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ontinenta

Cheers and confusion as M23 rebels enter Bukavu city centre

crowd of civilians neighbouring North Kivu. with chants and cheers.

It is the second regional extent of its advance. capital city in the Democratic They seemingly encountered Republic of Congo that the little to no resistance. rebels have taken since early

celebrated the M23 marched south into arrival of M23 Bukavu on Saturday, although rebels in Bukavu's city centre conflicting reports initially made it difficult to confirm the

Congolese soldiers and allied January, when they troops from Burundi had launched a lightning-speed reportedly retreated from offensive on Goma in Bukavu's military bases on

Friday, the same day that M23 took control of a regional airport around 30 kilometres outside of Bukavu.

Reports emerged of sporadic gunfire and the looting of a World Food Programme depot and supermarkets in Bukavu.

Despite the chaotic scenes, most streets of the city were actually deserted for hours as residents hid in their homes from looters and the rebels.

Faced with the growing risk of a regional war, the international community has stepped up its calls for deescalation and a ceasefire. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, reiterated during an African Union summit on Saturday to " avoid a regional escalation at all costs."

Former Mauritian prime minister arrested in money-laundering probe

ormer Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth has been arrested and is facing money laundering charges, the staterun Financial Crimes Commission said early on Sunday.

It said he was taken into custody following searches by detectives from the commission at different locations, including at his residence.

Commission spokesperson, Ibrahim Rossaye said they found and seized cash to the value of \$2.4 million dollars from a business linked to him. The former prime minister's

lawyer, said on Sunday his client has been provisionally charged and has denied the allegations.

Jugnauth was prime minister from 2017 until November last year when his Militant Socialist Movement suffered a crushing defeat in the general elections.

Following the polls, new Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam announced a public finances audit. Days previously, he had questioned the accuracy of some government data compiled by the previous administration.

Last month, the country's former central bank governor was detained and released on bail after being charged with conspiracy to commit



N chief warns DRC conflict risks escalating into a regional war

peaking at the African capital of North Kivu province. Democratic Republic of Congo Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. (DRC) must be avoided at all

Friday claiming to have entered Rwanda for backing them. the region's second largest city, He did not attend the gathering, Bukavu.

"The fighting that is raging in South Kivu, as a result of the continuation of the M23 offensive, threatens to push the entire region over the precipice, Guterres told leaders at the summit.

"There is no military solution. The deadlock must end, the dialogue must begin, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC must be respected," he said.

In recent weeks, M23 rebels have captured swathes of the DRC's mineral-rich eastern region, including the key city of Goma,

Union summit (AU) on With international pressure Saturday, United Nations mounting on Rwanda to curb the Secretary-General Antonio fighting in eastern DRC, the Guterres said that a regional conflict was set to dominate the escalation of the conflict in summit at AU headquarters in the

DRC's President Félix The AU's 55 members are Tshisekedi continues to plead meeting as the Rwanda-backed with the international M23 fighters continue there community to intervene to

but Rwanda's President Paul Kagame was seen attending meetings at the summit.

Rwanda has not admitted to backing the M23 but has accused extremist Hutu groups in the eastern DRC of threatening its security.

Amid fears of the conflict spilling over into neighbouring countries, the AU has been criticised for its timid approach advance in the eastern DRC, on contain the rebels and blacklist to the fighting and observers have demanded more decisive action.



Dozens killed in latest mine accident at illegal mine in Mali

them women, have died surged in recent years. collapsed in the west of the Mali on Saturday.

climbed into the open-pit left by industrial miners in the hope of month. finding small pieces of gold.

into the evening at Bilali Koto as activity is unregulated.

