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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025	L\$194.1887/US\$1.00	L\$195.7502/US\$1.00

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

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Will Speaker Koffa attend SONA?



PYJ wife tipped to contest Nimba by-election



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Continental News

Alliance of Sahel States to form 5,000-troop military unit

Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali will create a "unified force" within weeks, Niger's defence minister said. The three nations are former French colonies where the military deposed civilian administrations in putsches

together", Niger Defence Minister Salifou Mody said in a televised interview, adding that the 5,000-strong force was "nearly ready". "This unified force will not only have its own personnel, but aerial, ground and intelligence means and a coordination system", he

northwest. They lie in the region known as the Sahel, which stretches between the dry Sahara desert in the north and the more humid savannas to the south. Each has been wracked by attacks by jihadists allied with either Al-Qaeda or Islamic State for a decade, violence that governments have not been able to eradicate despite help from French forces.

"We are in the same place, we face the same type of threats, especially this threat of criminal groups. We have to join forces", Mody said.

"This is new, original and will provide security for our territories and for our people", he said.

The three countries already carry out joint anti-jihadist operations, especially in the region where their borders meet, where the attacks are the most frequent.

After their coups, the three nations expelled French forces that had been assisting in the battle against jihadists, opted out of the ECOWAS regional organization, deeming it unhelpful for their requirements, and have sought new alliances with countries like Russia, which is aiming to increase its presence in the region.

Nigerian regulator approves up to 50% hike in mobile phone tariffs

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has approved an up to 50 per cent increase in mobile phone tariffs.

This is, however, far short of the 100 per cent hike telecommunications operators have been requesting for the past six years.

Mobile phone tariffs in Nigeria have remained unchanged for over 10 years.

Analysts say the depreciation of the naira combined with inflation have significantly increased operational costs for telecoms companies.

However, the regulator said it had to cap the increase in order to reach a balance between

enabling sustainable industry growth and the need to protect consumers.

It added that higher tariffs will allow operators to invest in infrastructure and fund innovation projects which will ultimately benefit users through improved services.

Telecoms companies have also been told that they need clearly communicate their price changes to customers.

They also have to demonstrate what the NCC described as "measurable improvements in service delivery" alongside the increases.

As the cost of living soars in Nigeria, consumer advocacy group, the National Association of Telecommunications Subscribers, has vowed to contest the decision.



Three junta-ruled countries in Africa's Sahel region will join forces to create a 5,000-strong unit to fight the jihadist violence that has for years plagued the nations, officials said on Tuesday.

between 2020 and 2023. Following the coups, the three countries distanced themselves from France and last year formed a confederation, the Alliance of Sahel States (AES). "In this common space, our forces will be able to intervene

said, adding that it should be operational within weeks. Taken together, the three countries are sprawled over an area of some 2.8 million square kilometres (1.1 million square miles) -- roughly four times the size of France -- in Africa's

Critical minerals and climate action: South Africa's G20 priorities

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined the objectives and priorities for the country's G20 presidency.

Addressing delegates at the World Economic Forum (WEF), he stated that a significant focus for South Africa will be to utilize critical minerals to foster inclusive growth and development.

He stated, "As we confront the challenges of the 21st century – from climate change to pandemics, to addressing the challenge of from poverty to terrorism, from migration to artificial intelligence – we are in many ways once again called upon to harness that most powerful, and that most enduring of human attributes: mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration."

Ramaphosa stressed the importance of the G20 creating its own framework for green industrialization and

investment. Having taken over the leadership from Brazil in December, South Africa will hand it over to the United States at the end of 2025, working closely with both nations throughout the upcoming year.

He also pledged to highlight the challenges posed by climate change to developing countries during this landmark

G20 presidency, the first ever held by an African nation.

The 2025 Davos gathering is centered around the theme, 'Collaboration for the Intelligent Age'.

South Africa that holds the G20 presidency the first by an African Nation will pass on the rotational leadership of the world's top economies to the United States at the close of 2025.



Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa delivers a speech during the 55th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 21, 2025.

South Africa's WW1 servicemen finally honoured at new memorial

Hundreds of South African servicemen, mostly black, who died during World War One have been honoured with a new memorial in Cape Town after going unrecognised for more than a century.

The 1,772 men worked in dangerous and gruelling non-combatant roles in East Africa but until now, they had no known grave or commemoration.

Individually engraved timber posts now bear each serviceman's name at the new memorial.

Princess Anne, president of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), unveiled the memorial at a moving ceremony attended by relatives of the dead.

In 2021, the UK [apologised](#) after a report blamed "pervasive racism" for the failure to properly honour at least 100,000 black and Asian troops who died fighting on its side.

Relatives said they were "proud" and "happy" to see the contributions of the servicemen being finally recognised at the Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial.

The men worked as porters, wagon drivers and on the railways. One of those honoured was Bhesengile Delihlazo, a driver who died on 21 January 1917.

His great-nephew Elliot Malunga

Delihlazo said the family was happy to finally discover when Delihlazo died, even though the question of exactly where remained unanswered.

And while the serviceman has already been privately honoured with a memorial stone at the Delihlazo homestead, his relative said: "It makes us proud really, that at last, we can be one of the families that people can talk about in the due course of history".

Job Hlakula's great-grandson said they were "humbled" by his inclusion in the memorial.

"We are very proud of him. We even rejoice when we talk about Job, it's a pride that we've got in our name, for him to be remembered," said Zweletu Hlakula.

The CWGC, tasked with commemorating those who died in the two world wars, said the memorial was a "culmination of years of work".

"It acts as a poignant tribute to the predominantly black South Africans who fought in Africa during the First World War and who were not commemorated at the time," said the commission's director general Claire Horton.



Praise poets honour the servicemen, more than a century after World War One

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 Andreas Goldthau,
Rüya Perincek

Ensuring Europe's Supply of Critical Minerals

BRUSSELS/ERFURT – The European Union's plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 has an Achilles' heel: the EU relies on external sources – particularly Chinese companies – for 70-90% of the massive amount of critical raw materials needed to manufacture wind turbines, solar cells, batteries, and other green technologies. This dependency poses a serious risk: China's recent ban on exports of gallium, germanium, antimony, and other dual-use materials to the United States suggests that it could take similar action against Europe, especially in light of EU tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles.

