



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

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR **BUYING SELLING** DATE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2025 L\$197.7585/US\$1.00 L\$196.0379/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.

French Version Inside

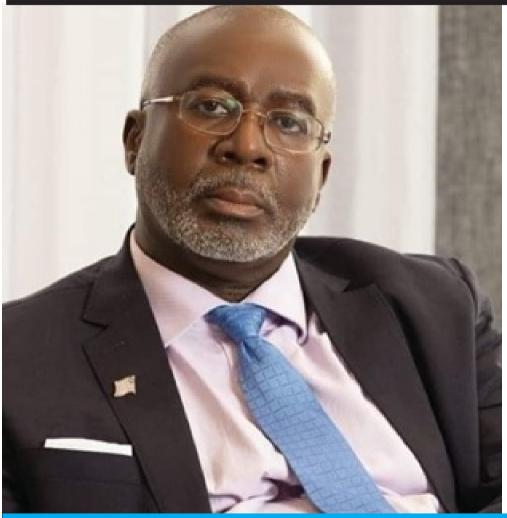
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VOL. 15 NO. 008

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2025

PRICE LD\$50.00



-Embattle Speaker Koffa replies House

Bar's new president expresses rear



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Paris protest calls for

ver the weekend, and many people have suffered

n e a r l y 1, 5 0 0 because of it. And today, what we are

demonstrators took to asking from the international

the streets of Paris in a community is for them to impose

powerful show of solidarity strong sanctions on Paul Kagame's



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Shelling at busy Sudanese market 'fills mortuary with bodies'

FEBRUARY 03

near Sudan's capital has filled a mortuary with bodies, medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) says.

MSF and the Sudanese authorities said the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were responsible for Saturday's attack in the city of Omdurman, which killed and injured more than 100 people - a claim the RSF has denied.

The majority of those killed at the market were women and children, the Sudanese Doctors' Union says.

helling at a busy market The RSF and Sudan's army have agency that Saturday's artillery been locked in a civil war that, over 22 months, has killed tens of thousands and sparked what the UN describes as one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters.

A simple guide to what is happening in Sudan

In the past few weeks, the army has stepped up its offensive in Omdurman, which lies across the River Nile from capital city, Khartoum, aiming to regain complete control from the RSF.

Eyewitnesses told the AFP news

shelling had come from western Omdurman, where the RSF remains in control.

Saturday's explosion caused "utter carnage" at the nearby Al Nao hospital, which was overwhelmed with injured patients, MSF general secretary Chris Lockyear said.

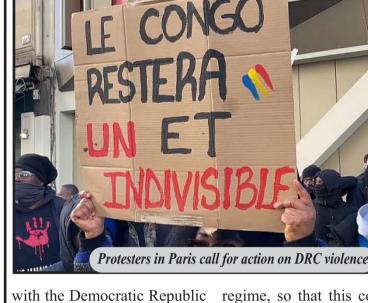
The Sudanese Doctors' Union appealed for nearby medics to assist at the hospital, saying there was an "acute shortage of medical staff".

It added that one shell had fallen "metres away" from the hospital on Saturday.

One survivor of the market attack told the AFP news agency: "The shells hit in the middle of the vegetable market, that's why the victims and the wounded are so many."

Both sides have been accused of targeting civilians, including health workers, and indiscriminate shelling of residential areas.

The recent skirmishes have forced emergency response rooms to shut several health centres, affecting the provision of medical services to thousands



with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), demanding an end to the violence ravaging the eastern part of the country. The march, organised by the group 'Urgence Pona Mboka,' was a call for international intervention and a push to hold accountable those fuelling the ongoing conflict.

The protesters, many waving Congolese flags and holding signs with messages such as "Stop the War," "Our Wealth, Our Right," and "Justice for the DRC," voiced their frustration over the violence and the lack of meaningful international support for the DRC in the escalating conflict. Gilcy, a protester, expressed the anger and determination felt by many:

"Today, we are gathered because we are fed up with everything happening in the east of the DRC. This conflict has been ongoing for 30 years, regime, so that this conflict in the east can finally be stopped once and for all."

Protesters called for a stronger response from world powers to take more decisive action.

One of the event organisers from 'Urgence Pona Mboka,' also addressed the crowd, stressing the importance of solidarity and perseverance:

"I'm here as one of the organisers of this protest. A protest to show that Congolese people are standing up. We must not be discouraged, we must not be intimidated. The international community, with France at the forefront, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the United States of America—this is what we call the international community, and they are still against us. And today, we've said—no, we've said no, and we are showing it."

With the eastern DRC still plagued by conflict, the protesters are calling on the international community to act before it's too late.



Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit: Driving Energy Access Across Africa

elphos has taken on a Turtelboom, CEO of Delphos, expand clean energy and boost significantly expanding electricity Africa." access across Africa. Announced on This announcement coincided with Renewable energy and underserved regions in Nigeria, expanded partnerships. Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Key outcomes included the Dar es demonstrate how public and private expand across Sub-Saharan Africa. Why Delphos?

expertise in securing funding for multilaterals and development finance institutions (DFIs). With 37 years of experience, the firm has built a reputation for delivering innovative financial solutions to unlock critical capital for impactful development projects. This expertise made Delphos the ideal advisor for PowerGen's transformative energy initiative.

Aaron Cheng, CEO of PowerGen, remarked, "We are excited to partner with leading impact investors on this transformational transaction to scale renewable energy across Africa." Bart

pivotal role as a strategic added, "This project exemplifies economic growth. Since its 2024 advisor to PowerGen our commitment to achieving launch, Mission 300 has provided Renewable Energy, guiding the universal access to clean energy by establishment of an innovative 2030, accelerating electrification, renewable energy platform aimed at and fostering sustainable growth in

January 20, 2025, the initiative is the Mission 300 Africa Energy backed by leading international Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, impact investors such as InfraCo, where African leaders, global IFU, EDFI, AfDB's SEFA, and partners, and private stakeholders PIDG, the first phase of the convened to address the continent's transaction has already secured energy access gap. The summit, critical funding. This capital will held from January 27-28, 2025, drive the deployment of 120 MW of aims to electrify 300 million minerals were recognized as vital renewable energy solutions, Africans by 2030 through bold for driving clean energy transitions, including battery storage, targeting reforms, innovative financing, and while partnerships like that of

Republic of Congo, with plans to Salaam Energy Declaration, efforts can align to achieve outlining policy commitments, and sustainable, low-carbon energy National Energy Compacts from 12 solutions. Delphos brings unparalleled pilot countries, setting targets to

electricity to 12 million people and plans to reach 250 million across its pilot nations, underscoring the urgency of Africa's energy needs.

technological innovations were emphasized, with plans to increase renewable power in national grids, promote regional energy trade, and expand distributed renewable energy systems. Africa's abundant natural resources and critical Delphos and PowerGen





By Ma Jun

EDITORIAL

The Bar's fear should draw our concern

he Liberian National Bar Association alarms here that recent events in the country pose threats to Liberia's constitutional democracy. The Bar expresses fear over alleged violations of fundamental rights, questionable Executive actions and disregard for judicial decision, including Legislative overreach, which it warns, undermine the very fabric of our democracy.

The LNBA promises to continue to engage with policymakers to ensure that the Constitution of Liberia is upheld and that legal reforms reflect aspirations of the Liberian people.

The newly inducted President of the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, says the LNBA operates under statutory guidelines that subject its regulatory, disciplinary, and administrative functions to external influences. However, he notes that to effectively fulfill its mandate, they want autonomous status that would grant the Bar greater control.

"The LNBA should have authority to set and enforce ethical standards, improve licensing requirements, and disciplinary actions for legal practitioners without undue interference. As a body committed to justice, the LNBA must have the institutional independence to challenge unconstitutional actions, advocate for judicial reforms, and engage in public interest litigation without fear of political influence", Cllr. Varmah underscores.

His call followed recent legal interpretations, misinterpretation, and in some instances, ambiguity that surrounded the removal of House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, and brought the Supreme Court of Liberia to public scrutiny and criticism regarding procedures enshrined in the Constitution on removal of the Speaker.

