



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

**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR** 

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27 2025	L\$194.4746/US\$1.00	L\$196.1770/US\$1.00

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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# Dntinenta

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## bels kill 13 foreign peacekeepers in DR Congo Thirteen soldiers serving with peacekeeping forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo Fighting between the M23 and DR

have been killed in clashes with rebels from the M23 group.

The South African military said nine of its soldiers died L helping to push back a rebel advance on the city of Goma, in eastern DR Congo, while three Malawians and a Uruguayan were also killed.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he had spoken to the leaders of both DR Congo and Rwanda amid global calls for the violence to end.

The United Nations is pulling all non-essential staff out of Goma – a city of more than one million people – as the fighting intensifies.

A UN Security Council meeting about the deadly clashes, originally set for Monday, has been moved to Sunday due to the escalating conflict.

The M23 group has called on Congolese troops in Goma to surrender in order to avoid bloodshed. While DR Congo has severed diplomatic ties with neighbouring Rwanda, accusing

the country of being behind the rebellion.

The move comes after M23 fighters killed a Congolese military governor who was visiting the frontline on Thursday. Earlier in January, they captured the key eastern Congolese towns of Minova and Masisi.

Macron called for an end to the fighting in separate calls with the leaders of DR Congo and Rwanda on Saturday, his office said.

The EU's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas urged the M23 to halt its advance and condemned Rwanda's support for the group, the AFP news agency reports.

Further condemnation came from Angolan President Joao Lourenco, the African Union's mediator between Rwanda and DR Congo, who denounced "irresponsible actions by the M23 and its supporters" and called for the "immediate cessation" of fighting to preserve civilian lives, according to the AFP news agency.

Congo's army has intensified since the start of the year, with the rebels seizing control of more territory than ever. The conflict has already led more than 400,000 people to flee their homes this year, according to the UN. Local leaders last week said more than 200 civilians had been killed in areas captured by the M23, with hospitals in Goma treating hundreds of patients.

Martin Gordon, an Anglican bishop in Goma, told the BBC fighting in the country had gone on "way too long" and people "will do anything for peace".

In the past few days, several countries have urged their citizens to leave Goma, including the UK, France, Germany and the US.

Human Rights Watch has warned of escalating risks to civilians as the Congolese army battles the M23 rebels. The humanitarian group has accused both sides of committing grave abuses against civilians.

The UN has warned that the ongoing conflict is worsening the humanitarian crisis in the region.

The M23 has taken control of vast swathes of mineral-rich eastern DR Congo since 2021. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced as a consequence.

DR Congo and the UN say the M23 is backed by Rwanda. The Rwandan authorities have neither confirmed nor denied this.

Rwanda has previously said the authorities in DR Congo were working with some of those responsible for the 1994 Rwandan genocide against ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

### Teenage actress takes on child marriage in role mirroring real life he 15-year-old star of a personality," the teenager says.

film about a schoolgirl forced to marry an older man is evangelical about her role - despite the fact that her community in north-western Kenya might see it as a betrayal and treat her as an outcast.

In the film, just after 13-year-old

Nawi finds out that her exam results are top in the county, she hears that her father is selling her to a wealthy man named Shadrack in exchange for "60 sheep, eight camels and 100 goats".



"I want the movie to spark conversations about this topic, because it's really not something people want to talk about," Michelle Lemuya Ikeny tells the BBC.

She plays 13-year-old Nawi, the eponymous heroine of the coming-of-age film set in Turkana county, a rural area which borders Uganda and where the UN says one in four girls are married before they are

"So many of my friends have had to leave school, or never been to school because someone paid a dowry to marry them, so their fathers had married them off," she says.

Michelle, who grew up in Turkana where the film was shot, kept these girls in mind when portraying Nawi's emotions - a performance that won her an Africa Movie Academy Award for best promising actor last November. Like all the local children who star in the film, she had never acted before. When she signed up for it, she thought she would just be appearing in a school drama.

"It has changed my life, but I don't want it to change my

Instead of accepting her fate, Nawi smears blood on her legs on her wedding night to fake a period and then runs away to pursue her dream of going to high school in the capital, Nairobi.

Her father and Shadrack are furious and try to follow her, but she manages to outsmart them with the help of her brother.

However, she than goes back home to Turkana to bravely confront them when she finds out that her new baby sister has been promised to Shadrack as a replacement bride.

There are many scenes which highlight how widespread child marriage is - and how it is accepted despite being against the law. According to Kenya's 2014 Marriage Act, a person must be 18 years of age to marry.

In one scene, when Nawi's classmate Zawari does not show up to the end-of year exam, the boys in the class joke that she is "busy making babies".

The story was written by Milcah Cherotich, who won a writing competition launched by the German-Kenyan non-governmental organisation Learning Lions.

Cherotich says her own childhood was the inspiration for her first feature film script as she grew up Turkana.



# 70 killed in attack on hospital as Sudan war escalates

of El Fasher, the World Health Saturday, army chief Gen. Abdel- social media platforms for at least Organization reported on Fattah Burhan appeared near a 30 days due to the circulation of Sunday. The attack targeted the burning oil refinery north of videos showing alleged killings Saudi Teaching Maternal Khartoum, which his forces of South Sudanese nationals in Hospital, which local officials claimed to have seized from the Sudan. This decision aims to blame on the rebel group, the RSF. Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Saudi Arabia condemned the unrest within South Sudan.

round 70 people were war in Sudan intensifies, with the international law. killed in an attack on a RSF suffering apparent losses to Meanwhile, neighboring South

Lambospital in Sudan's city Sudanese military forces. On Sudan has suspended access to prevent further violence and





by Stuart P.M. Mackintosh

# EDITORIAL

# We need a message of hope

iberians are desperate and yearning for hope from President Joseph Boakai's second annual message or state of the nation address to the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, rightly so because situations in the country in the past one year has been nothing, but chaotic.

From protest by soldiers' wives, standoff between Police and partisans of opposition CDC, bloody riot at Bea Mountain that left several persons dead, to forceful removal from office of officials holding tenure positions and leadership crisis in the House of Representatives that Speaker Fonati Koffa booted out and subsequent fire at the Capitol Building, situations have not been fine in Liberia.

Liberians are looking up to their President to give direction and hope, especially joblessness and economic hardship is visible everywhere. The people need breathing space to rejuvenate their state of mind from despair and doom to optimism.

We believe no one best suited to provide that now than President Boakai who promised to rescue Liberia from stagnation and retrogression.

The government would begin to show by responding or providing low-hanging fruits such as improved security, stabilizing the economy and creating jobs.

A government that is on a mission to rescue should act more and talk less to build public confidence and attract forest investments that this country needs so badly, for we are convenience that government along cannot do it all. We need an enabling environment for economic activities to thrive.

Substance abuse, trafficking and prevalence of hardcore drugs in our country is decimating our future, the youth. The government should move away from mere promises and publicity stunt and j get down to real business.

How many more young people have to die before we do something tangible as a nation to halt the scourge of drugs in our l nation? Our streets are littered with drug-addicted youths, who are being sent to their early grave by traffickers.

No amount of political speeches can revive hope in their people unless direct and sincere actions are taken on the ground.

Corruption is another melee that s destroying the fabric of our nation, particularly from the public sector. It seems like the nation's wealth is being distributed between the Legislative and Executive, while schools, hospitals, and other vital institutions face neglect. These trend should be reversed to give hope to our people.

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The Fed Is Running Scared of Trump

running for cover. Trump has made clear lower estimate? Swiss Re predicts GDP his desire to dismantle the "deep state," losses of 18% by 2050 if no action is taken. which he depicts as a shadowy network Whichever forecast you choose, there is agendas.

But the professional officials, administrators, and policymakers Trump is poised to target play a critical role in government, including by advising leaders, regardless of their political leanings, on how they can achieve their goals legally and constitutionally. These officials must stand their ground.

The Federal Reserve is perhaps the most significant independent economic actor monetary and supervisory importance of the US dollar. Unfortunately, rather than preparing to defend its positions and prerogatives, it has preemptively surrendered to Trump: on January 17, three days before Trump's inauguration, the Fed Board withdrew from the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

The NGFS brings together central banks and supervisors to improve environmental- and climate-risk Participation in the group amounts to a implicit acknowledgment that these risks fall within central banks' mandate, financial stability.

It is hardly a radical position. All major central banks are represented among the England (BOE), the Banque de France, China (PBOC). Until the Fed's withdrawal, the NGFS covered 100% of and headed for the exit, arguing that the Florida, or Texas. scope of the NGFS extends beyond its mandate.

