chargée d'identifier et de récupérer les biens illégalement acquis par des responsables des administrations précédentes. Cependant, de nombreux obstacles juridiques ont empêché l'avancée de cette mission, entraînant des retards dans le

Peu après son entrée en fonction, le président Boakai a signé le décret exécutif n° 126, établissant l'Office de récupération des actifs. Cette équipe avait pour mission de localiser et de récupérer les actifs acquis illégalement ou détournés à des fins privées par les anciens responsables du gouvernement.

Le principal obstacle est survenu en mars 2024, lorsque l'entreprise de transport privé Gracious Ride a déposé une plainte auprès de la Cour Suprême, après la saisie forcée de ses véhicules par l'équipe, sous prétexte que ces véhicules avaient été acquis illégalement ou utilisés à des fins privées avec des ressources publiques.

Suite à cette plainte, la Cour Suprême a suspendu les activités de l'équipe pour examiner le cas.

Le ministre Sando déplore que cette situation juridique ait paralysé les opérations de l'équipe pendant plus de neuf mois, retardant ainsi l'enquête sur d'autres affaires de corruption présumée.



JANUARY 20

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR **TEMPLE OF JUSTICE** MONROVIA, LIBERIA

OLIANTITY BID SECURITY

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Invitation to Bid for Computer Supplies

> DATE: December 27, 2024 IFB NO.JUD/NCB/005/2025

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 fiscal budget for the procurement of Computer Supplies. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Computer Supplies. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies
- 2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on December 27, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily; and the final date of submission is January 29, 2025 @ 12:30 pm.

Packages: Computer Supplies

IFB NO.	LOT.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITI	DID OLOOKITI			
JUD/NCB/005/2024	Lot-1	Computer Supplies	Assorte)d	2% of bid cost			
Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC ACT) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible							
and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.							

- 4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Computer Supplies that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$ 50.00
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - ((a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry), with the code or another appropriated code.
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses
 - and Telephone Numbers; Availability of products at all times. (f) PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents
 - (h) Include Business Activity Code Bid security should be two (2 %) percent of the bid price in the form Bank Guarantee

- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501or 505, from Monday Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P.M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates and place in one envelope, including other IFB NO.JUD/NCB/005/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Computer Supplies to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2025

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

- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest January 29, 2025 @ 12:30 PM Moreover, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- 9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on January 22, 2025 @ 1:30 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #:501, to answer ions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered
- 10. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on January 29, 2025 @ 12: 30 PM. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission
- 11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.



Court Administrator

Liberia to unlock offshore potential

and production opportunities backed by Stack Depth Migration technology for high-quality seismic data and favorable clearer imaging of subsurface features. terms aimed at attracting international This technology is especially beneficial investment

Access Multimedia Content

PARIS, France, January 17, 2025/ -- Last August, the government of Liberia, through the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA), launched its Direct Negotiation Licensing Round, offering 29 offshore blocks in the Liberia and Harper Basins. This licensing initiative is designed to stimulate further exploration and production activity in Liberia's offshore oil and gas sector, aligning with the government's broader goals of economic diversification, sustainable energy development and attracting significant foreign investment. Below is an overview of the available licensing opportunities, from technical specifications to potential implications for the sector.

Technical Specifications

Liberia's licensing opportunities focus on offshore areas in the Liberia and Harper basins, which are recognized for their geological potential and under-explored seismic data further adds to the prospects. The round includes a diverse attractiveness of the round, offering a portfolio of 29 offshore blocks, covering both established and unexplored areas.

To aid potential investors, Liberia has partnered with energy data firm TGS to offer an extensive suite of multi-client subsurface data. This dataset encompasses over 24,000 km of 2D seismic data and more than 26,000 km² of 3D seismic data.

ffering 29 blocks across the Among this, TGS has reprocessed 5,100 Liberia and Harper Basins, Liberia km² of 3D seismic data and 12,000 km of provides substantial exploration 2D seismic data, utilizing advanced Prefor understanding key targets within Cretaceous reservoirs, enhancing prospects for successful exploration and development.