But unfortunately, the High Court left its opinion on the matter hanging, a situation which the Executive branch of the government took advantage of and provided its own interpretation in support of the replacement of the Speaker outside of established rules.

As the Bar points put, the public must never be left in doubt whenever the Supreme Court reviews and brings finality to any subject matter because it is the only branch of government that is mandated by the Constitution to ensure serenity and stability in the democratic system, through its judicial review and interpretation of the laws of Liberia.

We totally agree with Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, the new president of the Bar, for this is where the Supreme Court left the entire country in doubt about legal ramifications concerning procedures at the House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature, up to date.

It is clear that the Executive, that had instigated and sponsored Speaker Koffa's illegal removal, had its way, because the Supreme Court kept a conspicuous silence, for fear of what, only God knows.

Cllr. Varmah announces that the LNBA will work with the Supreme Court to improve quality of opinions in matters brought before it, to save the best interest of law and public policy, adding "This is urgent and paramount as the Court's greatest power bestowed upon it by the 1986 Constitution is the power of judicial review to bring definitions, clarity and finality in all matters without influence and interference from anywhere."

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

Green Free Trade in a Protectionist Age

Mexico - which he now says may happen on protections for investors, and secure trade disruptions. While protectionism has blocs. A green trade arrangement that ensures <u>United States are cultivating critical sectors at</u> countries, in particular, to develop their green home to bolster their economic security, the industries and create green jobs. In the RCEP, least for the fight against climate change.

dependence on fossil fuels: nurture green low-carbon practices and technologies.

economies could scupper a truly global should then be implemented. framework, multiple smaller arrangements

of a green free-trade arrangement involving trade issues. countries that collectively account for 30% of global economic activity.

boost members' economies (in terms of GDP, retaliation and yet more protectionism. exports, jobs, and fiscal revenue), bolster their decarbonization.

renewable energy, electric vehicles (EVs) and their components, waste management, Ma Jun is President of the Beijing-based services.

EIJING - US President Donald A third priority is to attract green foreign Trump's threats to raise tariffs on investment and technology transfers, which imports from Canada, China, and requires a more stable policy environment, <u>February 1 – have the world bracing for major</u> intellectual property rights in the regional trade come back into vogue, and countries like the these conditions would help lower-income reversal of free trade will accelerate under for example, Chinese, Japanese, and South <u>Trump, with far-reaching consequences – not</u> Korean firms producing, say, EVs or solar panels might license their technologies to producers in the ASEAN countries and invest There is a straightforward path to ending our in building up the region's green supply chains.

industries - which would not only mitigate Such arrangements must also address non-tariff climate change, but also boost economic barriers, which can impede trade and growth and job creation – and ensure that their investment even within low-tariff or tariff-free output can be traded as widely as possible. zones. A successful green trade arrangement Open trade would strengthen these industries, must start with careful analysis of all non-tariff reduce the costs of green goods and services in barriers, including those arising from import most countries, and facilitate the adoption of and export quotas, quality-control and customs-clearance processes, producttraceability requirements, trade-finance and At a time of rising protectionism, pursuing this export-credit insurance, and the settlement of path requires the establishment of a special cross-border payments. Targeted measures to green free-trade arrangement, involving sharp lower these barriers - for example, reductions in tariffs and non-tariff barriers on harmonizing quality and traceability standards goods and services that deliver environmental across jurisdictions and reducing the cost of and climate benefits. Since one or two trade finance using green finance instruments -

could be created by "coalitions of the willing." Leadership and open dialogue are essential. In the case of the RCEP, larger economies like Using existing regional trade agreements as a Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, and South basis for green trade could hasten this process Korea should take the lead in cultivating considerably. Consider the Regional consensus, with discussions highlighting the Comprehensive Economic Partnership arrangement's wide-ranging benefits for all. (RCEP) – the world's largest trade bloc by This approach would support a "just transition" both population and GDP – comprising to a climate-neutral economy, by accelerating Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South decarbonization in participating countries, Korea, and the ten ASEAN countries. advancing growth and job creation in green Operating within the RCEP's framework may industries, and fostering the mutual trust that is enable quicker agreement and implementation essential to broader cooperation on climate and

The case for green trade arrangements is even stronger when one compares them to the The first step toward realizing this vision approach being embraced by advanced would be to demonstrate clearly the economic economies. While the carbon border benefits of a green trade agreement to all adjustment mechanism (CBAM) favored by members of arrangements like the RCEP. A the European Union, the United Kingdom, and preliminary study, based on a "computable potentially the US can reduce carbon "leakage" general equilibrium" model and conducted by from imports produced in countries with more the Institute of Finance and Sustainability lenient emissions rules, it harms incomes and (which I chair) and research partners, does just employment in the developing economies that. Our study, which we will present at a exporting carbon-intensive goods. And it does conference in Hong Kong in March, found <u>nothing to foster cooperation</u>; on the contrary that a green free-trade arrangement could such unilateral measures could lead to

green industries, and bring about faster As incentives go, CBAM amounts to a "stick," which punishes developing countries for not sacrificing domestic growth and development Next, in order to help mitigate climate change in order to reduce emissions. A green free-trade and address environmental degradation, arrangement, by contrast, amounts to a countries must identify the goods and services "carrot": by aligning climate goals with that should be covered by the green free-trade development objectives, it rewards arrangement. Our study suggests that this list participating economies for making progress in could include a few dozen categories and a the green transition. It is a win-win solution few hundred products and services, including – just the type a just green transition demands.

sustainable agriculture, nature-based Institute of Finance and Sustainability and solutions, and environmental professional former Co-Chair of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group.

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Trump's Industrial Policy Is More **Continuity Than Disruption**

OSTON – For all the drama over Donald Trump's flurry of pronouncements and executive orders since his return to the White House, there is more continuity than rupture when it comes to the industrial strategy of his predecessor, Joe Biden. In fact, there is now a broad consensus on the need to rebuild US industrial capabilities to protect national and economic security - a process that has already begun in semiconductors, critical minerals, defense, and energy.

Private-sector investment, perhaps the most important measure of these policies' success, has been significant: around \$450 billion in semiconductors and \$95 billion in cleanenergy manufacturing since the Biden administration passed the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in August 2022. So far, the US government has leveraged \$5-7 of private capital for every dollar it has spent through this legislation. Whether carrots (subsidies) or sticks (tariffs) are used to support these investments, they are gaining momentum.

Trump's early statements about rebuilding US manufacturing point to the use of both tools to stimulate investment. To be sure, subsidies are a better targeted strategy than tariffs, not least because sweeping import duties could dampen momentum by raising costs, particularly for intermediate goods. How heavily Trump will lean on tariffs remains to be seen. What is clear is that industrial policy will be part of his economic agenda, as it was for Biden.

In the case of energy – the issue on which the two administrations are perhaps furthest apart – it is too early to say how Trump's policies will play out, except that oil and gas production will rise substantially. There are legal challenges to clawing back subsidies (84% of the grants under the IRA were contractually obligated before Trump took office),and clean-energy tax credits have proved popular, particularly in Republican and swing states. The Trump administration favors some renewables (hydropower, nuclear, geothermal) over others (solar, wind). But given America's inadequate grid capacity and growing demand for energy, the economics of competitively priced clean power and consumer preferences will be the driving forces behind the country's energy mix.

Trump's ambitions for artificial intelligence (as illustrated by his support for Stargate, a privately funded AI infrastructure project) will require expanding energy sources including renewables – to meet data-center and manufacturing demands. Tech companies have already realized this. Consider Microsoft's purchase last year of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, and the fact that in 2023 wind accounted for nearly 30% of energy generation in Texas, where data centers are multiplying.

America's lack of shipbuilding capacity is another growing concern. Commercial shipbuilding is almost nonexistent in the US, and the country has a terrible track record in meeting budgets and timelines for naval production. Rebuilding these capabilities will require a multipronged strategy that includes backing innovative startups and working with foreign companies – as is happening in the semiconductor industry – to create a competitive domestic industry. Tariffs on Chinese ships (which have dominated the sector in recent years) would not achieve this.

But the Trump administration shouldn't stop there. To become a global leader in frontier industries such as biomanufacturing and quantum computing, the United States needs engineering and science skills and public and private investment in manufacturing. Here, too, the US is competing head-to-head with other countries, especially China.