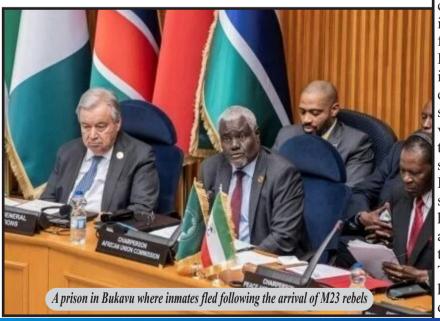
emergency services and volunteers worked extract survivors.

Local authorities said many people have been injured and that the death toll is likely to rise. The disaster has highlighted the dangers associated

ozens of people, most of with informal mining which has

after an illegal gold mine It's the country's second deadly mining accident in less than three weeks. Several people, again Officials said the victims had mostly women, died in a landslide at an artisanal gold mine last

Mali is one of world's biggest gold Rescue operations continued well producers, but much mining









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By Shang-Jin Wei

DITORIAL

Editorial: Lawlessness triumph on Capitol Hill

ajority lawmakers from the House of Representatives have reached the peak of their desperation for power Lby violently breaking into the offices of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, who they had illegally removed to forcibly occupy the premises.

The majority bloc, backed by the Executive, took action without a warrant from the court, demonstrating their utter disregard for the rule of law and respect for the Constitution of Liberia, though they are supposed to be lawmakers.

Unfortunately, their action displayed on Monday clearly contradicted their professed responsibility as lawmakers. The sheer hooliganism and uncivilized behavior have gone down in history as an infamous act.

The House chair on rules, order, and administration appointed by the Majority bloc, Representative James Kolleh, argued that the action was necessary following several written communications sent to embattled Speaker Koffa to turn over the office failed. However, what he did not say is whether to have taken armed police officers to burst open the embattled Speaker's office without a court warrant was within confines of the law.

Despite the Supreme Court of Liberia's recent opinion that actions by both parties in the leadership battle at the House of Representatives were "ultra vires," majority lawmakers are so desperate to have their way by ensuring that their elected Speaker, Richard Nagbe Koon, occupies the office, outside the law.

And this why embattled Speaker Koffa said recently that they may use the same illegal means to evict him from the office like they did by electing a new speaker while he stills remains the legitimate Speaker of the 55th Legislature of Liberia.

These illegal actions have left many Liberians wondering whether Liberia is still a country of law or a country of men who are obsessed with green and power with a focus on their personal interests rather than the interests of the people they represent.

We wonder whether members of the majority bloc don't have eyes to see that their actions have caused the full bench of Supreme Court of Liberia to distance itself from their activities. Do they care what message the Judiciary sends to the public by keeping a distance from what's happening in the House?

The greed for power seems to have made our national leaders willfully send wrong signals for generations by believing that circumventing the laws of the land to achieve selfish desires is the prudent way to lead.

No matter what they might have achieved by flagrantly violating the Constitution to have their way, the truth is what is not legally done is not done at all.

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How to Counter Trump's Tariffs Productivel

has just imposed 25% tariffs on all steel and central banks follow the Fed's lead on interest second-largest economy, which is already could face financial difficulties. grappling with slowing growth and Canada and Mexico, together with threats to effective retaliation strategies. The EU's Antipressure on key US allies.

higher tariffs on US imports would hurt their financial services. own citizens and firms. Consequently, their limited.

economic downturn.

recently, he proposed targeting only countries explore a similar approach. with which the US has a trade deficit, as well including 12 of its top 15 trading partners.

economic pain on US households and than anticipated. businesses, that is unlikely to discourage him, concern him.

worldwide. If the Federal Reserve takes no countermeasure. action, the tariffs will drive up the prices of rely on imported inputs.

especially with US inflation already above its 2% target. Instead, it will likely delay its planned interest-rate cuts or even raise rates Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at appreciating with each new tariff threat.