> The blocks are located in the syn-rift Lower Cretaceous to deepwater Upper Cretaceous geological layers, with a variety of source rock intervals across the stratigraphy. The high-quality seismic data provided, which also includes gravity and magnetic data, will give bidders a comprehensive understanding of the potential within these under-explored yet proven petroleum systems. This information will be critical in evaluating prospects and making informed decisions during the bidding process. The licensing round follows the 2019 amendments to Liberia's Exploration & Production law, which are designed to ensure a competitive and transparent process. The inclusion of 100% cost recovery on pre-Production Sharing Contract clear pathway for investors to recover their initial exploration costs.Liberia's commitment to a transparent and competitive environment, coupled with the support of international data providers like TGS, positions the country as a rising player in the West African oil and gas sector. -Press release

JUDICIAL BRANCH SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

www.thenewdawnliberia.com



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR **TEMPLE OF JUSTICE** MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Invitation to Bid for CARTRIDGES

> DATE: December 27, 2024 IFB NO.JUD/NCB/005/2025

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 fiscal budget for the procurement of Cartridges. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Cartridges. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on December 27, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 3:30PM daily; and the final date of submission is January 29, 2025 @ 12:00 pm.

Packages: Assorted Cartridges

	IFB NO.	LOT:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY			
	JUD/NCB/005/2024	Lot-1	Cartridges	Assorted	2% of bid cost			
3.	Bidding will be conducted	through Nation	nal Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the	REPUBLIC OF	LIBERIA Amended and			
	Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC ACT) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible 16.							
	and qualified bidders as d	efined in the PF	PCC guidelines.					

- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Cartridge Supplies that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the
- Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$ 50.00
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - ((a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry), with the code or another appropriated code
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs):
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses
 - Availability of products at all times.
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - Include Business Activity Code.
- (I) Bid security should be two (2 %) percent of the bid price in the form Bank Guarantee Manufacture authorization
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501or 505, from Monday Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P.M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates and place in one envelope, including other

IFB NO.JUD/NCB/005/2025 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cartridges to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2025

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

- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest January 29, 2025 @ 12:00 noon Moreover, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- 9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on January 22, 2025 @ 12:30 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #:501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on January 29, 2025 @ 12: 00 noon. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission
- 11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

JUDICIAL BRANCH SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR **TEMPLE OF JUSTICE** MONROVIA, LIBERIA

on for Bids for Generators Repairs

DATE: December 27, 2024

IFB NO.JUD/NCB/003/2025

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2025 budget year for the procurement of services appertaining to **Generators Maintenance & Repairs**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Generators Maintenance & Repairs. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement dealing in the provision of services relating to Generators Maintenance & Repairs. notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. Bid submission begins on December 27, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM daily. The final date of submission is January 28, 2025 @ 11:00 AM.

Package: Generator Repairs

IFB NO.	LOT#:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/003/2025	Lot-1	Generators Maintenance & Repairs	Assorted	2% of bid cost

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible
- 4. A complete set of bidding documents for Generator Repair that can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$100.00
- 5. Qualification requirements include the following:
 - (a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);

- Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign
- Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresse and Telephone Numbers;

Updated PPCC vendor registry certificate

Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents (g) Include Business Activity Code.
(h) Bid security should be two (2 %) percent of the bid price in the form Bank Guarantee

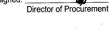
Manufacture authorization

- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/505, Monday Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information. IFB NO.JUD/NCB/003/2025 -(Lot 1-) CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Generator Repairs Services to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year

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

- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest January 28, 2025 @ 11:00 AM. Moreover, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on January 24 2025 @ 12:00 noon in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #:501, to which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered swer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after
- 10. Sealed bids for Generator maintenance & repairs will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on January 28, 2025 @ 11:00 .AM. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission
- 11. Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Director of Procurement



Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. Oswald N. Tweh says allegations of torture is a misrepresentation of the fact.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, January 20, 2025/ Justice Minister Cllr. Tweh warned over the weekend that people should cease and desist

ravaged the Joint Chamber of the Capitol Building last year, a day after a violent protest was held against the removal of House Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa.



from making claims that national security forces were allegedly torturing Capitol Building fire suspects.

"We should refrain, cease and desist from making callous and frivolous statements and comments and inciting violence through misrepresentation and misleading propaganda," Minister Tweh warned on Saturday, January 18, 2025, during a dedication ceremony at the Ministry of Justice.

"These false claims are indicative of a disconcerting pattern of misinformation that seeks to incite fear and unrest among the citizenry," he argued while denying the claims.

He noted that these claims about allegations of torture, including statements, comments, assertions, and utterances against the government, are false and condemnable.

Minister Tweh observed that such statements (and claims of torture) are intended to undermine the investigations and efforts being made by law enforcement to investigate the fire incident.