It took a quarter-century to build the global supply chains on which US manufacturing depends; they cannot and should not be dismantled or rebuilt overnight. America's reindustrialization strategy must instead focus on manufacturing differently by improving productivity, sustainability, and resilience. That means incorporating redundancy and regionalized supply chains and working with allies and partners to align goals and policies. It also means focusing on manufacturing products that capitalize on America's enormous innovation capacity. A fresh crop of manufacturing startups and ecosystem partners in the US highlights this strength. And now these startups can scale up at home, owing to digitalization, automation, and venture capital and other private capital's new industrial focus.

Realizing this vision requires, first, investment in digital capabilities – a core component of any successful industrial strategy. Fewer than half of US manufacturing firms use specialized software or cloud computing, and the country trails far behind others in robotics adoption. Making better use of data, AI, and new production systems that include robotics and 3D printing would improve productivity, quality, safety, and yields. Digital connectivity also builds resilience in supply chains and helps reduce energy consumption, waste, and emissions by tracking and tracing inputs and outputs.

Revitalizing the manufacturing workforce will also be critical. The US could face a shortage of nearly two million manufacturing workers by 2033. The best way to avert a shortfall is to upskill current workers, which would make them more productive and attract a new generation into the sector. This can be achieved alongside digitalization, because companies that adopt new and advanced technologies also invest in skills upgrading.

Of course, manufacturing jobs represent a small share of US employment (under 10%, although with a large multiplier effect), and new ones will be created at a slower rate, partly because of AI and automation. But these jobs are tied to technologies and industries that underpin the country's economic prosperity. Such work can also be high-quality in terms of wages and benefits, which is more important for the US than increasing the quantity of jobs.

Rebuilding America's industrial base has become a central pillar of US economic policy. The challenge for Trump, as it was for Biden, is how to devise and implement a twentyfirst century industrial strategy that crowds in private investment, emphasizes carrots over sticks, and, ultimately, creates a globally competitive manufacturing sector. This is an agenda that Republicans and Democrats alike should get behind.

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by Mohamed A. El-Erian

Give the UK Growth Agenda a Chance

AMBRIDGE – Pity Rachel Reeves, the United Kingdom's Chancellor of the Exchequer. Before she had even gotten through her highly anticipated "growth speech" on January 29, criticism flooded social media and the airwaves. Her approach is too scattered, some said, and too reliant on measures whose impact will be felt only over the long term. Some programs run counter to the government's environmental commitments, others said, and they are not evenly distributed across the UK. It is all too expensive. Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary even went so far as to declare publicly that Reeves "hasn't a clue."

Don't get me wrong: the speech was not perfect. But perfection is not possible under the UK's current economic and financial conditions, and to pursue an elusive optimum would be to make the perfect the enemy of the good. Moreover, Reeves' speech did succeed in five areas.

First, it reinforced the message that the government will go "further and faster" to boost growth – its "number one mission." Second, it laid out several specific efforts – including planning (zoning) reforms, reducing over-regulation, and improving the use of pension-fund surpluses to increase domestic investment –to ease constraints on existing growth engines.

Reeves also focused on the need to promote new drivers of growth, such as by creating a European "Silicon Valley" in the corridor linking Oxford and Cambridge, thereby scaling up these research hubs and the startups that draw on their breakthroughs. She wants to improve the UK's trade relations to expand its available markets and attract more foreign direct investment. And, finally, she recognized that trade-offs are inevitable when pursuing a far-reaching reform agenda.

Such a multipronged approach is what the UK needs to break out of decades of insufficient investment, lagging productivity, disappointing growth, and shrinking growth potential. Reeves' growth agenda is about enabling the private sector to invest, create jobs, and expand. It is also about avoiding the 1%-of-GDP cut in public investment that was on the table last year.

Of course, success will depend on whether the Chancellor's words are urgently translated into action. The various elements of her plan must be executed simultaneously and in an accountable fashion. That will require a well-coordinated, whole-of-government approach to "hardwire growth into all decisions in the Cabinet," as Prime Minister Keir Starmer put it before her speech.

True, even if the government can meet all these requirements, its strategy may still lack some important elements. But many of Reeves' critics fail to acknowledge the scale of the challenge and how she is stepping up to it. The UK has underinvested for decades and now faces serious growth and budget constraints.

According to a widely cited study published by the Institute for Public Policy Research last year, "the UK has had the lowest level of investment in the G7 for 24 of the last 30 years. The last time the UK was 'average' in the G7 for total investment was in 1990." The result of this chronic neglect is a staggering cumulative shortfall of £1.9 trillion. Just imagine how different things would look if the UK's level of investment had been merely average.

Given such poor investment performance, any government would need time and luck (especially with respect to external economic factors) to turn things around. The lack of budgetary space leaves the government with no single measure, no silver bullet, to deploy. Even the best growth-oriented policy package would have to comprise a wide variety of measures. Implementation was always going to take time, even if it did not require a broad range of public-private partnerships.

Ultimately, the Starmer government's growth mission will fail if it does not secure the buy-in of companies and households alike. The currently low level of business and consumer confidence is a major headwind to stronger growth, better budget outcomes, and higher inflows of foreign direct investment. It is why the government pivoted from its gloomy talk about the economy to statements about economic performance "turning around."

For the same reason, it is counterproductive – even dangerous – for politicians, media commentators, and economists to be so quick to trash Reeves's speech, especially when they have no feasible alternative to offer. That is also why it is unhelpful to reduce the multifaceted growth strategy to the third runway at Heathrow airport, the item that is attracting the most attention.

In March 2008, I co-authored a paper, "Growth Strategies and Dynamics: Insights from Country Experiences," with the Nobel laureate economist Michael Spence. One of our findings was that successful growth strategies hardly ever specified every step in the policy journey. Indeed, it is almost impossible to do so. Instead, policymakers defined their destination, embarked with only an initial set of measures, focused on implementation, and remained open to course corrections as more information came in. What they did not do was fail to get off the starting block because the strategy was imperfect, incomplete, or would take too long to bear fruit. They gave growth a chance. The UK needs to do the same.

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2025

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 14th 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,













Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024 **Purchaser:** Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in Secondary

Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II

Contract title: "Provision of Additional Machines/Tools and the Installation to

Three (3) Share Facilities"

Country: Liberia 5900155018403

Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN) **OCBN No:** LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024

Issued on: January 28, 2025

- 1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Provision of additional Machine/Tools to three Shared Facility. "For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
- 2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Machines/Tools**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Machines/Tools	Various

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank's <u>Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded operations</u> dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
- 4. The bidding document in English may be collected by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below
- 5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:00 PM**, **February 25 2025**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below
- 6. All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration".
- 7. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
- 8. For any further clarification, please contact:

Attn. Project Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellewis965@gmail.com

0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:

Email Address: wynnbryant12@gmail.com

0776-063-643/0886-551-249

Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number:LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024Purchaser:Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in Secondary

Wood Processing Industry Phase II

Contract title: "Provision of Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to

1,108 Registered Members "

Country: Liberia
Grant No.: 5900155018403

Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN) **OCBN No:** LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024

Issued on: January 28, 2025

- 1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the **Provision of Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to 1,108 Registered Members.** "For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
- 2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits	Various

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank's <u>Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded operations</u> dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
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Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellewis965@gmail.com 0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:

Email Address: <u>wynnbryant12@gmail.com</u>

0776-063-643/0886-551-249

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

BL boasts of single digit infl

Centeral Bank of Liberia says Liberia's single digit inflation rate is among the lowest in the subregion.

By Lincoln G. Peters Central Bank of Liberia says despite current upward movement in the exchange rate, Liberia's inflation rate in single digits is among the lowest in the sub-region.

Addressing graduates of the Banking Institute of Liberia on behalf of Central Bank of Liberia Executive Governor-designate, Henry Saamoi, the Technical Advisor to the Governor, Musa Kamara, said they are working to address inflation and move Liberia to a cashless transaction economy. 'Despite the current upward

movement in the exchange rate, our inflation rate remains in a single digit among the lowest in the Sub-region. This is a remarkable milestone achievement that we must all celebrate. Our financial system remains strong as evidenced by key indicators, such as capital adequacy, liquidity, and loan to deposit", Mr. Kamara

He expresses appreciation and excitement to the BIL for continuing to educate and strengthen individuals in the banking and financial sector, while assuring the CBL's commitment to aiding the Banking Institute to enable Liberians take over the banking and financial sector, adding that they have seen a lot of foreign banks coming in the country with foreign staff.

