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Who is benefiting from Medtech? (Pt-1)

-As FIA threatens possible criminal sanction

Lawmakers barred from Boakai's Annual Message



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Continental News

Mozambique opposition leader open to serving in rival's government

Mozambique's main opposition leader Venâncio Mondlane has told the BBC he is prepared to serve in the government if

winner with 65% of the vote to Mondlane's 24%.

Chapo was the candidate of the ruling Frelimo party, as his predecessor, Filipe Nyusi, had to



Venâncio Mondlane ran for the presidency for the first time in October

President Daniel Chapo meets his demands to end the political crisis that has hit the country following disputed elections. Chapo said he had set up a team that was "considering" whether his rival should be invited to join a new "inclusive" government. The two men outlined their positions in separate interviews with the BBC, giving the impression that they were open to rapprochement after the deaths of about 300 people in post-election unrest. Mondlane rejected his defeat in October's election, saying the result was rigged - something that Chapo denied. Mozambique's highest court declared Chapo the

step down after serving two terms in office. Chapo was officially sworn in as president on 15 January, about a week after Mondlane held his own inauguration to declare himself the "people's president". Mondlane told the BBC that Chapo was "forced" on the nation, and was the "president of the defence force". Mondlane said that he had, nevertheless, decided to suspend protests for the first 100 days of his rival's term on condition he did the following: Mondlane said that if Chapo agreed to this, he would "open a window" for negotiations or else he would call on his supporters to renew protests. Asked whether he was prepared to work in Chapo's government,

Mondlane replied: "Yes, if he has a genuine interest to work with me. He's got a chance to invite me to the table of dialogue." In his interview with the BBC, Chapo said he wanted to "govern in an inclusive way", and to introduce reforms to address concerns about the electoral law, human rights and freedom of expression. He said talks were currently taking place with opposition parties represented in the new parliament, and they would later be widened to include "all segments of society".

Chapo added that he wanted to form a government that was "open to all Mozambicans", but he wanted to stress that "the profile of the people is very important". Asked whether he believed Mondlane qualified to serve in government, Chapo replied: "It will depend... because there is a team that is right now considering that, on the profile of the people, their competencies, their meritocracy, the patriotism - all these pre-requisites that I'm alluding to.

"If the team reaches the conclusion that these people have the right profile, they will be part of the government. Those who do not have that profile will not take part." Aged 47, Chapo was chosen by Frelimo, which has been in power since independence 49 years ago, as its candidate to rally young voters affected by high unemployment, and fed up with the party's decades-long rule. BBC

Libyan police chief arrested in Italy for alleged war crimes - reports

The head of Libya's judicial police has been arrested after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a warrant over war crimes allegations, media reports say. Osama Najim, who directs Tripoli's Mitiga detention centre, was reportedly arrested on Sunday in the Italian city of Turin. Former detainees from various centres have described abuses, such as routine torture and rape. In 2022, the UN said it had uncovered evidence of "serious rights violations".

Mr Najim was arrested in a hotel following a tip from international police body Interpol, Italian newspaper la Repubblica reported. Italian migrant rescue charity Mediterranean Saving Humans said the arrest came after a "difficult" ICC investigation involving "years of complaints and testimonies from

victims". An ICC spokesperson did not immediately respond to the BBC's questions.

Mediterranea Saving Humans also criticised the long-standing, controversial deal between Italy, under which Italy trains and funds the coastguard to intercept migrant boats.

As part of this agreement, Libya

is expected to help reduce the number of migrants who pass through the country and arrive in Italy.

At the time Mr Najim was arrested, he was with other Libyan citizens and planned to go to a stadium, attorney general Lucia Musti told la Repubblica. Mr Najim's case has reportedly been forwarded to the justice ministry and the appeals court in Rome. BBC



Human rights organisations have condemned abuses at Libyan detention centres, such as this one in Tripoli

The Nigerian pastors who went to US for Trump inauguration

Two high-profile Nigerian clerics took part in events surrounding the inauguration of US President Donald Trump on Monday. The visits of Pastors William Kumuyi and Nathaniel Bassey served to underscore the ties between Christian evangelicalism and the incoming US administration. Trump could leverage his popularity among some religious Christians on the African continent as an alternative way to boost his influence to the more traditional channels, an analyst has told the BBC.

Pastor Kumuyi was invited to Trump's swearing-in ceremony though was unable to attend after the event was moved inside due to harsh weather. Instead he spent time at a prayer service for the incoming president, as well as meeting political groups. His invitation to the inauguration was unusual. Although Trump broke tradition by inviting world

that he met congressmen from the powerful conservative youth group Turning Point USA to discuss how they can "partner together for global evangelism". On Sunday, he delivered a prayer at the Inauguration Praise & Prayer Convocation hosted by US pastor Jim Garlow and Tony Perkins from the Family Research Council, a US evangelical organisation. Nathaniel Bassey is a Nigerian singer, pastor, trumpeter, music producer and gospel songwriter from Akwa Ibom state, southern Nigeria. He has earned global recognition through his music and worship programme Hallelujah Challenge on social media, with almost four million followers on Instagram. The musician says he started his online praise and prayer sessions in 2017 to connect Christians worldwide.

Although he refers to himself as a pastor, he is most widely recognised as a gospel artist. He is also a youth pastor and music minister at the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Lagos, Nigeria. Pastor Bassey was the only African artist who performed at the Prayer Breakfast event in honour of Trump



Pastor William Kumuyi had been scheduled to attend Monday's inauguration ceremony before the venue was changed

leaders from countries including China, Italy and Argentina, there were no African heads of state on the guest list.

Outside of the official schedule, the well-known Nigerian gospel minister, Nathaniel Bassey, performed at the US Presidential Inaugural Prayer Breakfast on Monday morning.

The non-political, faith-based event was held ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, though it was not part of the official celebrations, and the president-elect did not attend. A former maths professor, Pastor Kumuyi is the founder of Deeper Life Bible Church and the convener of the worldwide evangelistic ministry, the Global Crusade With Kumuyi. The Global Crusade says its church has 120,000 attendees every week. Having travelled to Washington DC, Pastor Kumuyi posted on X

and Vance. In a statement from the Global Crusade ministry, Pastor Kumuyi said he was participating in inauguration-related festivities to "celebrate a return to religious freedom in America and support for other nations in combatting religious persecution".

Trump is popular with evangelical Christian voters in the US and has promised to uphold Christian values. In 2019, during his first presidential term, Trump hosted the first meeting of foreign ministers focused solely on religious freedom. In a 2020 Executive Order, he wrote that "religious freedom for all people worldwide is a foreign policy priority of the United States".