The new European Commission has rightly put critical raw materials at the top of its agenda. Fortunately, it will not be starting from scratch. Last year, the EU adopted the Critical Raw Materials Act, which calls for the bloc to extract 10%, process 40%, and recycle 25% of what it consumes annually by 2030, and limits the share of any external supplier to 65%. To meet the CRMA's targets, the Commission must focus on coordinating funding, engaging in resource diplomacy with Africa, and establishing secondary material partnerships.

Mining is a capital-intensive industry, and overseas upstream activities require public support in terms of both equity and debt. The CRMA anticipates mobilizing finance from various sources, including the EU's Global Gateway initiative and the European Investment Bank. Some member states have also established their own national funds. Germany launched a €1 billion (\$1.04 billion) raw-materials fund, while Italy introduced a €1 billion “Made in Italy” fund for critical minerals, and France dedicated €500 million under its 2030 investment plan to enhance domestic industry's resilience to disruptions of the metal supply chain.

But while several public-finance streams are available, the funding landscape is scattered and not well aligned, creating confusion. Moreover, there are no explicit rules governing how the Critical Raw Materials Board, which was established to support the CRMA's implementation, designates projects as “strategic” and thus eligible to receive EU funds. The European Commission can address these issues by streamlining existing funding lines, which would ensure that national and EU finance work in tandem to achieve the best results and scale, and by establishing timelines for decision-making, which would provide clarity for corporate investment in upstream, midstream, and downstream assets.

The CRMA must also establish partnerships with resource-rich countries that deliver

quick and tangible results. Bolstering ties with African countries, which hold some 30% of the world's mineral resources, will be especially important. But, compared to other regions, investment in mineral exploration on the continent remains low, and China funds most of it. The EU's resource diplomacy should focus on lowering investment barriers while helping African partners move into higher-value-added activities, such as downstream processing, and invest in industrial upgrading.

AfricaMaVal, an EU-funded project promoting sustainable partnerships and responsible mining on the continent, should become a vehicle for linking European and African firms and addressing extraction needs. Building on comprehensive assessments of mining prospects across Africa, and taking into account the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) skills of local workforces, AfricaMaVal can identify new business opportunities along the value chain. This could evolve into a joint investment platform for the sustainable production of critical raw materials. The European Commission would thus be doing what it does best: catalyzing private investment toward its policy goals, which, in this case, is building the infrastructure and clean-energy systems required for future mining projects.

Lastly, the Commission should address the CRMA's major blind spot: the lack of domestic feedstock to meet its recycling targets. Global competition for secondary materials is already stiff, as evidenced by businesses' increasing efforts to secure enough steel scrap. Recycling input rates – the share of total demand – are just 3% for light rare-earth elements and zero for battery-grade lithium. Establishing secondary-materials partnerships with emerging economies, which have rapidly growing markets for cell phones, laptops, and other appliances, would boost the EU's supply of recycled critical raw materials, particularly rare-earth elements. The focus should be on optimizing the recycling value chain by providing financing and capacity-building assistance for waste-sorting and collection systems in partner countries, creating mutually beneficial economic and environmental outcomes.

The EU is facing an uphill battle to source and produce the critical raw materials that will define its future. And while the CRMA hardly represents an easy fix for the bloc's import dependency, it can strengthen supply-chain resilience, contribute to EU sovereignty, and bolster Europe's economic security – in other words, boost the bloc's industrial competitiveness against a worsening geopolitical backdrop. But to realize the CRMA's full potential, the Commission must make it fit for purpose.

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Happy New Year to all our Readers



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 under funding 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.

Increasing investment is a first step toward building more productive, sustainable, and resilient African food systems. Supporting Africa's farmers is not just an opportunity. It is indispensable to achieving global development goals.

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OPINION

by Daniel Gros

Is It the Hour of Europe Again?

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

Today, another European country is being torn apart: Ukraine. So, by Poos' logic, it is up to Europe to “save” it. Will Europe prove more effective this time around?

There is a grain of truth in US President-elect Donald Trump's crude accusations that Europe is not sufficiently self-reliant when it comes to security. In fact, nobody in Europe harbors the illusion that Europe alone can solve the Ukrainian “problem”; the US was always expected to take a leading role. But this reality should not obscure Europe's contributions to Ukraine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FEATUREARTICLE

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.

1. Our pressing National needs based on sound engineering decisions
2. 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:

1. Working to help their families make farms
2. Helping families harvest yields from farms
3. 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:

1. Spot widening critical areas along the corridor by adding dedicated lanes on each side of the boulevard
2. 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
3. Reconstructing the Congo Town Old Road
4. 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.

1. 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.

2. 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 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.

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Unbundle LPRC

-Sen. Chie seeks policy reforms in petroleum sector

A new policy reform in the petroleum sector is expected to improve transparency and efficiency when established.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Capitol Hill, January 23, 2025/ Grand Kru County Senator Albert Tugbe Chie proposes a national policy to unbundle the downstream petroleum sub-sector and the Liberia Petroleum Refining

Company (LPRC), which controls the downstream petroleum sub-sector. Presently, the LPRC is acting as both referee and player in the management of the sub-sector as it is performing policy setting, regulatory oversight, and

an uneven playing field that can be a significant barrier to the growth of the private sector, the efficient delivery of high-quality and affordable energy services to the population, and just revenue intake to the Government.

"To ensure efficiency, productivity and cost-effective delivery of affordable energy services, international best practice dictates that the roles of policy setting, monitoring/regulatory oversight and commercial operations be housed in three distinct institutions, and not one institution or two institutions," Senator Chie asserted.

According to him, in the upstream petroleum sector, a new petroleum law was enacted that placed a regulatory oversight role with the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) and Policy Setting with the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and NOCAL retained a role as a commercial operator.

However, Senator Chie lamented that in the downstream petroleum sector, the reform recommended by the National Energy Policy of 2009 has not taken place, and LPRC still has overlapping functions of referee and player.

"Distinguished Colleagues, it is my prayer to Plenary that the Senate Committees on Public Corporations; Autonomous Agencies; and Energy, Hydrocarbon & Environment,

► CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Company (LPRC) activities. Speaking on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, after making his proposal in communication for the Sector Reform during the senate plenary, he said LPRC is acting as both referee and player in the management of the sub-sector as it is performing policy setting, regulatory oversight, and commercial operations roles.

