



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertise Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529

WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025	L\$192.2988/US\$1.00	L\$194.0483/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 14 NO. 241 TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00



Court summons Sen. Taylor

-Over alleged assault and disorderly conduct

P11



Etheridge, others face multiple crimes

-in Capitol Building US\$1.8 million fire damage

P11

Support Your Family Beyond Borders with MoMo.

Dial *156*1# to MoMo it in LRD or USD

 Ivory Coast
  Ghana
  Uganda
  Mali

 Guinea
  Sierra Leone
  Senegal
  Rwanda

and counting...



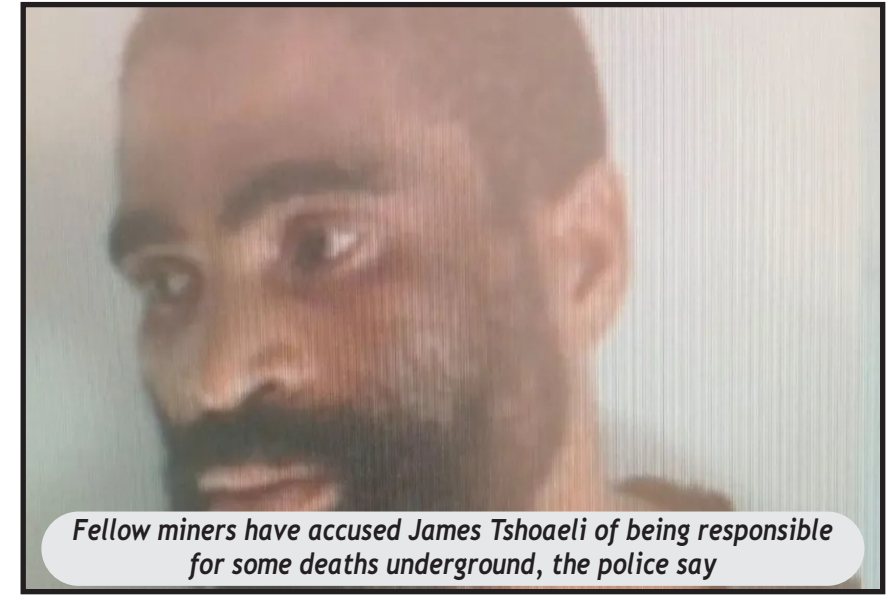

Continental News

South Africa police launch manhunt for illegal mining 'kingpin'

South Africa's police have launched a manhunt for an alleged "kingpin", who is accused of controlling operations at an abandoned

responsible for "deaths, assault and torture" underground, a police statement said on Monday.

Mr Tshoaeli is also alleged to



Fellow miners have accused James Tshoaeli of being responsible for some deaths underground, the police say

gold mine where 78 corpses were discovered last week.

The police force said officials had helped James Neo Tshoaeli, a Lesotho national also known as Tiger, to escape after he was pulled up from the mine in Stilfontein.

More than 240 illegal miners were brought up alive from the mine after it had been blockaded for months by the police. Officers had cut off food and water supplies in an attempt to force them out of the mine. Some of the miners accused Mr Tshoaeli of being

have hoarded and kept food away from the other miners, many of whom appeared emaciated and weak when they surfaced from the shaft.

Police commissioner Patrick Asaneng warned that "heads will roll" once they find the officials who helped Mr Tshoaeli escape, the police statement said. In a candid appearance on South African channel Newzroom Afrika, police spokesperson Athlenda Mathe said the force was "disappointed" and "embarrassed". Ms Mathe said an investigation into the escape has

been launched and that the probe would start with the police "looking internally".

After months when access to the mine shaft in Stilfontein was blocked, a court ordered the government to facilitate last week's rescue operation.

On Thursday, as the rescue came to an end, Ms Mathe said it would be a "mammoth task" to identify the 78 bodies that were recovered - partly because many of them were undocumented migrants.

The miners had been underground since November last year, when police launched nationwide operations targeting illicit mining. Thousands of illegal miners, known as "zama zamas" ("those who try their luck" in Zulu), operate in mineral-rich South Africa. The mine in Stilfontein - some 145km (90 miles) south-west of Johannesburg - has now been cleared of both bodies and people alive, the police have said.

A trade union and rights activists have accused the authorities of overseeing a "massacre".

But the police have defended their actions, saying that they were dealing with criminality and it was the kingpins in charge of the illicit mining who were controlling the flow of supplies and trying to prevent people from resurfacing. BBC

Zulu king's first wife fails to halt third marriage

The first wife of South Africa's Zulu King Misuzulu kaZwelithini has failed in her legal attempt to halt his plans to take a third wife. Queen Ntokoza kaMayisela went to court ahead of what was expected to be the wedding later this week. But despite the ruling, it is not clear whether the wedding will still go ahead as planned. On Saturday, South African media quoted a letter reportedly from the king saying the ceremony had been called off "due to reasons beyond the control of the royal house".

Polygamous marriages are recognised in South Africa but only if they are registered as customary weddings. This latest row comes amid a series of scandals that has hit King Misuzulu since he came to power just over two years ago.

The Zulu king does not have formal political power and the monarch's role within broader South African society is

civil to traditional. The duo, given the option of either divorcing and remarrying or applying for the conversion by their legal team, apparently opted to do the latter but King Misuzulu "decided to change his mind" for unknown reasons, the queen reportedly said. In rejecting Monday's application to halt the king's marriage to Nomzamo Myeni, Judge Bongani Mngadi said that as the queen had already consented to the idea that her husband could marry other women, she could not prevent a ceremony from taking place.

Despite the reported letter, as well as the king's lawyer in court, saying that the wedding would not take place, contradictory statements have also emerged. South African news site TimesLIVE is reporting that the bride-to-be said she knew nothing about the letter and as far as she understood, her wedding would proceed as initially planned. According to another news site, IOL, which reportedly spoke to the couple, the king insisted that he loved Myeni and would "marry her by force".

Since his coronation in October



Zulu monarch Misuzulu kaZwelithini has faced a stumbling block over his planned wedding

Soldiers shoot dead at least seven miners in Ghana

At least seven people have been killed in a clash with soldiers on duty at a mine in the central Ashanti region, according to the army. The Ghana Armed Forces said about 60 illegal miners, armed with among others things "pump action guns", had forced their way into the mine run by global giant AngloGold Ashanti and fired at the soldiers when they were intercepted.

This prompted the soldiers "to retaliate in self-defence", leading to the deaths and injuries, it said in a statement. A representative of the miners denied that they had been armed.

Following news of the deaths, there were protests in Obuasi town where several buses were set on fire.

Angry residents poured onto the company's grounds following the killings, burning at least three vehicles and other equipment belonging to AngloGold Ashanti. President John Mahama has ordered investigations into the matter, saying anyone found to have acted unlawfully will be brought to justice. A statement

from the presidency indicated that eight people had died. The government has asked AngloGold Ashanti to cover the medical expenses of the injured and the burial costs, while requiring security agencies to ensure peace in the area.

The company said the situation had since calmed down and it was working closely with the authorities.

It said its main concern was "the safety and health of our employees and those in our community" who were affected by the incident. The local

chairman of the Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners, Kofi Adams, was quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying that the violence was "unprecedented". He said that nine people had died and 14 severely injured adding that it was "difficult to understand why it had happened". In the past, he said, warning shots had been fired to ward off intruders. He also disputed the allegation by the military that the people had been armed.

The army said the "illegal miners were wielding locally manufactured rifles, pump action guns" and other weapons.



Several buses were set on fire in Obuasi after news spread about the killings

largely ceremonial, but he remains hugely influential with a yearly government-funded budget of several million dollars. Before he was enthroned, the king married Mayisela in 2021 in a civil marriage. In her legal argument heard in the high court on Monday, the queen, through her lawyer, said that the king could not marry anyone else as their marriage was still in force. Under South African law, a civil marriage must either be dissolved or converted to a traditional union before a man can take any more wives. It is not clear why the marriage contract was not an issue when the king took a second wife, Queen Nozizwe Mulela-Zulu, back in 2022. But according to South Africa's weekly Sunday World newspaper, citing a letter Queen Mayisela had written to elders in the Zulu royal house, the couple had agreed to convert their marriage from

2022, there has been controversy around some of the decisions King Misuzulu has made. In December, he unlawfully suspended the board of the Ingonyama Trust, which owns and controls vast tracts of communal land in KwaZulu-Natal, which is supposed to be for the benefit and welfare of communities under the king's leadership in the region. King Misuzulu is the sole trustee and chairperson of the trust but has no powers to hire or fire board members. He has also recently summarily fired two close aides, including his traditional prime minister, in quick succession - moves which raised eyebrows among royal watchers.

