

# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 15 NO. 015

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

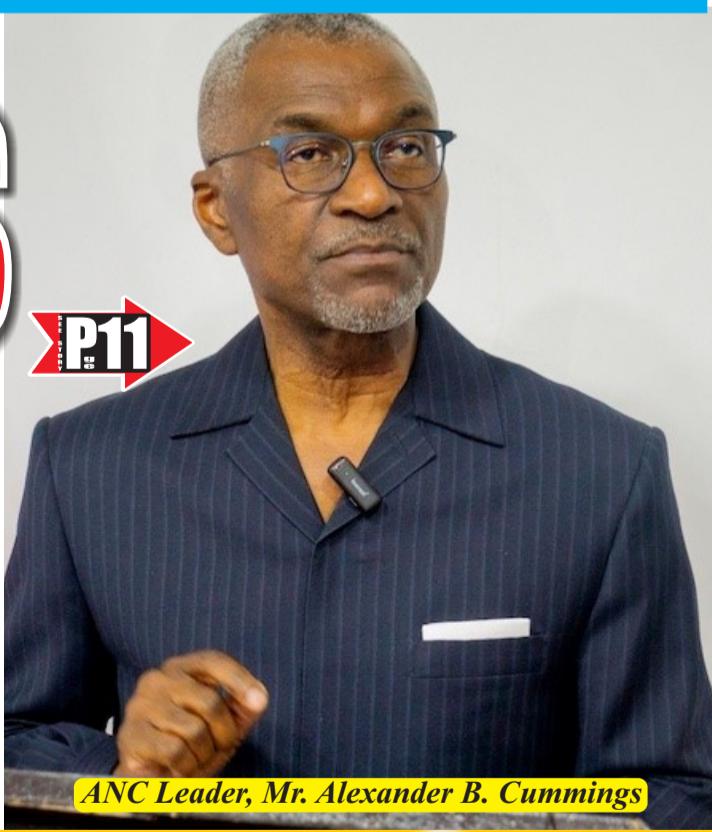
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## Boakai suspends 457 officials *-For failing to declare assets*

## Gov't scores its own goal

*- Cummings says; offers to provide pieces of advice*



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# Continental News

## Ghana missing \$156 million in state budget after USAID freeze

By Rédition Africanews

Countries around the world are still reeling after the US administration's brutal crackdown on its largest

development and humanitarian aid agency, USAID.

The loss of US development aid has also been felt in Ghana. The country now lacks \$156 million in its state budget.

Ghana's President John

Mahama has asked Finance Minister Cassiel Ato Forson to find ways to close the gap in funding left behind by the freeze of USAID programs, according to a statement from the president's office.

American development aid has been crucial for Ghana's health and agriculture sectors.

USAID notably supported the creation of an advanced national surveillance system for HIV and sexually transmissible diseases and programs to make Ghanaian agricultural firms more competitive in regional and international markets.



Supporters of President John Dramani Mahama, attend his inauguration ceremony, at the Independence Square in Accra, Ghana, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025.

## Goma camp residents fearful as M23 rebels demand their evacuation

*The sounds of hammering and the clattering of corrugated metal roofs resonated throughout Goma's Bulengo camp for internally displaced persons on Tuesday as residents began taking apart the shelters they had occupied for years.*

They reported that M23 rebels, allegedly supported by Rwanda,

shocking to be told to leave with nothing to provide for them," he expressed.

After taking over Goma, M23 leaders announced plans to reopen schools and restore the disrupted water supply.

As bodies from the fighting accumulated in the streets, with Red Cross workers struggling to manage the situation, residents were instructed to resume their normal activities.

However, the future for those already in a vulnerable position remained uncertain.

Prior to the M23 takeover of Goma, the eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu already hosted over 4 million displaced individuals.

Vincent Bauma, who lived in Goma's Lushagala camp, took down his modest shelter with

just a hammer on Tuesday morning while other residents watched.

"The authorities have told us to tear down our small homes and return, but we have no idea how we will get back. There is still no peace," he stated.

Oonagh Curry, an emergency coordinator for Doctors Without Borders in Goma, expressed concern over the rapid movement of people leaving the camps and questioned where they would go.

"It is crucial to remember that a sudden population shift can worsen the ongoing humanitarian crisis," she stated. Kwimana Sifa appeared worn out as she dismantled her shelter bit by bit.

"Our homes have been obliterated by bombs, and we have no place to turn,"

worsened, forcing us to move to Rusayo. Once in Rusayo, it came there too, and due to the lack of shelter, we came here to Goma," she said. "When we got here, the priest opened this place for us. The school was too small to hold everyone, so we sleep outside in the rain, without resources or help."

Inside the parish, there simply isn't enough space to accommodate all of the

## Displaced families in Eastern Congo struggle for shelter

Zawadi Sifa has known nothing but displacement since

2012. Her latest refuge, the city of Goma, now faces the escalating threat of Rwanda-backed M23 rebels, who recently took control of the area. Sifa, like many others, sought shelter at St. Francis Xavier Parish, a place that has opened its doors to the displaced people of eastern Congo.

Sifa, holding her youngest child, explained her painful journey.

"I came from Kisharo seeking refuge in Saké. When we arrived in Saké, the war

displaced people, leaving many forced to sleep outside, exposed to the elements.

Alain Bauma, another displaced individual from Saké, shared a similar story of uncertainty.

"We left our homes on the 7th of February 2024, and since then we have been suffering. We are in the city without a place to live. We were in tents, and we even left those (to come here). Today we are in Saint Francis in Goma where we are also being chased away. We no longer know where to go. May the leaders give us peace because with that we will be able to return home and go about our business," he said.

The recent M23 rebel takeover of Goma marks the latest chapter in an



People fleeing M-23 rebel advances arrive by boat in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025

ongoing conflict in eastern Congo, a region where war has torn families apart for decades. For Sifa, all seven of her children were born during the conflict, with many of them coming into the world while she was on the move, fleeing the violence that never seems to end.

As the humanitarian crisis deepens, displaced people like Sifa and Bauma are left to navigate a future filled with uncertainty, while hoping for peace and the chance to return home.

## Egypt's President will not attend White House talks if they involve Trump's Gaza plan

According to Egyptian security sources, such a visit has been pinned down. The country's president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will not travel to the White House for discussions if the suggestion to displace Gazans from the enclave.

Donald Trump's proposal to move Palestinians out of Gaza.

Meanwhile, the fate of a tenuous ceasefire between Israel and Trump has sparked the ire of a string of Arab nations with his suggestion that Gaza should be controlled by the U.S. and turned into the "Riviera of the Middle East".

He has urged Egypt and Jordan to take in Gaza's some 2 million residents, and has warned he may halt aid if they refuse to do so.

Egypt says Trump issued an open invitation to the country's president earlier this month, while the U.S. added that no date for



Egypt's president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi



People displaced by the fighting between M23 rebels and government soldiers leave their camp following an instruction by M23 rebels in Goma, DRC, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025.

# EDITORIAL

## The Bar's fear should draw our concern

The 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

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."

# COMMENTARY

By Seltue Karweaye Sr.

## Transparency: Budget 2025

Evidence consistently shows that openness and transparency in budgeting play a crucial role in enhancing governance and holding public officials accountable. Unfortunately, the Government of Liberia has demonstrated inconsistency in the public availability of essential budget documents from one year to the next.

Since 2012, the Government of Liberia has significantly increased access to budget information. It has enhanced the comprehensiveness of key documents such as the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Mid-Year Review, and the Enacted Budget. These improvements have provided a more detailed account of fiscal plans and spending. However, this progress is undermined by a decline in the timely publication of other critical documents, including the Pre-Budget Statement and the Citizens Budget. Furthermore, the government has failed to produce and disseminate the Year-End Report, which is essential for assessing the overall fiscal performance and accountability of government spending.

According to the most recent Open Budget Survey, Liberia has achieved a transparency score of 52 out of 100. This score positions the country moderately above the global average on the Open Budget Index (OBI), which evaluates a nation's budget transparency based on the accessibility and clarity of key financial documents to the public.

The current state of fiscal transparency and public participation in Liberia's budgeting process is disheartening. As Africa's oldest independent nation, it has seemingly regressed in its commitments to transparency, despite ongoing advocacy efforts by citizens and repeated assurances from the government to enhance budgetary openness. This regression raises concerns about the effectiveness of governance and the ability of citizens to engage meaningfully in the budgeting process, essential for fostering trust in public institutions and ensuring responsible stewardship of public resources.

The Government of Liberia currently falls short in providing its citizens with comprehensive budget information, which hampers taxpayers' ability to understand how elected officials are allocating and utilizing public resources. The budgetary process lacks substantial public engagement, resulting in minimal feedback being considered, and the final budget document does not clarify how any feedback received is integrated into the decision-making process. For instance, after the passage of the 2025 budget and its approval by President Boakai, the detailed budget has yet to be released to the public, raising concerns about transparency.

In terms of budget transparency, Liberia ranks approximately in the middle of the spectrum among African countries. This relatively low ranking is linked to the government's failure to produce a timely mid-year budget review, which is critical for assessing fiscal performance and making necessary adjustments. Furthermore, key documents such as the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Budget Implementation Reports are often published late, diminishing their usefulness for oversight and public understanding. The content of these budget documents frequently fails to meet the minimum global standards established by the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency Framework, which outlines guidelines for budget reporting and public accessibility to enhance fiscal accountability and public trust,

the Government of Liberia must improve the timeliness and accessibility of its essential budget documents. Implementing an open budget system would facilitate greater public scrutiny and participation in the budgeting process. Additionally, Liberia must strive to improve the comprehensiveness and clarity of critical budget documents, including the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), Budget Implementation Reports, executive budget proposals, enacted budgets, and year-end reports. By doing so, the government can foster a more transparent, accountable, and participatory budgetary environment that empowers citizens and strengthens democratic governance.