Dion Forster, professor of public theology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, says both Trump and Pastor Kumuyi will benefit from the Nigerian's invitation to the inauguration.

He says Pastor Kumuyi can demonstrate that he is a friend to the most powerful man in the world. 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.

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COMMENTARY

By Sylvain Duranton
and Kirsten Rulf

Europe’s CEOs Must Speak Up on AI Regulation

PARIS - As artificial intelligence reshapes economies and societies, business leaders must consider how they will work with policymakers to govern the technology’s development. In the European Union, the recently adopted AI Act requires businesses to take precautionary measures depending on the risks associated with different use cases. Thus, using AI to engage in “social scoring” is deemed “unacceptable,” whereas AI-augmented email filters come with “minimal risk.”

The success of this approach will depend on businesses contributing technical expertise and practical insights to strike a balance between promoting innovation and addressing societal concerns. Leaving regulation entirely to policymakers and a few powerful companies risks creating rules that serve only Big Tech’s interests, while sidelining other industry perspectives.

In the case of the EU’s AI Act, a lack of business participation in the drafting process has already left critical implementation details unresolved. For example, the law could be construed as regulating conventional statistical techniques such as linear regression, which is commonly used in the financial sector. If so, that would add an unnecessary compliance burden. Similarly, the law is ambiguous about which standard tools in drug development fall under its scope; such uncertainty could slow development and increase costs in an already heavily regulated industry.

Such issues can be avoided if CEOs from these sectors get more involved. Although the text of the AI Act is finalized, questions of interpretation, implementation, and enforcement are still evolving. The precise list of high-risk AI systems - the most important category for sectors ranging from health care to banking - may change over time, based on industry feedback.

Moreover, with rules and frameworks being formulated in the United States and other countries, as well as through international collaborations, business leaders need to broaden their scope. They could make valuable contributions to what is quickly becoming a complex, multi-jurisdictional regulatory landscape.

Historically, public-private collaboration has been key to managing transformative technologies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it ensured a proper balance between innovation and safety in achieving accelerated vaccine development. Similarly, the nuclear energy industry’s early engagement with regulators yielded rules for small modular reactors that reduced costs, streamlined licensing, and harmonized standards, enabling companies to expand into new markets, attract investment, and improve their competitive position - a notable departure from the sector’s traditionally burdensome regulatory landscape.

In both cases, regulatory frameworks benefited from real-world input. Yet in the case of AI, too many companies remain on the sidelines, heightening the risk of poorly designed rules that hinder progress. This absence of business engagement does not reflect a lack of opportunity. Only 7% of corporate participants invited to the EU’s drafting process for its General-Purpose AI Code of Practice turned up, leaving NGOs and academics to dominate the discussions. Meanwhile, a recent BCG survey found that 72% of executives say their organizations are not fully prepared for AI regulation.

If you are a CEO, what should you do? Since AI regulation and deployment are primarily sector-specific processes, a first step is to align with your industry so that you are all speaking in unison. That is the best way to make yourself heard alongside tech giants that are spending more than \$100 million per year lobbying policymakers in Brussels (with Meta leading the pack).

But AI regulation is not only about erecting guardrails and setting limits. In addition to building industry coalitions and agreeing on common AI standards, CEOs need to contribute to the full set of digital regulations that may affect their industries.

As part of its broader digital strategy, the European Commission has implemented four other major laws and introduced the concept of “data spaces.” These are supposed to allow data to flow securely within the EU and across sectors, while maintaining compliance with EU laws. It now falls to industry to build these channels (with public funding). CEOs that align their corporate strategies with this emerging regime will be best positioned to capitalize on sector-specific opportunities.

Executives also should identify and establish relationships with top policymakers and other influential stakeholders in their respective sectors, and at all levels of governance. These include the European Data Protection Board and national AI regulatory bodies in Europe, as well as agencies like the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice in the United States. In each case, it is best to play the long game by building stable relationships based on expertise and trust, not transactional exchanges.

To support these efforts, CEOs should have a specialized team dedicated solely to regulatory engagement. Simply rejecting proposed regulations is not an option, so defining fair trade-offs is key. Corporate leaders should be prepared to respond with clear, actionable alternatives presented in policymakers’ language, not industry jargon. For example, banks could propose that assessments of creditworthiness be exempted from the AI Act’s high-risk designation, on the grounds that these assessments strike an appropriate balance between innovation and accountability, and could reduce costs and make financing more available to consumers.

OP-ED

By Ibrahim Assane Mayaki,
Agnes Kalibata,Pascal Lamy

The Key to Narrowing the Development Gap

PARIS - In 2015, United Nations member states unanimously pledged to work toward “peace and prosperity for people and the planet” by meeting 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Although the agenda was unprecedented in its ambition - end hunger, slash inequality, spur economic growth, achieve gender equality, arrest climate change, and ensure access to water, sanitation, and energy - many expected that the world would make significant progress. But the sad, hard truth is that only 12% of the SDGs’ 140 measurable targets are heading in the right direction, and more than 30% are stalled or moving in reverse.

There is still hope, though. A single sector holds the key to closing half of the outstanding sustainable-development gaps: agri-food systems in Africa. The continent is home to over half of all people facing extreme poverty, and more than half of those facing acute food insecurity. One in five people in the region suffer from undernourishment, and nearly one in three children are affected by stunting. Africa is also home to around one-fifth of the global agricultural workforce and is projected to become home to 49% of migrants displaced by climate shocks by 2050.

Thus, investing in African agri-food systems can have an outsize impact, allowing us to tackle a range of thorny issues - from hunger and poor health to poverty and undereducation - at the scale needed to keep up with the growth of Africa’s population, which is expected to double, to 2.4 billion, by 2050.

The biggest hurdle, of course, is financial. African agri-food systems are seriously underfunded: the sector receives less than 3% of global development funds and under 5% of total investments in Africa from public, private, and development funding combined. The average African farmer receives less than \$140 per year in total investment, far below comparable figures for India (\$800), Brazil (\$1,800), or Thailand (\$2,000). Some Britons and Americans spend more on coffee in the space of a month.

This chronic underfunding has taken a heavy toll. African agricultural productivity is 60% below the global average, and food imports are projected to cost the continent \$110 billion annually by 2030. But with targeted capital and sustained attention, this can change. Boosting agricultural productivity would help feed a growing population, reduce import dependency, protect biodiversity, and restore soil health. Greater investments in the sector can secure the livelihoods of 250 million small-scale farmers and address the urgent need for climate resilience in a region disproportionately affected by global warming.

The benefits of investing in African food systems extend far beyond the continent. Africa’s natural carbon sinks will continue to mitigate climate change, but only if they are preserved. And strengthened agricultural systems can stabilize global food supply chains against disruptions caused by pandemics, conflicts, and climate shocks, by helping to rehabilitate the continent’s farmland, 65% of which is degraded.