'So, when we saw that, we knew

that it was never the future that we onrovia, Liberia, needed and so, we created the BIL February 3, 2025 - The to train individuals that will take over the banking and financial sector administrative and managerial component. Now, I am excited to see this moving to a greater height with Liberia and trained to take over the sector with integrity and professionalism."

The Banking Institute of Liberia, which is the training arm of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and the Liberia Banker Association (LBA) through its Professional Development training program and Business Enterprise Development initiative over the weekend graduated 156 professionals in the banking and financial sector to improve effective, efficient and quality service delivery in the Liberian economy.

The graduation ceremony, held at

Church on Saturday, January 31, 2025, brought together financial experts from the Ministry of Finance, Central Bank of Liberia and professional private financial experts and graduates, as well as family members.

BIL provides two types of career development courses which includes, professional development training program and business development program that aim to upgrade the professional skills of financial stakeholders in the banking, finance and development sector. and also provide necessary knowledge for people wishing to enter the sectors.

They provide cutting-edge training and support to improve managerial and administrative professional competence of staffers in the banking and financial sector, including banking and financial service in the country.



House investigates Rep. Kolubah

Montserrado County (District#10) Representative Yekeh Y. Kolubah faces probe for alleged misconduct.

By Bridgett Milton

onrovia, Liberia, February 3, 2025 - The Plenary of the House of Representatives mandates its Committee on Rules, Orders & Representative, Yekeh Y. Kolubah, over alleged violations of the House's Standing Rules and Procedures.

The complaint was on Thursday, January 30, submitted to plenary, accusing Rep. Kolubah of repeatedly engaging in misconduct that undermines integrity of the House of Representatives.

According to Rep. Johnson Williams, since the commencement of the Second Session of the 55th Legislature, Rep. Kolubah has engaged in actions deemed inimical to the House's Rules and Procedure. He recalls that the most recent incident occurred during a plenary session on January 28, when Rep. Kolubah allegedly insulted fellow lawmakers, disrespected the Speaker's gavel and disrupted session, bringing the House to public disrepute

Rep. Williams notes that these

legislative proceedings.

Administration to investigate "juntas", a term often associated recommendations.

Complaints filed against with military rule or dictatorship, The outcome of which breaches Rule 42.1 that determine whether the House.

"This act does not only undermine the integrity of the House but also country into a culture of violence as Jonathan Browne

a way of life", he argues.

He calls for disciplinary action against Rep. Kolubah, arguing that actions violated Section 42.2 of the it would serve as a deterrent and House's Standing Rules, which help restore the image of the House. prohibits members from engaging Following deliberations, the House in disorderly conduct that disrupts Plenary voted to forward the matter to the Committee on Rules, Orders He adds that Rep. Kolubah referred & Administration for further to members of the House as investigation and

The outcome of the probe will which breaches Rule 42.1 that determine whether Rep. Kolubah requires lawmakers to always would face disciplinary measures, uphold the prestige and dignity of which could range from a formal reprimand to suspension.

The House Committee on Rules, Orders & Administration is exposes our children to an immoral expected to report to plenary in lifestyle of leadership. If not coming weeks with findings and corrected, it could degenerate our recommendations. Editing by



Boima Kamara's appointment is a p

-Finance Minister Ngatuan

MORE HEADLINE

By Lewis S. The

onrovia, Liberia, February 3, 2025 Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, says the recent appointment of his predecessor Boima S. Kamara as Director General of the West African Monetary Agency or WAMA, is a pride for Liberia.

'The government and the people of Liberia are proud of this historical achievement first time for a Liberian national to occupy such position", Ngafuan notes.

He spoke Friday, January 31, 2025. when the West African Monetary Agency delegation led by its new director general, Boimah Kamara, paid him courtesy call at the Ministry of Finance in Monrovia. Ngafuan pledges Liberia's full

support for Kamara's tenure and views the courtesy visit as a strong symbol of positive transition and collaboration, underscoring the potential for current and former leaders to work together in advancing the nation's goals.

He terms Boima's preferment as WAMA Director General a pride for the government and Liberia at large.

Minister Ngafuan describes Mr. Kamara as one of Liberia's finest

heads West African Monetary Agency or WAMA.

service in various leadership roles in Liberia paved the way for hi appointment.

Kamara notes that being the firs Liberian to head WAMA is not only an honour for him, but for Liberia as a whole.

He acknowledges Presiden Boakai's effort and thanks Ministe Ngafuan, the Central Bank o Liberia, and the Liberian people for the tremendous support he receives in making his bid successful for the WAMA's top post.

He pledges to represent the country with integrity on the regional stage As part of his vision for the regional body, Kamara emphasizes a need for West African countries to adopt innovative solutions in addressing regional challenges stressing that "West African problems should be solved by Wes Africans."

He calls on officials to begin thinking outside the box and for the region to tackle issues such as fiscal constraints and instability o energy supplies, which contribute to high inflation in many parts o West Africa.

Kamara also notes that conditions driving inflation are more structural than monetary, urging for a comprehensive approach to tackling these persisten challenges.

He acknowledges the significan



sons, citing their shared history in responsibility of achieving education, at the Central Bank of macroeconomic convergence is Liberia, and the Ministry of the region and outlines WAMA' Finance, respectively.

results in the next four years at the member states. regional body.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for Browne

their support, recognizing that his

ambitious goals to work closely He is optimistic that Kamara's with Central Banks and Ministries leadership will yield positive of Finance across the 15 ECOWAS The WAMA delegation, led by

In response, Director General Kamara, included his immediate Boima Kamara thanks President predecessor, Momodou Bamba Joseph Nyuma Boakai and former Saho. Editing by Jonathan

rança

Le Sénat libérien remet le siège du défunt Prince Y. Johnson au comté de Nimba La cérémonie a été ponctuée de

ans une décision sans précédent, le Sénat libérien officiellement remis le siège du défunt sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson aux habitants du comté de Nimba. À leur demande, ce siège sera exposé au musée de Sanniquellie en hommage à ses dix-huit

MONDAY

tissu noir et gris jusqu'à son inhumation. Ce n'est qu'après cette étape qu'il est officiellement déclaré vacant et que la Commission nationale des élections est informée.

Le jeudi 30 janvier, une cérémonie commémorative s'est tenue dans l'hémicycle pour marquer la remise du siège de l'ancien sénateur de chants interprétés par la chorale du Sénat, notamment How Can I Repay You et The Lord is My Shepherd. Un moment de prière a ensuite été dirigé par un pasteur, avant que le siège, toujours recouvert de son tissu noir, ne soit placé à l'avant de l'assemblée.

Dans une déclaration spéciale, la présidente pro tempore du Sénat, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence, a précisé que le tissu de deuil ne serait pas retiré, contrairement à la tradition. « Les habitants du comté de Nimba souhaitent conserver le siège du défunt sénateur en hommage à son parcours politique. Plutôt que de le déclarer vacant, nous avons décidé de le leur remettre directement », a-t-elle expliqué. Le vice-président du Liberia, Jeremiah K. Koung, a exprimé son émotion face à cette perte. « Aujourd'hui est un jour de deuil pour moi, pour le Sénat, pour le peuple de Nimba et pour toute la nation. Nous honorons la mémoire d'un homme qui a marqué cette institution. J'invite chacun à observer un moment d e silence en son honneur », a-

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



a n n é e s d e s e r v i c e Nimba. Cette initiative répond à la parlementaire.

Une cérémonie solennelle au

Conformément aux règles du Sénat, lorsqu'un sénateur immédiatement recouvert d'un moment de recueillement

requête du sénateur Nyan D. Twayen, Jr., représentant actuel du comté, qui a plaidé pour que le siège soit conservé en mémoire de Prince Y. Johnson.

décède, son siège est Un hommage solennel et un

Liberia : la Chambre des représentants envisage l'expulsion de l'ancien président Koffa

✓ Liberia prévoit de session le mardi 4 février, l'expulsion de l'ancien président de l'Assemblée, J. Fonati Koffa. Ce dernier refuse toujours de quitter son bureau, malgré sa destitution. Un conflit autour de la transition

rapport de la Commission des règles, de l'ordre et de l'administration, qui a du bureau du président de l'Assemblée.