The idea that central banks should not account for mounting climate risks is plain wrong. Economic and financial stability depend on ecosystem and emissions continuing to grow, atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels have reached record heights, and global temperatures are on track to rise well past 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The impact of climate change –more frequent and intense storms, floods, droughts, and wildfires – is already apparent.

While estimates of the precise economic and financial costs vary, the overall picture is sobering. The Institute and

ASHINGTON, DC – Donald Faculty of Actuaries forecasts that climate Trump is back in the White change will mean global GDP losses of House, and the technocrats are 50% between 2070 and 2090. Prefer a of bureaucrats who "weaponize" the no doubt that the costs of climate change "power of the state" to "persecute are rising - and not at a steady pace. political opponents" and thwart their Instead, costs rise gradually, then sharply, propelled by climate-related disasters. In a bleak but telling coincidence, the Fed's withdrawal from the NGFS comes at a time when California is experiencing this firsthand, as wildfires turn thousands of homes, businesses, and ecosystems to ash.

The micro-prudential risks are obvious. Those burned structures were mostly under mortgage. But insurance is unlikely to cover the full cost of rebuilding even for those with coverage, and many property owners were under- or uninsured, in the United States, given the scope of its precisely because rising risks due to climate-fueled disasters have driven up responsibilities and the global rates and caused some insurers to refuse to offer coverage. If the destroyed properties are not rebuilt, the associated mortgages will not be repaid, and the local and national banks that issued the loans will suffer heavy losses.

This observation cannot be dismissed as tree-hugging political correctness. On the contrary, given its potential to destabilize the financial system, it clearly warrants central bankers' attention. That is why the BOE and the ECB are stress-testing management in the financial sector. supervised firms, banks, and insurance companies for climate risk, and imposing recognition of the importance of standards for climate disclosure, understanding climate risks, as well as an methodologies, processes, and governance. The PBOC, for its part, is incorporating climate change into because they threaten economic and financial regulation and oversight, and developing green lending rules.

But the Fed – the world's most important central bank – has other plans. By withdrawing from the NGFS and turning NGFS's 143 members: the Bank of its back on climate-risk scenarios and analyses, it has effectively announced that the Bank of Japan, the European Central it plans to close its eyes and ears to the Bank (ECB), and the People's Bank of dangers of the climate crisis. This increases the likelihood of future systemic failures, because Fed officials are less global systemic banks and 80% of the likely to detect risks that are materializing internationally active insurance groups. right in front of their bank supervisors But the Fed has now broken with its peers eyes, whether in California, Louisiana,

The Fed's leadership constantly stresses the importance of "data dependence." Yet the central bank has decided to ignore a huge – and rapidly growing – pile of data showing that climate risks are economic risks, in order to appease a president who climate stability. With greenhouse-gas might not even know the NGFS exists. The Fed Board could have maintained its NGFS membership and bided its time. There was no reason to jump before being pushed.

> But the Fed is running scared. Withdrawing from the NGFS suggests that its decision-making will at least partly reflect political pressure, not independent, data-driven analysis. That does not bode well for the next four years –and beyond.

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By Andrés Constantin, Katherine Mayall

# **How to Make COP30 a Climate Turning Point**

RASÍLIA – Later this year, Brazil will preside over the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém. It is a significant responsibility. As the world marks the tenth anniversary of the Paris climate agreement, there is a heightened sense of urgency about global warming, which has morphed from a future threat into a present emergency. On current trends, the cap on global warming envisioned by the Paris agreement – 1.5° Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels – will not be achieved, and holding this COP in Belém will highlight the pressure on the Amazon, one of the world's most beautiful regions, but also a climate tipping point.

Despite scientists' clear warnings that we are dangerously close to exceeding the planet's limits, emissions records continue to be broken. In 2023, the world generated 57.1 billion tons of greenhouse gases, leading to a carbon dioxide surface concentration of 420 parts per million. The last time Earth's CO2 concentration was so high was 14 million years ago.

The Paris agreement's first decade helped the world to redirect the business-as-usual trajectory from an increase of 4-5°C by the end of this century. As matters stand, if every country meets its 2030 climate targets, the global average temperature is expected to increase 2.6°C. Our role now, at COP30, is to create a roadmap for the next decade to accelerate implementation and to increase ambition to get us to 1.5°C.

Unfortunately, emissions and temperatures have continued to climb since 2015, and the geopolitical landscape has become more unstable and fragmented, with ongoing wars in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, in addition to sharply deteriorating relations between the United States and China. International fora have become political battlegrounds, with little attention paid to the topic under discussion.

This shift was apparent at COP29 – dubbed the "finance COP" – in Baku, Azerbaijan. Some key developed-country governments adopted positions that served their short-term national interests, with no regard for the global consequences. These governments also waited until the summit's penultimate day to present their proposed financial commitments, delaying debate over the resources that developing countries need to pursue the green transition. This is a self-defeating strategy – not least because global warming does not respect borders. If we fail to create the conditions for all countries to shift to low-carbon growth paths, everyone will suffer.

Ultimately, delegates left Baku with an agreement on carbon-market standards and a pledge by rich countries to provide \$300 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries. It was an important, but small step forward at a time when big strides are needed. But this outcome, which shows that multilateralism is still possible, has set the stage for more ambitious action in Belém.

Hopes are high that COP30 will be a turning point for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. With a global stocktake completed at COP28 and the Paris agreement rulebook finalized at COP29, the main task in Belém will be to accelerate the implementation of existing agreements. Our goal at COP30 is to translate promises into practice.

But for that to happen, countries must deliver ambitious and detailed nationally determined contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP30. Brazil, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates have set a high bar with their updated NDCs, which were submitted at COP29. Now other countries must rise to the challenge. At last year's G20 summit, Brazilian PresidentLuiz Inácio Lula da Silvaurged member countries to bring forward their climateneutrality targets from 2050 to 2040 or 2045, while UN Secretary-GeneralAntónio Guterrespushed for implementation of the new targets set in response to the global stocktake.

Meanwhile, emerging economies are encouraged to present NDCs covering all sectors and greenhouse gases, including absolute emission-reduction targets aligned with the 1.5°C goal. And developing countries should deliver NDCs that reconcile their pre-existing development objectives with ambitious emissions reductions and continue to move their economies along a low-carbon trajectory.

We expect that countries will arrive in Belém ready to discuss how to advance the implementation of the promises made under the global stocktake. This process must include agreements and steps toward tripling renewable-energy capacity, doubling energy-efficiency measures, accelerating the transition from fossil fuels, ending deforestation, and increasing reforestation. Ultimately, our role at COP30 is to redirect global efforts to the creation of conditions at the international level that facilitate and accelerate national efforts. The aim should be to help countries achieve these agreed goals in a fast and just manner.

To enable developing countries to overcome the barriers to pursuing a low-carbon development path — namely, unsustainable debt burdens and high borrowing costs — the global financial architecture must support climate goals. To that end, Brazil established the G20 Taskforce on a Global Mobilization against Climate Change during its presidency of the group last year. In Belém, we must establish a credible strategy to mobilize \$1.3 trillion for developing countries and create a plan to align financial flows — public and private, national and international — with the Paris agreement targets. Governments and multilateral institutions will have multiple opportunities to advance negotiations on these issues throughout the year, including at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's spring and fall meetings and the International Conference on Financing for Development in June.

Given the increasing frequency and severity of climate shocks, adaptation has become a top priority, especially in vulnerable communities. This year, countries must finalize their national adaptation plans, specifying the private and public investment required to realize them. And at COP30, delegates should adopt the global adaptation indicators, creating a common language to discuss the impact of climate change around the world.

Focusing on adaptation does not imply reduced mitigation efforts. For much of the developing world, mitigation and adaptation happen simultaneously, as part of development. In today's world, new homes, cities, energy sources, factories, and infrastructure must be built with both minimal emissions and maximum resiliency at their core.

As host of COP30, Brazil is committed to lead by example through decisive action at home and abroad. But one country acting alone cannot restore the trust needed for a successful summit. Every country must come to Belém committed to developing and implementing ambitious national goals, and to creating international enabling conditions that accelerate climate action that leaves no one behind. Only then can we make COP30 the climate turning point the world needs.

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# OPINION

by Todd G. Buchholz

# **Beware the TikTokalypse**

AN DIEGO – When the US president, Congress, and Supreme Court are all in a tizzy at the same time, the topic under discussion is usually a global meltdown or, at the very least, income taxes. Today, the concern is dancing cat videos. In his first day back in the White House, Donald Trump launched a strike against the Court and Congress by signing an executive order to pause the ban on TikTok, earning applause from the Chinese-owned company. TikTok's online content creators are relieved, too, for many warn that a ban (or a forced sale to a US company) would devastate them. I call it the TikTokalypse.