"We propose a national discourse to unbundle the activities of the Liberia Petroleum Refining

commercial operations roles," Senator Chie stated.

For example, he wondered how the LPRC can license importers of petroleum products and at the same time be an importer.

Senator Chie further queried, asking how the LPRC can set prices through the monthly petroleum prices circular for importers when it is also an importer.

He described this as an institutional conflict that creates

South easterners are suffering

Sen. Bartekwa describes unbearable living conditions in southeastern Liberia.

Just one year after a son of the southeast left power, the plights of citizens in the southeastern part of the country are once more in the news.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Capitol Hill, January 23, 2025/ Grand Kru County Senator Numene T. H. Bartekwa, Jr has decried unbearable living conditions of citizens in the Southeastern part of the country, particularly Grand Kru County.

He said it was time that the Liberian Government erected a checkpoint to the bad road connectivity in the region to halt skyrocketing prices.

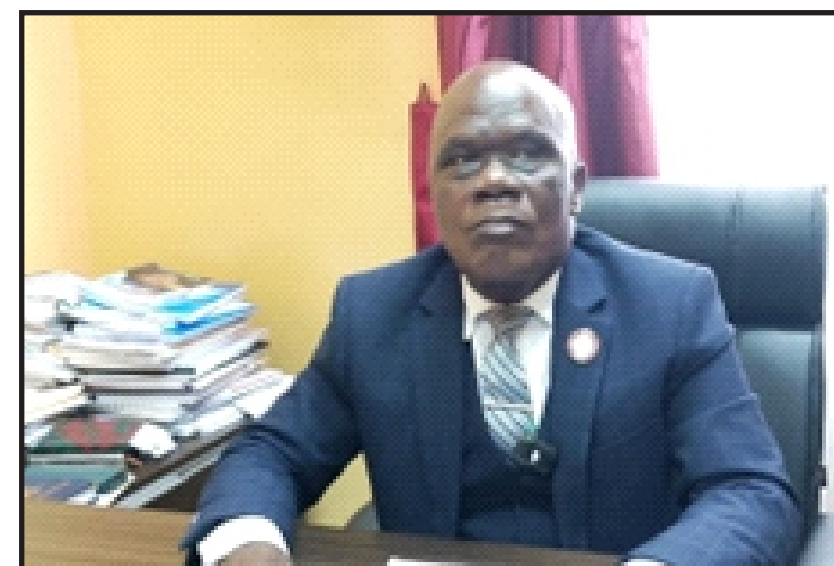
Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at his Capitol Building office, Senator Bartekwa said

currently, southeastern Liberia, mainly Grand Kru County, is completely cut off from infrastructure development, investment, and trade due to the lack of roads, something he described as troubling for the region.

According to him, there is no road from Sinoe, Maryland, and River Gee to Grand Kru because the roads are closed, thereby leading to prices of commodities on the market in the county to skyrocket, with a 25kg bag of rice now sold for LD\$7000-6000, gasoline LD\$1,600.

Sen. Bartekwa said that, as if that was not enough, the entire county could only boast of fourteen police officers who provided security and responded to crimes while appealing to the government to pay attention to the suffering of the people of far-to-reach

► CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Piah seeks ex-officials' help

Information Minister Piah believes collective and consolidated communication efforts can change Liberia's narratives.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, January 23, 2025/ Information Minister Jerolimick Mathew Piah has announced hosting a consolidated launch event this coming Friday, January 24, 2025, to seek help from the Minister who once served the ministry.

The event aimed to bring all formal officials under one roof to dialogue on how they can help enhance government communication and rebrand the country's damaged image in the diaspora.

Speaking early Monday morning on Prime FM, Piah revealed that they are also planning to engage media leaders and other stakeholders to have an open dialogue on rebranding the country.

He sensed the urgency for all former ministers to join heads together and gather insights on how they can improve because there are areas where the Boakai administration lacks experience.

"There's nothing wrong with reaching out to have a candid conversation with you guys, I know there are ways we can do

better. Let's sit down and talk; let's break bread together, share ideas, and work toward improving our country for all of us."

"Do you know that Liberia has bad images in many parts of the United States? When you mention Liberia in a foreign country, people will envision a country of decays of civil war, killing, and people with arrogant mindsets."

He explained further that the issue is not just government responsibility but requires collective efforts.

"If this is not done now, and the country continues to be seen in this negative light, anyone who will come to power in the future will be forced to start from scratch. But if we act collectively, it will make our job a lot easier."

Meanwhile, the upcoming event will serve as a catalyst to explore opportunities and exchange ideas and strategies to improve the government's communication efforts through collaborative progress for the future of the nation's public image. - *Edited by Othello B. Garblah*



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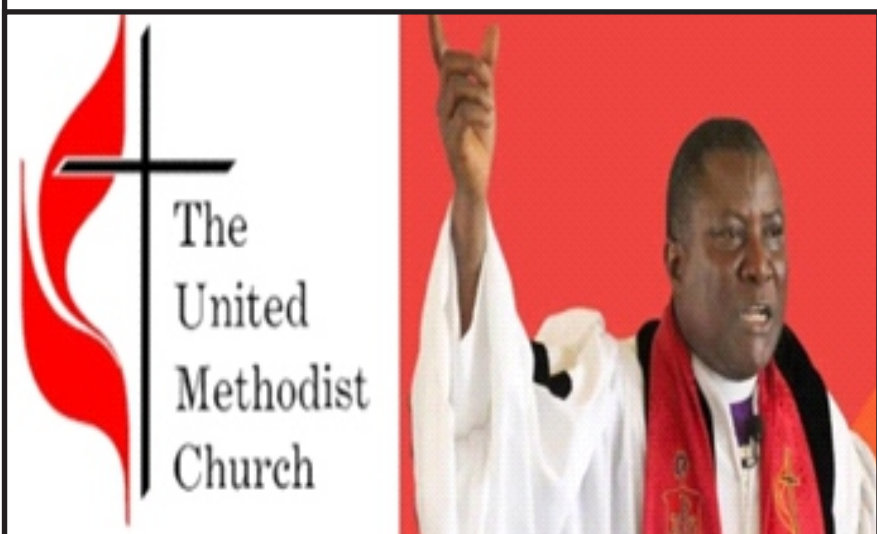
MORE HEADLINE NEWS