But unlocking global benefits requires global engagement. Fortunately, African agri-food systems represent a compelling business opportunity. Aside from the fact that the continent boasts an increasingly skilled, youthful labor force and much of the world’s remaining arable land, investments in its food systems are 2.5-3 times more effective in raising incomes than those in other sectors.

Investors also stand to gain by coupling agri-food investments with investment in infrastructure such as energy, water, and technology, which will transform African agricultural systems into major sources of growth. Hundreds of small and medium-size enterprises are already moving inputs, providing services, and hauling hundreds of millions of metric tons of food between rural and urban areas every day. This is a strong base for investors to build on.

So, what needs to happen next? At the Paris Peace Forum earlier this year, we unveiled the Agricultural Transitions Lab for African Solutions (ATLAS), a permanent platform to advocate for increased investment, align priorities, and promote transparency and accountability in African agri-food systems. Since then, 30 organizations have joined, demonstrating real momentum behind the initiative. Members span from the private sector, including OCP Group and the Boston Consulting Group, development organizations (including AGRA and ONE Campaign) and leading financiers, such as the International Finance Corporation and the French Development Agency (AFD).

At this year’s annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, ATLAS is launching the 2x30 Challenge, which calls on leading development funders to commit to doubling total annual investments (from about \$50 billion to \$100 billion) in Africa’s agri-food systems by 2030. To ensure that the additional funding does materialize and has a meaningful impact, it will be tracked through an annual investment barometer.

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OPINION

By Albert Park,
Angela Bandemehr

Revealing an Invisible Health Threat

WASHINGTON, DC/MANILA - Lead is everywhere, often hiding in plain sight - in the water you drink, the air you breathe, the food you eat, your personal care products, and your children’s toys. Despite being a useful metal, it is highly toxic and difficult to detect: its fumes and dust are odorless, and exposure to them does not immediately cause overt symptoms in most cases.

This is particularly worrying because exposure to and ingestion of lead can negatively affect almost every part of the body. Recent research finds that exposure contributes significantly to cardiovascular disease, killing millions worldwide. But while lead poisoning is responsible for more deaths annually than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined, and more than tuberculosis, it receives a small fraction of the funding allocated to these better-known diseases.

The health effects are often irreversible and unequally distributed. For example, lead is especially harmful to children’s cognitive development, leading to lower IQs and behavioral problems. Today, one in three children worldwide have dangerous levels of the metal in their blood, and nearly all of them live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This inequality in exposure accounts for more than 20% of the learning gap between high- and low-income countries.

Moreover, the annual economic losses from lead poisoning are enormous, amounting to around 6.9% of global GDP. Health care for those sickened by the toxin, coupled with additional financing for special-education services to address the developmental and behavioral issues caused by lead poisoning, costs millions of dollars each year in the United States alone. Lead poisoning also reduces an individual’s lifetime earning potential, leading to lost tax revenue.

This makes it all the more important to reduce and eliminate lead exposure. The good news is that it is possible to detect lead in soil, spices, food, paint, cookware, and other solid materials using a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer (pXRF), which provides near-instantaneous results and has already proven effective in many settings.

In Nigeria, health officials used pXRFs to help identify and clean up the source of a lead-poisoning epidemic that killed more than 400 children, ultimately saving thousands of lives. An assessment of lead levels in consumer goods and foods used the devices to test samples in 25 LMICs, finding that 45% of ceramic tableware, 52% of metallic cookware, and 41% of paint exceeded regulatory limits.

The technology has enabled some governments to test the safety of toys and playgrounds, enforce lead-paint regulations in houses, and investigate whether lead exposure is the cause of health incidents. Researchers using pXRFs identified dangerous levels of lead paint - which is still sold in many LMICs - in schools and playgrounds in Guyana.

But very few LMICs currently use pXRFs to determine the sources of lead poisoning. In some cases, policymakers lack awareness that lead exposure is a major public-health issue. Perhaps most importantly, these devices are expensive to buy and maintain, and training on how to interpret the data they produce remains limited.

What would it take to improve access to this valuable technology, so that LMICs can identify and eliminate the sources of lead poisoning that put their populations - especially their young people - at risk? To answer this question, a working group comprising global lead-poisoning experts, practitioners, policymakers, and funders gathered in “Room 3” - linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3 for Good Health and Wellbeing - within the 17 Rooms Initiative. In our discussions about how to make pXRFs universally available by 2030, we agreed that the recently launched Partnership for a Lead-Free Future (PLF), supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), is best positioned to bring together stakeholders to support such an initiative.

Regional hubs, centrally coordinated by the PLF, could be established to provide pXRFs at low cost, training for authorized users, and technical support - both in terms of maintenance and data analysis - for governments, NGOs, and academic partners. With sufficient demand, the proposed hubs can negotiate directly with pXRF manufacturers to lower prices and tailor device design to ensure cost-effective and accurate screening for lead in different sources.

The PLF could thus roll out this technology on a global scale - a breakthrough that would serve as a mechanism for international and local organizations to work together to raise awareness among LMIC governments about the importance of lead poisoning. This could include setting clear protocols and guidelines for using pXRFs to screen for lead in different sources and for acting upon the results.

When it comes to lead exposure, prevention is the only option, because there is no cure. Increased access to pXRFs could help us win the fight against lead poisoning, safeguard the health and future potential of millions of children and young people, and unlock billions of dollars in economic benefits.

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

Last 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.

OWECC-L hosts Global Delegation

Speaking earlier, head of the delegation and advisor Katherine Southwick said they were particularly in the country for further assessment on the capacity and challenges of the OWECC-L in overseeing the establishment of a special court to prosecute individuals accused of human rights abuse and crimes against humanity and where the CJA can assist in achieving this mandate. The Madam Southwick also acknowledged the funding gap to fund the office task but encouraged the executive director to keep his engagements, as funding for such initiatives is sometimes slow or not raised at all, but commitment and outreach can produce good results. The delegation welcomed the approach by the OWECC-L to engagement with Victims Protection Advocacy Groups and prioritizing witness protection as key to fair trial encouragement to individuals to come up to testify without intimidation and harassment. The delegation includes Ambassador Stephen Rapp (formerly of the ICC), Susan Oklanay of the Uganda Judiciary, Salieu Tall of the Gamba Bah Association, Daniel McLaughlin and Alex Kohls of the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), and Penny Hart. Other members of the delegation include Madam Binta Mansasaray (registrar, Sierra Leone Special Court), Sara Pearce, Derick Cogram, Didier Gbery, and Rebecca Senior (CJA). The fourteen-member delegation is in Liberia for a further assessment and engagement to derive a way forward in establishing a war and economic crimes court for Liberia. The delegation is expected to be in the country until 25 January 2025, during which time they will meet with Liberian judicial actors and advocacy groups in Liberia.