But this fear is based on a misunderstanding of the app's security risks and of the resiliency of creators and internet platforms. With TikTok users, including 170 million in the US, spending an average of 90 minutes per day on the app—more time than Americans spend eating and drinking—China has gained a surveillance tool that Joseph Stalin and Ernst Blofeld could only have dreamed about.

China already engages in espionage on an industrial scale. On January 14, the FBI announced that malware from Mustang Panda, a Chinese government-backed hacker group, had infected thousands of computers, stealing sensitive security information.

Last year, the FBI revealed that China had waged a campaign that could have been pulled from a Die Hard movie: Chinese operatives had infiltrated critical US infrastructure networks. If the US government had not disrupted the campaign, the hackers would have been able to cripple a wide range of systems, from drinking water to gas pipelines and air-traffic control. In chilling testimony before Congress, former FBI Director Christopher Wray, whom Trump appointed in his first term, said that "China's hackers are positioning on American infrastructure [...] to wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities, if or when China decides the time has come to strike."

While it is easy to scoff at some of China's more farcical attempts at spying, like the great balloon chase of 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping has been clear about his quest for hegemony through a "smokeless war." Given that, no one should consider the risk posed by TikTok a joke. While ByteDance, TikTok's parent company, tried to dispel security concerns by promising to store US users' data on third-party US servers, leaked recordings of internal company meetings revealed that the app's China-based engineers had repeatedly accessed everything from location data to browsing histories. When 39% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 – including military personnel and government employees – regularly get their news from TikTok, this becomes about more than dancing teenagers and makeup tips.

TikTok's algorithm doesn't just track Americans; it shapes US political discourse. Research from the Alliance for Securing Democracy found that the app often fails to correctly label content from state-controlled media, leading to a proliferation of Russian state propaganda on topics as crucial as the war in Ukraine. And TikTok's search algorithm has been found to display less anti-China content than other platforms for search terms such as "Tiananmen," "Tibet," and "Uyghur." During the recent Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza, TikTok was awash in pro-Hamas videos.

The US has a long and reasoned history of guarding against foreign ownership of major media outlets, going back to the Communications Act of 1934. And, of course, in earlier, cruder times, patriotic citizens would simply tar and feather foreign agents.

In light of today's economic and cultural realities, forcing ByteDance to sell TikTok to American owners is hardly the digital apocalypse that creators fear it would be. For starters, there are plenty of other platforms through which to reach audiences.

Creators can even post content in the same short-form video format. Instagram Reels can reach its two billion monthly active users, for example, and YouTube Shorts collectively receive more than 70 billion views per day. Digital creators, for their part, are far more resilient than many imagine. When Vine shut down in 2017, its creators didn't vanish; they evolved, successfully migrating to other platforms.

With Trump eager to forge a deal on TikTok, ByteDance is poised to receive high bids from US firms. I would not be surprised if TikTok fetched a price that tops the value of Spotify, at \$101 billion, and reaches the heights of Netflix and Disney, which are worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

The creator economy isn't built on a single Chinese app, but rather on Western innovation, from the iPhone to the internet itself. Cat videos and dance challenges will find new homes, just as they migrated from "America's Funniest Home Videos" on network television to YouTube to TikTok.

The choice isn't between creativity and security; it's between naivete and prudence. In an era when data are the new plutonium, that's no choice at all.

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# **Gov't Offices to Get Prepaid LEC Meters**

ast week, the head of the interim management team at the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Mr. Thomas Gonkerwon, disclosed I plans to start the installation of prepaid meters at all government ministries, commissions, bureaus, authorities, and agencies. This initiative aims to curb the waste and abuse of energy consumption in government offices, promoting greater fiscal responsibility.

As it stands, the cost of electricity in Liberia is around \$0.22 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), with some customer categories like "Social" potentially paying as low as \$0.15 per kWh; this represents a significant decrease from previous higher rates, with the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) implementing new tariffs to reduce costs for most consumers, according to authorities.

Thus, the primary objective of installing prepaid meters is to reduce the wastage and misuse of electricity in government premises. By making government entities accountable for their energy consumption, the initiative seeks to ensure that they pay for what they use, thereby fostering a culture of responsibility.

Over the years, many government offices have deliberately neglected to pay their outstanding electricity bills to LEC. This negligence has significantly contributed to LEC's poor management and growing indebtedness in relation to electricity consumption.

As of June 2024, Liberia's debt to the Electricity Company of Ivory Coast had ballooned to US\$19,691,647. A substantial portion of this debt stems from the unpaid electricity bills of various government ministries and agencies.

The current use of post-pay meters in government facilities has led to a continuous accumulation of unpaid electricity bills. Government officials have shown little interest in settling these debts, resulting in financial strain on LEC. This lack of accountability has perpetuated a cycle of debt and poor management at the electricity corporation.

A common issue among Liberian public officials is the belief that their public office entitles them to a life of luxury at the state's expense. They expect the government to provide for all their needs, including cars, generators, and residential accommodations. This mentality extends to their reluctance to pay for utilities, including electricity, as they perceive it to be the responsibility of the citizens to fund their extravagant lifestyles.

A cursory examination of the country's National Budget reveals that millions of United States Dollars are allocated annually for private generators, vehicles, and even homes for public officials.

Despite some officials residing in their private homes, they still collect allowances for rent from the government. This mindset leaves many public officials to live irresponsibly to the point that most cannot survive for three months outside of public offices.

However, when installed, the prepaid could reduce the outstanding debt owed by government ministries and agencies to LEC; promote responsible energy consumption in government offices, enhance LEC's financial stability by ensuring timely payments for electricity and shift the mindset of public officials towards greater fiscal responsibility.

Meanwhile, lest we forget, the move to install prepaid meters at government offices is a commendable step towards reducing waste and abuse of energy resources. It is important for the government to lead by example in promoting responsible energy consumption.

This initiative, if successfully enforced, will not only alleviate the financial burden on LEC but also instil a culture of accountability within government entities. Through this change, Liberia can move towards a more sustainable and efficient management of its energy resources.



## **Governments Need Uphold Democratic Governal**

frica is a continent on the eastern hemisphere, south of the Mediterranean and adjoining Asia on the North-east. Around the 18th century, Africa became the home of black people who returned from labouring on plantations in the Americas and Europe. It became heavily partitioned and colonized by powerful nations in search of mineral and other natural resources during what was referred to as the scramble for Africa. Despite all of these, the continent has over the years been plagued with series of armed conflicts that led to some of the World's worst atrocities ever recorded in human history. These occurrences are largely responsible for the backward situation in Africa today, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for the least developed part of the World. However, the underpinning factor that has been determined to be chiefly responsible for the retrogressing trend in Africa is the issue of bad or undemocratic governance within African States.

The term "sovereignty" has transitioned from an Anglo-French form of sovereignty to Middle English sovereignty. The word came into formal usage around the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The current nation or state sovereignty is often traced back to the Treaty of Westphalia (1648), which in relation to states, codified the basic principles of territorial integrity, border inviolability, and supremacy of the state. Sovereignty in modern sense exists and can be discussed in many forms and contexts, few of which are absoluteness, exclusivity, de jure, and de facto, non-state, amongst others. Sovereignty is usually exercised within borders where the rights of sitting governments are respected and not are not influenced by external authorities. The key elements of sovereignty in the legalistic sense is that of exclusivity of jurisdiction. Specifically, when a decision is made by a sovereign entity, it cannot generally be overruled by a higher authorityusually another state.

Historically, the international Community is led by some of the World's most powerful nations that treat sovereignty because of interest. For instance, powers that once colonized countries in Africa have continued to exercise, if not control, implicit guidance in the governance processes over their former colonies. Regime change, for example in many of these developing countries has been largely influenced by their former colonizers. The United Nations took a definite step in dealing with sovereignty and non-interference of states as contained in Article 2 of its Chapter stating in principle that nations are entitled to the exercise of their inalienable rights to self-determination and national independence. This enables states to decide freely on their own future to uphold the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

As a result of upholding the basic tenant of sovereignty wherein big and small nations can freely exercise their rights and decide their destiny, some individuals who come to power in Africa soon turn to be dictators, tyrants, and despots. They often abuse the rights of citizens in many forms and do everything to perpetuate themselves in power. For instance, Mabutu Sese Seko ruled the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, for a period of 30 years. He amassed huge wealth from the country's resources and diverted billions of dollars in his personal accounts abroad. He was removed from office by a military revolt led by Laurent Kabila. Kabila was in turn killed after a brief period in office and was replaced by his son Joseph Kabila.