" Our country's development has been delayed for too long, so we have to create a cut-off point. We want to challenge this government to provide the cut-off point and redeem the people from the situation they are faced with. When I was at the lower house, I requested the government, based on the difficulties and constraints our people are going through, to at least muster the courage and credit about US\$2 billion to redeem those isolated

According to him, recently, a team from the World Bank was also in country and expressed commitment towards Liberia's energy development sector, something he described as welcoming. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**

The Annual Conference is a cornerstone of the UMC calendar. It provides a platform to evaluate the church's progress, set new goals for the coming year, and address challenges faced by the congregation and the communities it serves. This year's theme, "Know That I am God," with text from Psalms 46:1-11,

Beyond its spiritual significance, the conference is expected to bring substantial economic benefits to Gbarnga and its surrounding communities. The influx of hundreds of visitors—clergy, delegates, and observers—will



The week-long gathering will feature a robust schedule of activities designed to inspire and

Throughout the week, delegates will also engage in intensive discussions and decision-making sessions to adopt resolutions that will shape the church's future. These resolutions will address various aspects of the church's operations, including enhancing its programs, improving accountability, and strengthening its role as a champion of social justice in Liberia.



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PRESS







Français

Qui profite réellement de Medtech ? (Partie 1)

-La FIA menace de sanctions pénales

Medtech Scientific Liberia Limited, filiale de Medtech Scientific Limited basée à Dubaï, suscite une nouvelle controverse. Chargée de collecter les revenus sur les importations pour le compte du gouvernement libérien, tout en ne reversant que 20 %

se trouve le statut de Medtech, bénéficiaire de 80 % des revenus collectés sur les biens et services importés au Liberia, une situation qui continue de faire débat. Malgré ces doutes, l'entreprise semble avoir consolidé ses activités sous l'administration du président Joseph Boakai. Un contrat sous le feu des critiques

violations présumées des lois libériennes, notamment celles régissant les marchés publics (PPCC) et la gestion financière publique (PFM). Ces manquements auraient, selon les observateurs, permis une gestion opaque des fonds qui auraient dû revenir à l'État. Même avant l'arrivée au pouvoir du président Boakai, des voix au sein du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party, s'élevaient déjà contre ce contrat. Beaucoup dénonçaient son manque de transparence et sa légalité douteuse. Cependant, malgré ces critiques initiales, Medtech semble avoir obtenu le soutien de certains membres influents de la nouvelle administration. Une récente audition sénatoriale, dont les conclusions restent floues, a renforcé cette perception. Engagements non tenus et interrogations croissantes Bien que bénéficiant de la majeure partie des revenus collectés, Medtech n'a toujours pas honoré sa promesse de développer un système de



des fonds perçus, cette entreprise fait face à des accusations récurrentes concernant sa transparence et sa légitimité. Au cœur des préoccupations

L'attention sur Medtech s'est intensifiée après la signature d'un contrat de dix ans avec l'administration précédente de George Weah. Ce contrat a été largement critiqué pour ses

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Des députés suspendus exclus du message annuel de Boakai

Plusieurs députés suspendus, membres du bloc minoritaire de la Chambre des représentants, se voient formellement interdits d'assister au deuxième message annuel du président Joseph Boakai, prévu le lundi 27 janvier 2025, au Capitole à Monrovia. La Chambre conjointe sur l'Exécutif de la Chambre des représentants a confirmé cette décision, précisant que les députés suspendus ne recevront aucune invitation officielle pour participer au discours sur l'état de la nation (SONA). Cette décision intervient dans un contexte de tensions internes à la Chambre, survenues en 2024, à la suite de la destitution de l'ancien président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa. Cet épisode avait vu 43 députés formant un « Bloc majoritaire » suspendre 40 autres membres pour non-respect de la règle 21 du règlement intérieur, qui impose aux députés de notifier toute absence de plus de deux semaines. Les contrevenants risquent la suspension et la vacance de leur siège. Parmi les députés suspendus figurent Obediah Varney (Bomi, district n°1), Sam P. Jallah (Bong, district n°3) et Mohammed Dossier (Grand Cape Mount, district n°2). Mesures de sécurité renforcées et accès restreint Lors d'un point

de presse tenu le mardi 21 janvier, Robert Haynes, directeur de la presse et des affaires publiques de la Chambre, a confirmé cette décision en des termes clairs. « Le plénum a décidé que les députés suspendus ne seront pas autorisés à pénétrer dans l'enceinte du Parlement », a-t-il déclaré. Pour garantir le bon déroulement de l'événement, des mesures de sécurité strictes seront mises en place. Une unité conjointe de sécurité sera déployée pour sécuriser le Capitole et ses environs. Les véhicules munis d'invitations officielles seront fouillés avant d'accéder aux lieux, tandis que les autres seront redirigés vers des itinéraires alternatifs, notamment à travers Jallah Town. «

Seules les personnes détenant une invitation officielle pourront entrer », a ajouté un responsable. « Pour les autres, nous vous recommandons de suivre le discours à la radio ou à la télévision. » Préparatifs pour le discours présidentiel Le comité mixte sur l'Exécutif, présidé par le député Sekou Kanneh, collabore étroitement avec les coprésidents de l'Exécutif et du Sénat, ainsi qu'avec le ministère des Affaires étrangères et d'autres parties prenantes, pour assurer le succès du discours présidentiel sur l'état de la nation. Rédaction finale : **Jonathan Browne**



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

Starts from page 8

gestion prévu dans son contrat. Cette inaction continue d'alimenter les soupçons à son égard, d'autant plus que l'entreprise est désormais au centre d'un bras de fer avec l'Agence de Renseignements Financiers (FIA). La FIA a récemment demandé des explications à Medtech au sujet de ses opérations, après avoir reçu des allégations de corruption et d'extorsion visant l'entreprise. Medtech, dans une lettre de réponse, a nié ces accusations, tout en contestant la compétence de la FIA pour enquêter sur ces questions.

Sanctions pénales imminentes

Face à ce refus, la FIA a menacé d'imposer des sanctions administratives et pénales contre Medtech et son directeur général, Me Oliver Rogers, pour entrave à des enquêtes sur le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme.