Misuzulu's position as king is also being questioned by some and a legal case is currently under way challenging his recognition as monarch by the state.

He ascended to the throne sooner than expected after his father, King Goodwill Zwelithini, died during the Covid pandemic in March 2021 of diabetes-related complications. BBC

EDITORIAL

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

The 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.

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

COMMENTARY

By Jim O'Neill

Trump’s First Test Will Be the Bond Market

LONDON - As Donald Trump returns to the White House, signals from the bond market are bursting out of the specialist world of financial geeks to become a major news item and a central concern for policymakers. One is reminded of the Democratic strategist James Carville’s famous quip, during Bill Clinton’s presidency, that if he could be reincarnated, he would “like to come back as the bond market. You can intimidate everybody.”

He may not like it, but Trump must now ask himself how bond markets will respond if he follows through on some of his stated policy preferences or continues to behave as erratically in office as he did on the campaign trail. There are two big reasons why Trump and his advisers should be concerned.

First, while the market’s immediate reaction to the presidential election seemed to reflect heightened optimism about the US economy’s growth prospects, the euphoria was short-lived. Though bond yields were already rising, most observers associated this with the improved mood about growth and accelerated rise in US equity prices. But since mid-December, the rise in US bond yields - a trend that has accelerated since the release of the latest US non-farm payroll report, on January 10 - has started to weigh on equities, which entered the new year on a down note.

As I have noted in past years, a good rule of thumb holds that if the S&P index is down for the first five trading days of a new year, there is a 50% chance that the market will end up down for the year. Well, after ending those first five days just about in positive territory, US stocks have become quite choppy and remain very susceptible to rising bond yields. If January ends up being a down month, that does not bode well for Trump’s first year - at least when it comes to the stock market (one of his preferred metrics of success).

Second, US payroll numbers remain strong, adding to the evidence of a persistently robust economic cycle that could pose problems for the new administration. After its December meeting, the US Federal Reserve Board made clear that it now expects to cut rates only twice in 2025, whereas previously it had issued guidance implying four cuts. Then, adding to the bond investors’ fears of persistent inflation and tighter-than-expected monetary policies, the University of Michigan’s five-year inflation expectations survey surprisingly rose to 3.3% this month, from 2.8% in December.

The Michigan survey is a very important indicator. I have followed it closely for much of my career, not least because I know that many important people at the Fed do the same. The implication of such a large jump is that ordinary Americans may also have serious concerns about some aspects of the new administration’s economic program. The news will not have gone unnoticed by Treasury Secretary-designate Scott Bessent and the rest of Trump’s economic advisers. Of course, the news that core consumer price inflation (excluding food and energy prices) slowed mildly in December has brought some relief to bond markets. But it is anyone’s guess how long this will last.

In any case, financial markets and official economic indicators over the past few weeks give policymakers around the world plenty to contemplate. Were the recent bond-market alarm bells a sufficient warning to Trump and his team, or will they still pursue large-scale stimulus in the form of a tax cut, across-the-board import tariffs, and a crackdown on immigration? As I wrote in November, most economists would describe this as an inflationary agenda. And now, it appears that ordinary Americans and bond markets agree.

Given the importance of US financial markets to the global economy, these concerns are not confined to American shores. Rising bond yields, weakening equities, and declining currencies are already defining characteristics of many other economies in 2025. Here in the United Kingdom - which is probably not unique - many commentators see the recent moves in bond and equity markets as a big thumbs down to the current government.

Of course, bond markets’ role in circumscribing economic policymaking is not new. While some governments must pay close attention to such market developments, others can sometimes get away with regarding them as an inconvenience. In the latter case, if the authorities believe that their policy framework is appropriate, it would be a mistake to change course radically at the first sign of external pressure.

But if the pressure continues to grow, the situation could change. While the US arguably needs tighter overall financial conditions, the same cannot be said of many other economies around the world - from the UK and the rest of Europe to China and beyond. The bond markets are watching. Trump and Bessent should consider themselves warned.

OP-ED

By J. Bradford DeLong

American Idiots

BERKELEY - The threat of a Christmastime government shutdown sparked by America’s chief Scrooges, Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and J.D. Vance, has been narrowly averted. Nonetheless, it is worth reviewing what happened, because the episode perfectly foreshadows the dysfunctional governance that awaits the United States (and the world) when Trump takes office in January.

On the eve of the December 20 deadline for passing a bill to keep the federal government funded, the US House and Senate leadership arrived at a compromise that would buy them another three months. Neither party was particularly happy with the deal, but all could live with it. They had the votes to pass it, and President Joe Biden’s staff was willing to put it in front of him for his signature.

But then Musk went berserk, fueling a “backlash” to the stopgap bill with “false and misleading claims,” as Politicoput it, and stirring “Republicans into a frenzy with 100-plus posts on X.” Among his inaccuracies was that the bill would fund the development of biological weapons, when in fact it would fund labs where any future plague could be contained and studied. (We should not forget that COVID-19 was not nearly as infectious or deadly as, say, Ebola; we cannot count on being so lucky next time.)

Musk also falsely claimed that each member of Congress would get a 40% pay raise, when in fact they are scheduled to get a 3.8% cost-of-living bump regardless of the bill under consideration. According to Musk, the bill contained a \$3 billion subsidy for a new stadium for the Washington Commanders (NFL football), when in fact it would transfer the site of RFK Stadium - where no NFL team plays or has plans to play - to the District of Columbia government so that the site can be redeveloped.

These are just a few of Musk’s many falsehoods. They were plain as day, and yet Musk succeeded in intimidating Republicans with his promise that “any member of the House or Senate who votes for this outrageous spending bill deserves to be voted out in 2 years!” Instead of pointing out that Musk does not know what he is talking about, Republicans fell into line.

According to what GOP representatives were saying as of the morning of December 18, Trump himself had no problem with the bill. Yet by that afternoon, he and Vance had gone on the offensive, calling congressional Republicans “foolish and inept” for “allowing our country to hit the debt ceiling in 2025.” Now, they must pass a “temporary funding bill WITHOUT DEMOCRAT GIVEAWAYS combined with an increase in the debt ceiling. Anything else is a betrayal of our country.”

In any case, as of December 19, the Democratic leadership in the House no longer knew who was in charge and who they were supposed to be negotiating with. Is Mike Johnson really the Speaker of the House, asked Jamie Raskin, “Or is it Donald Trump? Or is it Elon Musk? Or is it somebody else?” (In fact, Senator Rand Paul floated the idea of installing Musk as Speaker.)

In the end, Johnson and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries cobbled together a last-minute deal that includes substantial policy concessions to Democrats and no increase to the debt limit, an outcome that amounted to a policy defeat for Trump, Musk, and Vance. But they won’t care, because policy does not concern them. Trump and the incoming Republican congressional majorities know they have the fervent support of predominantly low-information - or downright misinformed - voters. And those voters won’t care (or even know) that more Democrats than Republicans voted for Johnson’s House bill (prompting Musk to ask, “So is this a Republican bill or a Democrat bill?”).

Such is the state of American politics and governance today. It now channels the performative style of professional wrestling. The basic democratic decision loop - in which voters elect officeholders who devise policies with effects that inform the outcome of subsequent elections - is now totally broken.

There will be consequences, though, and it is not entirely clear that Trump, Musk, and Vance have factored them into their calculus. As Paul Krugmanpoints out, “since the election financial markets have clearly been betting that Trump will do very little of what he promised during the campaign ... discount[ing] the disastrous consequences that would follow” from trade wars, mass deportations, and so forth.