EW YORK – After months of threats Higher US interest rates will likely trigger a and speculation, US President global liquidity squeeze, putting corporations Donald Trump has officially and governments with high dollarlaunched his long-anticipated trade war. He denominated debts at risk of default. If other aluminum imports. His new 10% tariff on rates, as they often do, even firms and Chinese imports will further strain the world's households without significant dollar debts

unfavorable demographics. And his Governments can take several steps to mitigate postponed – but <u>not canceled</u> – 25% tariffs on the Trump trade shock. First, they must devise impose new tariffs on the European Union, Coercion Instrument provides a useful model for India, and many more countries, put greater applying economic pressure without directly harming domestic industries. For example, these measures could allow the bloc to suspend While many countries are considering intellectual-property protections for US retaliatory tariffs on US goods, such software and streaming services or restrict US measures are both unproductive and unlikely banks and financial-service providers from to deter Trump. One reason is that most operating within EU markets. Developing countries run trade surpluses with the United countries might find such measures especially States and therefore have fewer US goods to attractive, because the US tends to run large target than the US does. More importantly, trade surpluses in intellectual property and

ability to counter Trump's tariffs is severely China's mineral-export restrictions offer another example. Since China effectively controls the global supply of several critical A more productive approach would be to raw materials, these measures could hurt US focus on minimizing the economic fallout. To corporate profits while simultaneously raising do so, it is important to recognize that both a those of domestic firms. China had refrained trade and a financial channel could cause from doing this in the last decade after losing a Trump's trade war to trigger a global World Trade Organization case on restricting rare-earth exports. Since the US tariffs also violate its obligations under the WTO, the Beyond his tariffs on metals and China, Chinese may feel less constrained this time. A Trump has previously pledged to impose a number of other countries have market power 10% tariff on all imported goods. More in some key products they export, and might

as a "Fair and Reciprocal Plan" that would Governments must also consider the indirect tailor tariff rates to US trading partners' own yet significant impact of interest-rate and barriers. While that may sound like a more exchange-rate fluctuations from Trump's measured approach, the US currently runs tariffs. For emerging markets and developing bilateral deficits with most countries - economies, this means keeping short-term foreign debt at sustainable levels. Globally, companies must prepare for the possibility that Although Trump's tariffs will inflict interest rates will remain elevated for longer

partly because he views tariffs as a way to Beyond individual responses, countries must offset – at least partly – the revenue losses pursue collective action. Strengthening from his planned tax cuts. The fact that his regional economic integration by removing tariffs will ultimately be paid by American trade and investment barriers within existing consumers, especially middle- and low- trade blocs would be much more productive income households, does not appear to than raising tariffs on US goods. Expediting negotiations on new trade and investment agreements – including inter-regional Although Trump's tariffs probably will not partnerships like the incipient one between the reduce the US trade deficit, they will have far- EU and Latin American MERCOSUR bloc reaching implications for interest rates could also serve as an effective

both imported goods and domestically The Trump administration's trade war is like a produced goods that compete with them or Category 5 hurricane: while inherently destructive, its impact can be mitigated. By avoiding panic and fostering strategic But the Fed is unlikely to sit idly by, partnerships, the world economy could better weather the storm.

to offset the inflationary impact of Trump's the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of tariffs. Financial markets already anticipate Finance and Economics at Columbia such a response: the dollar has been Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

MONDAY

by Serge Ekué, Javier Díaz Fajardo

Getting Green Investment Where It's Needed Most

OMÉ/BOGOTÁ – The devastating effects of global warming are unfolding before our eyes. Uncontrollable fires ravage the Amazon. Rising sea levels threaten to submerge Pacific islands. Droughts and floods in Africa, and hurricanes and typhoons in the Caribbean and Southeast Asia, are increasing in frequency and intensity. And yet the countries most affected by the climate crisis – nearly all of them in the Global South – have some of the lowest greenhouse-gas emissions worldwide. Helping these vulnerable countries build resilience is no longer an option; it is an imperative.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, concluded with the adoption of a New Collective Quantified Goal, with developed countries pledging at least \$300 billion annually, and all actors agreeing to scale up public and private finance for developing countries to \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035. While the Baku agreement has understandably been met with skepticism, we have no choice but to redouble our efforts to achieve these goals.