Selon la commission, une demande formelle a été adressée à M. Koffa pour qu'il libère les lieux et remette les clés à son successeur, le député Richard Nagbe Koon, chef du bloc majoritaire. Cependant, l'ancien président aurait catégoriquement refusé d'obtempérer.

"Depuis sa destitution contestée, M. Koffa continue d'occuper illégalement les bureaux du président de l'Assemblée, refusant de les

a Chambre des libérer et retenant les clés," représentants du souligne le rapport de la commission. Cette situation voter, lors de sa prochaine entrave le travail du nouveau président et de son personnel, qui ne peuvent toujours pas accéder à leurs bureaux.

> Un ultimatum avant une évacuation forcée

Face à cette impasse, la commission a sollicité Cette décision découle d'un l'intervention du ministre de la Justice, qui a recommandé l'envoi d'une mise en demeure officielle. M. Koffa dispose désormais d'un officiellement informé le délai de cinq jours pour quitter les Plénum des obstacles lieux. S'il ne s'exécute pas, des rencontrés dans la passation mesures plus strictes seront mises en œuvre, notamment l'évacuation de ses effets personnels en présence des médias et des

organisations de la société

Lors de la session de mardi, la commission a présenté son rapport devant les parlementaires. Une motion a été adoptée pour reporter les discussions au 4 février.

Une crise institutionnelle sous tension

L'expulsion imminente de J. Fonati Koffa illustre un affrontement politique marqué par des tensions autour de sa destitution, don't la légitimité continue d'être débattue. Alors que l'ancien président de la Chambre s'accroche à son poste, la majorité parlementaire entend mettre un terme définitif à son mandat et rétablir l'ordre institutionnel.



Éditorial

Le libre-échange vert à l'ère du protectionnisme

Par Ma Jun

ÉKIN – Face aux menaces formulées par le président américain Donald Trump autour de l'augmentation des droits de douane sur les importations en provenance du Canada, de la Chine et du Mexique – dont il affirme désormais qu'elles pourraient se concrétiser <u>le 1er février – le monde se prépare à des perturbations commerciales</u> majeures. Le protectionnisme redevenant à la mode, et un certain nombre de pays tels que les États-Unis promouvant chez eux plusieurs secteurs cruciaux afin de renforcer leur sécurité économique, le renversement du libre-échange est voué à s'accélérer sous Trump, avec des conséquences majeures – notamment pour la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Il existe une trajectoire simple pour mettre fin à notre dépendance aux combustibles fossiles: cultiver les industries vertes – qui non seulement atténueraient le changement climatique, mais stimuleraient également la croissance économique et la création d'emplois – et veiller à ce que leur production puisse faire l'objet d'échanges commerciaux aussi larges que possible. L'ouverture des échanges renforcerait en effet ces industries, réduirait le coût des biens et services verts dans la plupart des pays, et faciliterait l'adoption de pratiques et de technologies à faible émission de carbone.

En cette période de montée en puissance du protectionnisme, la poursuite de cette trajectoire nécessite la mise en place d'un accord spécial de libre-échange écologique, prévoyant d'importantes réductions des droits de douane ainsi que des barrières non tarifaires sur les biens et les services qui présentent des avantages pour l'environnement et le climat. Une ou deux économies seulement risquant de torpiller un cadre véritablement mondial, de multiples accords de moindre envergure pourraient être conclus par des « coalitions de volontaires ».

Le recours aux accords commerciaux régionaux existants en tant que base du commerce vert pourrait considérablement accélérer ce processus. Prenons l'exemple du Partenariat économique régional global (RCEP), le plus grand bloc commercial au monde en termes de population et de PIB, qui regroupe l'Australie, la Chine, le Japon, la Nouvelle-Zélande, la Corée du Sud et les dix pays de l'ANASE. Le fait d'opérer dans le cadre du RCEP pourrait aboutir plus rapidement à une entente ainsi qu'à la mise en œuvre d'un accord de libre-échange écologique faisant intervenir des États qui représentent collectivement 30 % de l'activité économique mondiale.

La première étape vers la réalisation de cette vision consisterait à démontrer clairement les avantages économiques d'un accord commercial vert pour tous les membres de partenariats tels que le RCEP. C'est précisément l'objet d'une étude préliminaire, basée sur un modèle d'« équilibre général calculable », que mènent l'Institute of Finance and Sustainability (que je préside) et plusieurs partenaires de recherche. Notre étude, que nous présenterons lors d'une conférence à Hong Kong au mois de mars, démontre qu'un accord de libre-échange écologique permettrait de stimuler l'économie des pays membres (en termes de PIB, d'exportations, d'emploi et de recettes fiscales), de soutenir leurs industries vertes, et d'accélérer la décarbonation.

Ensuite, afin de contribuer à l'atténuation du changement climatique ainsi qu'à la lutte contre la dégradation de l'environnement, les Etats doivent identifier les biens et services qui devraient être couverts par l'accord de libre-échange vert. Notre étude suggère que cette liste pourrait inclure quelques dizaines de domaines et quelques centaines de produits et services, notamment les énergies renouvelables, les véhicules électriques (VE) et leurs composants, la gestion des déchets, l'agriculture durable, les solutions fondées sur la nature, et les services environnementaux professionnels.

Une troisième priorité doit consister à attirer les investissements écologiques étrangers et les transferts de technologie, ce qui nécessite un environnement politique plus stable, des protections pour les investisseurs, ainsi que des droits de propriété intellectuelle plus sûrs au sein des blocs commerciaux régionaux. Un accord commercial écologique garantissant ces conditions permettrait notamment aux pays à faible revenu de développer leurs industries vertes et de créer des emplois verts. Dans le cadre du RCEP, par exemple, les entreprises chinoises, japonaises et sud-coréennes qui produisent des VE ou des panneaux solaires pourraient concéder des licences sur leurs technologies aux producteurs dans les pays de l'ANASE, et investir dans la mise en place de chaînes d'approvisionnement vertes au sein de la région.

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Le Sénat libérien remet le siège du défunt Starts from page 8

FEBRUARY 03

t-il déclaré.

Une remise officielle du siège

Le sénateur du comté de Maryland, J. Gbleh-bo Brown, président de la commission des règles, de l'ordre et de l'administration, a remis officiellement le siège au nom du Sénat. « En réponse à la demande du peuple de Nimba, le Sénat libérien remet aujourd'hui le siège de l'ancien sénateur Prince Y. Johnson. Nous adressons nos plus sincères condoléances à sa famille, à ses proches et à toute la population de Nimba », a-t-il déclaré.

Recevant le siège, le sénateur Nyan D. Twayen, Jr. a exprimé sa gratitude envers le Sénat. « Au nom du peuple de Nimba et du président du Sénat, qui est également le fils du défunt sénateur, nous remercions cette assemblée d'avoir répondu favorablement à notre demande. Ce siège, occupé par le sénateur Johnson pendant dix-huit ans, sera désormais exposé au musée de Sanniquellie en reconnaissance de son engagement politique », at-il conclu.