Over 12,000 members break

definition of regionalization has strictly to do with same-sex marriage, gay activities, or homosexuality in the church. This has led to the mass exodus from the United Methodist Church. The district further says the UMC Bishop Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr., has made a U-turn, completely differing from the Biblical Teachings of Jesus Christ after his return from an international Methodist Conference in the United States of America. At that conference, the district lamented that the decision on regionalization was reached. But Bishop Quire's explanation of regionalization in the church is to customize the practice of the ministry according to people's cultures in their regions. On Sunday, January 19, 2025, he delivered the closing sermon of the 27th annual conference of the Weala District Conference in Bong Mines, Bong County, and tried to clarify the matter. He delivered the sermon on the theme: "Do not walk away from God." He argued that regionalization states nothing about same-sex marriage in the church. According to him, he did not have a voting right as a bishop when the decision was made in the United States where he was present at that moment. He informed the church that there was an amendment in the definition of marriage in the church, making it two definitions. One of the definitions, according to him, sees marriage as a union or relationship between two adults and another considers marriage as a union between two consenting adults. He told them that the United Methodist Church in Liberia will only consider the first definition of marriage which says a man and a woman and nothing else. He assured them that there is nothing that can make him practice anything about same-sex or agree for the church to practice it in Liberia. Bishop Quire also encouraged the Church members to stay in the church instead of walking away from God. He warned them that walking away from God is not a good idea and that people should remain firm in their faith in God. Notwithstanding, the Weala District Conference churches and their members were determined to walk away. One of the five counts in the resolution of the disenchanted Methodist Members states: "That due to [the] decision of the General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, where gay and lesbian persons can be ordained and consecrated as bishop and pastors in the world-wide United Methodist Church UMC, the Weala District Conference [will] no [longer do] business with the United Methodist Church and any entity thereof."

EPA develops regulations to safeguard

customary law and its role in advocacy. Cllr. Tonia Wiles presented on participatory advocacy strategies, identifying target audiences and decision-making forums. Attorney Sanwar Fallan discussed how to access grievance redress and accountability mechanisms for justice. Cllr. Alphanso Zeon addressed communication and media strategies in environmental advocacy. Teah Doemah spoke on managing communication during crises, and Cllr. Lamii Kpargoi lectured on the process of lodging complaints and seeking redress. This roundtable marked a significant step in empowering grassroots defenders and enhancing Liberia's commitment to environmental protection through both legal and community-driven efforts. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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EPA develops regulations to safeguard Liberia's environment

Liberia's Environmental Protection Agency announces addition regulatory measures to safeguard the country's environment.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, January 21, 2025 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia introduces a set of new regulatory measures aimed at protecting the country's environment.

Executive Director, Dr. Emmanuel Yarkpawolo, announced on December 13, 2024, that the Agency's policy council approved several

partnership with the World Resources Institute, and funded by the U.S. Department of State. He emphasized the importance of educating the public on their environmental rights, highlighting that many people are unaware of their rights, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

"The responsibility of defenders is to inform the people," he stated, explaining

wrongful imprisonment, and sometimes violence against environmental defenders. Grassroots Environmental Defender Peter Quaqua, the Project Lead at Green Advocates International, shared that training programs for grassroots environmental defenders would be extended to all 15 political subdivisions of Liberia. A total of 75 defenders will be trained nationwide, with each participant receiving a small grant from the U.S. State Department.

Quaqua highlighted issues such as corporate pollution of local water sources, emphasizing that many companies disregard the environmental and health impact on local communities. He urged participants to leverage the training to advocate for their communities, including raising awareness about large farms being established on local lands, which displace local farmers and disrupt their livelihoods. During the Roundtable, several legal and environmental experts delivered presentations, including Cllr. Taiwon Gongloe, who focused on understanding Liberian laws related to environmental, land, water, mining, and agricultural rights, as well as

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environmental regulations to address issues such as air quality, wetlands, solid waste, radiation, landfills, and water quality. Dr. Yarkpawolo made this announcement during a two-day roundtable discussion in Monrovia, organized by Green Advocates International in

that once people are aware of their rights, they can demand justice for themselves and their environment. He further noted that powerful interests, who profit at the expense of vulnerable communities, often suppress efforts to educate the public, resorting to oppression.

Over 12,000 members break from the Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church in Liberia has been engulfed in crisis over a regionalization plan that allegedly allows gays and lesbians to be ordained as clergy.

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr., in Margibi

Monrovia, January 21, 2025: More than twelve thousand members have broken away from the United Methodist Church amidst ongoing disputes against the church's 'Regionalization Plan.' The new breakaway members are from five counties in Liberia. The decision to break away came as an immediate response to the United Methodist Church in Liberia. Some of those who broke away come mainly from the Weala District Conference of the United Methodist Church, Liberia Annual (UMC/LAC). The decision was announced on Sunday, January 19, 2025, and presented through a five-count resolution. The breakaway members presented their counts during the conclusion of the 27th annual conference of the Weala District Conference in

Bong Mines, Bong County. The Weala District Conference of the UMC covers five counties including Montserrado, Margibi, Gbarpolu, Bassa, and Bong. It has approximately 14,000 members, out of which over 12,000 have decided to break away. Our correspondent says the members are from about 41 different United Methodist churches. The split in the United Methodist Church in Liberia is not the first

of its kind. This latest action is derived from the United Methodist Church's worldwide decision to accept regionalization in the doctrine and teachings of the church. Regionalization in the church is the process of allowing different regions to adapt their practices and ministries to the needs of their local areas. It is also a way for the church to respond to differences in conditions and changes in different parts of the world. However, the Weala District Conference's understanding and



Liberia to receive high-level Egyptian delegation

High-level Egyptian Aquaculture delegation arrives here Wednesday.

Monrovia, Liberia, January 21, 2025 The Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority has disclosed that a high-level technical delegation of Aquaculture Experts from the Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency of Egypt is expected to arrive in Monrovia on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, to assess Liberia's Aquaculture sector needs.

A press release from the Liberian Fisheries Authority quotes Director General Emma Metieh Glassco as saying, the Egyptian delegation will be in Liberia to tour Aquaculture facilities in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Numba, and Lofa counties to conduct a comprehensive need assessment of the aquaculture sector.