Liberia also needs to produce and publish a mid-year review of fiscal activities in line with the minimum global standard in budgeting. There is also an urgent need for a structured participatory mechanism designed to capture the views of the public throughout the budget cycle.

Obscure budgeting practices have profound and far-reaching consequences for Liberia's economic and social development. When citizens lack adequate information about budgetary decisions and allocations, it erodes public trust in government institutions and democratic processes. This deficiency in transparency not only breeds skepticism among the populace but can also lead to significant inefficiencies and the misallocation of resources, as there is minimal accountability regarding the use and management of public funds.

Moreover, the unavailability of detailed budget information following the approval of the 2025 budget by the legislature and its subsequent signing into law by President Boakai can severely impede effective planning and strategic decision-making for both businesses and investors. When fiscal policies and allocations remain ambiguous, it creates a volatile economic environment that discourages investment and hinders economic growth. Investors, unable to assess the government's financial direction, may hesitate to commit capital, fearing unforeseen shifts in fiscal policy or resource allocation.

For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—the backbone of the economy, often characterized by limited financial resilience—the absence of budget transparency can exacerbate existing challenges related to access to financing and market opportunities. Without clear insight into government spending priorities and economic conditions, SMEs may struggle to secure loans, invest in growth, or compete effectively in the marketplace.

Furthermore, vague budgeting practices can significantly weaken the government's capacity to implement and monitor its policies effectively. In the absence of clear, accessible budget information, it becomes increasingly challenging to evaluate whether public funds are being allocated and utilized by established policy priorities. This lack of oversight can foster an environment conducive to corruption and the waste of public resources, ultimately exacerbating issues of poverty and inequality.

The cumulative effect of these challenges can lead to stagnation in social progress and undermine the nation's overall development. The 2025 approved Liberian budget should be publicly accessible to promote transparency and foster trust within our country. This availability will allow citizens to review the financial allocations and decisions, ensuring they are informed about how public funds are being utilized to support various programs and services. I rest my pen.



# NON-COMPLIANT



## Executive Branch NON-COMPLIANT

	Ministry/ Entities	NAME	SEX		DATE OF APPOINTMENT
1	LPRC	Edwin Zelee	M	Member of the Board	10-Feb-24
2	MOSPA	Ora Richards	F	Deputy Minister/ Budget & Finance	1-Feb-24
3	MOSPA	Sheikh AL -Mustapha Kouyata	M	Ambassador At-Large/ Presidential Affairs	10-Feb-24
4	MOSPA	Mohammed Maladho Bah	M	Presidential Special Envoy on Invst.	14-Jun-24
5	CARI	Joseph Toumeh	M	Deputy Director for Administration	20-Feb-24
6	NIR	Alphanso Belleh	M	Deputy Director/ Administration	20-Feb-24
7	LWSC	Gabriel Flaboe	M	Member, Board of Director	20-Feb-24
8	LWSC	Mohammed Barrie	M	Member, Board of Director	3-Apr-24
9	MOFA	Jallahqueena Konneh	F	Trade & Investment Representative /Ontario	25-Apr-24
10	LTA	Osborne K. Diggs	M	Commissioner	14-Jun-24
11	NHA	Steve Saah Kolubah	M	Deputy Managing Director for Administration	21-Feb-24
12	ARPR	Alexander Cuffy	M	Special Advisor	11-Mar-24
13	ARPR	Ahmed Dempster	M	Member	11-Mar-24
14	Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau	Abraham T. Simmons	M	Commissioner/ Chief Executive Officer	17-Mar-24
15	FDA	Augustine B.M. Johnson	M	Deputy Managing Director/ Technical Services	17-Mar-24
16	LAA	John Fello	M	Board Member	17-Mar-24
17	LAA	Musa Shannoh	M	Board Member	28-Mar-24
18	LAA	Tibelrosa Taponweh	M	Board Member	25-Mar-24
19	LAA	Shoana Cachelle Solomon	M	Board Member	7-Feb-24
20	LLA	Ali Kaba,	F		20-Feb-24
21	MOND	William K. Toe	M	Assistant Minister for Administration	31-Mar-24
22	MOND	Sorbor George	M	Assistant Minister/Public Affairs	13-Jun-24
23	MOND	Merlin Daniel Dennis	M	Assistant Minister for Administration	6-Nov-24
24	FDA	Isaac Grigsby	M	Board Member	31-Mar-24
25	FDA	Loretta Pope Kai	F	Board Member	31-Mar-24
26	NCHE	Dr. Augrie Stevens	M	Chairperson	5-Apr-24
27	NCHE	Ben P. Cooper	M	Board of Trustee	5-Apr-24
28	Civil Service Agency Board of Appeal	Dwight Momolu Harvey, Eds	M	Board Member	5-Apr-24
29	Civil Service Agency Board of Appeal	Atty. John F. Dester Pueyou	M	Board Member	25-Mar-24
30	Civil Service Agency Board of Appeal	Cllr. Samuel Zaza	M	Board Member	25-Mar-24
32	Civil Service Agency Board of Appeal	Gwee, Porkpah	M	District Inspector/ Potupo	25-Mar-24
33	BCTC	Dr. Alfred W. Taikerweyah, Sr.	M	President	21-Mar-24
34	NPHIL	Walter T. Gwenigale	M	Member	21-Jul-24
35	MOSPA	Ms. Winifred Mardia Deshield	M	Deputy Chief of Protocol	8-Jul-24
36	UL	Ambassador Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh	M	Acting President	8-Jul-24
37	MOSPA	Christopher Hages Onanuga,	M	Ambassador-At-Large for Tourism	19-Jun-24
38	Board/BWI	Louise Warmenwoah McMillian S	F	Member	28-May-24
39	Board/BWI	Waito E. Davis	M	Member	28-May-24
40	Board/BWI	Tomah Seh Floyd	M	Member	28-May-24
41	Board/BWI	Moses K. Weefur, Sr.	M	Member	28-May-24
42	Board/BWI	Joe Gene Mulbah	MM	Member	28-May-24
43	Board/BWI	Georgia E. Sellie,	M	Member	25-Apr-24
44	Board/BWI	Francis S. Kenyon,	M	Member	25-Apr-24
45	Board/BWI	P. Blama Siryon,	M	Member	25-Apr-24
46	Board/BWI	Dr. Nancy T. Freeman	F	Member	25-Apr-24
47	PPCC	Ivan Fayah Camanor	M	Chairman	19-Aug-24
48	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	Cllr. Aagon F. Tingba, Jr.	M	County Development Officer	24-Apr-24
49	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	James Greaves	M	Member	29-Apr-24
50	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	Samuel N. Brown	M	Member	29-Apr-24
51	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	Amos Teloe	M	Member	29-Apr-24
52	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	Musu Massaquoi	F	Member	29-Apr-24
53	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	S. Shadrick Teah	F	Member	29-Apr-24
54	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	P. Luogon Lah	M	Member	29-Apr-24
55	Natl. Edu. Advisory Board	Madam Mary Mulbah Nyuma	F	Representative of the Chair Ex- Officio, Member	25-Apr-24
56	NOCAL Board	Kpandeh Fayah	M	Board Member	27-Feb-24
57	NOCAL Board	Kpannah Esther Alan	F	Board Member	27-Feb-24
58	NOCAL Board	Lydia Sandimane-Nimely	F	Board Member	27-Feb-24
59	NOCAL Board	Malcom King	M	Board Member	27-Feb-24
60	NP/ Kamplay City/Nimba	Johnson M. Miah	M	Notary Public Officer	31-Oct-24
61	NP/ Sanniquille City/ Nimba	Harrison Yorh	M	Notary Public Officer	31-Oct-24
62	NP/ Saclepea City / Nimba	Lawrence Yelewhye	M	Notary Public Officer	31-Oct-24
63	NP/ Gompa City / Nimba	Emmanuel Z.Garmie	M	Notary Public Officer	31-Oct-24
64	MIA	Roland G. Nyanfore	M	Acting Superintendent/Grand Kru/Trehn District	31-Oct-24
65	MIA	Oliver Trueh	F	City Mayor, Niplani City, Jloh	18-Apr-24
66	MIA	Washington Sackor	F	Statutory Superintendent, Jroa	18-Apr-24