But the market increasingly appears to be mistaken. An unnecessary and avoidable “government shutdown in response to completely false claims about what’s in an innocuous short-term funding measure suggests that the peddlers of misinformation are high on their own supply.”

Could Republican legislators regain the ability to communicate with their own political base? Could Democrats win durable, substantial legislative majorities in the 2026 midterm elections? Anything is possible, but I’m not betting on it. There is every reason to expect America’s largely broken federal government to do immense damage to the country - and Trump hasn’t even taken office yet.

OPINION

By Maya Delaney and Aminath Shauna

Turning the Financial Tide for Small Island States

NASSAU/MALÉ - Small island developing states (SIDS) are on the front lines of climate change, threatened by rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and ocean warming and acidification, despite contributing the least to global greenhouse-gas emissions. This now poses an existential risk to our ways of life, our livelihoods, and the very ground beneath our feet.

Given our disproportionate reliance on the ocean, SIDS are uniquely positioned to preserve this fragile but essential resource. These countries are home to 40% of the world’s coral reefs, which shelter one-quarter of all marine life and directly support the livelihoods of 500 million people. But even though our ecosystems play a crucial role in global climate mitigation and adaptation, SIDS face negative feedback loops from a host of interconnected economic and environmental challenges.

In the Maldives, which comprises nearly 1,200 islands and contains 3% of the planet’s coral reefs, fishing and tourism account for up to 36% of GDP, while around 98% of exports are derived from the ocean. Because the economy depends on healthy coral reefs and marine life, increased coral bleaching and declining fish stocks spell economic trouble. Moreover, climate change has led to freshwater scarcity, forcing the Maldives to rely on bottled water and thus increasing the flow of plastic waste into the ocean.

It is a similar story in the Bahamas, which consists of 700 islands and boasts the world’s third-largest barrier reef. Tourism is even more central to the Bahamian economy, accounting for around 50% of GDP and employing nearly 70% of the work force. But despite tourism’s essential economic role, it has its own challenges, for example cruise ships dump plastics, fuel, and other waste into the ocean, degrading the very assets that attract visitors.

In many SIDS, the ocean also serves as an important thoroughfare. For a population spread out over atolls or an archipelago, the movement of people and essential goods - including food, medical supplies, potable water, and fuel - depends on inter-island mailboats and barges, which are particularly vulnerable to adverse weather. Increasingly frequent and severe weather events - a consequence of climate change - could thus leave communities with insufficient supplies and uncertain about when the next shipment will arrive.

In addition to disrupting supply chains, climate disasters can destroy infrastructure. Last year, St. Vincent and the Grenadines suffered economic damage estimated at \$230 million, equivalent to 22% of its GDP, from Hurricane Beryl, while Hurricane Dorian wiped out over 25% of Bahamian GDP in 2019. Dominica suffered an even worse fate in 2017, when Hurricane Maria damaged or destroyed 95% of its housing stock and caused economic losses amounting to 226% of its GDP. These catastrophic events disrupt every aspect of life on our islands, and the high costs of rebuilding result in another negative feedback loop: greater economic losses from vulnerable infrastructure reduces our capacity to invest in resilience.

In the Maldives, 35% of financing for climate adaptation is provided by the domestic budget, while 34% comes from loans that will eventually need to be paid back. These outlays divert resources from other pressing needs, such as improving education and health-care services and strengthening democratic governance. Moreover, the financial pressure from climate shocks makes exploratory deep-sea mining and other risky ventures more tempting as a short-term fix to increase revenue, despite long-term damage to the marine environment.The key to breaking these feedback loops is more financing. The problem is that many SIDS are in or at risk of debt distress, making new borrowing prohibitively expensive. Countries that have graduated from “least developed country” status also struggle to secure enough investment, since they can no longer access various grant facilities and concessional finance. SIDS are thus at risk of entering a debt spiral.

One promising solution is to increase the use of green and blue bonds, which provide more affordable financing for climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation, enabling SIDS to protect critical ecosystems and build economic resilience. In the Bahamas, for example, the recently announced Nature Bonds project, a cross-sector collaboration between banks, NGOs, and the Bahamian government, is expected to generate an estimated \$124 million for marine conservation over the next 15 years, without adding to the country’s debt burden. Programs such as the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance’s Blue Bond Accelerator, a new non-profit entity supporting governments, private issuers, and investors in structuring these instruments, will also help unlock long-term capital for SIDS.Equally compelling are biodiversity and carbon credits, which recognize the essential role that SIDS play in mitigating climate change. These islands’ coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses are important stores of biodiversity and carbon, absorbing vast amounts of CO2 and providing valuable economic benefits. Incorporating these contributions into compliance and voluntary credit markets would develop new funding streams for SIDS, ensuring that they are financially rewarded for their conservation efforts.

With these tools, SIDS can harness our unique ecosystems and natural resources to achieve a more resilient and sustainable future. Yes, these countries are on the front lines in the fight against climate change. But SIDS are also home to some of the world’s most valuable natural assets. Preserving these precious resources requires sustainable economic strategies, innovative financial solutions, and, perhaps most importantly, coordinated international support.

ARTICLEARTICLE

An Open Letter to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai

His Excellency, Joseph N. Boakai
President
The Republic of Liberia

An Open Letter to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai
Dear President Boakai:
With an attached proposal, this letter urgently presents an alternative to the proposed Overhead Bridge along Tubman Boulevard around the Ministerial Complex. The alternative suggests a series of road improvements such as widening lanes, installing traffic lights, and implementing roundabouts, along with traffic management strategies. My argument against the proposed bridge is based on two key needs.

- Our pressing National needs based on sound engineering decisions
- Liberian First Objective

I urge you to review the attached document, “Traffic Problems Along Tubman Boulevard to ELWA Junction,” and exercise your Presidential Authority to halt this project. Your leadership and influence in this matter are crucial. If funding for the project is available, let us persuade the Chinese government to consider the alternative approach outlined in the document. This alternative has the potential to significantly boost Liberia’s development and address our urgent national needs.
I close with a recommendation to move our academic calendar to the pre-conflict period. During those days, students contributed to their academic funding by:

- Working to help their families make farms
- Helping families harvest yields from farms
- Getting a summer job with companies around the country

This adjustment will allow students to work during our dry season when roads are not problematic and help them generate funds to ease their financial burden for the school year.

Respectfully

John Kpehe Boimah, PE
Team Leader

As a licensed professional engineer with over 35 years of experience developing highway infrastructure, friends, family members, and colleagues have queried me about the proposed overhead bridge for the Tubman Boulevard corridor. I was shocked to learn about this project, and I need to gain more knowledge or information about it and its objectives.
An SOS went out about the proposed overhead bridge project. I received a Facebook message from a friend about the proposed bridge on DN—News Liberia titled “Design of Liberia’s First Overhead Bridge.” Below is a photograph of what I received for your use as I discuss this project. Since it is not an official work, let us accept that DN—News Liberia has an official copy.



Please note that this work does not have dimensions. It is not a design file but an artist's projection.
Overhead Bridge Cross section and Two lanes
the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Geometric Design Standards call for lane width to be 12 feet. Let us assume the edges of the street below and the bridge above line up. The bridge deck has four lanes, and the street below has two lanes, totaling six lanes, 6 times 12 feet, equal to 72 feet. Let us include the medium barrier wall and the two barrier walls at the edge of the bridge. Let us assume the minimum width at the bottom of the wall is 2 feet, totaling 3 times 2 feet equal to 6 feet. Excluding sidewalks, if any, the total width across the street, including the bridge, is 78 feet.

Traffic Congestion: A Pressing Issue Requiring Immediate Attention
During the evening hours, between 4 PM and 8 PM, there is a substantial influx of traffic due to staff leaving the Ministerial Complex, shoppers trying to enter or leave the available parking adjacent to Tubman Blvd. at STOP & SHOP Supermarket, and residents of the area being dropped off. This significantly disrupts the free traffic flow along Tubman Blvd., making it inconvenient for commuters trying to reach their destination.

These activities compound the traffic problem when vehicles that have stopped trying to enter the traffic flow interrupt the normal flow of vehicles with the help of the police. As vehicles drive away from the Ministerial Complex or the supermarket, other vehicles try to drop off shoppers or residents, disrupting traffic further. These disruptions contribute to traffic congestion with police-induced interference and other illegal interference called

THIRD LANE, which puts motorists at risk of accidents in the lane they should be in.