Gnassingbe Eyadema became one of Africa's longest serving heads of state. He came to power through a military takeover. He manipulated all the electoral processes in his 38-year reign and exited the Presidency of Togo only at his death. His son took over from him and still rules the Republic of Togo. Muamar Gadhafi ruled the people of Libya for over four decades and sponsored some of the violent conflicts in Africa. Liberia is an example of one of those countries victimized by Gadhafi's sponsored rebel wars. Omar Bongo also spent 42 years as President of Gabon and his conscience would not caution him that he was holding onto the people's power for too long. That country is having a rough transition from the overthrow of his son that was leader on that country.

Liberia had its share of dictatorship under President William V.S. Tubman who ruled the country for 27 unbroken years. Out of that, Liberia has had its own bad experiences including the killing of President Tolbert and a 14-year Civil War. Robert Mugabe officially became Zimbabwe's President in 1980, apart from the eight years spent in what was known as the Liberation struggle with black nationalists of Zanu and Zapu against white rule in the former Rhodesia. He held onto power for so long in Zimbabwe. Paul Biya has been President of Cameroon for more than 26 years and had declared that he could continue holding on to power until otherwise. The constitution of Rwanda has been amended to accommodate a third term for President Paul Kigame

AS I SEE IT, the instances above are clear evidence that Africa has suffered and continues to suffer from dictatorships in the name of sovereignty. When will Africans realize that "power" the world over is all about-maintaining it, protecting it, and consolidating it in the best interest of the people-they will it-they (Africans) will elect the right leaders. Let's learn from these few instances and keep Africa save by upholding the true values of democracy. The suffering people of Africa need to benefit from the desired outcomes of peace and economic growth and development. Let those who have ears hear.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. serves as an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. He holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he specialized in International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.' This dissertation was supervised by Prof. Dr. Gorazd Justinek who was also then Dean of the Faculty of Government and European Studies. Dr. Tom Kaydor earned his second master's in public policy (MPP) specialized in Development Policy or Development Economics with Distinction from the Crawford School of Economics and Government (now the Crawford School of Public Policy), Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He obtained his first master's degree as a Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations (Highest Distinction), and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude in Political Science with emphasis in Comparative Government and Politics from the University of Liberia where his Minor was History with Mass Communication as his Elective. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University,





#### REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT **CODE:** MFDP/MCC/24/01/25

#### **EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT**

**POSITION** NATIONAL COORDINATOR **APPLICATION START DATE:** FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025 APPLICATION END DATE : FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

#### CONTEXT

The Government of Liberia (GoL) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) are embarking on a roughly three-year process to develop a five-year investment and policy program (Compact) to reduce poverty through economic growth. The NATIONAL COORDINATOR will lead these efforts, in close coordination with other members of the Liberia Compact Development Core Team and with the MCC Team in Washington, DC.

#### NATIONAL COORDINATOR

During the development of a compact program, each eligible country must mobilize significant financial and human resources, data and information, and critical inputs from its public sector, private sector and civil society. The National Coordinator leads these processes by managing the detailed day-to-day work of the specialized staff on the Compact Development Team and by engaging key stakeholders across government ministries and agencies, the business community and civil society organizations.

To be successful, a National Coordinator must be able to manage and respond to demands from multiple stakeholders, including politicians, business leaders and other influential segments of the public; coordinate multiple streams of complex tasks; delegate tasks without losing sight of details; communicate clearly and effectively; and inspire and motivate stakeholders and staff. A National Coordinator must be authorized to make decisions on compact-related matters and must have access to the highest levels of decision-makers within the Government in order to ensure compact development proceeds efficiently.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's or Doctorate Degree in management, business administration, public administration, finance, economics, law, communications or another relevant professional field.
- Ten (10) or more years of prior experience in senior management positions in a high-profile or strategic public sector or private entity.
- Demonstrated ability to manage a large institution, program or project with a staff of ten or more personnel and a budget of more than \$1 million annually.
- Outstanding leadership and organizational skills and the ability to work in large, multi-cultural teams. Ability to work well under the pressure of ambitious deadlines and high expectations.
- Prior experience in briefing high-level Government officials and supporting complex public-sector decision-making processes. Strong capacity to identify solutions to competing priorities.
- Significant prior experience working on economic development planning or the execution of economic development projects is strongly preferred. Experience working with international donor organizations and a combination of experience inside and outside Government also preferred.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

### **DESCRIPTION OF MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Coordinate closely with senior Government officials to understand and effectively represent Liberia's priorities in the development of a compact program.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for the exchange of critical operational information between the Government and MCC, to include developing a clear and complete understanding of MCC's compact development process, requirements, and investment criteria.
  - Manage the entire compact development process on behalf of the Government, to include guiding the initial analysis and assessment of economic development challenges; leading the identification of concept projects that will address those challenges, promote poverty alleviation and raise economic growth; coordinating the development and design of agreed projects that satisfy MCC's investment criteria and other requirements.
- Recruit well-qualified, specialized staff for a Compact Development Team and provide high-level executive leadership, management and coordination over its day-to-day work.
- Build, maintain and leverage effective relationships with key officials, offices, individuals and staff throughout the Government to ensure the dissemination of information, secure the commitment of all necessary information and resources, and motivate the timely completion of critical tasks.
- Report periodically to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and to the President of Liberia as may be appropriate to provide timely updates on the status of the compact development process, obtain high-level support and approval for key decisions, and identify and resolve issues.
- Actively engage important political stakeholders, private business leaders, civil society organizations and international donors throughout the compact development process, and otherwise serve as a visible public representative of the Government's compact development efforts.
- Plan and implement periodic visits by MCC personnel and senior officials.

#### **LEVEL OF EFFORT:**

The **National Coordinator** should be available on a fulltime basis throughout the compact development process, which generally lasts up to three years. The role is rigorous and demanding, and for that reason, the National Coordinator should not have significant competing responsibilities during this time.

### **COUNTERPART STAFF:**

The National Coordinator will work directly with MCC's Country Director (CD) for Liberia.

### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

All applications MUST be submitted via email mcc recruitment@mfdgov.lrby Friday, February 7, 2025, at 5:00pm GMT electronically ONLY.



#### REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



#### **VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT CODE:** MFDP/MCC/24/01/25

### EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

**POSITION SENIOR ECONOMIST** 

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025 APPLICATION START DATE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025 APPLICATION END DATE

#### CONTEXT

The Government of Liberia (GoL) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) are embarking on a roughly three-year process to develop a five-year investment and policy program (Compact) to reduce poverty through economic growth. The SENIOR **ECONOMIST** will help lead these efforts, in close coordination with other members of the Liberia Compact Development Core Team and with the MCC Team in Washington, DC.

#### **SENIOR ECONOMIST**

During the development of a compact program, each eligible country must assess its macro- and micro-economic environment to identify binding constraints to economic growth and their associated root causes, select projects that are likely to reduce poverty through economic growth, and identify the specific economic impacts and beneficiaries of each proposed project. The Senior Economist will support these efforts by gathering and assessing evidence on impacts of proposed projects, leading the development of the economic justification for selecting one or more proposed projects, and participating in the beneficiary analysis and economic rate of return calculation for agreed projects.

The **Senior Economist**vill also work closely with technical and monitoring and evaluation specialists to develop a results framework, define indicators, document existing baseline data for relevant indicators and project targets, and assess existing data quality

and data needs. Ultimately, the Senior Economist will be responsible for ensuring that each project in the compact program meets MCC's strict requirements for expected increases in economic growth and poverty reduction, with a particular emphasis on how proposed projects are likely to impact poor households and disadvantaged groups—including women—i.e., how projects will alleviate poverty through economic growth.

To be successful, the Senior Economist must be able to work collaboratively with interdisciplinary teams; lead and organize complex analytical exercises; gather, synthesize, and assess large amounts of data and information; reach conclusions in an environment of uncertainty and tight timelines; and communicate and write clearly and effectively.