67	MIA	Paul W. Nagbe	F	City Mayor, Nrownka City, Jroa	18-Apr-24	139	MIA	Lawson Geoh	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
68	MIA	Edward D. Nagbe	M	Commissioner, Lower Sasstown City, Jroa	18-Apr-24	140	MIA	Oliver Tweb	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
69	MIA	Edward K. Wregbe	M	Commissioner, Wessah Township	18-Apr-24	141	MIA	Prince W. Nimely	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
70	MIA	J. Dugba Weah	M	Commissioner, Sloyen Township	18-Apr-24	142	MIA	Sem K. Seah Sr	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
71	MIA	Ebenezer T. Nagbe	M	Commissioner, Wlojuku Township	18-Apr-24	143	MIA	Doe Kekeh Doe	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
72	MIA	Patrick W. Woto	M	Commissioner, Upper Sasstown	18-Apr-24	144	MIA	Archibald Bartee	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
73	MIA	N. Konmanu Nyaneh Sr	M	District Commissioner, Wedabo	18-Apr-24	145	MIA	Charles Tekay	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
74	MIA	A. Barslee Nyenpah Klah Sr	M	City Mayor, Grand Cess City	18-Apr-24	146	MIA	Nah Waleh	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
75	MIA	Esther Plee	M	City Mayor, Gbanken City	18-Apr-24	147	MIA	Peter Blay	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
76	MIA	Roland G. Nyanfore	F	Statutory Superintendent, Trehn	18-Apr-24	148	MIA	McCauley Nagbe	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
77	MIA	Dickson D. Wallace	M	Commissioner, Garraway Adm	18-Apr-24	149	MIA	Sorey Sackor	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
78	MIA	Charles T. Nimely	M	Commissioner, Blebo Adm	18-Apr-24	150	MIA	Dolly D. Doe	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
79	MIA	James B. Toe	M	City Mayor, Soroken City	18-Apr-24	151	MIA	K. Tweb Slewion	M	Mayor	24-Apr-24
80	MIA	Theophilus Davis	M	City Mayor, Worteken City	18-Apr-24	152	MIA	P. Alexander S. Slah	M	Mayor	24-Apr-24
81	MIA	Wiefue F. Wilson	M	City Mayor, Behwan City	18-Apr-24	153	MIA	Jeremiah Swen	M	Mayor,	24-Apr-24
82	MIA	Augustine S. Nugba	M	City Mayor, Dougbo City	18-Apr-24	154	MIA	Darius Kiah	M	Commissioner, Sarbor	24-Apr-24
83	MIA	Benedictus Q. Geweh	M	City Mayor, Nemiah City	18-Apr-24	155	MIA	Eugene M. Swen	M	Commissioner, Klah District	24-Apr-24
84	MIA	Peter D. Pouh	M	City Mayor, Genoyah City	18-Apr-24	156	MIA	Alex Nah-Wleh	M	Commissioner, Ba-Nakay District	24-Apr-24
85	MIA	Joe N. Bioh	M	City Mayor, Blebo City	18-Apr-24	157	MIA	Johnny Wion	M	Commissioner, Klah Municipality	24-Apr-24
86	MIA	Caesar Q. Nyemah	M	Commissioner, Trenbo Gbanken	18-Apr-24	158	MIA	Christain Swen	M	Commissioner, Nana Kru	24-Apr-24
87	MIA	Augustus Y. Genoway	M	Commissioner, Sawken Township	18-Apr-24	159	MIA	Alex Jah	M	Commissioner, Lower Tuoh	24-Apr-24
88	MIA	Robert O. Doe	M	Commissioner, Andrewville Township	18-Apr-24	160	MIA	Jerry Karch	M	Commissioner, Menwah Walker Township	24-Apr-24
89	MIA	Victor Monnoch	M	Commissioner, Nyanbo Township	18-Apr-24	161	MIA	James N. Komoteh	M	Commissioner, Swenpo Township	24-Apr-24
90	MIA	Kyne G. Shamoh	M	Commissioner, Saywonken Township	18-Apr-24	162	MIA	Otis Pennoh	M	Commissioner, Kaequekpoh	24-Apr-24
91	MIA	Augustine Baslee	M	City Mayor, Grand Cess City	18-Apr-24	163	MIA	Elijah Sneh	M	Commissioner, Gmankenkpo	24-Apr-24
92	MIA	Jack Pleeyeh	M	City Mayor, Wedabo City	18-Apr-24	164	MIA	Milton P. Tumoe	M	Commissioner, Gbardee	24-Apr-24
93	MIA	Minikon Sieh	M	Commissioner, Barclayville Adm	18-Apr-24	165	MIA	Jerry Dweh	M	Commissioner, Gbata Township	24-Apr-24
94	MIA	Felix Teah	M	Statutory Superintendent, Gbetao	18-Apr-24	166	MIA	John B. Wleh	M	Mayor, Karquekpoh City	24-Apr-24
95	MOE/ HE	Zobon Norman	M	College President, Bonni Community College	18-Apr-24	167	MIA	Leviticus S. Tarpeh	M	Mayor, Gbalakpoh City	24-Apr-24
96	MIA	Sando Fulley	M	County Financial Officer	18-Apr-24	168	MIA	S. Wiah Tarplah	M	Mayor, Swenpon City	24-Apr-24
97	MIA	Saymolu B. Dorley	M	Statutory Superintendent, Suehn Mecca	18-Apr-24	169	MIA	D. Walatee Boyee	M	Mayor, Gbakla City	24-Apr-24
98	MIA	Seh M. Darmago	M	Township Commissioner, Suehn	18-Apr-24	170	MIA	Nathaniel Kumeh	M	Mayor, Menwe Walker City	24-Apr-24
99	MIA	Momo P. She	M	District Commissioner, Klay	18-Apr-24	171	MIA	Alex K. Koffa	M	Mayor, Nyanpon City	24-Apr-24
100	MIA	Alfred B. Massaquoi	M	District Commissioner, Tehr	18-Apr-24	172	MIA	Tarpeh Dorwon	M	Mayor, Kloven City	24-Apr-24
101	MIA	T. Bai Massaquoi	M	County Development Officer	18-Apr-24	173	MIA	H. Doe Kofa	M	Statutory Superintendent- Jedepo	24-Apr-24
102	MIA	Musu Cooke	M	Commissioner, Porkpa District	18-Apr-24	174	MIA	Robert Bestman	M	Commissioner, Ta-Jadepo	24-Apr-24
103	MIA	Roland Sietua	M	Township Commissioner, Bendaja	18-Apr-24	175	MIA	Cecilia Borkey	M	Commissioner, Dubukon District	24-Apr-24
104	MIA	Hannah C. Wheamie	F	, Porkpa- Golakonneh Statutory District	18-Apr-24	176	MIA	Henry Cole	M	Mayor, Ducorfree City	24-Apr-24
105	MIA	Francis Gbelawoe	M	Suakoko City	18-Apr-24	177	MIA	Athony Nyemah Cooper	M	Commissioner, Martuken Township	24-Apr-24
106	MIA	P. A. Karmue	M	City Mayor, Palala City	18-Apr-24	178	MIA	Dominic Dennis	M	Commissioner, Wotuwon Township	24-Apr-24
107	MIA	Papa L. Dolo	M	City Mayor, Botota City	18-Apr-24	179	MIA	Larry G. Geekor	M	Commissioner, Jarboville Township	24-Apr-24
108	MIA	Nixon L. Kpee	M	Statutory Superintendent, Kokayah	18-Apr-24	180	MIA	Winston Blayon	M	Statutory Superintendent	24-Apr-24
109	MIA	Emmanuel G. Garglan	M	District Commissioner, Boinsen	18-Apr-24	181	MIA	John Togbah	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24
110	MIA	Ansu Sirleaf	M	District Commissioner, Turkpablee	18-Apr-24	182	MIA	Sylvester S. Weah	M	Commissioner, Jaedae District	24-Apr-24
111	MIA	Isaac Gbarnyan	M	District Commissioner, Kokayah	18-Apr-24	183	MIA	Tom K. N. Geffie, Jr.	M	Commissioner, Bokon District	24-Apr-24
112	MIA	James T. Kpoquoi	M	District Commissioner, Kpaai	18-Apr-24	184	MIA	Sampson Karmanue	M	Commissioner, Bodae District	24-Apr-24
113	MIA	David C. Karshue	M	District Commissioner, Jorquelleh	18-Apr-24	185	MIA	David Borjah	M	Commissioner, Seongbaeville	24-Apr-24
114	MIA	Fatu Banney	M	District Commissioner, Jorquelleh	18-Apr-24	186	MIA	Eric Joloba	M	Commissioner, Lower Bokon Township	24-Apr-24
115	MIA	Boye Varkpah Sackie	M	District Commissioner, Yellequelleh	18-Apr-24	187	MIA	Macosa Hinneh	M	Commissioner, Bokon Township	20-Feb-24
116	MIA	Stephen Naimenie Binda	M	District Commissioner, Konawolah	23-Apr-24	188	MIA	Joseph Saygue	M	County Inspector/ Grand Geddeh	25-Mar-24
117	MIA	Joshua M. Dennis	M	Commissioner/ Loyville Township	23-Apr-24	189	MIA	Makemen Tawulleh	M	District Comm, B'hai Adm. Dist, #3	25-Mar-24
118	MIA	Darius Shajay Nagbe, Sr.	M	Statutory Superintendent/ Kpanyan	23-Apr-24	190	MIA	William Akoi Eeasiah	M	County Inspector	25-Mar-24
119	MIA	S. Kamboe Shen	M	Commissioner/ Numopoh/ Sione	23-Apr-24	191	MIA	Papa K. B. Johnson	M	Mayor/Harper City	25-Mar-24
120	MIA	Stephen Wion	M	Commissioner/Planson	23-Apr-24	192	MIA	Harris Domah	M	Development Superintendent/Barrobo	25-Mar-24
121	MIA	H. Warrant Cooper	M	Commissioner/ Greenville	23-Apr-24	193	MIA	Saa Njamilah Bornquoi	M	Township Commissione/ S.S.David Township	25-Mar-24
122	MIA	Bestman Weagbe	M	Commissioner/ Kou Township	23-Apr-24	194	MIA	Thomas Bundol	M	Township Commissioner/ Geebadio Whojah Dis	25-Mar-24
123	MIA	Mentu Saye	M	Commissioner/ Mentuville	30-Apr-24	195	MIA	Anthony V. Kamara	M	Assistant Superintendent/ Dev. Lofa	25-Mar-24
124	MIA	Anthony Tweb	M	Commissioner/ Borbor Township	30-Apr-24	196	MIA	Mosses Vargai	M	Statutory Superintendent/ Foya	25-Mar-24
125	MIA	Daddy Toteh	M	Commissioner/ Ceedor Township	25-Apr-24	197	MIA	Yankoi Dolo	M	Assistant Statutory Superintendent / Dev	25-Mar-24
126	MIA	Nehemiah Sneh	M	Commissioner/ Blountville	25-Apr-24	198	MIA	Salia Kanneh	M	Relieving Commissioner/ Lofa	25-Mar-24
127	MIA	Stanton Birch	M	Commissioner/ Lexington Township	24-Apr-24	199	MIA	Prince B. Marshall	M	Commissioner/ Zogolemai Township	25-Mar-24
128	MIA	Samuel Willie	M	City Mayor	24-Apr-24	200	MIA	Mark D. G. Lahai	M	Commissioner/ Zolwo Town Ship Zozo	25-Mar-24
129	MIA	Darius Shajay Nagbe Sr	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24	201	MIA	Anthony Healo	M	Commissioner/ Solumba Township Waum	25-Mar-24
130	MIA	Alfred J. Jarwood	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24	202	MIA	Hawa Loleyah Norris	F	Commissioner / Vahum Adm. Dist	25-Mar-24
131	MIA	S. Kanboe Sneh	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24	203	MIA	J. Richard Duwanju	M	Commissioner/ Salaya	25-Mar-24
132	MIA	Dennis T. W. Jabbah	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24	204	MIA	Torhn N. Konisear	M	Commissioner/ Golahum	25-Mar-24
133	MIA	Samuel B. Strother	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24	205	MIA	Arthur Kpoloh	M	Commissioner/ Voinjama	25-Mar-24
134	MIA	Saywon Wah	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24	206	MIA	Ernest Gargar	M	Commissioner/Waum	25-Mar-24
135	MIA	Peter N. Jerboe	M	Commissioner	24-Apr-24	207	MIA	Emmanuel David	M	Commissioner/Tengia	25-Mar-24
136	MIA	Joseph James	M	Statutory Superintendent	24-Apr-24	208	MIA	Moses K. White</			