An engineering problem exists, and it is unclear why it is allowed: the drop-off at the edge of the pavement at locations with no shoulder or curb. The drop-off is significant, causing motorists not to risk their vehicle's undercarriage. Therefore, they disrupt traffic by stopping in the lane to let out passengers, which leads to traffic backup during their stops.

The biggest surprise is that signalized traffic control systems are not utilized at most intersections to control traffic, and inadequate lane markings are being replaced with police use. Police are contributing to the traffic problems at these intersections because they lack a standardized frequency of controlling traffic, like a mechanized electronic system.
The Tubman Blvd corridor, stretching from Vamoma through Catholic Junction to ELWA Junction, is currently facing severe traffic congestion during rush hours between 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM and between 4:30 PM and 8:30 PM. This is not a problem we can afford to ignore.

Our Government Solution to Address the Traffic Congestion Problem
Our government believes that constructing an overhead bridge could be a solution to the traffic congestion problem. However, we must remember that there are many ways to address this issue. What we need is a comprehensive strategy that ensures the most efficient and effective use of public funds.
While constructing an overhead bridge may seem like a straightforward solution to the traffic congestion problem, we must ask ourselves if it best uses public funds. Are we prioritizing our egos over addressing our national pressing needs? We must consider all viable alternatives before deciding.
Viable options for Consideration

Boimah Engineering Inc. believes other viable alternatives to the bridge will be cost-effective, provide a long-term design life, and are aesthetic. For example:

- Spot widening critical areas along the corridor by adding dedicated lanes on each side of the boulevard
- Improving Cheeseman Avenue beginning at Airfield Road through and under James Springs Airfield to Old Road with a bridge above for aircraft to use during taxing
- Reconstructing the Congo Town Old Road
- Proposed Crossing Construction across the Montserrado Basin

When these treatments are finally achieved, they will severely ease traffic congestion, making the proposed overhead bridge obsolete.

- Spot widening critical areas

Boimah Engineering Inc. underscores the necessity for practical, cost-effective solutions with sound geometric designs and engineering decisions at its core to address the traffic problems along the Tubman Blvd corridor.

We believe spot widening in strategy critical traffic congestion locations with dedicated left or right turning along Tubman Boulevard within the discussed limits is a viable option. Prohibiting parking at selected locations will also ensure smoother traffic flow during rush hours and reduce the risk of accidents.

Enhancing Safety and Convenience: Our Proposal for a Shared Controlled Parking Lot

Adjacent to the supermarket shown in the photograph below, labeled “Proposed Parking Lot,” a parking lot can be created with a transition to the supermarket for patrons. The parking lot can be designed to accommodate the anticipated vehicles, with controls, clear markings, and lighting for safety and convenience.

This parking lot could be made available to visitors and staff of the Ministerial Complex for a fee.

- Improving Cheeseman Avenue
The extension of Cheeseman Avenue under James Springs Airfield will involve cutting through the airport pavement connecting to the Old Road to Congo Town Back Road and constructing a bridge above the cut section for aircraft to use during taxing.

Cutting through the JS Airfield limits the landing strip so the designed aircraft can land safely. As shown below, the recommendation is to extend the landing strip into the

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

An Open Letter to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai

Montserrado Basin by treating it to the required length.

3. Reconstructing Congo Town Old Road
Reconstruction of the Congo Town Old Road to move vehicular traffic to Tubman Boulevard.

4. Proposed Crossing Construction across the Montserrado Basin
Create a crossing across the Montserrado Basin to Somalia Drive to ease traffic towards Paynesville.
Most of the Montserrado Basin is made of organic materials that can be treated with a road bridge constructed to move goods and people across it. Most of the materials to achieve this treatment are local to Liberia. The human capacity is available and will be much cheaper than bringing foreigners. Hundreds of Liberian engineers from our universities can be put to work when the resources are available.

Rumor has it that the Chinese government has committed US \$30 million to the bridge construction project. Our concern is, is it a cost-effective way of spending that money? We have laid out other options that address the traffic congestion along Tubman Boulevard and improve the movement of goods and services and Liberians around metropolitan Monrovia.

We do not believe widening or spot-widening critical areas along the corridor was ever considered. Were any cost comparisons for each option to determine the most effective benefit for the US \$30 million? It looks more like a political decision than an engineering one.
Though US \$30 million can address the traffic congestion problems along Tubman Boulevard as proposed, our country has more pressing financial needs. Should we please someone's ego? Should we address our national problems by performing stringy cost analysis with value engineering and utilizing our local resources to carry out national projects that will spur development, create jobs, and spur economic activities?

The way we decide to use our national funds is very disappointing. The question is, who is carrying out these engineering projections? Are the Ministry of Public Works engineers deeply involved in these concept designs, analysis, and costing? If they are not involved, then I have a problem with how we plan and execute projects. I want to ask, won't a forty thousand United States dollar vehicle serve the same purpose as a sixty, seventy, or ninety thousand dollar vehicle? Won't the difference between the selected vehicle and the forty thousand dollars vehicle for each vehicle be sufficient to put many Liberians to work? It is time for our government to take some austerity measures to address our national problems.
Our government's strategy should be to create jobs for Liberians. How many professional Liberians will be involved in this project? Will their skills be developed without involvement in projects like this from inception to completion? Liberians must be utilized to develop their skills, which will be in the long-term best interest of nation-building.

The fact that a Chinese entity has already done the engineering for this project raises these questions:

- What role did Liberian engineering professionals play?
- Who did the cost estimates?
- What role did the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) play?
- Did MPW prioritize local engineers' involvement in building their skills, which will spur national development and job creation?

I doubt it because our government officials are in the business of falsely discrediting professional Liberian engineers. As a result, their input is not sought, nor do they collaborate with professional Liberians on nation-building issues. Liberians with many years of experience are around to make contributions to these critical national decisions. This is done to cover up their ineptness and the fear of being opposed. Experienced Liberian engineers are left out who could be used to incorporate the many young engineers lavishing helpless around our country. I know this because I have taught many at the College of Engineering, University of Liberia.

We fail to realize that our own are left behind in this business because of our flawed policies. I have been home officially since 2009, and I have experienced it. If engineers out of our universities are not challenged and allowed to develop their experience, who are we expecting to develop them? Our local engineers have the potential to make a significant impact if given the opportunity. I know this because of my more than thirty years of educational and working experience in the United States of America.
Liberia has the resources needed to achieve this task except for equipment. Why is our government so dependent on others to address our problems, ignoring our own, who will require hands-on training in a competitive environment to contribute to their country? With the right leadership, many university graduates could be used to address our problems in many phases of national development.

In conclusion, this treatment along Tubman Blvd., the extension of Cheeseman Avenue, the Reconstruction of Congo Town Old Road, and the proposed crossing across the Montserrado Basin will eliminate the need for the proposed Overhead bridge. Moreover, Boimah Engineering Inc. strongly believes the Overhead Bridge will briefly address our traffic problems for the short term, plus it will create other problems under the bridge, like crimes and environmental issues.
It is highly recommended that Tubman Boulevard be spot-widened in critical areas and that other recommended treatments be performed using a completely different strategy.

Starts from page 7

Ngafuan calls for unity

expressed enthusiasm and commitment to advancing the preparations for Liberia's Compact II during his recent visit to the country. Small spoke directly to the importance of the partnership between the MCC and Liberia, noting the shared dedication to improving the lives of the Liberian people. "I know you and your team are very anxious to get moving on the compact, and that's why we're here," Small remarked, emphasizing the MCC's readiness to collaborate closely with the Liberian government to move forward with the compact process.Highlighting the long-term impact of the MCC Compact, Small further stated, "We will talk on the long road ahead, close

it together, and develop a compact that will transform the lives of the people of Liberia." Also speaking earlier US Ambassador to Liberia Mark Toner voiced strong support for the ongoing preparations for Liberia's MCC Compact II, emphasizing the importance of the partnership between the U.S. government, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and Liberia."This is a real win for Liberia, and we are so pleased that the MCC Delegation can come to network with the government of Liberia," the Ambassador remarked, emphasizing the value of fostering close cooperation between the two nations in advancing Liberia's development goals.