Libéria : Le président Boakai nomme Elias Shoniyin et plusieurs personnalités pour renforcer la diplomatie nationale ainsi que du Conseil municipal de New York

onrovia, 31 janvier économiques ▲Joseph Nyuma deYale qu'ambassadeurs itinérants au Associates (ADMA) sein du Conseil consultatif de Son leadership s'est distingué politique étrangère du dans la gestion des crises et la ministère des Affaires mobilisation des ressources, étrangères.

pays sur la scène mondiale.

des affaires internationales

Ancien vice-ministre des diplomatique libérien. Affaires étrangères chargé de En reconnaissance de son la coopération économique et engagement et de ses de l'intégration internationales, contributions exceptionnelles, Elias Shoniyin est M. Shoniyin a reçu plusieurs actuellement doyen de l'École distinctions nationales et des affaires mondiales et de la internationales, parmi politique à l'Université lesquelles: Cuttington.

en politique internationale, M. Rédemption africaine Shoniyin possède plus de 25 Des résolutions d'honneur de développement international. Il a occupé plusieurs postes stratégiques ayant contribué à la reconstruction post-conflit du Libéria, notamment :

Premier vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères sous deux administrations successives

Vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères pour la coopération économique et l'intégration internationales

Ministre assistant des Affaires étrangères pour la coopération internationale et les affaires

2025 – Le président Fellow mondial à l'Université

Boakai a nommé Elias Directeur général et associé Shoniyin et plusieurs principal d'Africa personnalités éminentes en tant Development Management

notamment lors de l'épidémie Ces nominations reflètent d'Ebola (2014-2016). Il a l'engagement du également supervisé le service gouvernement à renforcer la diplomatique libérien et joué diplomatie libérienne, à un rôle clé dans l'adaptation de consolider ses partenariats la politique étrangère du pays internationaux et à promouvoir au contexte post-conflit. Ses les intérêts stratégiques du efforts ont conduit à des réformes stratégiques au sein Elias Shoniyin, une figure clé du ministère des Affaires étrangères et du corps

Le titre de Commandeur de Diplomate chevronné et expert l'Ordre humanitaire de la

Un doctorat honorifique en lettres humaines de l'Université chrétienne Carver

Le prix de l'excellence en leadership du Conseil des affaires Afrique-Caraïbes à Washington

Des nominations stratégiques pour la diplomatie libérienne

Outre M. Shoniyin, le président Boakai a nommé plusieurs personnalités au sein du Conseil consultatif de politique étrangère en tant qu'ambassadeurs itinérants :

Blamoh Nelson Ethel Davis

Chris Moore

Robert Lormia

Par ailleurs, Sheikh Moustapha Kouyateh a été nommé ambassadeur itinérant pour les missions spéciales. Sous l'autorité du ministère des Affaires étrangères, il aura pour mission d'appuyer la mise en œuvre des initiatives diplomatiques stratégiques du gouvernement.

Selon l'Exécutif, ces nominations illustrent la volonté du président Boakai de dynamiser la diplomatie libérienne, de renforcer son influence internationale et de consolider les relations du pays avec ses partenaires.





Les habitants de Kakata protestent contre l'état dégradé des routes

es habitants de Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, ont manifesté à nouveau pour dénoncer l'état des routes de la ville, exigeant des ✓ réparations immédiates. En l'absence de réponse satisfaisante, ils ont menacé de recourir à des actions plus radicales.

La manifestation, qui a rassemblé d'anciens candidats aux élections, des dirigeants politiques, des commerçants, des motards, des étudiants et d'autres citoyens, se concentre sur la réhabilitation urgente des infrastructures routières. Ces dernières sont un problème récurrent pour la ville, notamment en saison des pluies où la boue rend les routes impraticables, et en saison sèche, où la poussière envahit la ville, perturbant la vie quotidienne.

Des routes en mauvais état depuis des décennies

Sandy S. Johnson, porte-parole des manifestants, a exprimé sa frustration lors de leur rassemblement devant le bâtiment administratif de Kakata, en présence de la surintendante Victoria W. Duncan et d'autres responsables locaux. Selon Johnson, les habitants de Kakata sont profondément déçus par l'inaction des autorités locales et ont averti qu'ils intensifieraient leur protestation si la situation restait inchangée. La ville souffre depuis des décennies du manque de routes asphaltées, à l'exception de celles reliant Kakata à Bong Mines et de la route reliant Red-Light à Ganta. Bien que l'ancien président George Manneh Weah ait promis en 2018 de pavé plusieurs axes majeurs, comme la route de l'ELWA Junction et celle reliant Mandingo Quarter à Vai Town, ces engagements sont restés non tenus.

Une demande urgente de pavage des routes principales



Les résidents exigent que deux axes majeurs – les anciennes et nouvelles routes 14th – soient non seulement réhabilités, mais pavés. Lors de leur première manifestation, le 7 janvier 2025, ils ont présenté une pétition à la surintendante Duncan, ainsi qu'aux membres du caucus législatif de Margibi, à la présidente du Sénat Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, ainsi qu'aux ministères des Travaux publics et des Affaires intérieures. La pétition précise que les routes sont dans un état de délabrement avancé, avec des nids-de-poule, des fissures, des érosions et des surfaces irrégulières qui rendent la circulation dangereuse. En outre, les manifestants soulignent une inégalité flagrante : des villes plus éloignées comme Gbarnga et Voinjama bénéficient de routes goudronnées, tandis que Kakata, située à proximité de Monrovia et abritant de nombreuses concessions économiques, reste ignorée.

Des conséquences graves pour la sécurité et l'économie locale

Les mauvaises conditions des routes représentent un risque majeur pour la sécurité des automobilistes, des motocyclistes et des piétons. D'un point de vue économique, la situation perturbe le transport des marchandises, augmente les coûts logistiques et cause des pertes aux entreprises locales. La population de Kakata a donc exigé une action immédiate et donné un ultimatum de quatre jours à la surintendante Duncan pour répondre à leurs demandes. Faute de réaction, une nouvelle manifestation a eu lieu le 29 janvier 2025, avec une marche à travers les rues principales de Kakata, suivie d'une nouvelle demande pour le pavage des routes.

Réaction des autorités locales

La surintendante Duncan a confirmé la réception de la pétition, mais a expliqué que son emploi du temps était occupé par des questions nationales, notamment la préparation des Jeux inter-comtés. Toutefois, elle a ajouté avoir pris contact avec un membre du groupe pour organiser une réunion ce vendredi 31 janvier 2025, afin de discuter des prochaines étapes.

Les habitants de Kakata attendent désormais des réponses concrètes et des mesures immédiates pour résoudre cette crise des infrastructures, qui affecte non seulement la qualité de vie locale mais aussi l'économie du

FEATURE ARTICLE

Boakai: No Silver Lining in One Year

growth rate. It is undeniable that the President inherited a

By Seltue Karweaye

MONDAY

t is a well-established truth that the performance of any government is scrutinized based on the success or failure of the promises it made both before and after assuming office. During the presidential campaign of the previous year, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, representing the Unity Party, made many commitments to the Liberian populace. These promises were later encapsulated by his campaign team into what they alled his 6-point Arrest Agenda. The agenda aimed to address critical issues such as agribusiness, roads, and infrastructure development, establishing the rule of law and good governance, enhancing education and human capital, and promoting tourism in Liberia. As Boakai's administration nears the one-year mark in office, it is important to reflect on the outcomes of his governance thus far. Unfortunately, it is not an exaggeration to state that his administration has faced significant challenges and has produced a record that many would consider dismal. Throughout the past year, there has been a conspicuous lack of effective planning and a sense of impulsiveness that has marked many of his administration's decisions, raising questions about their sincerity and commitment to fulfilling their promises. The 2024 in review has undoubtedly been a difficult journey for Boakai, who aspired to lead the country as its President and Commanderin-Chief. Regrettably, instead of delivering on the envisioned progress and prosperity, the reality for many Liberians has been one of struggle and despair. The rising costs of

essential goods and services have plunged ordinary citizens into a state of economic hardship, resulting in increased pain, sorrow, and hardship. Many families are grappling with the harsh realities of hunger and poverty, as the prices for basic necessities have soared to levels that are simply unattainable for the average citizen. The stories of struggle and disillusionment that fill the lives of most Liberians today are truly harrowing. There is an abundance of evidence to substantiate these claims, and it is all too apparent in the daily lives of the citizens. As we take stock one year into Boakai's presidency, it becomes glaringly evident that Liberia is in a more precarious position. The need for decisive and effective leadership has never been more critical, as the nation seeks to find a way out of the mounting challenges it faces. Since taking office, the inflation rate in Liberia has surged to a concerning level of 10.74 percent, marking a significant economic challenge for the nation.