#### **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Master's or doctoral degree in economics, public policy or administration, or a closelyrelated discipline.
- Five (5) or more years of experience in an economics or monitoring and evaluation position, preferably including work with international donors.
- Demonstrated ability to acquire, assess the quality of, and analyze data from local institutions such as government ministries and statistical agencies.
- Demonstrated ability to identify and analyze the factors determining or constraining economic growth, employment, firm investment and productivity and/or to analyze. and quantify the economic benefits of development projects in different sectors.
- Experience conducting economic research, cost-benefit analysis and beneficiary analysis is desirable
- Capacity to manage a variety of analytical tasks and demands with limited supervision and in a responsible and flexible manner, and to interact productively with government officials and other stakeholders.
- Demonstrated experience in Excel and in one or more of the following software packages for statistical analysis or database management, such as STATA, SPSS, R, SAS, CSPRO, or Access.

### **DESCRIPTION OF MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Work with MCC Economists and other staff to conduct growth diagnostics to identify the key constraints to economic growth in Liberia (and potentially, to growth of specific sectors), including accessing and working with government/ministry data and other data. Subsequently, work with MCC to carry out root cause analysis (through stakeholder focus groups and interviews) to understand the factors behind the constraints.
- Build an economic justification for any potential projects to address the constraints and their root causes, including a clear explanation of the ways in which projects will
  - funds and a clear explanation of the ways in which projects will impact economic growth, poverty, and regional trade. Contribute to the development of a detailed project logic (theory of change) for the proposed projects, working in close collaboration with other members of the MCC and

increase economic growth and reduce poverty. Provide a rationale for the use of public

- Compact Development Teams. Work with MCC Economists to conduct a detailed analysis of the economic impacts of any proposed projects, including assessing the likely economic costs and benefits associated with each, disaggregated by income level/poverty status, social group, and gender.
- In collaboration with the MCC Economists and other members of the MCC and Core Teams, gather all required data and evidence to develop a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) model for each proposed project. Based on the CBA model, articulate a rationale explaining how proposed projects will impact intended beneficiaries. In particular, provide quantitative estimates of how the benefits of proposed projects are likely to be distributed among various beneficiaries, particularly poor households and disadvantaged groups-including women. For all of these tasks, liaise with MCC Economists to ensure that methods and approaches used are consistent with best available evidence and local context.
- Lead the Compact Development Team in identifying key indicators to measure the expected outputs and outcomes of proposed projects. Document baselines and targets for the indicators, based on sector-specific evidence, work plans, the CBA model, and anticipated results.
- Review existing data sources, particularly administrative data collected by government entities, for potential monitoring and evaluation indicators to assess availability of data, quality of data, frequency of reporting, and levels of disaggregation. Assess the quality of existing data systems and prepare any necessary proposals for addressing data quality gaps.

### **COUNTERPART STAFF:**

The Senior Economist will work directly with MCC's Economics Analysis staff.

### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

applications All MUST be submitted email mcc\_recruitment@mfdgov.lrby Friday, February 7, 2025, a5:00pm GMT electionically ONLY.

www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Des sénateurs contestent la nomination de Boakai à la tête de la Banque Centrale

ont exprimé leur opposition à la nomination par le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai de M. Henry Saamoi en tant que gouverneur exécutif de la Banque Centrale du Liberia (BCL). Selon eux, cette décision est prématurée, le gouverneur exécutif

rois sénateurs libériens Jr. (comté de Nimba) ont remis en J'espère que cette proposition question la décision présidentielle lors d'une session du Sénat, le jeudi 23 janvier 2025. Cette session faisait suite à une communication du président Boakai sollicitant la confirmation de M. Saamoi au poste de gouverneur exécutif de la BCL et de M. James B. Wilfred en tant que gouverneur adjoint chargé des opérations.



suspendu, J. Aloysius Tarlue, n'ayant pas officiellement démissionné.

Une nomination controversée Les sénateurs J. Gbleh-bo Brown (comté de Maryland), Nathaniel McGill (comté de Margibi) et Nyan D. Twayen

Dans sa lettre, le chef de l'État a déclaré : « J'ai l'honneur de soumettre au Sénat les noms de M. Henry Saamoi en tant que gouverneur exécutif de la Banque Centrale du Liberia et de M. James B. Wilfred comme gouverneur adjoint chargé des opérations.

recevra une attention immédiate afin de rendre leurs fonctions pleinement opérationnelles. » Des préoccupations

procédurales

Malgré cette requête, le sénateur Nyan D. Twayen a proposé que la communication soit examinée uniquement après clarification de la situation concernant J. Aloysius Tarlue, suspendu de ses fonctions. « Je propose que cette communication soit transmise à la commission des banques et des finances, mais seulement après que le statut du gouverneur suspendu ait été pleinement clarifié », a-t-il déclaré.

Le sénateur J. Gbleh-bo Brown a, pour sa part, demandé le rejet pur et simple de la communication, estimant que les préoccupations du Sénat concernant la gestion de la BCL n'avaient pas encore été abordées. « Ce Sénat a des différends avec la Banque Centrale, et nous en sommes tous conscients. Je propose que cette communication ne soit pas envoyée à la commission tant

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

# le suis innocent » : Koffa réagit sa convocation par la police

Chambre des représentants, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, confronté à des accusations dans le cadre de l'enquête sur l'incendie du bâtiment du Capitole, a réaffirmé son innocence et appelé à une enquête impartiale.

Dans une déclaration publiée sur sa page Facebook officielle, quelques heures après que la Police nationale libérienne (LNP) l'a désigné, aux côtés d'autres législateurs, comme « personne d'intérêt », Cllr. Koffa a rejeté toute implication.

événement », a écrit le président. Il a également encouragé les autorités à solliciter l'assistance de partenaires internationaux pour garantir une enquête équitable et transparente.

Coopération avec l'enquête Actuellement à l'étranger, Cllr. Koffa a indiqué avoir toujours coopéré avec les autorités. « Je comprends qu'à travers une communication adressée au bloc majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants, la Police nationale libérienne m'a invité, ainsi que d'autres collègues, à contribuer à l'enquête sur cet incendie », a-t-il

précisé. Il a toutefois exprimé des réserves quant à la méthode employée par la police, en insistant sur sa collaboration

constante depuis l'incident. «

e président de la Depuis cet événement malheureux, j'ai assuré la pleine coopération de toutes les personnes sous ma supervision », a-t-il souligné, tout en critiquant la décision de le convoquer via le bloc majoritaire de la Chambre.

> Outre Cllr. Koffa, les représentants Saah Foko, Abu B. Kamara, Priscilla A. Cooper, J. Malvin Cole et Jacob Debee, tous membres du bloc minoritaire, ont également été convoqués par la police.

> Un incendie aux implications politiques

L'incendie, qui a ravagé la Rotonde du Capitole – siège des Chambres conjointes de la législature libérienne « Je tiens à réitérer que je suis et — le 18 décembre 2024, survient dans demeure absolument innocent un contexte de tensions politiques de toute implication dans cet persistantes entre le bloc majoritaire dirigé par le représentant Richard N. Koon et le bloc minoritaire mené par Cllr. Koffa.

Dans une lettre datée du 21 janvier 2025, adressée à Richard N. Koon, chef du bloc majoritaire, l'inspecteur général de la police, le colonel Gregory Coleman, a souligné l'importance de l'audition des membres du bloc minoritaire pour faire la lumière sur cet incident.

« Compte tenu de la nature sensible de cette enquête et de l'importance de la transparence, nous avons identifié certains membres de votre Chambre des représentants comme des personnes d'intérêt. Nous les convoquons pour un interrogatoire », a écrit le colonel Coleman.

Il a également réaffirmé l'engagement de la police à mener une enquête professionnelle tout en respectant les droits



# 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 responsible 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 responsible 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 responsible d'une opération chirurgicale incorrecte sur une patiente, Karen Gaydou Sehkehporh, 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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**JANUARY 27** 

que ces questions ne seront pas résolues », a-t-il affirmé.

Une demande de transparence

Le sénateur Nathaniel McGill a également soulevé des questions concernant la durée des mandats des candidats proposés. « Les postes à la BCL sont soumis à des mandats spécifiques. Or, la communication du président n'a pas précisé la durée prévue pour chacun des candidats. Il est important que cette information soit communiquée avant d'aller plus loin », a-t-il souligné.

Une voie de compromis

Pour apaiser les tensions, la présidente par intérim

du Sénat, Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence, a suggéré une approche plus conciliante. Selon elle, la communication ne doit pas être rejetée, mais transmise à la commission compétente pour examen approfondi. « La bonne démarche consiste à accepter la communication, tout en formulant des demandes précises sur les questions en suspens. La commission devra ensuite soumettre un rapport, qui sera débattu et voté par le Sénat », a-t-elle expliqué.