Liberians woke up to a devastating fire incident that Law enforcement officials later arrested Mr. Etheridge on 13 January 2025 in connection with the incident.

Etheridge was a staff member of dethroned House Speaker Koffa.

"We should refrain, cease and desist from making callous and frivolous statements and comments and inciting violence through misrepresentation and misleading propaganda," Minister Tweh warned.

Mr. Etheridge made wild allegations of alleged abuse, coercion, and fabrication while under probe.

Etheridge accused the government of deploying troubling interrogation methods to extract confessions that he claimed were false and made under duress.

Etheridge described being pressured to falsely admit involvement in the Capitol fire and other related activities.

He accused security personnel of manipulating his statements by presenting out-of-context recordings.

indicted me, saying I called people to the Boss Man house Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. from the CDC headquarters," Etheridge said.

He alleged that they cut off the recording when he refuted this claim.

But responding to the allegations, Cllr. Tweh, while denying the allegation,s said such statements threaten to disrupt the fragile peace that the nation has worked tirelessly to

"We also wish to reiterate our commitment to transparency. Therefore, we urge all citizens and the public to exercise restraint, abide by the rule of law, and collaborate with the Government to bring the perpetrators to justice," Cllr. Tweh noted.

He assured the public that the Ministry of Justice would keep them informed as they advanced in the investigations. He also reaffirmed the government's dedication to upholding justice and accountability in this democratic society.

Cllr. Tweh explained that the Ministry of Justice is committed to following the legal process established in the laws, adding that the Justice Ministry will not shield or fail to arrest any individual whom the investigation reveals to have played a role in the commission of the crime of arson.

.If charges are warranted against anyone—lawmakers included—he stated that all will be afforded their rights to a fair trial as guaranteed by the Constitution.

"If any person is implicated, be it a lawmaker or not, that person will face the full weight of the law, like any other ordinary person," he continued.

Tweh stated that while lawmakers enjoy certain protections from arrest, these protections do not offer immunity in the face of allegations such as felonies.

"We emphasize that the safety and security of the Liberian people remain our paramount concern. Investigations have shown that the fire incident was an arson attack, which is a firstdegree felony under our stated.

Oswald N. Tweh says allegations of torture is a misrepresentation of the fact.

from back page VP Koung defends PYJ's reputation

War Crimes Court, adding, "That is Senator Johnson died a hero, why he signed the resolution. He was not afraid of the court; in fact, he wanted to use it as a platform to clear his name and set the record straight", VP Koung counters.

He reiterates that Senator Johnson was never guilty of the accusations against him, and because of his belief in justice, he signed the resolution for the establishment of the Court, noting that by doing so, he sought to demonstrate to the people of Liberia and the international community that he stood for accountability and the defense of his people, regardless of the challenges he faced.

Koung continues that PYJ's support for the court was a testament to his commitment to ensuring that justice was served in Liberia.

There is no court in this country or internationally that found him guilty; that is why he's celebrated as hero, he emphasizes.

Vice President Koung: "The late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson once told me, 'The day I die, there will be people who are happy that I am dead, and others will be sad. There will be mixed views.' This statement reflects the complex and often controversial nature of his legacy, acknowledging that while some may have disagreed with his actions or decisions, others would recognize his contributions and leadership in Liberia."

He showers praises on the man that seconded him to President Boakai to become his (Boakai's) running mate during the 2023 Elections, maintaining that his late godfather was a fearless leader, who made significant contributions to both Nimba County and Liberia.

According to the Vice President,

unwavering in his beliefs and dedicated to justice, reconciliation, and development.

Meanwhile, he urges President Joseph Boakai to prioritize development in Nimba County, a vision that he says, was dear to the late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson. Koung emphasizes that it was Senator Johnson's dream to see Nimba thrive, so he calls on President Boakai to honor Johnson's memory by making that dream a reality.

"Mr. President, the people of Nimba are left in your hands. Our father is gone; the man who coordinated and spoke to the people of Nimba on April 7, 2023, is now lying in the casket before us."

This heartfelt statement underscored the loss felt by the people of Nimba and the responsibility President Boakai holds to fulfilling the late Senator Johnson's vision for the county's development.

Koung urges the young people of Nimba, "We need to work together. Stop the militancy, because someone gives you cash; it is not the way forward. Wake up and do something for yourself."

The Vice President, who rose from a humble background to occupy the nation's second highest office, says the youth should take initiative and contribute to their own progress, rather than relying on external influences.