In 2024, Madam Glassco signed

expertise and building institutional capacity in aquaculture. Madam Glassco stated that Liberia is poised to leverage Egypt's experiences in its step-by-step approach to developing its aquaculture sector through the bilateral MOU on technical cooperation. Moreover, as a practical step towards fulfilling the objectives of the MOU signed in 2024 on technical cooperation, Madam Glassco further disclosed that the three-man technical delegation from the Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency, comprising experts in aquaculture, fisheries, and veterinary affairs, will be led on a tour from January 22 to 30, 2024, in Bong Mines Reservoirs, Lake Piso, Gbedin Lowland, and the Foyah Lowland. She added that the Egyptian team will first conduct a



a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Liberian government with Egypt on a Technical Cooperation Agreement for the provision of Fisheries governance and Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance and Aquaculture development with an Egyptian Corporate Agency, the Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency. The primary aim of the MoU is to strengthen technical cooperation between Liberia and Egypt for mutual benefits, enhance fisheries governance capacity development, and facilitate trade. The release added that the specific objective of the MoU is to engage in trade facilitation and link the private sectors of Egypt to Liberia and also collaborate on monitoring control and surveillance services while sharing technical knowledge and

stockholder consultation with an array of donors, farmers, tertiary institutions, and other value chain actors to gain full insight into the current status of aquaculture and future interventions. The Liberian Fisheries Director General added the Egyptian aquaculture experts will also conduct a specific assessment of aquaculture management areas identified under the aquaculture zoning and spatial planning exercise carried out under the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project in 2024. Meanwhile, the Liberian Fisheries DG stated that the overall purpose of the MoU Liberia signed with Egypt is to develop a national Aquaculture Strategy that will inform investment decisions, identify short-, medium, and long-term goals, and address the fish deficit in Liberia's domestic market. Press Release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Mole in NSA sent to court

- For allegedly leaking classified intelligence

An employee of the National Security Agency has been forwarded to court, for allegedly leaking sensitive information to the public.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, January 22, 2025 - An employee of the National Security Agency (NSA) D. Dolewon has

mishandling sensitive materials, recklessly endangering others, and criminal coercion.

Police investigation, which began in December 2024,



been forwarded to court for allegedly leaking sensitive information to embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. A mole is a spy or an undercover agent in a security sector that is involved in double standard.

Defendant Dolewon, during investigation informed the NSA that embattle Speaker Koffa is his uncle, while investigation reveals that he has been leaking intelligence to him.

Dolewon, aged 40, is accused of unlawfully disclosing confidential information.

uncovered that Dolewon used his WhatsApp account to share sensitive NSA details, including names and roles of high-ranking officers, with embattled Speaker Koffa.

He reportedly urged his uncle not to trust certain NSA officials, including Deputy Director Steven Dolo, whom he described as involved in "dirty work."

Additionally, Dolewon is accused of sending information about NSA officers' positions and activities to others, putting the Agency's operations and

personnel at significant risk. His alleged actions, according to the Police, have raised serious concerns about national security.

Disclosure of classified information without authorization is a breach of NSA's administrative instructions, which strictly prohibit such actions.

The investigation further revealed that Dolewon's conduct not only endangered the reputation of NSA officials, but also jeopardized their safety and undermined national security efforts.

In a statement to the police, Dolewon admitted to the charges, appealing to his superiors for mercy.

However, the investigation has found no merit to his claims of ill-treatment by Deputy Director Dolo.

The Government of Liberia has charged the Chief of Office Staff of embattled Speaker Koffa Thomas Isaac Etheridge, and Eric Susay with multiple crimes forwarded them to the Monrovia City Court for prosecution in connection with the December 18, 2024 fire incident at the Capitol Building.

Koffa himself had earlier been called in by Police for questioning regarding the incident that Police have termed as arson, but was subsequently released. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Chief Justice breaks grounds for modern court complex

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland, Liberia, January 22, 2025 - The Chief Justice of Liberia, her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene G. Youh, breaks ground here for a new fourth judicial circuit court complex in Philadelphia Township, Harper City, Maryland County. The project is estimated at US\$3.2 Million, and expected to be ready in about eighteen months. Chief Justice Youh says the occasion marks another momentous day for the judiciary branch of government.

She notes that breaking grounds for another judiciary complex in the country is a great effort in improving the sector.

She recalls that in her address at the opening of the October AD. Term of Court in 2024, it was disclosed that the Government of Liberia has committed to construction of Judicial complexes in seven remaining circuits, including the 4th Judiciary Circuit in Maryland County, so the Judiciary is pleased that funds have already been allotted for construction work to begin.

She describes the construction project as a dream comes true, stressing that the Supreme Court

is responsible for administering the practice of law in Liberia, and the custodian of laws of the land, providing interpretation, so with the construction of courts across the country, it will continue to champion cause for a transformed Judiciary.

She discloses that as captured in a strategic plan, beginning with the construction of judicial complexes in all remaining circuits, and at least twenty (20) magisterial courts in the next five (5) years with further strengthen the justice system infrastructure wise.

The Chief Justice thanks President Joseph Nyuma Boakia, and members of the 55th Legislature for the level of coordination and collaboration in governance through appropriate budgetary support to the Judiciary.

She also lauds the Maryland County Legislative Caucus, County Superintendent and the people of Maryland for providing land to commence the project.

"I also thank our colleague, Madam Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie, and the Justice with Supervisory Oversight for the Fourth

Judiciary Circuit, who will be pursuing the construction process to its conclusion".

Youh further applauds Resident Circuit Judge, His Honor, Nelson T. Tokpa and the Assigned Judge, His Honor, Nelson B. Chineh, Judge of specialized court, magistrates, public defenders and the entire staff of the Fourth Judiciary Circuit for successful hosting the ground breaking program.

The project is to be implemented by Bittar Construction Company, a Lebanese firm based in Monrovia.

"I believe when this project is completed, it will serve the people of Maryland and Liberia, because it will contain all the necessary offices, residential house, library for judiciary research, debt court, among other", the Chief Justice adds.



VP Koung launches OKADA-MOTTO app

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Paynesville, Liberia, January 22, 2025 - Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung shares his humble beginning in life from being a money exchanger rising to become a representative, senator and now occupying the nation's second highest office through determination, as he launches OKADA-MOTO app.

Vice President Koung shared his personal history during the launch of OKADA-MOTO app for commercial motorcyclists and truck drivers, graced by officials and diverse stakeholders, including motorcycle unions, and the general public. The long-term goal of the app is to empower motorcyclists by providing them with tools and resources to enhance their financial literacy, skills, and eventually transition into more sustainable and lucrative careers. During the launch, the Vice President explained the app's potential to create

generated from motorcycling should be seen as a means to build a brighter future rather than a permanent occupation.