Public development banks — especially the 27 members of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC, which we co-chair), but also those in the broader Finance in Common network — will play an essential role in reaching these targets. IDFC members are from developed and developing countries, which allows us to take a balanced view. Beyond the question of whether the amounts agreed to in Baku are sufficient, we believe that a major challenge of financing climate action is efficiency. The quality of funded projects, within the framework defined by the Paris climate agreement, is what will enable IDFC members and other public development banks to contribute as much as possible to a sustainable transition.

But an even bigger challenge, particularly in an increasingly fragmented world, is how to deploy the full force of the global financial system against climate change. Increasing green investment while considering the needs of low- and middle-income countries is no longer sufficient. Instead, the aim should be to redirect all financial flows toward the green transition within the framework of the Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue.

Achieving this goal will require overcoming three obstacles. First, we must stop funding projects and sectors that exacerbate global warming – a gargantuan task, given that the majority of financial flows remain incompatible with the Paris agreement's objectives. Second, we must start responding to the needs of the most climate-vulnerable countries, where adaptation and mitigation efforts are chronically underfunded. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we need a radical overhaul of the global financial architecture.

This systemic transformation requires close collaboration between public and private actors. Public development banks have an important role to play here. They are uniquely positioned to catalyze change by influencing public policies, strengthening local capacities, supporting sectoral transitions, and creating the conditions to mobilize private capital. Such financing is crucial for narrowing the gap between the commitments announced in Baku and the huge investment needed for climate-change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the developing world.

While IDFC members have invested significantly in the global energy transition, their ability to transform national and regional financial systems may be their greatest asset. Supporting the development of ambitious national climate agendas, helping businesses and communities execute their transition plans, and strengthening the capacity of local financial institutions will have a larger multiplier effect than any amount of direct spending.

To unlock this potential, several conditions must be met. First, all public development banks' mandates and business models must be strengthened to reflect these objectives. And whether these banks are multilateral, national, or subnational, they need the means to act, which requires expanding their capital base and facilitating their access to concessional resources. Last, but certainly not least, we must develop a global accountability framework that classifies financial flows according to their contribution to the green economic transition. Doing so would allow development banks to work in a systematic and coordinated manner.

Such an approach would go beyond the traditional categories for climate finance. Of course, it will still be necessary to track the direct effects of climate finance and ensure their alignment with the Paris agreement. But we must also develop new tools to identify and encourage what we call "transformational finance": interventions that, through their systemic nature or catalytic effects, help redirect much larger financial flows toward climate action. These could include removing market barriers, building large pools of bankable projects, and other measures that deliver structural change.

Responding to the climate emergency requires mobilizing the entire financial system. Public development banks are leading the way on this front, but they cannot devise comprehensive frameworks and set ambitious objectives by themselves. Solutions exist; we must implement them before time runs out.

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OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh

Weaponizing Data Against Democracy

EW DELHI – For those of us who have witnessed the shock-and-awe tactics of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past decade, the events unfolding in the United States since Donald Trump returned to the White House evoke a sense of déjà vu. In India, we have learned the hard way: authoritarian leaders are often far more dangerous in their second term than in their first.

The reason is simple: by their second term, such leaders have mastered the system. They have learned how to bend institutions to their will and dismantle them when they no longer serve their interests, leaving them free to pursue their agendas aggressively.

Modi's visit to Washington underscores the striking similarities between him and Trump. Both are known for sudden, unpredictable policy shifts, leaving opponents scrambling to respond and unsure of what comes next. Both leaders take pride in being disruptive – but selectively so. While they undermine institutions, discard longstanding norms, and erode democratic safeguards, they also protect and reward their favored interest groups.

More importantly, their governing style is rooted in a politics of division and intelerance.