Cette proposition vise à trouver un équilibre entre les préoccupations des législateurs et la nécessité d'assurer le bon fonctionnement de la Banque Centrale.

## Starts from page 8 Je suis innocent »: Koffa réagit à sa convocation par la police

individus concernés. « La coopération de la Chambre des représentants est essentielle pour prévenir de futurs incidents similaires », a-t-il ajouté.

Un acte criminel confirmé

Lors d'une conférence de presse, le colonel Coleman a confirmé que l'incendie était le résultat d'un acte criminel. L'enquête, menée conjointement avec les pompiers et des experts, a exclu toute hypothèse d'origine électrique.

Le chef des pompiers a expliqué que la nature des flammes, la densité de la fumée et les mouvements du feu pointent vers une attaque volontaire. Des preuves matérielles, notamment un contenant de substance inflammable retrouvé sur les lieux, soutiennent cette conclusion. Intervention d'experts internationaux

Le colonel Coleman a annoncé que des experts internationaux ont été appelés en renfort pour analyser les preuves collectées et confirmer les conclusions préliminaires. « Le site de l'incendie reste intact et préservé pour permettre un examen approfondi », a-t-il assuré. Enfin, le colonel Coleman a averti que toute personne impliquée dans cet acte serait poursuivie. « Ceux qui sont responsables savent ce qu'ils ont fait. Nous leur demandons de se rendre volontairement, faute de quoi nous prendrons des mesures pour les arrêter. Aucune forme d'impunité ne sera tolérée », a-t-il conclu. (Article rédigé par Othello B. Garblah)

# Une délégation égyptienne d'aquaculture entame une tournée stratégique au Liberia

spécifiques du Liberia en aquacole. matière d'aquaculture et de jeter Mme Glassco a salué essentiel.

membre de l'Agence aquacole du Liberia. le développement des des solutions adaptées pour ressources halieutiques, ainsi que le Dr Dawlat Ali Hassanin Mohamadin, vétérinaire de la même agence.

Selon un communiqué publié par l'Agence nationale des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Liberia (NaFAA), les experts égyptiens visiteront notamment le réservoir des Bong Mines, le lac Piso, les plaines de Gbedin et de Foyah, ainsi que d'autres sites aquacoles potentiels.

Lors de la cérémonie d'accueil

onrovia, Liberia - organisée jeudi au siège de la Une délégation de NaFAA, sur l'île de Bushrod, la h a u t n i v e a u directrice générale de l'agence, composée de trois experts l'honorable Emma Metieh égyptiens en aquaculture Glassco, a indiqué que cette entamera, ce vendredi 24 visite vise à recueillir des janvier 2025, une tournée informations essentielles sur stratégique des principales l'état actuel de l'aquaculture au installations aquacoles situées Liberia. Elle a précisé que ces dans les comtés de Grand Cape données serviront à élaborer Mount, Bomi, Montserrado, une stratégie nationale Lofa, et d'autres régions. Cette ambitieuse visant à garantir la mission a pour objectif sécurité alimentaire tout en d'évaluer les besoins transformant le secteur

les bases d'une stratégie l'engagement de l'Égypte dans nationale de développement cette initiative, qu'elle durable pour ce secteur considère comme une étape cruciale pour renforcer les Dirigée par le Dr Ahmed relations bilatérales et stimuler Saneveldin Mohammed Sadek, le développement agricole et

égyptienne pour la protection et De son côté, le chef de la le développement des délégation égyptienne, le Dr ressources des lacs et des Ahmed Saneyeldin pêcheries, la délégation Mohammed Sadek, a réaffirmé comprend également l'engagement du gouvernement l'ingénieur Hany Mohammed égyptien à respecter les termes Mabrouk Ibrahim, directeur du protocole d'accord signé en général des ressources 2024. Il a assuré que cette halieutiques de l'Autorité pour mission permettra d'identifier

moderniser le secteur aquacole du Liberia et renforcer sa productivité.

Dans sa présentation, le Dr Sadek a détaillé les axes prioritaires de la mission, qui incluent l'évaluation de la qualité de l'eau, l'état des écloseries et des fermes aquacoles, ainsi que la gestion des infrastructures existantes. Parmi les objectifs figurent également l'amélioration des installations, le renforcement des compétences des travailleurs, la sélection des espèces de poissons les mieux adaptées et l'identification de nouveaux sites pour des projets aquacoles.

Le Dr Sadek a également précisé que la mission adoptera une approche méthodologique rigoureuse, comprenant des visites de terrain sur les principaux sites aquacoles, des consultations avec les parties prenantes et l'analyse d'échantillons d'eau à l'aide d'outils de mesure spécialisés.

Grâce à cette collaboration, le Liberia espère tirer parti de l'expertise égyptienne pour moderniser son secteur aquacole, assurer une production durable et renforcer sa sécurité alimentaire nationale.



## La Chambre des Représentants convoque la LTA, le MoPT et les opérateurs GSM

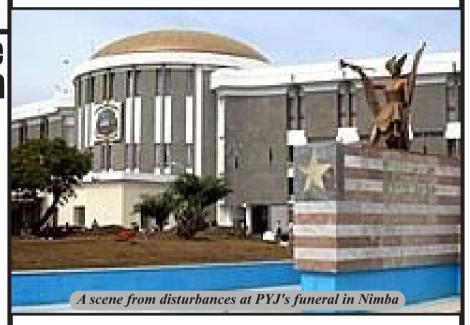
a Chambre des Représentants du Liberia a convoqué l'Autorité des Télécommunications (LTA), le ministère des Postes et ✓ Télécommunications (MoPT), ainsi que les opérateurs GSM, Lonestar Cell MTN et Orange Liberia, à comparaître devant le Parlement le mardi 28 janvier 2025. Cette initiative fait suite à des problèmes récurrents de réseau affectant la région du sud-est du pays. Les députés Anthony Williams (District 2 du comté de Maryland) et Austin Taylor (District 3) ont soumis une communication conjointe soulignant l'impact majeur de l'instabilité des services de

Dans leur lettre adressée à la Plénière, les parlementaires ont qualifié cette situation de « préoccupation urgente ». Ils ont expliqué que les pannes de réseau perturbent non seulement la vie quotidienne, mais aussi les activités économiques locales, engendrant des pertes financières pour les commerçants et les petites entreprises qui dépendent de la communication pour leurs transactions, y compris les services de transfert d'argent mobile.

télécommunications sur les citoyens et les entreprises locales.

« La région du sud-est connaît des problèmes de réseau constants qui affectent gravement la vie de nos concitoyens », a déclaré le député Williams. Il a précisé que cette défaillance a des répercussions sur l'accès aux services essentiels et complique les communications pour les habitants de cette région.

Les deux députés ont insisté sur la nécessité d'obtenir des clarifications techniques de la part de la LTA et des opérateurs



mobiles. « Étant donné la gravité de la situation, il est impératif que nous comprenions les causes sous-jacentes de ces problèmes et les mesures envisagées pour les résoudre », ont-ils précisé.

Les parlementaires demandent à la LTA, à Lonestar Cell MTN et à Orange Liberia de fournir des explications détaillées sur les problèmes techniques identifiés et de proposer des solutions concrètes pour résoudre les défis liés au réseau dans le sud-est du Liberia. Ils ont également souligné l'urgence d'une intervention pour soulager les résidents de la région.

Cette convocation met en lumière les frustrations croissantes des citoyens et des entreprises face à la qualité insuffisante des services de télécommunications, notamment dans les zones rurales du pays. Elle accroît également la pression sur la LTA, en tant qu'autorité de régulation, pour garantir la fourniture de services de



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## **MORE HEADLINE**

## Chamber Justice rejects Ecobank's request to halt US\$700K libel case

Ecobank and other defendants are in court because a former government official is seeking compensation of US\$700,000 for damages incurred.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, January 27, platform. US\$700,000 libel case.

Gbeisay to review and if Information Coordination. against granting Alex Williams, enumerators in 2022. a co-defendant, separate trial.

and Geo-Information Services channels. (LISGIS).

Gbeisay gave instructions to Account at Ecobank. Judge Dunbar to resume jurisdiction over the case.

"By directive of His Honor Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay, Associate Justice presiding in Chamber, you are hereby mandated to resume jurisdiction and proceed in keeping with the law, as the justice has declined to issue the writ prayed for," a communication from the Chamber Justice said.

Williams, Yussif Kromah, an employee of Ecobank, and the bank are being tried for allegedly colluding to share LISGIS's account statements with the

Justice Yarmie Quiqui Spoon TV and social media then incurred. Gbeisay has rejected Ecobank misrepresented the information But the bank argued that on Smith, former LISGIS Deputy case was called, Williams' The bank had urged Justice Director General for lawyers requested for separate

rejection of its (bank's) request funds intended for census due process.