"Your work as a motorcyclist can be the foundation for something bigger," he underscores, encouraging riders to save, plan, and make investments that would eventually allow them to transition into more sustainable forms of employment or entrepreneurship.

He highlights that "OKADA-MOTTO" provides a range of resources, including financial management tools, that will help motorcyclists navigate their earnings effectively and secure their futures. He also notes that the app encourages motorcyclists to adopt better practices on the roads, contributing to safety of both riders and other road users. Koung emphasizes the importance of focus, sharing insights from his experiences in various business ventures, including money exchange and



opportunities for economic mobility, reduce unemployment, and promote safer road practices.

"OKADA-MOTTO is a platform that will not only support motorcyclists in their daily work, but also encourage them to envision a future beyond riding," he says.

The application offers features such as access to job training, savings plans, and networking with potential employers, allowing motorcyclists to improve their financial standing and work toward greater stability. The Vice President further stresses that "OKADA-MOTTO" will also contribute to enhancing road safety and ensuring that motorcyclists are equipped with knowledge and tools to navigate the streets more securely. During the event held Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at Paynesville City Hall in Paynesville City, Mr Koung urged motorcyclists to invest wisely in their riding activities, emphasizing that income

taxi driving, highlighting how dedication and strategic planning in these fields had helped him achieved success.

He urges motorcyclists to apply the same discipline and forward-thinking approach to their work, stressing that with careful management of their earnings and a commitment to personal growth, they could build lasting careers and improve their livelihoods. "Focus on your goals, invest in yourself, and use your current work as a stepping stone toward greater opportunities."

Additionally, Vice President Koung calls on unions involved in motorcycle transportation to collaborate as a unified entity for the benefit of all operators. He adds that by working together, unions could better advocate for improved working conditions, enhanced safety measures, and greater opportunities for motorcyclists. He encourages unions to create a collective

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Français

Le Sénateur Simeon Taylor accusé d'agression et de conduite désordonnée

Le tribunal magistériel de Brewerville, dans le comté de Montserrado, a convoqué le sénateur Simeon Taylor, élu du comté de Grand Cape Mount, pour répondre à des accusations d'agression simple, de conduite désordonnée et

d'humiliation publique. Selon un mandat émis le 18 janvier 2025, Mme Magona, épouse du chef de cabinet du sénateur Taylor, accuse ce dernier de comportements inappropriés lors d'un incident présumé survenu à sa résidence à Brewerville. Dans sa plainte, Mme Magona

également que le sénateur aurait proféré des propos insultants et dégradants à son encontre devant plusieurs témoins, don't son propre partenaire. Mme Magona affirme que cet incident est le dernier en date d'une série de comportements qu'elle décrit comme abusifs. « Je me suis rendue chez lui pour lui demander de cesser ces abus qui durent depuis des années. Au lieu de cela, il a ordonné qu'on me discrédite publiquement et a menacé ma vie », a-t-elle ajouté. De son côté, le sénateur Taylor rejette catégoriquement ces accusations, qu'il qualifie de « manœuvres politiques » visant à porter atteinte à son intégrité. « Je n'ai jamais commis d'abus ni donné d'ordre visant à nuire à quiconque. Ces accusations ne sont qu'un stratagème pour ternir ma réputation », a-t-il déclaré.

M. Taylor a également souligné que cette affaire pourrait être liée à une

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de coercition criminelle. Ces accusations ont été portées par Lina Hawa Magona, qui affirme avoir été victime d'une tentative d'abus sexuel et

déclare : « Il a tenté de m'abuser sexuellement, puis a ordonné à ses agents de sécurité de m'agresser physiquement et de m'humilier publiquement. » Elle soutient

Incendie du Capitol Building : des suspects déferés

Deux suspects impliqués dans l'incendie du Capitol Building survenu le 18 décembre 2024 ont été déferés devant le tribunal de la ville de Monrovia. Ils sont accusés de multiples infractions en lien avec cet incident, qui a causé des dommages estimés à 1,8 million de dollars américains. La Police nationale libérienne (LNP) a inculpé Thomas Isaac Etheridge, 39 ans, collaborateur du président de la Chambre des représentants suspendu, J. Fonati Koffa, et Éric Susay. Etheridge fait face à des accusations d'incendie criminel, libération de forces destructrices, mise à feu et explosion imprudentes, méfait criminel, mise en danger d'autrui, facilitation, conspiration criminelle et sollicitation criminelle. Quant à Éric Susay, il est également poursuivi pour des chefs d'accusation similaires, auxquels s'ajoutent l'intention criminelle de commettre un meurtre, des voies de

fait aggravées, la possession illégale d'une arme à feu et le vol de biens. Un mandat d'arrêt émis par le tribunal précise que les deux hommes sont accusés par le gouvernement du Liberia, représenté par le ministère de la Justice, d'avoir prémédité ces actes criminels. « Vous êtes par la présente ordonnés d'arrêter Thomas Isaac Etheridge, Éric Susay et d'autres suspects non identifiés, et de les traduire devant le tribunal de la ville de Monrovia, Temple de la Justice, afin de répondre des charges portées contre eux, notamment incendie criminel, méfait

criminel, conspiration criminelle, sollicitation criminelle, intention de commettre un meurtre, voies de fait aggravées et possession illégale d'une arme à feu », indique le mandat. Selon l'enquête, l'incendie s'est déclaré aux premières heures du 18 décembre 2024, vers 5 heures du matin, et aurait été soigneusement planifié par les accusés. Les autorités allèguent qu'Etheridge, Susay et d'autres complices auraient acheté de l'essence dans la soirée du 17 décembre 2024, dans le but de l'utiliser pour

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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.

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Happy New Year to all
our Readers

Français

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Le Sénateur Simeon Taylor accusé d'agression

Par Sylvain Duranton et Kirsten Rulf

récente décision administrative : la suspension de son chef de cabinet, le mari de Mme Magona, en raison de ce qu'il a décrit comme un comportement irrespectueux. « Pendant des années, elle m'a adressé des remarques désobligeantes que je considérais comme des plaisanteries. Aujourd'hui, cela est exploité par mes adversaires politiques », a-t-il expliqué.

L'audience est prévue pour le 22 janvier 2025 au tribunal magistériel de Brewerville. Mme Magona a exprimé son espoir de voir la justice

reconnaître ce qu'elle décrit comme des préjudices physiques et émotionnels graves.Cette affaire a suscité une vive polémique dans l'opinion publique. Si certains appellent à une enquête rigoureuse pour faire la lumière sur les faits, d'autres s'interrogent sur le moment et les motivations de ces accusations. Alors que la procédure judiciaire suit son cours, cette affaire pourrait avoir des répercussions importantes sur la carrière politique du sénateur Taylor et sur la quête de justice de Mme Magona.