Starts from page 7

Liberia signs US\$7 Million contract

development strategy that aligns with international standards. According to him, this comprehensive plan will involve creating strategies for generating revenue, including entrance fees for both foreign visitors and Liberians, which will be directed into the country's coffers. He also highlights that the project would serve as a blueprint for future developments on the island, thereby ensuring that any subsequent work maintains the historical and cultural integrity of the Island.Providence Island holds immense historical significance as

the landing site for freed African Americans and Afro-Caribbean settlers in the early 19th century. The island symbolizes Liberia's rich heritage, and with this ambitious project, the government aims to elevate the site's global status, making it a leading cultural landmark."This project will ensure that Providence Island is celebrated for its historical importance, while positioning Liberia as a global center for cultural heritage," Minister Piah adds.



Liberia Maritime Authority
P. O BOX 10-9042
1000 MONROVIA, 10 LIBERIA
1948 Maritime Drive



Public Service Announcement

Subject: Authorization Requirement for Vessel Construction and Marine-Related Activities

The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), in keeping with its statutory mandate to administer, promote, regulate, and enforce policies, strategies, laws, and regulations for the growth and development of the maritime sector, hereby informs the general public that all individuals, entities, or organizations intending to engage in the construction of seagoing vessels, platforms, docks, or any other marine-related infrastructure are **required to obtain prior written approval from the Liberia Maritime Authority** before initiating any such activities.

This requirement ensures compliance with internationally recognized standards for maritime safety, environmental protection, and sustainable development of Liberia's maritime sector.

Failure to obtain the requisite authorization will result in administrative actions, including but not limited to the issuance of Cease-and-Desist orders, Cancellation of approvals, Revocation of licenses, and imposition of fines and/or penalties as deemed appropriate by law.

To obtain prior approval, applicants must submit a formal request to LiMA, including detailed project plans and specifications. These requirements are geared at ensuring alignment with established maritime regulations and international standards.

LiMA remains committed to fostering the responsible growth of Liberia's maritime industry while safeguarding national interests and upholding international obligations.

Let us work together to promote a safe, regulated, and sustainable maritime sector in Liberia.

For further inquiries or to apply, please contact:

The Liberia Maritime Authority

Corporate Headquarters

Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ngafuan calls for unity and commitment

-As a high power MCC delegation visits Liberia

Monrovia, Liberia - Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, has



Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan

called on all Liberians to unite for the country's development as a high power delegation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is visiting Liberia. The technical working visit by MCC Managing Director for Africa, Jason Small and MCC Program Officer for Africa, Ilana Shapiro is focusing on steps in staff recruitment, diagnosis study on modalities of the compact, and the establishment of a Millennium Challenge Corporation office in Liberia. Speaking when the delegation paid a courtesy visit Monday, Minister Ngafuan emphasized that development must

transcend political and social divisions, urging Liberians to come together for the greater good. "We call on our people to unite for development," he said. "The MCC brings all of us together, no matter your political party or religious connection - that's why we say Liberia wins." Reflecting on the positive impact of the first MCC Compact, Minister Ngafuan highlighted tangible benefits such as increased access to electricity from the Mount Coffee Hydro Dam and improved water distribution through the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation. "The electricity and water provided by the Mount Coffee Hydro Dam and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation are beneficial to everyone who gets access.

No one needs to show a political party ID card to benefit," he stated.

Minister Ngafuan also acknowledged the significant contributions made by both current and past government officials and technicians in securing Liberia's partnership with the MCC.

Hon. Ngafuan emphasized the importance of prioritizing the needs of the Liberian people, ensuring that development continues regardless of the political cycle. "Election years are when politicians win, but the Liberian people need to win every year.

We win when people in government, the private sector, and everywhere else deliver on the expectations of their people," he said.

"Our people need roads, more electricity, healthcare, and education - that's how they win."

He assured the delegation and the Liberian people that efforts are underway to complete a constraint analysis, which will guide the allocation of MCC funding to critical areas of development.

Minister Ngafuan reaffirmed Liberia's commitment to working closely with the MCC to ensure that Compact II will bring long-term benefits to the nation.

For his part, the Head of the Delegation, MCC Managing Director for Africa Jason Small

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 6

Gov't to begin paying electricity bill

For the first time in many years the Liberia Electricity Corporation discloses plan to install prepay meters on all government's institutions.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, January 21, 2025 - The interim management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation is expected to begin placing prepay meters on all government's ministries, commissions, bureaus, authorities and agencies effective next month. LEC interim Managing Director, Thomas Gonkerwon, disclosed that the prepay meters will enable all government institutions to begin paying electricity bills. Mr. Gonkerwon made the disclosure during presentation of LEC's plan on expansion program to increase electricity supply and income generation mechanism when a high-power delegation toured the Mount Coffee Power Plant in White Plain Township, Montserrado County recently. He said this is necessary to strengthen the LEC's financial base in addressing most of the challenges facing the entity, to

expand services in rural Liberia. Mr. Gonkerwon also maintained that the LEC will begin opening offices in all 73 districts, but the process will start with five regions, including Kakata, Robertsfield, Bushrold Island, and Buchanan, among others. For his part, the head of the World Bank delegation, Ousmane Diagana, who is also the Bank's Vice President for Western and Central Africa, expressed satisfaction on the work done by LEC thus far. He congratulated the



Corporation on the observance of its anniversary and assured it of the World Bank's fullest cooperation in the discharge of its duties.

Mr. Diagana assured the LEC management of the World Bank's continuous support, while stressing a need to extend electricity to rural dwellers so that can benefit from its services. The visiting high-power delegation of the World Bank toured the Mount Coffee Hydro Power Plant, the CLSG Electrical Plant among other facilities operated by the Liberia Electricity Corporation under auspices of the Bank.

Liberia signs US\$7 Million contract to renovate Providence Island

Government of Liberia pens US\$7 million deal to recondition Providence Island, an important historical heritage here.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, January 21, 2025 - - The Government of Liberia has signed a US\$7 million contract with the World Monuments Fund (WMF) to rehabilitate Providence Island into a world-class heritage center. A contract was officially signed in New York City, marking a pivotal step in preserving and promoting the island's rich historical and cultural significance.

The World Monuments Fund, a renowned international organization dedicated to safeguarding cultural heritage worldwide, has a proven track record of restoring irreplaceable landmarks in more than 112

Traditional Council of Liberia, youth leaders, and community members surrounding Providence Island.

During this meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed, expressing mutual commitment to conserving the island's cultural landscape.

However, while details of the initial agreement under the Weah administration remains undisclosed, the Minister of Information, Jerolinmek Mathews Piah, revealed in a radio interview on Monday, January 20, 2025, that a formal agreement had been finalized between the Government of Liberia and the WMF.



countries. The organization's mission focuses on protecting sites of global importance and ensuring they are preserved for future generations. To date, WMF has successfully supported more than 500 sites, including several UNESCO World Heritage Sites globally. In 2020, the U.S. Department of State awarded WMF nearly US\$100,000 through the Ambassadors' Fund for Cultural Preservation, a grant overseen by the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia.

This funding was intended to enabled WMF to conduct a study on the preservation and potential reuse of the Providence Island, and in that same year, Stephen Battle, the Program Director of the WMF, met with key Liberian stakeholders, including officials from the Weah administration, the National

Minister Piah confirmed that the new contract that was signed in New York, would see an investment of over \$7 million over the next five years, and the goal is to transform Providence Island into a prominent heritage site of global stature, a project that Piah describes as "something huge for the country."

He emphasizes the critical importance of preserving the island as a national heritage site. "When you preserve places as a national heritage, it means you give them great historic relevance, making them a place of attraction for people from all over the world," Piah states.