Concurrently, the monetary policy rate has escalated to 17.5 percent. Such high rates of inflation are particularly harmful to local businesses, making it difficult for them to maintain profitability and for potential investors to see Liberia as an attractive destination for investment. Food inflation is especially alarming, having reached an unprecedented high of 11.5 percent during this period. This rise has directly impacted the cost of basic necessities. For instance, the national average price for a 25 kg bag of rice has soared to LRD 3,700, reflecting a staggering 21% increase compared to the same timeframe in 2023. Currency dynamics also play a critical role in the current economic climate; as of last week, the exchange rate for the Liberian dollar stood at L\$186.2296 per US dollar. Moreover, Liberians and various industries are facing a confluence of economic hardships. These include exorbitant energy costs, which burden both households and businesses, as well as ongoing challenges

related foreign exchange (FX) liquidity. The situation is compounded by multiple layers of import taxation that hinder trade, and the country's power supply remains inconsistent and unreliable, further straining economic activities. Amid these challenges, the political climate has also become tense, as evidenced by the arrest of protesters—a troubling incident that raises serious concerns about the state of civil liberties and the freedom to assemble in the country. In light of these difficulties, many citizens are left wondering about the effectiveness of the so-called "Arrest Agenda." Questions are being raised regarding the whereabouts of the economic reboot and rescue mission that President Boakai promised to deliver. In his inauguration speech delivered on January 22, 2025, he emphasized his commitment to expanding the economy through strategic investment in agriculture. Now, as we reflect on the year since his inauguration, reports from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund reveal that

L i b e r i a 's G D P ranks among the lowest in the world. The economy continues to struggle with stagnation, currently at a mere 5.3 percent

challenging landscape, marked by a substantial debt profile, high levels of debt servicing, persistent shortages of foreign exchange, a fragile power supply, a depreciating Liberian dollar, and declining iron ore production—all of which have historically driven significant contributions to the economy. Despite these initial challenges, it appears that President Boakai has managed to surpass the failures of his predecessor, George Weah, across several crucial indicators. Over the past year, his administration has significantly increased borrowing, racking up over US\$236 million in debt in one year, despite former assurances to curtail borrowing practices. This reckless financial strategy has led to a troubling escalation of the national debt, which climbed to over US\$2.5 billion by the end of September 2024, according to the latest figures released by the Debt Management Office in the third quarter fiscal report. This alarming trend raises critical questions about fiscal responsibility and the government's long-term economic strategy moving forward. In his inaugural address, the president made a strong commitment to both local and foreign investors, vowing that his administration would create a more favorable investment environment aimed at expanding the private sector and generating employment opportunities for Liberians. However,



the situation is complicated by the continued presence of certain companies operating within Liberia's borders. One such company is Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions (GTMS), which was previously expelled from Sierra Leone after being accused of defrauding the Sierra Leonean government of more than US\$11 million. Despite this troubling history, GTMS is currently permitted to operate in Liberia, where it provides container tracking services at all the country's ports. The company charges over \$270 for each container it tracks, leading to concerns among local businesses about the fairness of such fees. Another notable player in this scenario is MedTech Scientific Limited (MTS), a company from Qatar that was introduced to Liberia by the Weah administration in 2019. MTS is responsible for conducting destination inspections containers arriving at Liberia's seaports and charges a fee of \$250 per container inspected. This operational setup has raised significant concerns from local businesses that feel marginalized and burdened by the costs imposed by these foreign companies. Overall, while the administration's goal to improve the investment climate is questionable, the ongoing operations of GTMS and MTS, especially in light of their controversial backgrounds, continue to provoke frustration and discontent among local enterprises struggling to thrive in such an environment. If Boakai inherited a Liberia that was already divided along various lines, he has only succeeded in further polarizing the nation. The divisions that separate us have deepened significantly during his time in office. A thorough examination of the President's appointments thus far reveals a troubling continuity with the previous administration, where a system that heavily favors the president's county of origin has played a significant role in decision-making. Specifically, the appointments to key positions have predominantly favored Lofa County, the President's home county, raising concerns about regional bias in governance. Furthermore, basic necessities, particularly staple foods like rice, are increasingly becoming unaffordable for the average Liberian. The economic strain has reached

such a level that this is perhaps one of the worst times to be ill in Liberia; the costs associated with medical care and prescription medications are now well beyond the financial reach of most citizens. This situation prompts a critical question: I s y o u r genuinely better now than it was before Boakai assumed power? The prospect of relief from the current state of extreme hardship seems bleak and uncertain. It is fair to argue that the benchmarks for judging President Boakai's effectiveness as a leader are exceptionally high and difficult to achieve, given the damages set by previous administrations, but Boakai promised to rescue the country. The President must take responsibility for the hasty and thoughtless decisions he has made in a remarkably short timeframe. Many of his policies have led to profoundly negative repercussions that resonate across multiple sectors of the economy and society. As such, we find ourselves in a scenario where despair has overshadowed hope for a brighter future. This pervasive sense of hopelessness stands as a troubling indicator of the current administration's track record in governing the country effectively, raising serious concerns about the path forward for Liberia. The current situation in Liberia under this administration is quite troubling and deserves careful examination. This President, akin to his predecessor, appears to regard the presidency not

as a solemn responsibility, but rather as a coveted prize to be claimed. This perspective undermines the gravity of the office and the profound responsibilities that come with it. In a nation facing numerous challenges, the starting point for this government—and, more specifically, for this President—should have involved a period of introspection and thorough self-assessment. Such a process is critical for any leader aiming to understand the complex dynamics of governance. Unfortunately, there is a noticeable absence of these essential elements in the current administration's approach. Supporters of the government assert that one year out of a six-year term is too brief a period to make a fair evaluation of a leadership's performance. While it is true that time is needed for policies to take root and for results to materialize, one year can still provide valuable insights. Typically, this timeframe should allow for at least faint signs of progress or hope on the horizon. Regrettably, such indicators seem to be absent at this juncture.

Moreover, the questions surrounding this President's qualifications are becoming increasingly pressing. Where is the wealth of experience we were led to expect? What has become of the self- proclaimed over forty years in government, political acumen, and idealism that his advocates touted so fervently during the 2023 presidential election? Furthermore, where is the extraordinary capacity for hard work and public service that was repeatedly These attributes now appear to have emphasized? transformed into mere hubris, fading away as the public scrutiny intensifies. The citizens of Liberia deserve more than empty promises; they require effective leadership that demonstrates accountability and a genuine commitment to improvement. It is essential for this administration to confront these challenges seriously and to re-evaluate its approach to foster a more hopeful future for the country. Let's clarify an important point: the success of Boakai directly correlates with the success of Liberia as a nation. It is crucial to recognize that for him, the acquisition of power seems to take precedence over all other considerations, which is deeply concerning for the future of the country. Governing is not a matter of trial and error; yet, unfortunately, this administration has operated in such a manner over the past year. We have witnessed a troubling and consistent pattern of ineffective policies that have permeated most of its reform efforts. One of the fundamental issues plaguing this administration is its inability to acknowledge the significant and, at times, catastrophic mistakes that have been made. Rather than admitting these failures, there appears to be a reluctance to make necessary adjustments and improvements as we move forward. This lack of accountability is alarming, especially since there is a well-established principle of second chances. Many religious texts, including the scriptures, emphasize the importance of recognizing one's shortcomings and seizing the opportunity to correct them. About the Author: Seltue R. Karweaye can be reached

About the Author: Seltue R. Karweaye can be reached s.karweaye1668@student.tsu.edu or karweayee@gmail.com

Use the same illegal means Plenary about ongoing efforts to facilitate the transition of the

-Embattle Speaker Koffa replies House

By Lincoln G. Peters

mbattled Speaker Koffa says those ✓ asking him to vacate the Office of the Speaker should obtain it in the same illegal manner as they obtained the speakership.

Monrovia, February 3, 2025: Embattled House Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa has rejected his colleagues' instruction to clear all his belongings and vacate the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representativestelling them to get it the same way they took the speakership.

Through the Chief Clerk of House t h e o f Representatives, a communication dated January 30, 2025, was transmitted to embattled Speaker Koffa, asking him to transition from the Speaker's Office and make way for majority bloc leader Rep. Richard Nagbe Koon.

But Cllr. Koffa responding to a letter sent to him via WhatsApp said members of the House of Representatives who want him to vacate the office should obtain it in the same illegal manner as they obtained the speakership.