Dans une communication datée du 3 décembre 2024, Mohammed Nasser, responsable par intérim de la FIA, a rappelé que l'Acte de 2021 établissant l'agence lui confère l'autorité d'exiger des informations auprès des institutions publiques et privées et de mener des investigations.

La FIA a également rejeté les déclarations de Medtech, selon lesquelles l'agence manquerait d'autorité et de crédibilité. Elle a réaffirmé son rôle d'entité autonome chargée de lutter contre les

infractions financières, notamment le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme.

« En conséquence, vous êtes tenus de fournir à la FIA une liste complète de votre base de données clients, incluant les noms des consignataires, le volume des marchandises, les frais de gestion (FOG) et les montants facturés, y compris la taxe de 1,2 % », a déclaré la FIA.

Le non-respect de cette exigence, a averti l'agence, sera considéré comme une entrave aux enquêtes en cours et entraînera des sanctions administratives et pénales.

Une défense contestée

Medtech soutient que toute correction des montants perçus en trop devrait être traitée par l'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA), affirmant qu'il revient aux clients de s'adresser directement à cette institution pour résoudre d'éventuels litiges.

Cependant, cette position ne semble pas apaiser les inquiétudes. La FIA reste ferme sur ses exigences et menace de prendre des mesures sévères contre Medtech et son directeur général. La confrontation entre les deux entités laisse entrevoir des tensions croissantes, avec des implications majeures pour la gestion financière et la transparence au Liberia.

L'OWECC-L accueille une délégation internationale d'experts en justice transitionnelle

Par Seve Raap, avec Cllr. Barbu

Monrovia, Liberia, le 20 janvier 2025 – Une délégation internationale de haut niveau spécialisée en justice transitionnelle a rencontré le directeur exécutif de l'Office pour l'Établissement d'un Tribunal des Crimes de Guerre et Économiques pour le Liberia (OWECC-L), le Dr Jallah A. Barbu. Cette rencontre visait à explorer des pistes de collaboration et de soutien pour permettre à l'Office de remplir efficacement son mandat.

Lors de la réunion tenue le lundi 20 janvier 2025, le Dr Barbu a mis en avant l'implication d'organisations multinationales et locales, notamment des pays donateurs, de la Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme, des organisations de la société civile et de différents segments de la société libérienne, qui ont tous exprimé leur soutien à la création du tribunal.

Selon lui, cet appui des parties prenantes a jeté les bases d'un dialogue approfondi en vue de la mise en place effective du tribunal. Par ailleurs, l'OWECC-L travaille en partenariat avec l'Association nationale du barreau du Liberia et la Commission de réforme législative pour résoudre les obstacles juridiques susceptibles de freiner l'établissement d'un tribunal hybride.

Le Dr Barbu a exprimé sa confiance quant à la création, avant la fin du mandat du

président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, d'un Tribunal des Crimes de Guerre et d'un Tribunal Anti-Corruption, grâce au soutien de ces parties prenantes et à leur collaboration.

Une étape majeure vers la justice et la réconciliation

Le Dr Barbu a qualifié la visite de la délégation de « tournant significatif » dans la quête du Liberia pour la justice, la responsabilité et la réconciliation. Il a réaffirmé l'engagement de l'OWECC-L à traiter les séquelles des crimes de guerre et économiques de manière inclusive, transparente et conforme aux normes internationales de justice.

Protéger les témoins et impliquer les victimes : une priorité clé

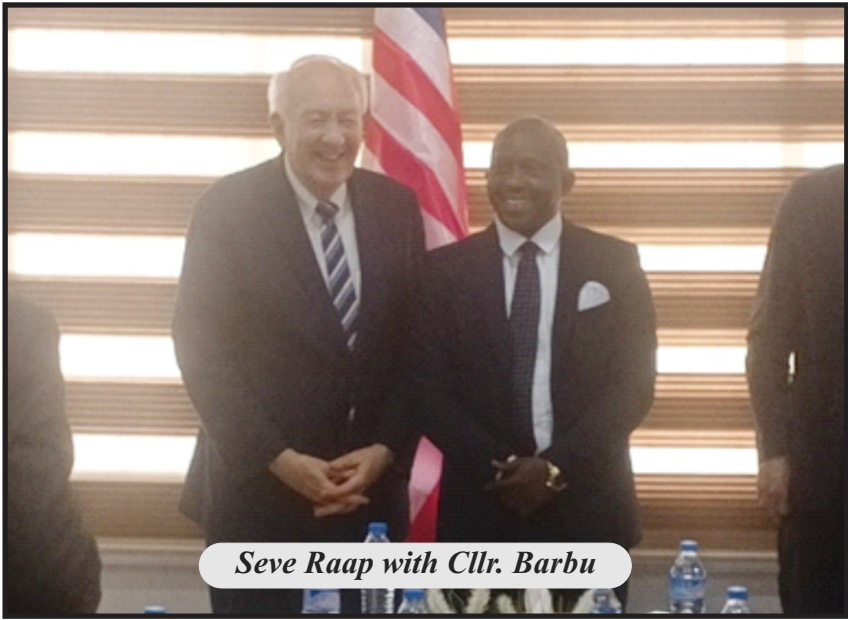
Katherine Southwick, conseillère et chef de la délégation, a souligné que la mission de l'équipe est d'évaluer les capacités de l'OWECC-L ainsi que les défis auxquels il est confronté dans l'établissement

d'un tribunal spécial. Ce tribunal sera chargé de poursuivre les auteurs présumés de violations des droits humains et de crimes contre l'humanité.

Mme Southwick a reconnu les difficultés liées au financement de l'Office, mais a encouragé le Dr Barbu à maintenir ses efforts.

« Obtenir des fonds pour ce type d'initiatives peut prendre du temps, voire ne jamais aboutir complètement, mais un engagement constant et des actions de sensibilisation peuvent aboutir à des résultats significatifs », a-t-elle déclaré.

La délégation a salué les efforts de l'OWECC-L pour collaborer avec des groupes de défense des droits des victimes et pour mettre en place des mécanismes de protection des témoins. Selon les experts, ces initiatives sont cruciales pour garantir des témoignages sans intimidation ni harcèlement, favorisant ainsi des procès équitables.