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Incendie du Capitol Building :

un acte criminel, suite à une manifestation violente au Capitol Building.

Le rapport de police indique également qu'un agent de police a été gravement agressé lors de l'incident, le laissant inconscient. Son arme à feu aurait été saisie par les accusés pour un usage personnel. Les faits reprochés sont décrits comme « délibérés, malveillants et illégaux », constituant une violation des articles 15.5, 14.20, 10.3, 10.4 et 10.1 du Nouveau Code pénal libérien. Par ailleurs, la Police nationale a identifié plusieurs suspects en fuite, inculpés par contumace. Parmi eux figurent Grace Johnson, chef de protocole au bureau du représentant

Koffa, Amos Kofa, superviseur du département de maintenance, Stephen Broh, employé au Capitol Building, et John Nyanti, agent correctionnel.Ces accusations surgissent alors que des questions se posent sur l'utilisation actuelle de certains biens endommagés, notamment les fauteuils des responsables parlementaires tels que le chef de la majorité, Richard Koon, et le vice-président de la Chambre, Thomas Fallah.

Cette affaire suscite un intérêt grandissant, alors que les autorités judiciaires et le public attendent de faire la lumière sur les circonstances de cet incident dramatique.

Jeety Rubber LLC obtient la certification ISO 9001:2015

Jeety Rubber LLC, internationales. L'un des principaux acteurs du secteur du caoutchouc naturel au Liberia, a obtenu la prestigieuse certification ISO 9001:2015 pour ses produits en caoutchouc spécifié techniquement. Cette reconnaissance illustre l'engagement de l'entreprise à maintenir des standards de qualité élevés et à se conformer aux exigences internationales en matière de gestion de la qualité. La certification ISO 9001:2015, mondialement reconnue, repose sur des critères stricts en matière de gestion de la qualité, incluant l'efficacité opérationnelle, la satisfaction client et l'amélioration continue. Atteindre cette norme implique des inspections et audits rigoureux, garantissant que les entreprises respectent des standards de performance et adoptent les meilleures pratiques

Délivrée par SGS United Kingdom Ltd., une référence mondiale dans le domaine de l'inspection et de la certification, cette accréditation est valide du 10 janvier 2025 au 10 janvier 2028, sous réserve de la réussite des audits de surveillance périodiques. Le certificat confirme que Jeety Rubber LLC satisfait aux exigences de l'ISO 9001:2015 pour l'achat, la production et l'expédition de caoutchouc naturel et spécifié techniquement.

Le processus de certification ISO comprend une évaluation détaillée des opérations de l'entreprise, allant de l'approvisionnement en matières premières à la production et à la distribution. Cette certification témoigne de la volonté de Jeety Rubber de mettre en œuvre des pratiques exemplaires en matière de gestion de la qualité. L'obtention de cette certification intervient deux ans après le lancement des activités de Jeety Rubber dans son usine ultramoderne de Weala.



Les PDG européens doivent se faire entendre concernant la réglementation de l'IA

PARIS - L'intelligence artificielle refaçonnant les économies et les sociétés, il est essentiel que les dirigeants d'entreprise songent à la manière dont ils entendent collaborer avec les dirigeants politiques pour régir le développement de cette technologie. Au sein de l'Union européenne, la loi récemment adoptée en matière d'IA impose aux entreprises de prendre certaines mesures de précaution en fonction des risques associés aux différents cas d'utilisation. Le texte considère ainsi comme « inacceptable » le risque lié à l'utilisation de l'IA à des fins de « notation sociale », alors que les filtres de courrier électronique basés sur l'IA sont décrits comme présentant seulement un risque « minime ».

La réussite de cette approche nécessitera que les entreprises qui jouissent d'une expertise technique, et qui formulent des points de vue pratiques, établissent un équilibre entre la promotion de l'innovation et la réponse aux préoccupations sociétales. Déléguer entièrement la réglementation aux dirigeants politiques ainsi qu'à une poignée d'entreprises puissantes, ce serait prendre le risque de créer des règles qui serviraient uniquement les intérêts des grandes sociétés technologiques, et qui relégueraient au second plan les points de vue d'autres acteurs de l'industrie.

Dans le cas de la loi européenne sur l'IA, l'absence de participation des entreprises au processus de rédaction aboutit d'ores et déjà à une absence de réponse à certaines questions de mise en œuvre pourtant essentielles. Le texte pourrait par exemple être interprété comme réglementant les techniques conventionnelles de statistique telles que la régression linéaire, qui est couramment utilisée dans le secteur financier. Dans l'affirmative, cela viendrait ajouter une charge de conformité inutile. De même, la loi demeure ambiguë sur la question de savoir quels outils standard utilisés dans le développement de médicaments entrent dans son champ d'application ; or, une telle incertitude pourrait ralentir le développement et faire augmenter les coûts au sein d'une industrie déjà fortement réglementée.

Nous pouvons éviter ces problèmes, à condition que les PDG de ces secteurs se fassent davantage entendre. Bien que ce texte de loi sur l'IA soit finalisé, les questions d'interprétation, de mise en œuvre et d'exécution évoluent encore. La liste précise des systèmes d'IA à haut risque - catégorie la plus importante pour des secteurs allant des soins de santé jusqu'au domaine bancaire - est susceptible de changer au fil du temps, en fonction des remontées d'informations de l'industrie.

Par ailleurs, un certain nombre de règles et de cadres étant en cours d'élaboration aux États-Unis et dans d'autres pays, ainsi qu'au travers de collaborations internationales, il est nécessaire que les dirigeants d'entreprise élargissent leur champ d'action. Ils peuvent en effet apporter de précieuses contributions à ce qui devient aujourd'hui rapidement un paysage réglementaire complexe et multijuridictionnel.

La collaboration entre le secteur public et le secteur privé a toujours joué un rôle essentiel dans la gestion des technologies transformatrices. Durant la pandémie de COVID-19, elle a permis d'établir un juste équilibre entre innovation et sécurité dans la mise au point accélérée d'un vaccin. De même, l'implication précoce de l'industrie de l'énergie nucléaire auprès des régulateurs a permis la création de règles concernant les petits réacteurs modulaires, qui ont réduit les coûts, harmonisé l'octroi de licences, et permis aux entreprises de s'étendre sur de nouveaux marchés, d'attirer des investissements ainsi que d'améliorer leur position concurrentielle - un changement non négligeable par rapport aux lourdeurs réglementaires qui pesaient traditionnellement sur le secteur.