355	MIA/Sinoe County	Timothy Saymah	M	Mayor, Shadée City	24-Apr-24
356	MIA/Sinoe County	Saydee Biobh-	M	Mayor, Chebchio City	24-Apr-24
357	MIA/Sinoe County	Duncan Tarjubue-	M	Mayor, Tetteh Jaywee City	24-Apr-24
358	MIA/Sinoe County	John T. Toteh-	M	Mayor, Flahn City	24-Apr-24
359	MIA/Sinoe County	Polson Tarley-	F	Commissioner, Kai Township, Wacaba Statutory D	24-Apr-24
360	MIA/Sinoe County	Agent Wonjah-	M	Commissioner, Geelor Township, Wacaba Statutor	24-Apr-24
361	MIA/Sinoe County	Augustine P. Solomon-	M	Commissioner, Mile 48 Township, Wacaba Statute	24-Apr-24
362	MIA/Sinoe County	Alderine S. Wiah-	F	Statutory Superintendent, Tarjuowon Statutory Dis	24-Apr-24
363	MIA/Sinoe County	Jepheth B. Dorjue-	M	ommissioner, Shaw-Bo District, Tarjuowon Statut	24-Apr-24
364	MIA/Sinoe County	Titus Johnson	M	Commissioner, Nyam District, Tarjuowon Statuto	24-Apr-24
365	MIA/Sinoe County	Rose F. Jayenneh-	M	Mayor, Unification City	24-Apr-24
366	MIA/Sinoe County	Mark Tiahgo-	M	Mayor, Clarksville City	24-Apr-24
367	MIA/Sinoe County	Othello Wleh-	M	Mayor, Jacksonville City	24-Apr-24
368	MIA/Sinoe County	Mary Geggbe-	M	Mayor, Simijilla City	24-Apr-24
369	MIA/Sinoe County	Henery Wolloh- ict	M	Mayor, Bestnewlue City	24-Apr-24
370	MIA/Sinoe County	Henry Ponah-	M	Commissioner, Myerville Township, Tarjuowon St	24-Apr-24
371	MIA/Sinoe County	Matthew Tarpeay-	M	Commissioner, Dorbiohville Township, Tarjuowor	24-Apr-24
372	MIA/Sinoe County	David Blay-	M	Commissioner, Shaw-David Township, Tarjuowon	24-Apr-24
373	MIA/Sinoe County	Jerome D. Gbayee-	M	Commissioner, Kingston Weagbah Township, Tarj	24-Apr-24
374	MIA/Sinoe County	Leo Nah-	M	Commissioner, Upper Nyan Township, Tarjuowon	24-Apr-24
375	MIA/Sinoe County	Moses G. Henry,	M	Commissioner, Bewehye Township, Tarjuowon S	24-Apr-24
376	MIA/Sinoe County	James W. Duen,	M	Statutory Superintendent, Sanquin Statutory Distri	24-Apr-24
377	MIA/Sinoe County	Lady Benson	F	Commissioner, Geetoh District, Sanquin Statutory	24-Apr-24
378	MIA/Sinoe County	Myers Saytue-	M	Mayor, Kayweah City	24-Apr-24
379	MIA/Sinoe County	James Sarty Saylee	M	Commissioner, Totoe Township, Sanquin Statutory	24-Apr-24
380	MIA/Sinoe County	Alber K. Dwight	M	Commissioner, Tarsu Township, Sanquin Statutory	24-Apr-24
381	MIA/Sinoe County	Celine K. Quayee-	F	Commissioner, Geetoh Township, Sanquin Statute	24-Apr-24
382	MIA/Sinoe County	Aloysious Farley	M	Commissioner, Neequia Township, Sanquin Stat	24-Apr-24
383	MIA/Sinoe County	Emmanuel Toe-	M	Commissioner, Lower Sanquin Township, Sanquin	24-Apr-24
384	MIA/Sinoe County	Toe Gbaya-	M	Commissioner, Wotukon Township, Sanquin Statu	24-Apr-24
385	MIA/G. Bassaa County	Toe Woltoe Jr.	M	Commissioner, Troday Township, Sanquin Statuto	24-Apr-24
386	MIA/G. Bassaa County	Victor K. Myers-	M	Mayor, Edina City	24-Apr-24
387	MIA/G. Bassaa County	Augustine Zuo-	M	Mayor, Buchanan City	24-Apr-24
388	MIA/River Gee County	Liverpool George-	M	Statutory Superintendent, Sarbo Statutory District	24-Apr-24
389	MIA/River Gee County	Daniel N. Kear-	M	Statutory Superintendent, Teinpo Satutory District	24-Apr-24
390	MIA/River Gee County	Ben T. Weah	M	Commissioner, Sarbo Adm. District	24-Apr-24
391	MIA/River Gee County	Francis Nyepan	M	Commissioner, Tuobo Adm. District	24-Apr-24
392	MIA/River Gee County	John Q. Bawilly	M	Commissioner, Putupo Adm. District	24-Apr-24
393	MIA/River Gee County	J. Tartu Gray	M	Commissioner, Kafore Adm. District	24-Apr-24
394	MIA/River Gee County	Amos Sloh	F	Commissioner, Glaroh Adm. District	24-Apr-24
395	MIA/River Gee County	Wleh Saywon	M	Commissioner, Gbeapo Adm. District	24-Apr-24
396	MIA/River Gee County	Larry Nyanfore-	M	Mayor, Gbarwleken City	24-Apr-24
397	MIA/River Gee County	K. Jack Toe-	M	Mayor, Tuobo Sweaken City	24-Apr-24
398	MIA/River Gee County	Henry Noukan	M	Commissioner, Flewroken Township	24-Apr-24
399	MIA/River Gee County	Blaford Nimene	M	Commissioner, Seipo Township	24-Apr-24
400	MIA/River Gee County	Demetric Gmah	M	Commissioner, Katoken Township	24-Apr-24
401	MIA/River Gee County	Helena M. Toe	F	Commissioner, Woloken Township	24-Apr-24
402	MIA/River Gee County	Isaac Koffa-	M	Commissioner, Gmayeaken Township	24-Apr-24
403	MIA/River Gee County	Esther Jlatuh-	F	Commissioner, Jargboken Township	24-Apr-24
404	MIA/River Gee County	Robert Karpeh	M	Commissioner, Nyenyawiliken Township	24-Apr-24
405	MIA/River Gee County	Helena Jiple-	F	Commissioner, Chegboken Township	24-Apr-24
406	MIA/River Gee County	Barslee Nyenpah Klah Sr	M	Commissioner, Nyakken Township	24-Apr-24
407	MIA/River Gee County	Esther Plec-	M	Commissioner, Gibsonville Township	24-Apr-24
408	MIA/River Gee County	Augustine S. Nugba-	M	Commissioner, Neplus Township	24-Apr-24
409	MIA/River Gee County	Joe N. Bioh-	F	Commissioner, Kiteabo Township	24-Apr-24
410	MIA/River Gee County	Fred K. Hinneh-	M	Commissioner, Glaro Township	24-Apr-24
411	MIA/Margibi	Joshua Dennis	M	Acting Commissioner for Lloydsville Township	31-Oct-24
412	MIA/Lofa	Losene A. Dukuly	M	Commissioner, Quardu-Gboni District, Lofa County	31-Oct-24
414	MOFA	Genevieve Kennedy	F	Ambassador Designate, United Kingdom	6-Nov-24
415	MOFA	Edward Appleton	M	Ambassador Designate, Japan/ Did not Declare at	6-Nov-24
416	MOFA	Brahima Kaba	M	Ambassador Designate, Kuwait	6-Nov-24
417	MOFA	Mohammed Kanneh	M	Ambassador Designate, Qatar	6-Nov-24
418	MOFA	Ali Sylla	M	Ambassador Designate, Senegal	6-Nov-24
419	MOFA	Joseph Johnson	M	Ambassador Designate, Morocco	6-Nov-24
420	MOFA	Musu J. Ruhle	F	Ambassador Designate, Ghana	6-Nov-24
421	MOCI	Magdalene Ellen Dagoneh	M	Minister	4-Nov-24
422	MOFA	Lewis Brown	M	Ambassador Designate, Liberia Permanent Mission	6-Nov-24
423	Board of NBVA	Col. Isaac S. Quawah (Rtd)	M	Member of the Board	4-Nov-24
424	Board of NBVA	Lieu. Col. Patrick K. Topor	M	Member of the Board	4-Nov-24
425	Board of NBVA	Cllr. Korvah B. Jallah	M	Member of the Board	4-Nov-24
426	Board of NBVA	Cllr. Edwin G. Barquoi	M	Member of the Board	4-Nov-24
427	Board of NBVA	Hawa Dunor -Varney	F	Member of the Board	4-Nov-24
428	Board of NBVA	Lawrence Yealue	M	Member of the Board	4-Nov-24
429	LKRKC	Jackson J. Paye	M	Officer in charge (OIC)	1-Nov-24
431	LDEA	Sabastine Farr	M	Deputy Director / Opreations	29-Nov-24
432	LDEA	Gwee Porkpah	M	Deputy Director / Administration	29-Nov-24
433	LEC	Thomas z. Gonkerwon	M	Interim Managing Director	29-Nov-24
434	LEC	Eric A. Fredericks	M	Interim Deputy Managing Director/Adm	29-Nov-24
435	LEC	Emile Karna	M	Interim Deputy Managing Director/Ops	29-Nov-24
436	LEC	I Dele Shobayo	M	Interim Deputy Managing Director/Tech. Services	29-Nov-24
437	NOCAL Board	Cllr. Gloria Musu-Scott	F	Acting Chairperson of the Board	19-Dec-24
438	MOSPA	Oretha Juah Bestman-Yates	F	Asst. Minister/Human Resources	10-Dec-24
439	MOSPA	Gurly T. Gibson Schwarz	F	Trade & Investment Representative/Philadelphia	19-Dec-24
440	MOSPA National Youth Adv.	James Earl Kiawoin	M	Chairperson	10-Dec-24
441	MOSPA National Youth Adv.	Fenny Louise Taylor Diggs	F	Co-Chairperson	10-Dec-24
442	MOSPA National Youth Adv.	Alpha Faith Kemokai	F	Member	10-Dec-24
443	MOSPA National Youth Adv.	Akerseh Guanne	M	Member (Motorcyclist)O	10-Dec-24
444	MOSPA National Youth Adv.	Daniel N. Nills	M	Representing Man River Union Youth Parliament	10-Dec-24
445	MOSPA National Youth Adv.	Ms. Banica Stephanie Elliott	F	Representing the Federation of LIB youth	10-Dec-24
446	MOSPA	Emmet Dunn	M	Special Envoy on Partnership & Philanthropy	10-Dec-24
447	Natl Commission on Arm	Christopher P.S. Roberts	M	Member of the Board	29-Nov-24
448	Natl Commission on Arm	James Y. Smith	M	Member of the Board	29-Nov-24
449	LRRC	Massah P. Gray Kromah	F	Interim Deputy Director/ Administration	5-Nov-24
450	LRRC	Jackson J. Paye	M	Officer in charge (OIC)	1-Nov-24
451	Margibi University College	Joseph Isaac	M	President	15-Sep-24
452	PPCC Complaint Appeal & Review Panel	Cllr. Sundayway E. Nelson Amagashie	F	Member	29-Aug-24
453	PPCC Complaint Appeal & Review Panel	Vicent Smith	M	Member	29-Aug-24
454	PPCC Complaint Appeal & Review Panel	Morris Davis	M	Member	29-Aug-24
455	PPCC Complaint Appeal & Review Panel	Ezekiel Nyumah	M	Member	29-Aug-24
456	PPCC Complaint Appeal & Review Panel	Michael C. G. George	M	Member	29-Aug-24
457	NCOHE	Ben Cooper	M	Board Member	29-Aug-24