In addition to preservation, The Minister indicates that the government's plan includes a sustainable

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 6

Français

Accusations infondées : Le gouvernement réfute les allégations de torture

Le ministre de la Justice du Liberia, Maître Oswald N. Tweh, a catégoriquement rejeté les accusations selon lesquelles les forces de sécurité nationale auraient torturé des suspects impliqués dans l'incendie du bâtiment du

au ministère de la Justice, samedi 18 janvier 2025, Maître Tweh a exhorté les citoyens à faire preuve de responsabilité dans leurs déclarations publiques. « Nous devons cesser de diffuser des propos frivoles et incendiaires, susceptibles de semer la désinformation et d'inciter à la violence », a-t-il



Capitole. Il a qualifié ces allégations de « déformation flagrante des faits ». S'exprimant lors d'une cérémonie d'inauguration

déclaré. Une campagne de désinformation dénoncée Le ministre Tweh a condamné ce qu'il a décrit comme une campagne délibérée de

désinformation, visant à semer la peur et à déstabiliser le pays. Il a fermement nié les accusations de torture, affirmant que de telles déclarations cherchent à saboter les enquêtes en cours sur l'incendie du bâtiment du Capitole. L'incendie, survenu l'année dernière, a gravement endommagé la Chambre commune du Capitole, un jour après une manifestation violente contre la destitution de l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Jonathan Fonati Koffa. Le 13 janvier 2025, les forces de l'ordre ont arrêté Etheridge, ancien collaborateur de M. Koffa, en lien avec cet incident. Des accusations de coercition Etheridge, principal suspect, a affirmé avoir subi des pressions et des traitements abusifs lors de son interrogatoire. Il a déclaré avoir été contraint de fournir de faux aveux et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Aucune impunité pour les législateurs et autres impliqués dans l'incendie du Capitole

Le ministre de la Justice et procureur général du Liberia, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh, a réaffirmé avec force qu'aucune protection ne sera accordée à quiconque serait impliqué dans l'incendie criminel du bâtiment du Capitole, survenu le 18 décembre 2024. Il a insisté sur le fait que, législateurs ou citoyens ordinaires, les responsables devront répondre de leurs actes devant la justice. S'exprimant ce week-end lors de la cérémonie officielle de remise de véhicules destinés aux procureurs, le ministre Tweh a souligné que la sécurité et la justice pour le peuple libérien constituent des priorités fondamentales pour le gouvernement. L'incendie reconnu comme un acte criminel

personne arrêtée ou inculpée bénéficiera d'un procès équitable dans le respect de la procédure légale. « Le ministère de la Justice affirme sans ambiguïté qu'il ne protégera personne impliqué dans cet acte criminel. Si une personne, qu'elle soit parlementaire ou non, est reconnue coupable, elle sera traduite en justice avec toute la rigueur de la loi », a déclaré Cllr. Tweh. L'immunité parlementaire limitée Le ministre Tweh a également rappelé que l'immunité parlementaire, prévue par l'article 42 de la Constitution de 1986, ne protège pas les législateurs contre des

accusations liées à des crimes graves. « Les protections accordées par la Constitution ne s'appliquent pas aux crimes majeurs, tels que l'incendie volontaire », a-t-il précisé. Il a assuré que si des preuves impliquent un législateur dans cette affaire, celui-ci fera face aux conséquences judiciaires, conformément au principe de l'égalité devant la loi. Enquête en cours et appel au calme L'enquête, dirigée par la police nationale libérienne, a conduit à l'interrogatoire de deux législateurs - le représentant Frank Saa Foko

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La négligence médicale à l'hôpital I St. Joseph coûte la vie à un jeune patient

Par Daron Acemoglu

Le décès tragique d'Isaiah Benedicto Williams, un patient de 21 ans, à l'hôpital catholique St. Joseph de Monrovia, illustre une grave défaillance dans le respect des normes médicales professionnelles. Ce drame, qui aurait pu être évité, reflète une négligence alarmante dans le système de santé du pays, entraînant des pertes humaines qui restent trop souvent impunies.

Isaiah devait subir une intervention chirurgicale visant à retirer un hydrocèle. Cependant, l'opération n'a jamais eu lieu. Face au manque de clarté sur les circonstances de sa mort, sa famille a exigé des réponses et porté plainte auprès du Conseil médical et dentaire du Liberia (LMDC), dénonçant une médication inappropriée et une surdose possible. Le jeune homme, sur le point d'intégrer l'Université adventiste de Lay à Kigali, au Rwanda, voyait son avenir prometteur brutalement interrompu.

Malgré une rencontre entre la famille endeuillée et Mme Yah Wynn-Gaus, représentante du Secrétariat de l'Archidiocèse catholique du Liberia, durant laquelle des regrets ont été exprimés, les conclusions de l'enquête menée par le LMDC ont révélé des fautes graves.

Le vendredi 17 janvier 2025, le verdict a été prononcé par la présidente du LMDC, le Dr Benetta Collins Andrew. Les conclusions sont accablantes : l'hôpital a été reconnu responsable en raison de l'absence de procédures opérationnelles conformes.

Selon le rapport, une erreur médicale majeure a été commise. La machine d'anesthésie utilisée pour préparer Isaiah à l'opération était défectueuse, ce qui a compromis la sécurité de l'intervention.

« Nous tenons également l'hôpital pour responsable car le médecin chargé de l'opération, le Dr Thadee, exerçait sans licence valide. En médecine, il est inadmissible de pratiquer sans une licence en règle, même pour une seconde », a déclaré le Dr Andrew.

Par ailleurs, l'anesthésie administrée par un infirmier anesthésiste a provoqué une réaction sévère chez le patient, conduisant à son décès.

À l'issue de l'enquête, l'hôpital catholique St. Joseph a été condamné à payer une amende de 30 000 dollars américains pour dommages liés à cette mort évitable.

Cette affaire rappelle tristement un précédent impliquant le centre médical John F. Kennedy (JFK) de Monrovia. En 2022, l'établissement avait été jugé responsable d'une opération chirurgicale incorrecte sur une patiente, Karen Gaydou Sehkeporh, de Paynesville. Le tribunal avait condamné le JFK à verser 1 million de dollars en dommages généraux et 3,1 millions en dommages spéciaux. Malgré ce verdict, l'établissement avait contesté la décision en la qualifiant de sentimentale.

Ces cas, malheureusement fréquents, appellent une prise de conscience urgente. Les autorités sanitaires, les professionnels de la santé et les administrateurs hospitaliers doivent redoubler de vigilance pour garantir des soins sûrs et conformes aux normes. Il est impératif d'éviter de tels drames qui brisent des familles et ébranlent la confiance du public dans le système de santé.

Copyright : Project Syndicate, 2024. www.project-syndicate.org

Happy New Year to all
our Readers

Français

Starts from page 8 Accusations infondées : Le gouvernement

accusé les autorités d’avoir manipulé ses déclarations par le biais d’enregistrements audio sortis de leur contexte.

« Ils ont prétendu que j’avais convoqué des individus dans une maison depuis le siège du CDC. Mais ils ont coupé l’enregistrement au moment où j’ai nié cette allégation », a-t-il dénoncé.

Réponse du gouvernement

En réponse à ces allégations, Maître Tweh a réitéré l’engagement du gouvernement à préserver la paix et l’ordre public. « Ces accusations infondées constituent une menace sérieuse pour la paix fragile que nous avons travaillé si dur à maintenir », a-t-il déclaré. Il a également assuré que le gouvernement reste fermement engagé en faveur de la transparence et de l’État de droit. « Nous appelons tous les citoyens à faire preuve de retenue, à respecter les lois et à collaborer avec les autorités pour que les auteurs de ces actes soient traduits en justice », a-t-il ajouté.

Engagement envers la justice

Le ministre de la Justice a souligné que toute personne impliquée dans cet acte criminel - y compris les législateurs - ferait face à la justice. « Si une personne est reconnue coupable, qu’il s’agisse d’un législateur ou d’un citoyen ordinaire, elle devra répondre de ses actes devant la loi », a-t-il affirmé. Il a également précisé que l’immunité parlementaire ne saurait protéger un individu impliqué dans des crimes graves, comme l’incendie criminel, qui est un crime de premier degré selon le droit pénal libérien.

« La sécurité et le bien-être des citoyens restent notre priorité absolue. Nous continuerons à informer le public de l’avancement des enquêtes », a-t-il conclu.