Seve Raap with Cllr. Barbu

Un agent de la NSA traduit en justice pour la fuite d'informations sensibles

D. Dolewon, un employé de l'Agence nationale de sécurité (NSA), a été traduit en justice pour avoir divulgué des informations sensibles à J. Fonati Koffa, président de la Chambre des représentants en difficulté.

Le terme « mole » désigne un espion ou un agent infiltré au sein d'une organisation, et Dolewon est accusé d'avoir trahi la NSA en agissant de manière déloyale.

Lors de l'enquête, Dolewon a révélé que Koffa, son oncle, avait reçu des informations confidentielles de sa part. L'enquête a également révélé que, depuis décembre 2024, Dolewon aurait utilisé son compte WhatsApp pour partager des informations sensibles sur la NSA, y compris des détails concernant des hauts responsables de l'agence, notamment leurs identités et leurs rôles.

Les accusations formulées à l'encontre de Dolewon

Dolewon, âgé de 40 ans, est accusé de divulgation illégale d'informations confidentielles, de mauvaise gestion de documents sensibles, de mise en danger d'autrui et de coercition criminelle.

Une enquête de la police a révélé que l'employé de la NSA aurait conseillé à son oncle de ne pas faire confiance à certains responsables de l'agence, notamment Steven Dolo, le directeur adjoint, qu'il aurait décrit comme impliqué dans des pratiques douteuses. Dolewon est également accusé d'avoir transmis des informations sur les positions et les activités des agents de la NSA, compromettant ainsi la sécurité de l'agence et de son personnel, ce qui a suscité des inquiétudes majeures concernant la sécurité nationale.



Violation des règles de la NSA

La divulgation non autorisée d'informations classifiées constitue une violation grave des règlements internes de la NSA, qui interdisent strictement de telles actions.

L'enquête a également révélé que les actions de Dolewon avaient non seulement mis en péril la réputation des responsables de la NSA, mais aussi compromis leur sécurité et entravé les efforts visant à préserver la sécurité nationale. Lors de son interrogatoire par la police, Dolewon a admis sa culpabilité et a imploré la clémence de ses supérieurs. Cependant, l'enquête a révélé que ses accusations de mauvais traitements par le directeur adjoint Dolo étaient sans fondement.

Autres développements concernant l'incendie du Capitole

Le gouvernement libérien a également inculpé Thomas Isaac Etheridge, chef de cabinet de l'ancien président Koffa, ainsi qu'Eric Susay, pour leur implication présumée dans l'incendie survenu le 18 décembre 2024 au Capitole. Les deux hommes ont été renvoyés devant le tribunal municipal de Monrovia pour leur procès.

Koffa lui-même avait été interrogé par la police concernant cet incident, qualifié d'incendie criminel, avant d'être relâché.

Rédaction par **Jonathan Browne**

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LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Prince Johnson's state burial

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Senator Prince Yormie Johnson is dead and buried, but the controversial life-style he lived as a rebel, evangelist and popular politician will be debated for a very long time, as you may read in comments below.

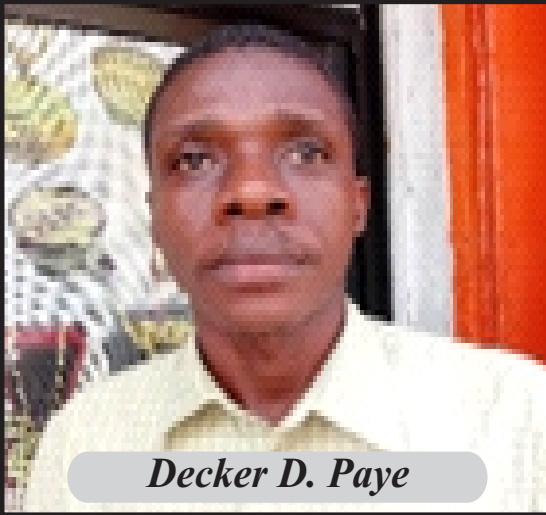


Joel Nyark

"I think he did well as a statesman because I saw the state being involved in his funeral and burial, but I think everyone in life is respected for what they did. They say the way you live your life that what speaks for you. We

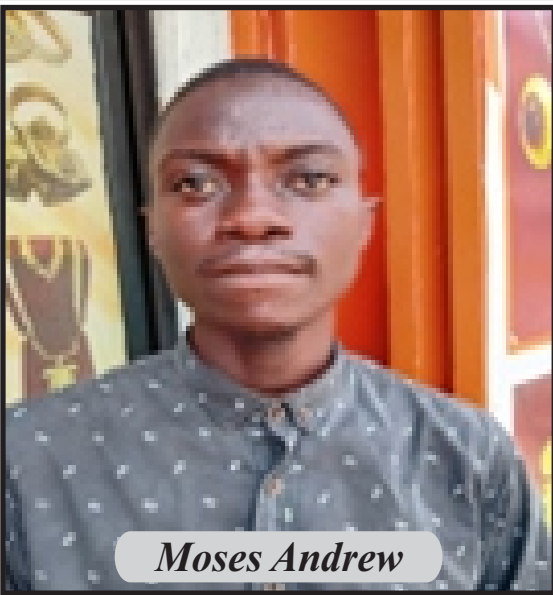
"The late Senator Prince Johnson deserved a state burial, because he was a state person. He played a major role in the history of Liberia apart from negative things. He was engaged in rebel business and fought to redeem his people. And then that can't be questioned a lot because it happened during the course of rebellion and rebellion like that you don't expect good things. You always expect bad to come out and after that he came back to his country and served his country. One good thing I will remember him for is making his

understand that the late Sen. Prince Johnson lived a controversial life and had a dark past. But as a statesman, it reached certain point he was a deciding factor of who became president for Liberia. So, it tells you as a statesman, he did his own part that he will be missed for. But there have mixed reactions, like I told you about the dark days. Some of us feel he should have paid for his deeds. So, we are saying that Prince Johnson played his role and he will be missed seriously. Anybody that say Prince Johnson will not be missed, it's not true; he will be missed."