The late Sen. Johnson was nterred Saturday, January 18, 2025 at his PYJ Polytechnic University in Ganta, Nimba County following a weeklong funeral rites. *Editing by* Jonathan Browne

a year report to the Legislature on the state of the Republic. presenting the economic condition of the Republic, the report shall cover expenditure as well as income".

A press release from the 55th Legislature states that due to heightened security arrangements, access to the premises of the Capitol Building will be strictly regulated by State Securities prior to and during the day of the Annual Message.

without official invitations or access receive President Joseph N. passes, including staffers of the Boakai, Sr., on Monday, 27 Legislature to avoid the premises of January, to deliver his 2nd Annual the Capitol on the day of the SONA. The release at the same time assures

the public that the President's address will be live on various media platforms, mainly radios, televisions, as well as social media, to allow citizens to see and listen to the Message while at home or in various places of work.

The joint Legislative release at the same time cautions that only media institutions duly approved and issued access passes will be allowed to provide coverage for the upcoming national event.

It says the Legislature remains "They made a statement that criminal laws," Cllr. Tweh The joint release warns those committed and is fully prepared to Message since his ascendency.

Inual Message at Capitol

In a swift turnaround, The NEW DAWN is being informed that President Boakai will deliver his Annual Message on the grounds of the Capitol, according to a joint press release from the 55th Legislature.

James Kolleh that President grounds of the Capitol. Joseph Boakai will not deliver The decision for the occasion to his Annual Message or State of be held instead on the grounds the Nation Address in the of the Capitol followed the

onrovia, Liberia, William R. Tolbert Joint January 20, 2025 - Chambers of the Capitol Despite earlier Building due to ongoing information by the House's renovation work, the media has Chairman on Rule, Order, and been told that the President will Administration, Representative give the state of the nation on the shall, on the fourth working

December 18 "arson attack" on the William R. Tolbert Joint Chamber, originally the venue for the Annual Message.

The Annual Message is in keeping with Article 58 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, which states: "The President Monday in January of each year, present the administration's legislative programs for the ensuing session, and shall once





VOL. 14 NO. 240 MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00

Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung defends fallen Senator Prince Johnson here, for his pivotal role in supporting the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia by signing a Joint Legislative Resolution, paving the way for the court's creation prior to his demise.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Timba, Liberia, January 20, 2025 -Jeremiah Kpan Koung consistent advocacy for truth

Joint Legislative Resolution, legacy was complex, his paving the way for the court's actions in support of the Court creation.

In his defense, Koung also Vice President emphasizes Johnson's

prosecution.

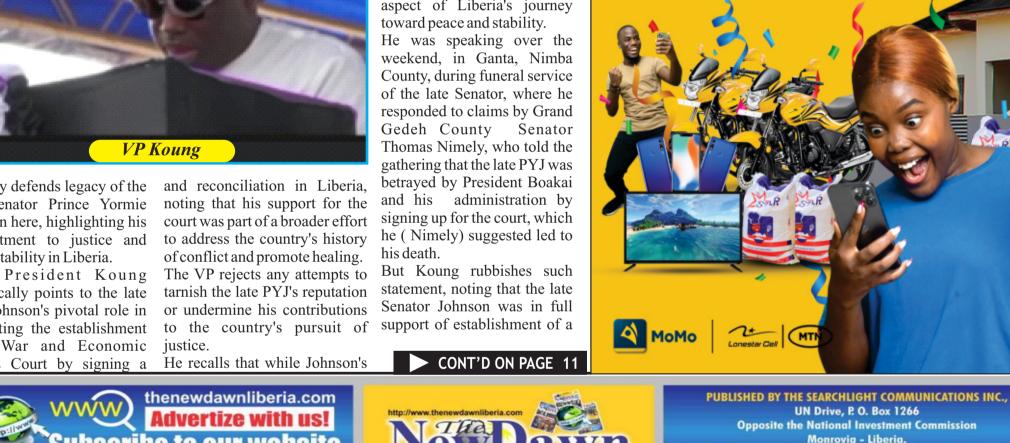
Koung notes that Johnson's efforts in this regard would continue to be an important aspect of Liberia's journey toward peace and stability.

were a significant part of his dedication to ensuring that those responsible for Liberia's wartime atrocities would be held accountable, including himself, listed among other key actors by the TRC Recommendation for



robustly defends legacy of the late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson here, highlighting his commitment to justice and accountability in Liberia.

Vice President Koung specifically points to the late Sen. Johnson's pivotal role in supporting the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court by signing a











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