# This is not fair

-Students decry poor planning at Monrovia Day celebration

The administration of the Monrovia City Corporation comes under criticism for poor planning of Monrovia Day here, that left scores of students denied entry because of lack of capacity.

By: Kruah Thompson

**M**onrovia, Liberia, February 13, 2025 - Students from various public schools, including William V.S. Tubman High School, G.W. Gibson High School, D. Twe Memorial High School, and other institutions are frustrated over alleged poor planning by the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) to observe Monrovia Day. The celebrations held in the Ball Room of the Monrovia City Hall on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, is part of a week-long activities under the theme "The Monrovia We Want." It is meant to celebrate the capital city's rich history, cultural diversity, and contributions to national development.

According to some of the students, the MCC had extended invitations to their schools, inviting them for the event, but upon arrival, only a select few were allowed entry, while the rest were told that the hall was at full capacity, leaving them disappointed and confused.

the limited space, further lamenting that since being denied entry, they had been sitting outside, with no one offering them even a bottle of water. "We can't just go home; we have to wait for our colleagues so that we can leave together", they said.

Another student remarked: "This isn't fair!, If they had a specific number of people they needed, they should have informed our administration ahead of time. Now, they're rejecting people, and it's really shameful."

However, announcement for the celebration was first made at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism's regular press briefing on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, when Monrovia City Mayor John Charuk Siafa, extended an open invitation to all Liberians, including students, journalists, civil society organizations, local and international businesses and community leaders to discuss challenges and strategies for shaping Monrovia's future. But in an unexpected turn of events, students and other invited groups



Many students, along with other invitees, were seen waiting outside, in front of the City Hall building while the program continued inside.

This paper spoke with K.B.K. Sando Massaquoi, a student from William V.S. Tubman High School, Emmanuel Dóe from D. Twe Memorial High School, and Moses S. Yorgbor from Monrovia Central High School. They told the NEW DAWN that they never expected to be treated in such a manner.

They expressed frustration over lack of communication regarding

were denied entry due to over crowdedness. When asked about the situation, MCC officers at the gate stated that the venue was too small to accommodate the number of attendees. They further explained that, for this reason, they had been instructed to accept only individuals with passes into the building. Previously called Christopolis or "City of Christ", the Liberian capital was renamed Monrovia in honor of the 5th President of the United States of America, James Monroe. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Français

## Conflit potentiel : l'absence de la Cour Suprême à la deuxième adresse à la nation du président Boakai expliquée

**L**e juge associé de la Cour Suprême du Libéria, Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay, a expliqué que l'absence de la Cour Suprême à la deuxième adresse à la nation (SONA) du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai visait à éviter tout risque de conflit potentiel.

Le juge aurait pu être perçue comme un soutien à l'un des camps politiques.

« La question était que notre présence à cet événement aurait été interprétée comme un soutien à un côté du bloc politique. La meilleure solution était donc de demeurer neutres. C'était là la logique de la Cour », a déclaré le juge Gbeisay.



Monrovia, 12 février 2025 - Le juge Gbeisay a récemment détaillé les raisons qui ont conduit à l'absence de la Cour Suprême à cet événement, précisant que la présence des

Il a rappelé qu'un conflit persistant au sein de la Chambre des Représentants avait conduit certaines parties à se tourner vers la Cour Suprême. En réponse, la Cour avait rendu une décision législative.

« Une loi stipule que la Chambre des Représentants doit disposer d'un quorum, ce quorum devant être présidé par un speaker », a-t-il précisé. Cependant, selon le juge, bien que le bloc majoritaire ait réuni un quorum, il manquait toujours un speaker, ce qui rendait toute action prise par ce bloc illégale au regard de la décision de la Cour.

« La Cour Suprême s'est alors adressée au bloc minoritaire, lui rappelant que la loi impose un quorum légitime. Tant que ce quorum n'est pas constitué, il faut continuer à ajourner les sessions », a ajouté Gbeisay. Le juge a souligné que la Cour Suprême n'avait ni la capacité de contrôler les affaires politiques ni le pouvoir de dicter le comportement des parlementaires. Il a également précisé qu'aucune loi n'établit la manière dont le bloc minoritaire pourrait forcer le bloc majoritaire à respecter la légalité.

« Si, pour une raison quelconque, le Sénat et le président décident de

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Le président de la Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio, exprime ses préoccupations face aux menaces croissantes sur la sécurité régionale

**I**l appelle l'Armée des Forces Libériennes (AFL) à renforcer la collaboration régionale. Le président de la Sierra Leone se réjouit de la paix retrouvée au Libéria, tout en soulignant la nécessité de renforcer la coopération régionale pour faire face aux menaces croissantes à la sécurité dans la région.

Monrovia, 12 février 2025 - Le président de la Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio, a exprimé ses inquiétudes concernant la sécurité au sein de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), soulignant l'importance d'une collaboration renforcée entre les nations de la région pour répondre aux défis croissants. Dans son discours prononcé lors de la 68e cérémonie des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL) à Monrovia, le président Bio a appelé le Libéria à jouer un rôle central dans le renforcement de la coopération régionale afin de faire face aux menaces de plus en plus complexes.

« Mesdames et messieurs, tout en célébrant les réalisations de l'AFL, nous devons également prendre la mesure des défis qui nous attendent », a déclaré le

président Bio.

« Les menaces à la paix et à la sécurité dans notre région sont en constante évolution, qu'il s'agisse de crimes transnationaux, de cybermenaces ou encore des inégalités économiques et climatiques », a-t-il ajouté.

Pour répondre à ces défis, l'ex-leader militaire a préconisé de renforcer les relations civiles-militaires, de promouvoir le développement des capacités, d'intensifier la coopération régionale et de consolider les institutions démocratiques.

Le président Bio a également souligné que les Libériens doivent célébrer non seulement le courage

et les sacrifices des AFL, mais aussi le rôle déterminant de l'armée dans la consolidation de la paix, de la stabilité et de la démocratie au Libéria et en Afrique de l'Ouest.

« Comme nombre de nos nations, l'histoire du Libéria a été marquée par des épreuves qui ont mis à l'épreuve la résilience de ses institutions et la volonté de son peuple », a-t-il rappelé.

« Vous avez surmonté ces épreuves, et c'est pourquoi le Libéria reste une nation pacifique », a-t-il ajouté.

Le président Bio a insisté sur une vérité fondamentale : la



## Editorial

### Les préoccupations du Barreau méritent une attention sérieuse

Par Daron Acemoglu

L'Association du Barreau National du Libéria (LNBA) exprime son inquiétude face à des événements récents qui, selon elle, compromettent la démocratie constitutionnelle du pays. Elle dénonce des violations présumées des droits fondamentaux, des décisions exécutives discutables, le non-respect des jugements judiciaires et une ingérence excessive du pouvoir législatif. Autant de dérives qui, selon le Barreau, menacent les principes fondamentaux de l'État de droit.