Starts from page 8 Aucune impunité pour les législateurs et

et le président contesté de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa - ainsi qu’à l’arrestation de plusieurs autres suspects.

Cllr. Tweh a exhorté le public à s’abstenir de diffuser des informations inexactes ou de formuler des déclarations incendiaires susceptibles d’entraver l’enquête. « Nous appelons à la retenue. Toute désinformation, propagande ou déclaration frivole ne fera que compromettre la recherche de justice et risquer de provoquer des troubles inutiles », a-t-il averti.

Il a également réaffirmé que les droits constitutionnels des personnes impliquées seraient pleinement respectés.

ccusations de torture réfutées

Le ministère de la Justice a fermement démenti les allégations de torture formulées par Thomas Etheridge, membre du personnel de la Chambre et personne d’intérêt dans l’enquête. Etheridge avait accusé les forces de l’ordre de coercition et de mauvais traitements lors de son interrogatoire.

Le ministre Tweh a condamné ces affirmations, les qualifiant de fausses et d’irresponsables. « Ces accusations infondées visent à saper l’enquête et à semer le doute parmi les citoyens. Elles constituent une menace à la paix fragile que le Liberia s’efforce de préserver », a-t-il déclaré.

Engagement en faveur de la transparence et de la justice

Cllr. Tweh a renouvelé l’engagement du gouvernement à mener cette enquête de manière transparente. Il a encouragé la population à collaborer avec les autorités et à respecter l’état de droit.

« Le gouvernement est déterminé à ce que justice soit rendue et que les responsables de cet acte criminel soient traduits devant les tribunaux. Nous continuerons à informer le public de l’évolution de l’enquête », a-t-il

Le vice-président Koung défend l’héritage de Prince Y. Johnson

Le vice-président la vérité et de la Jeremiah Kpan Koung a réconciliation, affirmant que pris la défense de son appui au tribunal l’héritage du défunt sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, de surmonter les traumatismes de la guerre et de favoriser la guérison nationale.

Koung a fermement rejeté les tentatives visant à ternir l’image de Prince Johnson ou à minimiser ses contributions dans le domaine de la justice au Liberia. Tout en reconnaissant la complexité de son héritage, il a souligné que le sénateur s’était engagé à ce que les auteurs des atrocités de guerre, y compris lui-même, soient tenus responsables, comme recommandé par la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation (CVR).



Affrontements lors des funérailles de PYJ à Nimba

Des 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’ex-sénateur PYJ. Sur place, elles se sont violemment affrontées avec leurs consœurs locales, en raison de la concurrence pour attirer les clients masculins.

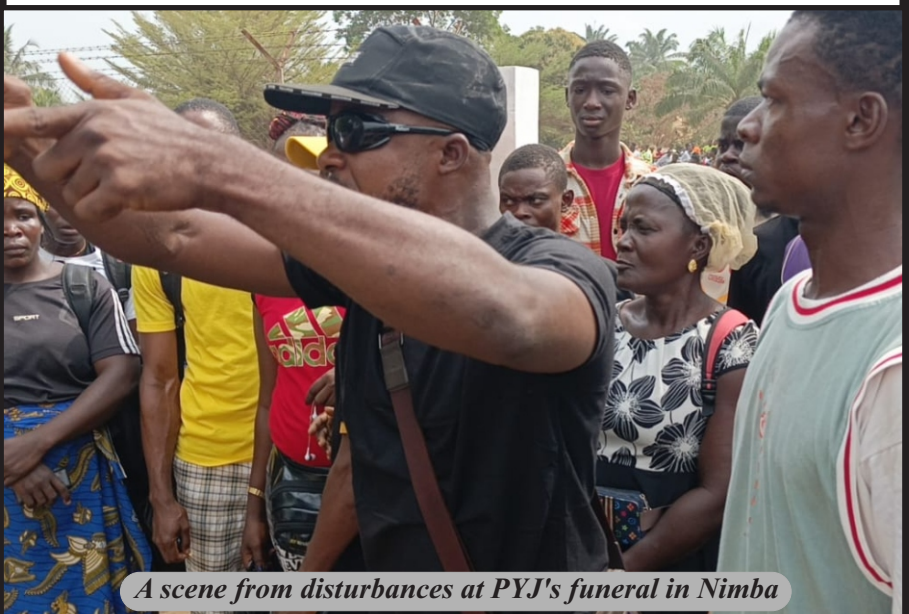
Les travailleuses du sexe locales ont exprimé leur mécontentement face à l’arrivée de leurs homologues venues d’autres régions, insistant sur le fait qu’elles ne permettraient pas à ces dernières de dominer le marché, en particulier avec l’afflux des invités en provenance de Monrovia pour les rites funéraires.

La situation est devenue particulièrement tendue après l’annonce de la présence de hautes personnalités gouvernementales, y compris l’ex-président 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



Le gouvernement reconnaît son échec dans la récupération des actifs volés

Le 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 processus.

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.

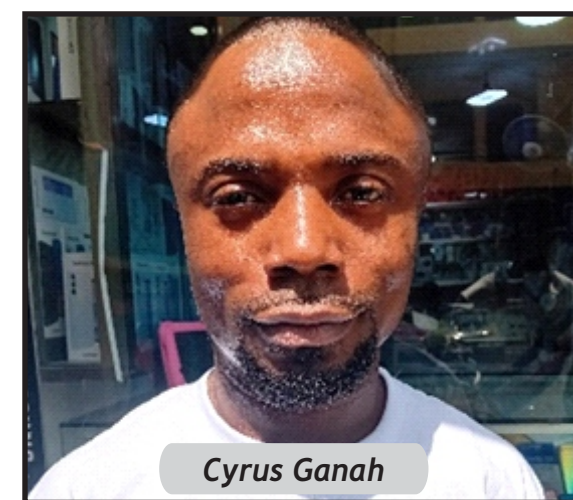
LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: The death of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson

By Naneka Hoffman

As the Government of Liberia and the people of Nimba gear up to pay last respect to fallen Senator Prince Johnson, who died last November at age 72, The NEW DAWN solicits views of some Liberians what they will remember the controversial senator for. Read their comments, as compiled below.



Cyrus Ganah

"The late Senator Prince Johnson will be remembered for so many

things that he did for the people of Nimba, and more especially, I can remember during the course of the civil war, when Prince Johnson stood up for the people of Nimba. These are things I will actually remember him for, more especially, when it comes to standing for the people of Nimba. When former President Doe was killing innocent children and even threatening the people of Nimba, to kill them. Prince Johnson stood up and protected his people."

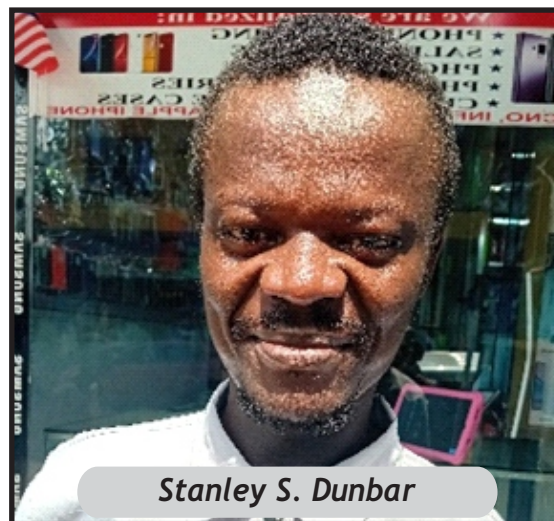


Patrick P. Gweh

"Liberians will remember Prince Johnson for so many things, instead of just representation, making laws in the Senate. You know Senator Prince Johnson

was one of the elders in the Legislature, who people used to listen to for advice and his contribution was very significant to the Liberian people. When it comes to Nimba, Nimbaians will miss Prince Johnson more than ever before. I do not see anybody in Nimba County that will replace Prince Johnson in terms of advocating for his people and defending them. We agreed that more people will have different saying about Prince Johnson for his role in the civil war but, Prince Johnson did well for Nimbaians."

"Prince Johnson taught sons and daughters of Nimba serious lesson that has to do with having love for county and everything. It means what you worked for, you learn to carry back home. And one thing I do remember of him, he was a very serious person and selfless leader, who gave his all for sons and daughters of Nimba."