"Please refer those who instructed you to write such a letter that they should obtain the office in the same manner as they obtain the Speakership-illegally and with the force of the Executive," embattled Speaker Koffa said.

"I believe, according to the so-called Committee report, the Minister of Justice, Cllr. Oswald Tweh, whose interpretation of events got us to this point, has already outlined a pathway to complete the illegal act," Koffa wrote, adding

The embattled Speaker continued that his understanding is that the plenary of the majority bloc on Thursday, January 30, 2025, voted to defer its committee report regarding this matter to Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

"If this is the case, then your letter, purporting to obtain instructions from the plenary, is an unlawful usurpation of the function and authority of the people's elected

representatives," Koffa had written embattled Speaker argued.

Earlier on January 30, 2025, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, Madam Mildred Sayon, wrote Cllr. Koffa informed him that she had been directed by the House of Representatives in Session to request that he remove all his belongings from the Office of the Speaker.

She informed Koffa to act in the next five days as of January 30, 2025, given the urgency of the call.

She added that the mandate was predicated upon a report of the House's Committee on Rules, Order, and Administration regarding his persistent and sustained to empty the offices of the Speaker of his belongings.

Last week, the House of Speaker Koffa. Representatives voted to The Justice Minister advised

Speaker's office.

According to the committee, it Koffa, requesting him to vacate the office and turn it over to majority bloc leader Rep. Richard Koon.

However, the committee said Koffa refused to comply.

It noted that this ugly situation seriously embarrasses Speaker Koon and the staff, impeding the execution of their official duties.

"To date, Speaker Koon and staff have yet to have access to their offices, thus undermining the effective execution of their responsibilities," the committee reported.

In response to the alleged refusal, the committee sought Minister of Justice, who advised that they should issue a formal communication to



Speaker Koffa from the office he occupies to make way for newly elected Speaker Koon.

Koon controversially replaced Koffa after a majority of members of the House of Representatives voted to remove Speaker Koffa last

Koffa and his loyalists in the House of Representatives have refused to recognize Koon as the Speaker.

turmoil surrounding Koffa's removal escalated before fire erupted in the joint chamber of the Legislature the following day.

The House's decision to forcibly remove Koffa's belongings this Tuesday, January 4, 2025, is prompted by a report from its committee. process is illegal. The Committee informed the

forcibly remove embattled that the committee grants Koffa a five-day ultimatum to vacate the office.

> Should Koffa fail to comply within the given timeframe, the Justice Minister stated that the committee should take further action, including placing Koffa's personal belongings outside in the presence of the media and civil society organizations.

Following the reading of the committee's communication A violent protest ensued on during Tuesday's session, a Capitol Hill as the political motion was made to defer further discussions until next Tuesday.

Current efforts to throw out the belongings of embattled Speaker Koffa from the Office of the Speaker is the last fight to erase his stamp as Speaker of the 55th Legislature amid controversy that the entire

National Bar foresees threats to Liberia's constitutional democracy.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, February 3, 2025 - The newly inducted President of the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, says recent events in the country expose threats to Liberia's constitutional democracy, while expressing fear over alleged violation of fundamental rights, questionable Executive actions and disregard for judicial decision.

Delivering his inaugural address here late Friday, January 31, 2025, Cllr. Varmah noted that as legal professionals, they must speak truth the intervention of the to power, hold institutions accountable, and push for legal reforms that strengthen governance, human rights, and social justice.

> 'Constitutional violations and legal reforms. Recent events have exposed threats to our constitutional democracy. Violations of fundamental rights, questionable executive actions, and disregard for judicial decisions, judicial inactions and avoidance as well as Legislative overreach undermine the very fabric of our democracy. The LNBA will continue to engage with policymakers to ensure that the Constitution is upheld and that legal reforms reflect the aspirations of the Liberian people", he pointed out.

Speaking of operational independence, he says currently, the LNBA operates under statutory guidelines that subject its regulatory, disciplinary, and administrative functions to external influences but, he continues, to effectively fulfill its mandate, they proposed a more autonomous status that grants the Bar

recent events that exposed threats to Liberia constitutional democracy, he explains that the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) plays a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring constitutional compliance by all branches of government, assuring that to address constitutional violations, the Association will engagement with the Legislature and Executive to advocate for constitutional amendments that would strengthen accountability mechanisms and provide legal opinions on bills and executive actions that may violate the Constitution.

He continues that the Bar will collaborate with civil society organizations to pressure the government to uphold constitutional principles and take disciplinary actions against Lawyers by ensuring that lawyers, including those in government, uphold constitutional principles.

The former Secretary General of the National Bar Association assures that the LNBA through its legal advocacy and public interest litigation, will review actions by the branches of government and to challenge them legally when appropriate.

He continues that the LNBA will file with the Supreme Court of Liberia to challenge unconstitutional actions by any branch of government, and to achieve this, they will work with the Supreme Court to improve quality of opinions in matters brought before it to safe the best interest of law and public policy.

"This is urgent and paramount as the



greater control.

The LNBA should have authority to set and enforce ethical standards, improve licensing requirements, and disciplinary actions for legal practitioners without undue interference. Judicial Oversight & Advocacy: As a body committed to justice, the LNBA must have the institutional independence to challenge unconstitutional actions, advocate for judicial reforms, and engage in public interest litigation without fear of political influence", Cllr. Varmah underscores.

Despite failing to outline some of the

court's greatest power bestowed upon it by the 1986 constitution is the power of judicial review to bring definitions, clarity and finality in all matters without influence and interference from anywhere."

"This is urgent and paramount as the court's greatest power bestowed upon it by the 1986 Constitution is the power of judicial review to bring definitions, clarity and finality in all matters without influence and interference from anywhere", Cllr. Varmah concludes. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Calls for support to eco-tourism exploration i from back page Union, urged concession companies to support the Liberia Eco Tourism Exploration (LETE)

initiative. Her appeal aims to enhance appreciation of Liberia's rich historical, cultural, and touristic sites among students and young people.

The launch was attended by notable figures such as prominent politician and statesman, Alexander B. Cummings, family members of Martha M. Wright, educational leaders, and students, highlighting a strong community commitment to promoting eco-tourism and cultural

education across Liberia. Editing by Jonathan Browne



MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025 VOL. 15 NO. 003

PRICE LD\$50.00

Is for support to eco-tourism exploration in Liberia

Two former officials call for support for eco-tourism exploration in Liberia.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

onrovia, Liberia, February 3, 2025 -Liberia's former representative to the Mano River Union, Ambassador Madina Wesseh, emphasizes the importance of educating for Schools, organized by LETE Wright Heritage Tours for in New Georgia Estate outside Monrovia, Ambassador Wesseh flagship initiative designed to Education and the Ministry of Education to consider revising curricula for schools to better

Schools, describing it as a

Mr. Wisner says LETE's focus on cultural tourism includes tailored programs for schools, to enrich students' understanding of their

"The Martha M. Wright Heritage Tours aims to provide students with a unique experience that blends history, culture, civics, and geography, along with entertainment, to foster lasting appreciation for their roots and natural environment," he

cultural learning for students.

called on the National immerse students in Liberia's Commission on Higher diverse cultural and historical landscape.

country's heritage. adds.

Reverend Moneu Duoe, Deputy Executive Director at the National Commission on Higher Education, expresses support for Wisner's efforts, promising the Commission's full cooperation to enhance

During a recent event, Ambassador Madina Wesseh, former Secretary General of the Mano River

is a Winner It's Raining Rewards. Dial *156# to transact and win. CONT'D ON PAGE 11



the youth of Liberia about the incorporate knowledge about nation's treasures.

Amb. Wesseh highlights Liberia's wealth of historical and touristic attractions that can cultivate a sense of pride and awareness among younger generations.

Speaking over the weekend at the launch of the Martha M. Wright Heritage Tours

Liberia's cultural heritage and historical landmarks.

"Liberian students should not have to go abroad to learn about their own rich history, culture, and tourist sites," she advised.

Earlier, the CEO of LETE, George Wisner, explained the significance of the Martha M.



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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC., UN Drive, P. O. Box 1266 **Opposite the National Investment Commission** Monrovia - Liberia.

Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529