Decker D. Paye

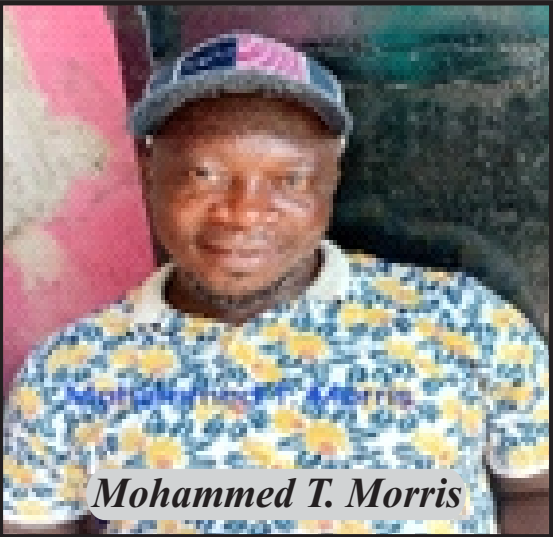
county number one, as his first agenda. He always pushed for his county."



Moses Andrew

"For the fact that Mr. Johnson was a senator and that placed him in a position of a statesman, but I don't think that he deserved state burial because whenever, wicked statesman

died, I think it is important that body be given to the traditional people for burial, because the kind of thing this individual was involved in this country, cannot be forgotten. So with that in the minds of those of us who were effected and today, we are still living with that sorrow. We aren't satisfied with his death. We wanted to see him living to bear the penalty of his action. He always justified actions. This man wasn't sorrowful for the people he killed. He shouldn't have been given a state burial. His body should be taken to the traditional people and let them us it for whatever purpose they want."



Mohammed T. Morris

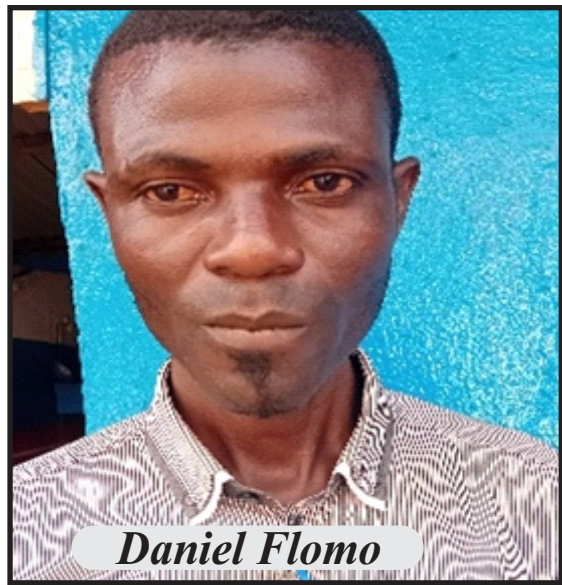
"The late senator was a statesman, so he deserved state burial, but not in that type of wicked manner because he complained that the Unity Party neglected him after he brought them to power, so everything they did was pretense. They pretended showing to the public that they were in good thought with the late senator, which it wasn't so. The senator admitted it before he passed away that President for Prince Johnson. But he Boakai wasn't speaking to him. So, the government is only government because he stood for pretending that they were there the Unity Party in Nimba."

"Sen. Prince Johnson deserved state burial. The reason is simple. You know when something happens, it is the church they go and get converted and forget about everything that happened in the past. The fallen hero deserved a state burial from the government."



Richard Sherrif

deserved the state burial from the government because he stood for the Unity Party in Nimba."



Daniel Flomo

"For me, the state burial given to Senator Prince Johnson doesn't go down well with me. This man

was accused of committing bad crimes against Liberians. For the act they committed against the Liberians, people kept saying that we want war crimes court and it didn't work the way we thought it could work. He has died already; no need we celebrate somebody, who we saw as a mass murderer. It means we are justifying his actions and giving attention to it. Prince Johnson didn't deserve a state burial. If we give Prince Johnson this kind of burial, there was no need we criticized him prior to his death."

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Man has sex with pregnant dog

He explains that the town chief later informed him that he engaged the mother of Kerkulah Flomo, Victoria Browne, and she assured him (town chief) that she was going to ask her son. Mr. Tokpah reveals that the chief later again informed him that Kerkulah admitted to his mother during an inquiry that he sodomized the dog, but he did not give reasons for his action. Tokpah wants Kerkula Flomo to be prosecuted to deter him from further carrying on such inhumane act. Meanwhile, Madam Victoria Browne told reporter that her son admitted to having sex with the dog after his younger sister repeatedly warned him that the owner of the dog has threatened to go to medicine man to kill the doer of the act. But Kerkulah Flomo reportedly escaped following his confession. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Will Speaker Koffa attend SONA

Amidst the standoff over the House leadership, embattled House Speaker Koffa has been formerly invited to attend the President's state of the nation's address. But will he attend.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, January 23, 2025/ Despite barring suspended lawmakers most of whom are supporters of embattled House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa, Capitol Building says the embattled speaker has been invited to attend, the New Dawn has learned. President Joseph Boakai is expected to deliver his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, January 27, 2025, as require by law. However, the SONA will this year be delivered on the grounds of the Capitol building and not inside the Joint Chamber due to recent fire outbreak that destroyed the Chambers. House Spokesman Robert Haynes told the NewDawn that the Joint Chamber on Executive at the House of Legislature has extended an invitation to Speaker Koffa. The announcement of the invitation comes at the time staffers within the embattled speaker's office are being investigated by state security in connection to the fire incident at the Capitol.