Williams is a former Deputy dismissal by former President bank argued that on January 15, Director General for Statistics George Manneh Weah due to the and Data Processing at the misinformation spread by the lawyers representing co-Liberia Institute for Statistics defendants through social media defendant Alex Williams

Before the opening of the Census The lawyers allegedly said he In a one-page decision dated account, Smith was one of the was not aware of the case Friday, January 24, Justice signatories to the LISGIS

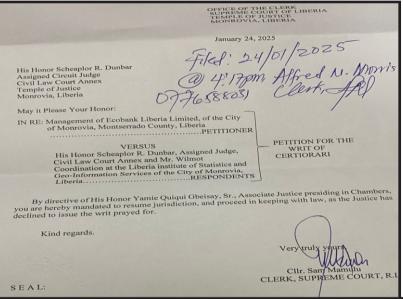
He is now seeking financial compensation of US\$500,000 in Spoon TV and social media general damages and US\$200,000 in punitive 2025: Chamber The complaint alleged that damages, for the damages

Court Judge Scheaplor Dunbar's unauthorized withdrawal of noted that he was not accorded

2025, at the call of the case, the appeared in court.

because he was not served any document for the hearing.

After Judge Dunbar granted



# India's ITEC Porgram Empowers Liberian Nurses

A special capacity development program exclusively for a batch of 27 Liberian Nurses is set to take place at renowned Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

Ministry of Health of Liberia led the education, and management etc. between India and Liberia.

PGIMER, Chandigarh. The training Ambassador said. aims to equip Liberian healthcare The Ambassador also called your communities," he added. professionals with advanced skills attention to the underutilization of and global best practices to enhance the country's healthcare sector.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Teyah Moore, Assistant Minister for Curative Services, Ministry of Health, expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its consistent support in capacity building.

The recently arrived Indian Ambassador Manoj Bihari Verma, while addressing the participants, highlighted the importance of the

Minister for Curative Services, healthcare, IT, agriculture, available.

Liberian nurses during the event. "This special course for Liberian predominantly female cohort was The event, held in Monrovia, nurses reflects India's commitment also highlighted. The Ambassador marked a historic step in to fostering global partnerships compared their upcoming journey to strengthening healthcare ties through capacity-building the legacy of India's all-women The group of 27 nurses, learning, collaboration, and sharing United Nations Mission in Liberia predominantly women, will soon best practices. I urge all of you to (UNMIL), which served with travel to Chandigarh, India, to make the most of this opportunity distinction from 2007 to 2016. "The participate in a specialized capacity- and spread the word about the wide bravery and compassion of these building program on "Nursing range of available training peacekeepers inspired Liberia, and I Leadership and Management" at opportunities under ITEC," the see the same potential in all of you to

onrovia, January 27, ITEC program, a flagship initiative ITEC slots by Liberia, noting that 2025/ The Embassy of of the Indian Ministry of External only 200 out of 712 offered slots LIndia in Liberia hosted Affairs. Established in 1964, the have been utilized so far. He urged the participating nurses for a pre- program has trained over 200,000 greater participation, emphasizing departure orientation on 24 January professionals from more than 160 the simplicity of the application 2025. Dr. Teyah Moore, Assistant countries in fields such as process and the variety of programs

> The symbolic significance of the initiatives. ITEC is a platform for Formed Police Unit (FPU) under the lead and bring positive change to



## **LRA celebrates 73rd International Customs Day**

By Bridgett Milton

he Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) celebrated its 73rd International Customs Day on Friday, January 24, 2025, with a focus on strengthening Liberia's last-minute bid to halt a publicly, implicating Wilmot Monday, January 20, when the national security, enhancing customs efficiency, and promoting economic growth.

The event, held under the theme, possible, overturn Civil Law Smith was accused of an The bank said Williams' lawyer "Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity,' highlighted the agency's ongoing practices and trade security. Smith had claimed wrongful Williams a separate trial, the efforts to modernize customs services, secure borders, and bolster Liberia's position in global trade.

Speaking at the program, Saah Saamoi, Commissioner of the Department of Customs at the LRA, outlined the agency's significant strides in modernizing Liberia's customs operations.

He emphasized that the digital transformation of customs procedures is a vital step in improving efficiency and ensuring a smooth experience for both the public and private sectors.

'We are committed to creating a more efficient and transparent customs system. Our digital transformation will streamline processes, reduce delays, and enhance revenue collection while minimizing corruption risks."

He added that automation is not only essential for speeding up trade but also for improving transparency, which will make Liberia more attractive to foreign investors and improve the country's competitive edge.

According to Saamoi, these reforms contribute directly to national security by creating a more secure framework for trade.

"Customs plays a fundamental role in securing our nation and promoting the well-being of our citizens. It is vital not only for tax collection but for ensuring the safety and prosperity of our future", he

Gaye praised the LRA's leadership in spearheading customs reforms within ECOWAS and noted that Liberia's collaboration with neighboring countries, such as Sierra Leone and The Gambia, has improved regional customs

He expressed pride in Liberia's leadership in shaping a more secure environment for trade in West Africa.

'We must continue to strengthen our regional partnerships to reduce cross-border crime and improve trade relations. Liberia is taking the lead in making customs services more efficient and secure, and that is a positive step for all of us."

For his part, LRA Commissioner General, James Dorbor Jallah, outlined the importance of training customs officers to enhance border security. He noted the Customs Security Program (CSP) is very instrumental in equipping officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to address emerging security threats at Liberia's borders.

"Training our officers is crucial for securing our borders. Over 80% of our officers have received training, and we will continue to invest in specialized courses to ensure they are prepared to confront new security challenges."

Jallah highlighted the importance of these training programs in preventing illegal activities such as smuggling and human trafficking. He assured the public that the LRA would continue to prioritize border



collection; it is also about ensuring mission to ensure Liberia's safety in the security of our borders. As we a globalized world. improve our customs operations, we "As we modernize customs, we are safe and secure nation."

Grand Gedeh County, who served as that come our way". guest speaker, underscored the The ceremony also included a national prosperity and security.

essential for enhancing trade borders. security and fostering economic

'Customs is not just about revenue security as part of its broader

also ensure that Liberia remains a also ensuring that Liberia's borders are well-protected. Our officers are Former Senator Alphonso Gaye of ready to tackle any security threats

critical role of customs in ensuring tribute to eight LRA officers, who lost their lives while serving the He emphasized that Liberia's nation. Their sacrifice was honored regional partnerships, particularly as a reminder of the challenges and within the Economic Community of risks faced by customs officers in West African States (ECOWAS), are ensuring the security of Liberia's

President Boakai addresses the 55th Legislature today on the state of the nation following his first one year in office, as Liberians brace themselves to hear what is in the speech.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, January 27, 2025 -President Joseph Nyuma Boakai delivers his second Annual Message (State of

Boakai's speech to give the public a feel of what to expect in this second Annual Message that covers 12 months unlike his first address that came just one week after his inauguration.

2025

The speech today is expected to



the Nation) today before members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature on the grounds of the Capitol, marking his first year since coming to power on January 22,

Article 58 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia states: "The President shall, on the fourth working Monday in January of each year, present the Administration's legislative programs for the ensuing session, and shall once a year report to the Legislature on the state of the Republic. In presenting the economic condition of the Republic, the report shall cover expenditure as well as income".

Liberians across the country and abroad are gearing up to glue to their radio and television sets, including online platforms to hear what the President is going to say few hours from now this afternoon at about 3:00pm as he presents his legislative agenda for 2025, covering income and expenditure amid huge expectations and demand for tangible deliverables from a government that campaigned and won election with a promise to rescue the country from economic, governance, social and infrastructural deficit.

The NEW DAWN has been foreshadowing President

drill Liberians from the government's Rescue Agenda to practical development activities, focusing on the economy with priority on roads, agriculture, health, education and youth empowerment thru skill training.

President Boakai is also expected to look at the mines and energy sector, a very key pillar that upholds the economy, but has been faced with lack of proper supervision and corruption, robbing government of needed resources.

The President's address is as well expected to highlight oil and gas, as Liberia explores its potential in this area that could jump-start the economy in a significant way and spur growth.

Other thematic areas that might be captured in today's speech is telecommunications that hold a good prospect for the economy particularly mobile communication, social media and digital money transfer and other business transactions.

The government is focus on land accessibility, utilization, and ownership, and inheritance right, as well as decentralization of governance.