Face à cette situation, la LNBA réaffirme son engagement à collaborer avec les décideurs politiques pour garantir le respect de la Constitution et promouvoir des réformes juridiques conformes aux aspirations du peuple libérien.

Le président récemment élu de l'Association, Me Bornor M. Varmah, souligne que la LNBA opère sous un cadre statutaire qui expose ses fonctions réglementaires, disciplinaires et administratives à des influences extérieures. Il plaide pour une autonomie renforcée afin de garantir au Barreau une plus grande indépendance dans l'exercice de ses missions.

« La LNBA doit disposer du pouvoir de fixer et d'appliquer des normes éthiques rigoureuses, d'améliorer les exigences en matière d'agrément des avocats et de mener des actions disciplinaires sans ingérence indue. En tant qu'institution dédiée à la justice, elle doit bénéficier d'une indépendance institutionnelle lui permettant de contester les actes inconstitutionnels, de plaider pour des réformes judiciaires et d'engager des actions d'intérêt public sans crainte d'influence politique », affirme Me Varmah.

Cette déclaration intervient alors que des divergences d'interprétation juridique entourent la destitution du président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa. Cette controverse a suscité des interrogations quant à la gestion de l'affaire par la Cour suprême, qui s'est abstenue de rendre un avis clair sur la procédure à suivre.

Ce silence a laissé un vide juridique dont l'Exécutif a profité pour imposer sa propre interprétation et justifier la destitution du président de la Chambre en dehors des règles établies. Une situation qui, selon la LNBA, affaiblit la confiance du public dans le système judiciaire et nuit à l'équilibre des pouvoirs.

Il est impératif que la Cour suprême exerce pleinement son rôle en apportant des clarifications définitives sur les affaires qui lui sont soumises. En tant que seule instance habilitée à garantir la stabilité du système démocratique par le contrôle judiciaire et l'interprétation des lois, elle doit éviter toute ambiguïté qui pourrait semer le doute.

Dans cette optique, Me Varmah appelle à une collaboration étroite entre la LNBA et la Cour suprême afin d'améliorer la qualité des décisions judiciaires. Il insiste sur l'urgence d'une telle réforme, rappelant que la Constitution de 1986 confère à la Cour suprême un pouvoir fondamental de contrôle judiciaire. Ce rôle essentiel doit être exercé avec rigueur et indépendance pour garantir la clarté, l'impartialité et la stabilité du droit au Libéria.

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## Happy New Year to all our Readers

# Français

## Starts from page 8 Conflit potentiel : l'absence de la Cour Suprême à la

reconnaître le bloc majoritaire et que le fonctionnement du gouvernement continue, nous accepterons l'invitation du président de la Chambre », a expliqué le juge Gbeisay. « Toutefois, notre présence à cet événement aurait signifié que nous reconnaissions un côté du bloc, et c'est pourquoi nous avons choisi de rester en retrait. »

Il a réaffirmé que la Cour Suprême ne souhaitait pas s'impliquer dans ce conflit politique et avait simplement recommandé aux deux blocs de résoudre leurs différends. « Nous avons rempli notre rôle, mais nous ne dirigeons pas la politique. Nous ne voulons pas que notre présence soit interprétée comme un soutien à l'un des camps », a-t-il conclu.

La crise politique qui a secoué le Parlement libérien l'année dernière a perturbé le bon fonctionnement des institutions législatives,

culminant avec la destitution illégale du président de la Chambre, Jonathan Fonati Koffa.

Suite à l'absence de la Cour Suprême lors de la deuxième SONA du président Boakai, un débat public a éclaté, certains y voyant une remise en question de la légitimité de la direction de Koon. Cependant, en réponse aux accusations de boycott, Darryl Ambrose Nmah, directeur de la presse et des affaires publiques du pouvoir judiciaire, a clarifié que l'absence des juges était due à des engagements professionnels.

Dans un message publié sur Facebook, Nmah a expliqué que le juge en chef était actuellement à la réunion annuelle de haut niveau des juges en chef et présidents des Cours suprêmes et constitutionnelles d'Afrique et du Moyen-Orient, qui se tient chaque année au Caire, en Égypte, à la même période.

## Starts from page 8 Le président de la Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio,

paix et la sécurité durables ne peuvent être garanties sans l'engagement constant et la discipline des forces armées. Il a plaidé pour une armée qui soit non seulement garante de la souveraineté nationale, mais aussi un pilier de la gouvernance démocratique.

En rendant hommage à l'engagement inébranlable des AFL envers la paix, la sécurité et le développement national, le président Bio a évoqué ses propres expériences militaires et

la coopération avec les soldats libériens pour défendre la vie et la stabilité dans la région.

Il a exprimé sa satisfaction de voir que, enfin, le Libéria vit dans l'ampleur du travail qui reste à accomplir», a-t-il déclaré.

Le président a souligné que les forces armées ont toujours joué un rôle clé dans la protection de la sécurité nationale et régionale. Au-delà de leur mission de

défense de l'intégrité territoriale, les institutions militaires modernes sont essentielles pour promouvoir la paix, répondre aux urgences, soutenir les initiatives de développement et renforcer la gouvernance démocratique, a-t-il précisé.

« Cet événement ravive des souvenirs et nous rappelle la paix, répondre aux urgences, soutenir les initiatives de développement et renforcer la gouvernance démocratique, a-t-il précisé.

« Le Libéria et la Sierra Leone partagent une histoire qui met en évidence l'importance d'une paix et d'une sécurité durables, un engagement commun pour un avenir pacifique », a conclu le président Bio.

## Les critiques fusent après l'inspection de Boakai au BTC

**L**a décision du président Boakai d'inspecter les troupes au Barclay Training Center (BTC) lors des célébrations officielles de la 68e Journée des Forces armées du Libéria suscite de vives critiques, certains remettant en question sa condition physique et sa capacité à remplir ses fonctions de Commandant en Chef.

Monrovia, Libéria, 12 février 2025 – Pour la première fois, le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Commandant en Chef des Forces armées du Libéria, a choisi de procéder à l'inspection des troupes au Barclay Training Center (BTC) à bord d'un pick-up militaire à double cabine, avant le défilé des membres de l'AFL à l'occasion de la 68e Journée des Forces armées, le 11 février 2025.

Traditionnellement, tous les présidents et Commandants en Chef des Forces armées du Libéria s'étaient rendus à pied pour inspecter les troupes, marquant ainsi leur proximité avec les forces armées. Le choix de Boakai de procéder à l'inspection en véhicule a suscité de nombreuses interrogations, avec des critiques portant sur son état de santé et sa vitalité.

L'événement a été marqué par la présence de plusieurs dignitaires, dont le président de la Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio, orateur principal de la cérémonie, ainsi que l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Le président Boakai a été conduit à

l'arrière du pick-up militaire décoré aux couleurs nationales du Libéria – rouge, blanc et bleu – pour inspecter les troupes avant de rejoindre sa place pour la suite des festivités.

En réponse aux critiques concernant cette manière d'effectuer l'inspection, la porte-parole du président, Mme Kula Fofana, a rappelé que le président, en tant que Commandant en Chef, est libre de choisir la méthode qu'il juge appropriée pour cette activité.

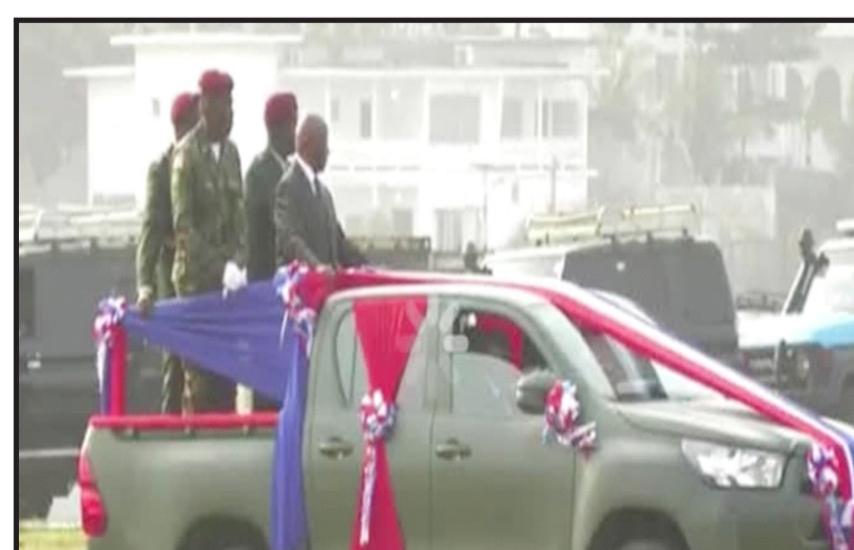
« Le président est le président de la République du Libéria. Il décide de la manière dont il souhaite inspecter ses troupes », a-t-elle souligné, tout en appelant les critiques à se concentrer sur la visite du président Julius Maada Bio, invité d'honneur de la journée, plutôt que sur la forme de l'inspection du président Boakai. Mme Fofana a également insisté sur les progrès réalisés sous la

présidence de Boakai, notamment dans l'amélioration de la logistique et de la coordination au sein des Forces armées du Libéria, afin de garantir la sécurité du pays. « L'accent devrait être mis sur la visite du président Maada Bio, qui honore notre Journée des Forces armées, plutôt que sur la manière dont le président choisit d'inspecter ses troupes », a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle a ajouté que dans de nombreux pays, il est courant pour les présidents de se déplacer en véhicule pour inspecter les troupes et accomplir d'autres engagements.

Dès lors, selon elle, il n'y a rien d'inhabituel à ce geste.

Mme Fofana a assuré que le président Boakai était pleinement apte à exercer ses fonctions et à remplir les responsabilités liées à son poste.