Stanley S. Dunbar

"Prince Johnson was a very good man, to his kinsmen of Nimba. I do remember him for advocating for his county and the youth of Nimba. Prince Johnson was one of the senators that was very controversial in politics. He was a very bold person, who never hid his feelings in telling people the truth. I think politicians will miss him a lot, because when it came to elections in our country, if you did not have Prince Johnson on your team, it was very difficult to win seats in Nimba think they will miss him for and even the Presidency, so I that."



Ofantee Togbah



Jake Parker

Jake Parker

"The death of Senator Prince Johnson is a shocking news to the entire country, because he was a true statesman. I think Liberia has lost a real renowned

man, who had love for the country. Whenever you sat with him and listened, his love for this country was to always see Liberia improve, to have better roads, good health system, and good infrastructure; Liberia has lost one of its great men. The people of Nimba County lost a great statesman. To find someone like Prince Johnson, it will take a while; there are sons and daughters of Nimba but, to find replacement for Prince Johnson, it will be difficult at this moment, because Prince Johnson was a different kind of human being."



Varfley Konneh

"The state is bereaved; this is the senator that had passion for the state. He played a leadership role in the senate. His passing is a big loss to the state and Nimba, because the leadership role he played in the Legislature, I think that is what we should celebrate him for. So, his death is a mourning for the state."

**Read the
NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!**

WWW thenewdawnliberia.com
Advertise with us!
Subscribe to our website
Get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE DO PHOTOCOPY

PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE

2 Colors Heidelberg Machines

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING PRINTING SERVICES:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...

PRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266
Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.
Tel: 086484201 / 0777007529
0864978782 / 0775407211
Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com
Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

Court summons Sen. Taylor

Grand Cape Mount County Senator Simeon Taylor, is being dragged to court for alleged assault disorderly conduct, charges he denies.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Montserrado, Liberia, January 21, 2025 - The Brewerville Magisterial Court in Montserrado

confrontation began after she visited the Senator to address ongoing mistreatment.

“He ordered his security to beat on me after attempting

his reputation.

“I have never abused or ordered harm against her. This is an attempt to damage my character,” the Senator responds. He also reveals that he had recently suspended Magona’s husband, his Chief of Staff, citing disrespectful behavior from Magona over the years.

“She has been making disrespectful remarks toward me for years, but I’ve always taken them as jokes. Now, this is being used by my political opponents to damage my reputation,” Taylor adds.

The case is scheduled for hearing on January 22, 2025, at the Brewerville Magisterial Court. Magona is seeking justice for what she describes as severe physical and emotional harm caused by the incident.

Senator Taylor, however, expresses confidence in his innocence, stating that he believes the court will uncover the truth. The allegations have sparked widespread debate, with some citizens calling for a thorough investigation into the matter to ensure accountability, while others have questioned the timing and motives behind the accusations.

As the legal process unfolds, the case is expected to draw significant attention, with implications for both Senator Taylor’s political career and Magona’s pursuit of justice.



County summons Grand Cape Mount County Senator, Simeon Taylor, to respond to allegations of simple assault, disorderly conduct, and criminal coercion, filed against him by Lina Hawa Magona.

The writ, issued on January 18, 2025, follows accusations that Senator Taylor attempted to sexually abuse Magona at his (Taylor’s) residence in Brewerville, and later ordered his security guards to assault and publicly humiliate her.

Magona, who is married to Senator Taylor’s Chief of Staff, detailed the alleged incident in her statement.

She allege that the

to sexually abuse me in his house,” Magona stated. “The senator, whom I have known for over a decade, insulted my womanhood, calling me degrading names in front of others, including his partner.” She laments.

Magona further alleges that the situation escalated when she asked the Senator to stop what she described as years of abuse. “I went to ask him to stop abusing me, but instead, he ordered his security to disgrace me and threatened my life,” she says.

Senator Taylor vehemently denies the allegations, dismissing them as politically-motivated attacks aimed at tarnishing

Starts from back page

Jeety Rubber LLC receives

raw material procurement to production and shipping. The certificate is then issued if the said company, as in the case of Jeety Rubber, meets the evaluation standards, demonstrates the company’s value of quality assurance, and adoptions of international best practices in every aspect of its work. The certification comes about two years after Jeety Rubber commenced operations at its US\$40 million factory in Weala, Margibi County. As part of the company’s long-term plan, it intends to expand into the manufacturing of rubber goods for the Liberian and African markets in coming years. According to businessman Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva,

founder of Jeety Rubber, his goal is not just about producing high-quality rubber but also bringing value-added manufacturing to Liberia. Mr. Sachdeva added that the ISO certification strengthens the foundation of Jeety Rubber, as it looks to expand operations and contribute more to the industrial growth of Liberia by manufacturing rubber goods such as gloves and tires locally. “This certification is a major milestone for our company and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team,” he said. “ISO certification is more than just a title—it’s a promise to our customers, partners, and stakeholders that we are committed to delivering the

highest standards of quality in everything we do. It reflects our vision of making Liberia a global hub for rubber production.” Experts say the ISO certification of Jeety Rubber signals the company’s commitment to excellence and positions it as a reliable partner in the global rubber market. According to experts, the ISO 9001:2015 certification is a testament to the company’s dedication to setting a high standard for the rubber industry in Liberia. “ISO certification is not just a badge; it’s a commitment to delivering quality and reliability for our partners and customers,” they added. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Etheridge, others face multiple crimes

Two suspects in the December 18, 2024, fire incident at the Capitol Building have been forwarded to court for prosecution on multiple charges.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, January 21, 2025 - The Liberia National Police has forwarded Suspects Thomas Isaac Etheridge and Eric Susay to the Monrovia City Court for prosecution following multiple charges linking them to the Capitol Building fire incident. Thirty-nine-year-old (39) Etheridge, who works in the office of embattled Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, has been charged with the crimes Arson, Release of Destructive Forces, Reckless Burning & Exploding, Criminal Mischief, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, Facilitation, Criminal Conspiracy & Criminal Solicitation. His alleged accomplice, Susay, is charged with Arson, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Conspiracy, Criminal Solicitation, Criminal Intent to Commit Murder, Aggravated Assaults, Illegal Possession of a Fired Arm, Release

by fire, which act of the incident were orchestrated and with aforethought carried on by Defendants Thomas Etheridge, Amos Kofa, Eric Susay. The Ministry of Justice further indicates that this was done through a telephone conversation and actions thereby causing a total damage of US\$1.8 million. “Wherein Defendants criminally connived and conspired purchased in the process gasoline on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 during the evening hours to be used in an arson attack in the aftermath of a protest and riot at the Capitol Building, there and then engages into a conduct leading to the brutality of a police officer that led him unconscious, whereas his arm was confiscated by Defendants and were used for their personal use”, the police charge sheet notes. The charge sheet describes the



of destructive force, Recklessly Endangering Another Person & Theft of Property. According to a writ of arrest issued by the court, the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Justice complained that the defendant did commit the above entitled crimes. “You are hereby commanded to ARREST the living body (ies) of Thomas Isaac Etheridge, Eric Susay, and others, to be identified Defendant(s) and forthwith bring them before the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice, Montserrado County to answer the Charges of Arson, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Conspiracy, Criminal Solicitation, Criminal Intent to Commit Murder, Aggravated Assault, illegal Possession” the writ noted. The writ says the prosecution alleges that on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at about 0500hrs, the Joint Chambers of the Capitol Building was gutted

alleged act of the Defendants as being unlawful, wicked, illegal and intentional, in violation of Sections 15.5, 14.20, 10.3, 10.4, 10.1 15.1 of the New Penal Law of Liberia; there and then, the crimes herein defendant did do and commit. Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police has named others on the run and charged in absentia, including Chief of Protocol in the Office of Representative J. Fonati Koffa, Grace Johnson, Maintenance Department Supervisor Amos Koffa, Stephen Broh, Capitol Building employee and John Nyanti, a Correctional Officer. However, these charges have come at the time questions have been raised as about the currently chairs being used by majority leader Rep. Richard Koon and Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission. Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 / +231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com