President Boakai is keen on restoring Liberia's image on the global stage, as his government concertedly leads a sustained campaign at the United Nations for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council.

Though he did not win election then, but Mr. Boakai campaigned some seven years ago in 2017 with a platform on roads, roads and roads, very infrastructure that he is personally passionate about and holds very dearly to his heart so much so that months after he eventually won the Presidency this time around in 2023, and took office, he embarked on negotiation with partners outside for nearly 285 yellow machines to embark on road construction.

But the entire exercise was heavily politicized and thwarted by the Legislature based on procedural errors. Notwithstanding, the administration still places roads on top of its development agenda and had announced plan to embark on construction of a coastal highway to connect counties in southeast, Liberia.

President Boakai recently launched a 5-year National Development Plan here, tagged: the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) and the County Development Agendas (CDAs).

The Agenda is a national development policy formulated in May 2024 through comprehensive consultations across all 136 administrative districts, 15 counties, and 11 budget sectors. It was developed in collaboration with stakeholders to align with regional and continental development goals.

The US\$8.4 billion Implementation Plan focuses on six major pillars namely; agribusiness, roads and infrastructure, rule of law and governance, education and human capital, sanitation, and tourism. It is scheduled to run from 2025 to 2029.

Speaking during the launch on January 15, 2025, in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, President Boakai revealed that the AAID was built upon lessons learned and accomplishments of previous initiatives, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Agenda for Transformation, and the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, drawn from two successive administrations.

Mr. Boakai describes the AAID as a roadmap to help elevate Liberia from its current challenges and guide it towards becoming a lowermiddle-income country. By

Jonathan Browne

## from back page

used to call you, I'm sorry for hours, after he was admitted to cause of death to a mal taking you to Catholic hospital. I treat a swollen hydro cele functioning anesthesia machine. didn't see this coming; please condition. forgive me my son.

I did not treat you the right way. I the main Logan Town street, did not allow you to play baby on chanting songs and slogans, as me; maybe I was too harsh on you the casket was moved from JFK Tayeah laments in tears.

while calling Justice in his death. interred in a family cemetery at procedure and without license." The late Isaiah Benedicto Cooper Farm, Fendall Williams, a candidate for Community, Montserrado NGOY-MULUME Thadee, who enrolment at Lay Adventists County, after medical should have performed the University of Kigali, Rwanda, investigation by the Liberia surgery was fined US\$, 1500 for died on January 3, 2025 in the Medical and Dental Council practicing medicines in the operation theater of the St. found the hospital liable for his country without a valid license. Joseph's Catholic Hospital - 24 death. The LMDC attributed the

I know you are hurt. I'm sorry that and other mourners trooped on

for the funeral service.

Liberia Medical Board through its Family, friends, sympathizers head, Dr. Benetta Collins Andrew, said "With all our investigation, it was revealed that anesthesia machine set up was not up to standard. In fact, they were not for your education, but I needed Medical Hospital morgue in working and as a Council we hold the best from you," Madam Sinkor, Monrovia to the Church the hospital liable and fined them US\$30,000 for allowing surgical She recounts her love for her son, The deceased was finally work without a standard Congolese Pediatric, Doctor

# hina assures implementation of FOCAC & ARREST Agenda

The Government of Liberia has extolled the People's Republic of China for committing to support its ARREST Agenda.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, January 27, 2025: The People's Republic of China has assured support for the implementation of the Government of Liberia's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development and the County Development Agenda (CDA).

The commitment came when the Chinese Embassy near Monrovia held a dinner reception on Friday, January 24, 2025, to celebrate the Spring Festival of the Chinese New Year.

During the celebration held in Congo Town, China also assured full implementation of the outcomes of the Forum on China Africa Corporation Summit (FOCAC).

The Spring Festival is the most important traditional festival for the Chinese people. It not only symbolizes reunion and joy but also carries the love and longing that every Chinese person has for their family and motherland.

However, last December, "Spring Festival, Social Practices of the Chinese People in Celebration of the Traditional New Year" was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

The program was graced by the First Lady of Liberia, Madam Katumu Yarta Boakai, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Sylvester M. Grigsby, President Pro-Temp Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, and scores of government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

At the well-attended Chinese program, the Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Mr. Yin Chengwu, said China will continue to work together with Liberia to open up a brighter future for China-Liberia relations.

Amb. Yin disclosed that over the past year, the China-Liberia relations have developed at a high level, and Liberia has taken new steps in national development.

"We are willing to work with Liberia in line with the President, Xi Jinping's six propositions on

modernization and ten partnership actions," Amb. Yin

According to him, they will continue to support each other's core interests and major concerns, enhancing coordination and cooperation in international affairs.

He assured Liberia that China will actively promote China-Liberia's practical cooperation to yield more fruitful results and continuously promote China-Liberia's strategic partnership to a new level.

The Chinese envoy lamented that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Liberia relations have become more mature and resilient.

He cited more active exchanges at all levels, more fruitful results in practical cooperation, and more people-to-people exchange. At the same time, he noted that they have witnessed many exciting changes in Liberia with more shops being built, more roads have been improved, more projects have been implemented, more people have been settled, and more children have returned

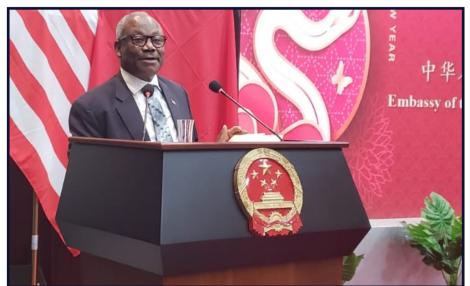
"I'm pleased to see that Liberia is changing for the better. I witnessed the tremendous efforts made by the Liberian people in their pursuit of a better life."

"I witnessed the relentless efforts of the Liberian government to drive social development. We should give them a warm round of applause," he noted.

On behalf of the Liberian government, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Sylvester M. Grigsby extolled the People's Republic of China for committing to support the Government of Liberia's ARREST Agenda.

He described China as a strategic partner that believes in shared cooperation and mutual benefits and trust.

Minister Grigsby added that Liberia is grateful to reactivate its diplomatic relations between both countries.





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# Benedicto Williams finally laid to rest

By Wise Wesseh

he late Student Isaiah Benedicto Williams, whose life was cut short as a result of failed anesthesia machine at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital has been laid to rest.

Dozens of relatives, friends and sympathizers filled with

His nephew, Konah Williams, preached the funeral paid tribute, remembering the discourse, said the late 21-year-old deceased for his Isaiah's admiration for God commitment to Education and has placed him in the bosom service to God.

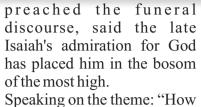
Konah further described the late Speaking on the theme: "How Williams as an academician, and a potential brain surgeon whose dream and aspirations were abruptly cut off thru

when the time comes.

2024," he recalled.

In an emotional tribute for her

"My darling boy, as I always



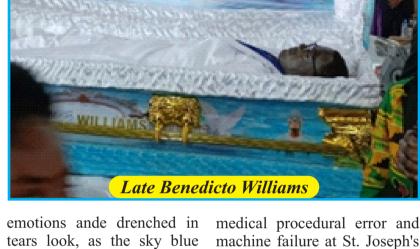
Prepare you are for Death" with text taking from St. John 5: 24, Pastor Freeman stressed that death is part of life, but a Christian should be prepared

"Our Son Isaiah is lying here in the hands of God, and we will all miss him, because he has left us in tears, but he is in heaven with joy. But how prepare are we to meet him?" He asked.

"I know Isaiah is in the bosom of the Lord because in his last days on earth, he devoted his time to Christ, and I wonder why God will even take his life, when this boy has only got baptized in December

son, the mother of the deceased Madam Veronica Bendu Tayeah, broke down in sorrows, as she mourned the loss of a dear son she described as darling of her





casket carrying remains of the late Benedicto Williams was being slowly taken into the church for funeral rite.

The funeral ceremony was held at Christ Redemption Ministeries International in Gbandi Community, Logan Town on Bushord Island.

machine failure at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia. Reading the deceased's Life Sketch, Konah, said the late Williams was an affectionate person, who loved people and took Education as one of his prime pillars in life.

Pastor Varney K. Freeman, who



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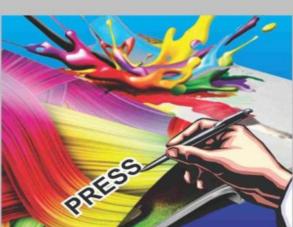
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