## Plus de 30 journalistes africains participent à un atelier sur la communication fiscale

O uagadougou, Burkina Faso, 12 février 2025 – Le Réseau africain des médias fiscaux (ATMEN), en partenariat avec le Forum africain des administrations fiscales (ATAF), a lancé un atelier de deux jours destiné à améliorer la communication sur la fiscalité et la mobilisation des ressources domestiques, réunissant plus de 30 journalistes en provenance de tout le continent africain.

L'ouverture de l'atelier, qui a eu lieu à Ouagadougou, a réuni des administrateurs fiscaux, des journalistes et des experts en communication. Tous se sont accordés sur l'importance d'une communication claire et transparente en matière fiscale pour promouvoir la conformité et instaurer la confiance des citoyens.

Lors de la séance inaugurale, le 11 février 2025, Mamadou Séré, représentant du ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Prévision, a souligné le rôle crucial de la fiscalité dans le développement national et a plaidé pour un renforcement des échanges entre les institutions fiscales et les médias.

« La fiscalité est la pierre angulaire de l'indépendance économique, mais de nombreux pays africains peinent à mobiliser des recettes suffisantes en raison d'une mauvaise compréhension des politiques fiscales par le public », a-t-il déclaré.

M. Séré a insisté sur la nécessité d'une collaboration renforcée entre les administrateurs fiscaux et les journalistes afin de garantir que des informations précises et accessibles parviennent au public, favorisant ainsi une culture de la conformité.

Il a également souligné que la désinformation alimentait souvent la résistance fiscale, rendant crucial le rôle des médias dans la promotion de l'éducation fiscale et de la transparence. Il a encouragé les journalistes à privilégier un journalisme factuel afin de soutenir les efforts de mobilisation des recettes nationales.

Eugene Southgate, représentant du Secrétaire exécutif de l'ATAF, a insisté



sur l'importance de l'engagement des médias dans l'administration fiscale. Il a souligné que des stratégies de communication inefficaces conduisaient souvent à une résistance publique face aux politiques fiscales, ce qui entravait la collecte des recettes.

« Lorsque les questions fiscales sont correctement communiquées, elles favorisent la confiance, la responsabilité et la conformité volontaire, éléments essentiels à une mobilisation durable des recettes », a-t-il ajouté. Il a cité plusieurs exemples où une mauvaise communication a entraîné des manifestations contre des mesures fiscales, soulignant ainsi l'importance pour les administrateurs fiscaux et les journalistes de collaborer afin d'assurer la clarté des politiques fiscales.

Danicius Kaihenneh Sengbeh, président du réseau ATMEN, a rappelé la mission de l'organisation, qui est de combler le fossé entre les politiques fiscales et la sensibilisation du public.

« La fiscalité est le pilier du développement national, et les médias doivent jouer un rôle central pour garantir que les politiques fiscales soient comprises et acceptées par les citoyens », a-t-il affirmé.

Il a encouragé les journalistes africains à utiliser leurs plateformes pour éduquer le public sur les questions fiscales et défendre la transparence dans la gouvernance des recettes publiques.

Lors des premières discussions, les participants ont abordé des stratégies pour contrer la désinformation sur la fiscalité, simplifier les politiques fiscales complexes pour les rendre plus accessibles au public, et utiliser les outils numériques pour améliorer l'engagement des citoyens.

Les administrateurs fiscaux et les journalistes ont convenu que l'amélioration de la communication est essentielle pour encourager la conformité fiscale volontaire et soutenir le développement économique.

L'atelier se poursuivra avec des sessions interactives, des études de cas et des présentations d'experts afin de doter les journalistes des outils nécessaires pour rendre compte de manière efficace des questions fiscales. L'ATAF a réaffirmé son engagement à soutenir ces efforts à travers des formations, des programmes de renforcement des capacités et une collaboration continue avec les médias.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Division hits Liberia's bid for UN seat

**-Foreign Min. Nyanti flags concern**

The Government of Liberia seeks citizens' support for its bid to have Liberia secure a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

By Stephen G. Fellajah

Monrovia, Liberia, February 13, 2025 - Liberia's bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations has indeed sparked a range of opinions across the country. The government has officially launched its campaign, seeking to secure a place on the UN Security Council, which is

characterized by cultural performances, special selections, and speeches, adding a festive and meaningful atmosphere to the occasion.

It had been initially announced that President Joseph Nyuma would officiate the launch, but he was absent from the ceremony.

In his place, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Madam Sarah

shaped its reputation as a champion of peace and stability. According to the Minister, the bid for a non-permanent seat on the Council would mark the first time Liberia has a full, uninterrupted seat.

"Liberia had previously served on the Security Council in 1961, but that was a split-term arrangement with Europe due to specific issues at the time", she recalled. This new opportunity represents a chance for Liberia to fully engage and contribute to the work of the Security Council, reflecting the country's ongoing commitment to global peace, security, and



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Liberia

responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

While some support the bid, arguing that it would enhance Liberia's global standing and influence in international affairs, others express concerns over current domestic challenges and question whether this is the right time to pursue such an ambitious goal. A seat at the UN would allow Liberia to have a stronger voice in global decision-making, potentially attracting international investments and fostering diplomatic ties.

The ceremony to officially launch Liberia's campaign for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council was held on Monday, February 10, 2024, at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia.

The event brought together a diverse group of attendees, including government officials, civil society organizations, religious councils, women's organizations, student bodies, and the general public.

Held under the theme "Towards a Just and Peaceful World," the launch was

Beyslow Nyanti, emphasized division of opinions within Liberia regarding the bid for the UN Security Council seat.

"Some believe the country should pursue it, while others feel it should not." Despite this division, she expressed unwavering conviction in her stance.

Minister Beyslow Nyanti, a prominent figure, stepped forward to officially launch the campaign. Her participation in the event marked a significant moment in Liberia's pursuit of the UN seat, symbolizing the country's commitment to peace and global collaboration.

She acknowledged Liberia's proud history and its significant role in global and regional affairs, reflecting on moments when Liberia stepped forward and historically became a founding member of the United Nations. She specifically noted Liberia's long-standing advocacy for freedom and justice across the African continent, emphasizing that the country's involvement in these pivotal movements has

justice.

Minister Nyanti underscored a need for unity, urging Liberians to come together as one people in support of the country's bid for the UN Security Council seat.

She added that Liberia's success in this pursuit would not be the work of one individual, but rather collective effort of all 15 counties of the country.

For her part, Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence highlighted Liberia's unique position to contribute meaningfully to the work of the United Nations Security Council.

Pro-Tempore Karnga Lawrence said the nation stands ready to serve and to lead in the pursuit of a peaceful world, adding, "Together let us work towards the Security Council that is truly representative of all nations, responsive to the needs of all people with resolution in its commitment to peace and security".

The campaign was formally launched in New York, where the actual voting will take place in June this year. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Deadliest year on record for journalists: 70% killed by Israel

Journalist killings reached unprecedented toll in 2024, Freelancers account for one in three killings worldwide

New York, February 12, 2025 — A record number of journalists were killed worldwide in 2024, figures published today by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) show. Israel is responsible for nearly 70 percent of that total. At least 124 journalists across 18 countries were killed last year, making it the deadliest year for reporters and media workers since CPJ started keeping records more than three decades ago, reflecting surging levels of international conflict, political unrest and criminality worldwide.

The global upswing in killings (a 22 percent increase from 2023) was largely driven by the Israel-Gaza war, which accounted for 85 journalist deaths, all at the hands of the Israeli military. Most of those killed, 82, were Palestinians. Sudan and Pakistan had the second-highest number of journalists and media workers killed in 2024, with six each. In Sudan, a devastating civil war has left thousands dead and millions displaced. While Pakistan had recorded no journalist fatalities since 2021, roiling political unrest in the country spurred a spike in killings.

"Today is the most dangerous time to be a journalist in CPJ's history," said CPJ CEO Jodie Ginsberg. "The war in Gaza is unprecedented in its impact on journalists and demonstrates a major deterioration in global norms on protecting journalists in conflict zones, but it is far from the only place journalists are in danger. Our figures show journalists under attack worldwide."

She added: "The rise in journalist killings is part of a broader trend of muzzling the media globally. This is an issue that should worry us all—because censorship prevents us from addressing corruption and criminality, and from holding the powerful to account."

At least 24 journalists worldwide were deliberately killed because of their work in 2024, CPJ found. In Gaza and Lebanon, CPJ

documented 10 cases where journalists were murdered by the Israeli military, in defiance of international laws that define journalists as civilians during conflict. The remaining 14 journalist murders in 2024 took place in Haiti, Mexico, Pakistan, Myanmar, Mozambique, India, Iraq, and Sudan.

Freelancers, who report the news with the fewest resources and with considerable risk to their own safety, accounted for more than 35% (43) of all killings. In 2024, 31 cases were Palestinians reporting from Gaza, where international media continue to be barred from reporting from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, except for rare and escorted trips arranged by the Israeli military. CPJ has repeatedly advocated for Israel and Egypt to open access, and reiterates that call as part of the ongoing ceasefire.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico saw five killings in 2024, maintaining its standing as one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. CPJ has found persistent flaws in Mexico's mechanisms that are supposed to protect journalists. Haiti's lawlessness sets it apart as gangs now openly claim responsibility for journalist killings, where two murders occurred amid gang rampant violence. The Middle East and North Africa remained the region with the highest number of journalists and media workers killed in 2024, accounting for more than 78% (97) of the global total. Amid transitions following the December 8 toppling of Bashar al-Assad, Syria recorded the killing of four journalists, marking the return of the deadly attacks in the country. Syria has one of the worst records of letting journalists' killers go free.

As part of its report, CPJ made a number of recommendations to improve journalist safety and provide accountability for journalists deaths, including the establishment of an international investigative task force focused on crimes against journalists. In 2025, journalist killings continued at a rapid pace, with at least six journalists and media workers killed in the first weeks of the year.

About the Committee to Protect Journalists

The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. We defend the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal.