At least two of embattled Speaker Koffa's staffers were charged on Monday, 20, January with multiple crimes as it relates to the fire outbreak. Speaker Koffa has repeatedly denied any knowledge about the fire and as many has called for a full-scale investigation to bring the perpetrators to book. **Security at the SONA** The security at the SONA is expected to increase in number with strict measures to control access to the premises where President Boakai is expected to deliver his address. " The Security measures will

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 Jala Town. "We will ensure only people with invitations are allowed," the official said. "If you don't have anything to do around the Capitol Building, stay home and listen to the radio or watch TV." Meanwhile, he stated that the Joint Committee on Executive, is collaborating with the co-chairs from the Executive and Senate, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders, to ensure the success of the SONA.- *Edited by Othello B. Garblah*



PYJ wife tipped to contest Nimba by-election

Just before the cement on the tomb of Sen. Johnson can dry up, discussion about his replacement has begun with his wife being viewed as his rightful replacement.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Nimba, January 23, 2025/ Mrs. Amira Boyidee Johnson, wife of deceased Nimba County senator Prince Y. Johnson, has been hinted to contest for the Senatorial by-election in Nimba to replace her husband and continue his nine years tenure and political legacy. Making the disclosure in an exclusive interview in Nimba County over the weekend, two-times defeated Presidential candidate and political leader of the Vision for Liberia Transformation Party, Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, said that it's about time that the people of Nimba jointly petitioned the late senator's wife to replace her husband. According to him, Mrs. Johnson is the rightful person to replace her husband because she better understands his interpretation and vision for the people, adding that she has all it requires to end her husband's tenure because she is educated intelligent, and people-centered. " There is a one-million-dollar

question, and that is who will replace Senator Johnson in the Senate. From now till the vacancy is open, people will be making suggestions, but I want people to listen to the names that come out carefully. I am sitting down here and thinking, since behind every successful man is a strong wife, we should be able to support the late Senator Johnson's wife to finish Senator Johnson's terms. I want her to run. I can't tell here if she will contest but I want her to run" Dr. Whapoe stated. According to him, there were many who called him, including elders, suggesting that he filled in the vacancy for Nimba, but he thinks Nimba should continue to show the love to Senator Johnson's wife that they have for him by petitioning her to contest and continue her husband's legacy.

He described the by-election as a test of time, adding that it is time that the county come together and

petition her to finish her husband's terms, and after that, anybody who wanted to contest could do so when she finished. Commenting on the elders of Nimba County's recent decision to turn the traditional gable over to Nimba County District #5 Representative Samuel Kogar, Dr. Whapoe responded and said what was done was tradition and not an election. Therefore, it's not a yardstick for judgment. " Giving the traditional gable over to Samuel Kogar doesn't mean or transpose the senatorial power to him. That was never an election that was rather a traditional ritual. And so, if Senator Johnson's wife wants to contest, Kogar should step aside. Samuel Kogar should step aside because the late senator's wife is his mother," he added. - *Edited by Othello B. Garblah*



NaFAA Receives Additional Supplies of Yamaha Engines and Other Fishing Gear/Implements

Bushrod Island Liberia- Liberian Government has received additional Fishing gear for free distribution across the nine coastal counties to local fishermen to increase their efforts and improve their livelihoods. Speaking Wednesday, January 22, 2025, during the inspection of the huge consignment of fishing gear/implements from the people of Japan through the Food and

Ministries to ensure a Memorandum of understanding, (MoU) is signed to supply the Liberian Fishing Communities with more fishing implements/gears as their would-be some tax reduction to facilitate the MoU. "Most often our local fishermen get their nets and engines from neighboring countries at huge cost, so such a MoU will enable those fishermen to purchase



FAO OIC Representation in Liberia Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Gashash, DG Glassco and DDGTS Boeh

Agriculture Organization, FAO of the United Nations at the Warehouse of CFAO Mobility, the Authorized Agent on Bushrod Island, Madam Emma Metieh Glassco commended the Government of Japan for the additionally supply of motorized engines and other fishing implements. The Japanese Government donated to the Liberian government through the Fisheries Authority, several fishing implements, including 100 pieces of 15-horsepower Yamaha Outboard Engines, 100 pieces of GPS Navigation System Devices, 100 pieces of Lifejackets, 100 pieces of Float Boat Security Lights, 100 pieces of horns, and 100 pieces of Bouys. Director Glassco stated that the different supplies of fishing implements will be distributed to fishermen through their various cooperatives following some days of training to enable them to use those implements/gears appropriately to improve their livelihoods. It can be recalled in 2019, the Government and people of Japan made an initial donation of several pieces of various types of Yamaha outboard engines to Liberia. Those engines were subsequently distributed free of charge to Liberian Fishermen through their Cooperatives. In another development, Madam Glassco has assured the management of CFAO Mobility, the Authorized Agent, that NaFAA will work closely with other Agencies and line

their fishing gears at a reasonable cost and the company would receive some level of tax reduction as NaFAA would hold discussions with relevant government agencies on the matter” Responding to Madam Glassco comment, the Managing Director of CFAO, the Authorized Agent, Navin Chander said his entity is willing to work cooperatively with the Management of NaFAA to help supply the Liberian fishing communities with more fishing gear/implements. He disclosed that his entity is producing and selling fiberglass boats in Senegal and would welcome an agreement to supply local fishermen with those boats to help improve their catch. Meanwhile, the FAO OIC Representation in Liberia Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Gashash said the fishing gears are intended to transform small- scales fishermen's primitive fishing method of using paddling dough out canoes with sail to improve wooden vessel power by 15 horsepower Yamaha outboard engines including modern fish technologies such as lifejackets, buoys, GPS, Navigation system to detect fishermen location, float boats security lights and horns. Dr. Gashash said the equipment and materials are expected to be used by the beneficiaries' fishing crew to supply the expected fifteen fish processing facilities in the nine coastal counties of Liberia.

By Kruah Thompson

The incident, investigation reveals, occurred in a village called Deddeh Village. The village is said to be owned by Margibi County Attorney, H.

Mr. Tokpah explains that on Tuesday, the next morning, he was informed by his fiancée that she heard the dog crying on Monday night, but because they did not open the door, it ran to his (William's) mother-in-law's

He further narrates that he then took a look at the private part of the dog and noticed something was wrong, thereby suspecting that it may have been tempered with by a human, not an animal.

William Tokpah says he immediately informed residents of the village about the condition of the dog and at the same time asked whether they knew anything about the situation the dog is faced with, but no one came out.

Not satisfied, he then informed the Town Chief about the situation on Wednesday, requesting him to ask every man that lives in the village whether they knew anything about what happened to his dog, threatening to take another action, if no one took responsibility.



It is reported that last year, he allegedly raped an 80-year-old woman in an adjacent village and walked freed.

He says the same Tuesday his son, having observed the poor condition of the dog, reported the issue to him and minutes after the dog returned home.

Mr. Tokpah continues that upon return of the dog, he only heard

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WE DO PHOTOCOPY

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a magazine with the headline 'New Dawn \$52.5m for Hunt by-elections', and a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE'. The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern, showcasing different design styles and content types.