Dans ces deux cas, les cadres réglementaires ont bénéficié des contributions du monde réel. Or, dans le cas de l'IA, de trop nombreuses entreprises restent sur la touche, ce qui accroît le risque de règles mal conçues, susceptibles d'entraver le progrès. Cette absence d'implication des entreprises ne résulte pourtant pas d'un manque d'opportunités. Seulement 7% des entreprises invitées à participer au processus de rédaction du code de bonnes pratiques de l'UE en matière d'IA à des fins générales se sont présentées, laissant ainsi les ONG et les universitaires dominer les discussions. Dans le même temps, dans une récente enquête menée par BCG, 72 % des dirigeants affirment que leur entreprise n'est pas totalement préparée aux réglementations en matière d'IA.

Si vous êtes PDG, que devriez-vous faire ? La réglementation et le déploiement de l'IA étant des processus principalement sectoriels, la première étape doit consister pour vous à vous aligner sur votre secteur, afin que tous les acteurs de celui-ci s'expriment à l'unisson. C'est le meilleur moyen de faire entendre votre voix aux côtés de celle des géants technologiques, qui dépensent chaque année plus de 100millions\$ en lobbying auprès des dirigeants politiques à Bruxelles (Meta en tête).

La réglementation de l'IA ne doit toutefois pas seulement consister à ériger des garde-fous et à fixer des limites. Au-delà de la création de coalitions industrielles et de l'adoption de normes communes en matière d'IA, les dirigeants d'entreprise doivent contribuer à l'ensemble des réglementations numériques susceptibles de concerner leur secteur d'activité.

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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

Suspended Lawmakers barred from Boakaï's Annual Message

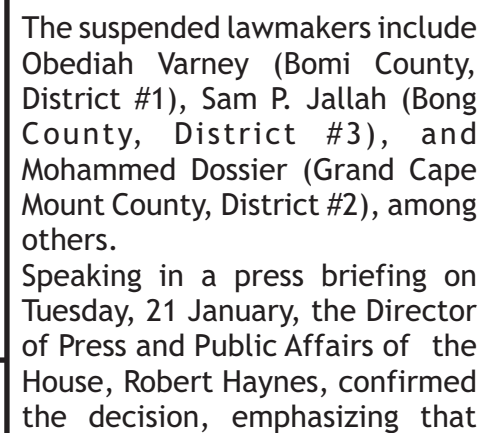
Several suspended members of the House of Representatives, from the minority bloc are barred from attending President Boakai's 2nd Annual Message.

It contended that the normal, obvious recourse, therefore, would be for the customers to go back to the LRA for Medtech's alleged delay or refusal to accept the corrected charges approved by the LRA.

The security measures include roadblocks from 9th Street to the Capitol Building, and vehicles of those with official invitations will be searched before being granted access, while others will be redirected to alternate routes through Jallah Town. "We will ensure only people with invitations are allowed," an official says. "If you don't have anything to do around the Capitol Building, stay home and

The FIA has since threatened administrative and criminal sanctions against Medtech and its General Manager Atty. Oliver Rogers for hindering essential Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing investigations. In a communication dated December 3, 2024, FIA Officer In Charge Mr. Mohammed Nasser argued that the Act creating his agency empowers it to request and receive information from government and non-governmental agencies and conduct investigations.

The suspension was based on Rule 21 of the House's rules, which stipulates that members cannot be absent from sessions for more than two weeks without formal communication to the leadership. Violators face suspension, and their seats risk being declared vacant.




listen to the radio or watch TV."Meanwhile, the Joint Committee on Executive, chaired by Representative Sekou Kanneh, is collaborating with the Co-chairs from the Executive and the Senate, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders, to ensure the success of the SONA. Editing by Jonathan Browne

VP Koungr launches OKADA-MOTTO app

Dr. Mohammed Sumaila, Chief Executive Officer of the establishment, explains the mobile application has been developed to provide a convenient platform for booking motorcycles, facilitating easier movement and navigation. He says the app

"OKADA-MOTTO also aims to bring innovation and convenience to the motorcycle transportation sector, while empowering riders to achieve more," Dr. Sumaila adds. Editing by Jonathan Browne



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Monrovia, Liberia (January 20, 2025) A high-power delegation on transitional justice has held talks with the Executive Director for the Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for donor countries, the Independent National Human Rights Commission, civil society organizations and the greater spectrum of the Liberian society that have all expressed their support to the establishment of the court.



Liberia (OWECC-L) on collaboration and support to the Office in executing its mandate. Briefing the delegation on Monday, January 20, 2025, Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu named the involvement of multinational and local organizations, including

Dr. Barbu told the delegation that the reception of these stakeholders has set the pace for further consultations leading to the court's embellishment. He further told the delegation that the Office is working with the Liberian National Bar Association and

the Law Reform Commission to clear out legal glitches that could hamper the establishment of a hybrid court.

With the involvement of these multi-stakeholders and their collaboration, according to the OWECC-L Executive Director, there should be a War Crimes Court and an Anti-Corruption Court before the end of the administration of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Dr. Barbu described the delegation's visit as a significant milestone in Liberia's ongoing journey toward justice, accountability, and reconciliation.

Dr. Barbu believes that engaging members of the delegation is further reaffirming the Office's dedication to addressing the scar of war and economic crimes in a transparent, inclusive, and constructive manner and, at the same time, upholding international standards of justice.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 05

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The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

The logo for 'The New Dawn' newspaper. It features the title 'The New Dawn' in a large, stylized blue font. The word 'The' is in a script font, while 'New' and 'Dawn' are in a bold, serif font. A map of Liberia is integrated into the letter 'D' of 'Dawn'. Below the title, the words 'TRULY INDEPENDENT' are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the title is a collage of several newspaper front pages, including one with a green globe and another with a person's face. The entire logo is set against a yellow background.

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A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue shirt and reading a newspaper. The background is a solid yellow color. A red banner with white text is positioned at the top right of the image. The newspaper being read is the 'New Dawn' and features several headlines. On the left page, the headline reads 'OWAS raises red-flag' with a sub-headline 'United Myanmar & Myanmar tea'. Below this, there is a photo of a person in a blue uniform. On the right page, the headline reads 'Uncertainty hangs over schools' with a sub-headline 'As authorities weigh options over strike by'. Below this, there is a photo of a person in a blue uniform. At the bottom of the right page, there is a large headline 'Nephew butchered uncle' with a sub-headline 'Nephew of...'. The person reading the newspaper has dark hair and is wearing glasses.

A hand holding a pen, about to press a button labeled 'PRESS' on a colorful, abstract background. The background features vibrant, splashing colors like pink, yellow, and blue, suggesting a dynamic and creative environment.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE', and a magazine titled 'New Dawn Sports' with the headline 'J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections'. The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern against a blue background.