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# Boakai suspends 457 officials

President Boakai on Tuesday sent a clear message to his officials suspending over 400 for failing to declare assets amidst growing allegations of corruption with his administration one year on. Thursday, February 13, 2024: President Joseph N. Boakai has suspended 457 officials for failing to declare their assets within the stipulated required time frame. Those suspended include Ministers, deputy ministers, Ambassadors, Board of Directors, Superintendents, District Commissioners, City

Mayors, and heads of tertiary institutions including directors of the National Higher Education.

The President's move is inline with Article 2, Section 10.2(h) of the Act to Amend Section 5.2 and Section 10.2 of the 2014 Code of Conduct.

In a release issued by the Executive Mansion on Tuesday, February 12, the President's move follows his earlier directive issued on November 27, 2024, which granted a ten-day grace period for compliance.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption

Commission (LACC) has released a list of non-compliant officials, and those listed are now suspended for a period of one month without pay or until they submit the required declarations.

According to the Executive Mansion, all suspended officials must immediately turn over government assets to compliant heads of agencies, their designees, or authorized personnel within their respective institutions.

"The President remains steadfast in his commitment to good governance, integrity, and the rule of law," the release stated.

It also reminds public officials that assets declaration is not only a legal obligation but also a fundamental measure to promote transparency and restore public trust in government institutions.

President Boakai is quoted as saying failure to comply with asset declaration requirements undermines national efforts to combat corruption and ensure accountability.

He warned that moving forward, strict enforcement of legal and ethical standards will continue to be a priority of this Administration.



## Monrovia Day opens with a Week-Long Celebration honouring the Capital's Heritage and Future

Monrovia, Liberia – February 10, 2025 – Monrovia Week celebrations will officially commence on Tuesday, February 12, 2025, marking Monrovia Day with a series of activities designed to celebrate the capital city's rich history, cultural diversity, and contributions to national development. Held under the theme "The Monrovia We Want," the event promotes civic engagement, environmental awareness, and community empowerment.

The celebrations kicked off with the Monrovia Day Parade on 12 February 2025, featuring nine cultural troupes, dynamic bands, and community organizations showcasing the city's diverse heritage. Parade participants will assemble at 6:00 AM, with the procession beginning at 7:20 AM from Broad and Randall Streets and concluding at Monrovia City Hall, where the official opening ceremony will take place.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., officially open the Monrovia week , after which the first-ever hybrid fireside chat will bring together distinguished Liberian historians in Liberia and the United States to discuss the founding of Monrovia and its evolving role in national development. In addition, attendees will have the

opportunity to explore a showcase of Made in Liberia products.

Monrovia City Mayor John-Charuk Siafa emphasized the importance of civic participation in shaping of the city's future.

"Monrovia Week is a time for us to reflect on our past and envision the city we want for the future. It takes all of us—residents, businesses, and community leaders—to create a vibrant, clean, and thriving Monrovia. Let's come together to celebrate and take action to improve our beloved capital," he said.

Monrovia Week will continue with a diverse lineup of activities, including the Monrovia Roundtable Discussion, on February 13, 2025, on Good Governance, Environment, and Sustainable Communities. The roundtable guest of honor and panelist is the Deputy Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, Kweku Melvin Sheldon Lisk, ESQ.

The Intercessory Prayer at the Benson Street Mosque takes place on 14 February 2025. Then on 15 February, Vice President Jeremiah Koung, will launch the "Think Green, Act Clean" Environmental Campaign. This event will include a symbolic tree planting at the Invincible Park, followed by community football and kickball games.

## Gov't scores its own goal

*Opposition politician Alexander B. Cummings outlines lapses in the current Liberian government and avails himself to provide pieces of advice, if needed.*

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Montserrado, Liberia, February 13, 2025 - In his assessment of the Boakai Administration, opposition politician and leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Alexander B. Cummings, identifies several key issues that he believes have negatively affected the government's performance, causing it to "score its own goal."

However, Mr. Cummings says despite these shortcomings, he is open to providing advice to the government to help move the country forward and achieve progress.

One of the issues he mentioned is "yellow buses," which may refer to a specific policy or initiative that he feels has not been executed well or has failed to deliver its intended benefits.

He talks of tenure positions in government and criticizes the current administration's handling of some of these positions.

Cummings, a former corporate executive from the United States, made these observations in his first media engagement since 2025, held in the Monrovia suburbs of New Georgia, Montserrado County, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

The moment provided an opportunity for the outspoken critic of the previous government to not only address Liberia's foreign policy, but to delve into broader discussions about the governance of the country.

Cummings raises a fundamental question about whether the living conditions of Liberians have improved under the current administration and whether there are more jobs available for the population. These are critical indicators of a government's success, and his statement reflects a common concern among many citizens.

He stresses a need for "robust focus on the economy," suggesting that economic development should be at the core of Liberia's priorities. By focusing on creating jobs, improving living conditions, and stimulating growth, he believes the country can achieve

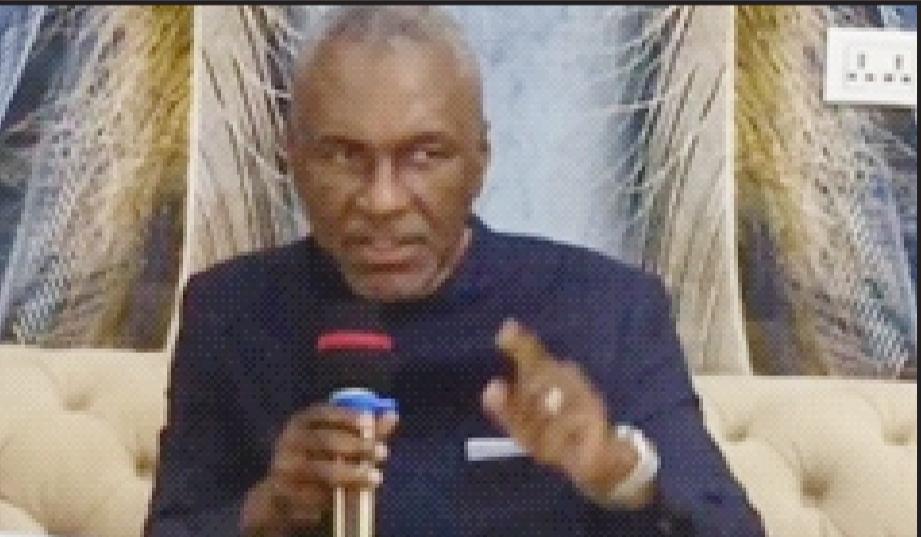
sustainable progress. Commenting on foreign policy, the ANC political leader says Liberia's foreign policy should center on interests and well-being of the Liberian people.

He indicates that this idea aligns with a broader notion that a country's foreign policy should be shaped by national interests and prioritize the welfare of its citizens, whether in terms of economic development, security, or global partnerships that directly improve people's lives.

"While engaging, you have to start from your interest and not from anywhere else", he emphasizes.

He addresses issue of foreign assistance, highlighting the potential challenges Liberia could face, as the United States of America suspends international assistance. He points out that such a situation would force the country to reduce its dependency on external aid, but at the same time, it could create significant problems for the Liberian economy in the short-term.

The Liberian politician is concerned how Liberia is often perceived by international



partners, particularly the United States that he notes sees Liberia as a "beggar."

To counter this perception, according to him, there is a need for Liberia to reposition itself as a country that is open for business and capable of attracting investment. He suggests that shifting the country's image from one reliant on aid to one focused on economic opportunity and sustainable growth would be a game-changer for Liberia's future.

Addressing ongoing fight against corruption, he reiterates that the government has scored its own goal, and proposes several key steps to tackle it more effectively.

Firstly, he suggests "There is need to strengthen integrity institutions, including the judiciary, to ensure that those who steal from the Liberian people are held accountable."

While he acknowledges that suspending corrupt officials might

be a temporary measure, he stresses that prosecution is essential for real change.

This suggests that he believes corruption should not only be publicly condemned, but also legally pursued through the justice system.

Additionally, the former presidential candidate in the 2023 elections, adds that paying civil servants well is important, arguing that fair wages could help reduce corruption within the public sector by discouraging bribery or other illicit behaviors driven by low pay. Cummings proposes use of technology as another tool to combat corruption. He believes that leveraging digital systems could enhance transparency, streamline government processes, and make it easier to track and audit financial transactions, thus reducing opportunities for corruption. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Raid leaves one dead in Banjor

By: Wise Wesseh

**A** raid of drug users in Banjor Beach, Virginia, left one person dead Wednesday when a police officer, Boima Massaley, allegedly shot and killed a 22-year-old fisherman only identified as Favor.

fire gunshots in the air. The sound of gunshots had everyone, including drug users and facilitators, running for their dear lives to safety, an eye-witness told the New Dawn.

"The area is usually a gap or wood," so when the officer went there, those guys tried to

said upon the officer's arrival; everyone ran helter-skelter.

"You know, when everyone hears a gun sound, they start to run for their lives. So, upon hearing the gun sound, everyone was running away," another witness said, adding, "This boy is a fisherman and not a criminal." He said of the victim.

As of press time, there were threats from some of the alleged drug users and community members to retaliate if Officer Boima is set free.

"This is sad for us. This is not the first time it has happened. Every time Officer Boima comes and shoots, and today he has this innocent man killed. Who will even take care of his family, Kollie Blama said.

Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police has launched an investigation into the matter, while Officer Boima Massaly has been detained.



Witnesses told the New Dawn that the incident occurred when officers trooped into the Kongo-Gap Ghetto to raid the area, which is known to be a gathering point for drug users and facilitators, and escape, and by then, they were already getting "hard," Joseph Yourkpo- a resident, told the New Dawn.

Yourkpo did not elaborate on what led to Officer Boima discharging his weapon but

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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  
0886978282 / 0775407211 | Website: [www.thenewdawnliberia.com](http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com)  
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