More importantly, their governing style is rooted in a politics of division and intolerance, designed to consolidate power and enrich oligarchic capitalists — whose interests and fortunes are inextricably linked to their own — at the expense of almost everyone else. Both rely heavily on manipulating public perception, using mass media to push their favored narratives and suppress dissent.

These tactics comprise the playbook for aspiring autocrats worldwide. However different they may seem, today's authoritarian leaders study one another closely – not to govern more effectively, but to tighten their grip on power.

Control over data is at the heart of this effort, leading to a fundamental shift in how public information is accessed and used. Even as citizens around the world are increasingly forced to provide their personal data to authoritarian leaders and their allies – like Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) acolytes – they are being denied access to the information needed to hold those leaders accountable.

Nowhere is this more evident than in India, where Modi's government has systematically undermined and weaponized the country's statistics authorities, once arguably the most reliable in the developing world. First, it politicized the National Statistical Commission – originally an independent expert body responsible for verifying and overseeing the collection of official data. It then targeted the Central Statistics Office, which collects most economic data, effectively destroying the CSO's credibility. Using a routine revision of the base year for growth estimates as a pretext, the government altered the CSO's methodology in ways that inflated growth, casting doubt on the reliability of official economic data. Similarly, the government abruptly withdrew the 2017-18 consumption expenditure survey – a key tool for assessing well-being – reportedly because it revealed declining consumption and rising poverty in rural India.

By the time the 2022-23 household expenditure survey was due, the government once again revised its methodology. Then, just before the 2024 general elections, it released a "factsheet" claiming that the poverty rate had fallen to 5%.

The government's fear of reliable data is so extreme that it has even refused to conduct the decennial census, which was due in 2021, and has yet to confirm when it will take place. As a result, the most recent official data on India's population, demographics, employment, and living conditions are from 2011.

Likewise, audits of the government's own policies and programs are suppressed or quietly buried when they produce unfavorable results. For example, an official review of the Ganges River clean-up project has never been released. During the COVID-19 pandemic, official mortality figures were widely challenged, with the government refusing to acknowledge independent estimates of excess mortality from the World Health Organization.

Even the National Family Health Survey, conducted by the Ministry of Health and the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) – a semi-independent body – has not been spared. After a report highlighted poor nutrition levels and inadequate sanitation services, the IIPS director was forced to resign, ostensibly over an unrelated matter. The message to researchers was clear: contradict the government's preferred narrative at your own risk.

The 2005 Right to Information Act, a landmark transparency law passed by the previous Indian National Congress-led government, has also been hollowed out. Modi's government has deliberately left key positions vacant and appointed only people who yield to political pressure, thereby ensuring that most petitions go unanswered.

The government's efforts to evade accountability have been largely successful. But by prioritizing propaganda over governance, it has blinded itself to India's economic and social realities, impeding its ability to make informed policy decisions.

At the same time, Indians are being forced to surrender more personal data than ever, thanks to the expansion of Aadhaar, a biometric identification system now linked to their bank accounts, tax returns, mobile phone numbers, travel records, and major transactions. This system has already had devastating consequences, as <u>fingerprint mismatches</u> have led to millions of Indians being denied wage payments, food allowances, and other essential services.

Yet, despite the risks, India still has <u>not implemented a framework for data protection</u>. With no oversight, data breaches are rampant. And given that Big Tech companies, which already hold vast amounts of personal data, have aligned themselves with the government, the consequences could be catastrophic.

To be sure, the US may not follow India's political trajectory. Its institutions, especially the judiciary, may provide some protection, as long as they hold firm and do not crumble as they did in India. But with authoritarianism on the rise, we must recognize and resist efforts to weaponize government data against democracy.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garbla

Remembering Boakai's First Year in Office

n January 18, 2025, President Joseph N. Boakai marked his first year in office, a year that has been fraught with dramas and controversies that will undoubtedly shape the legacy of his presidency.

From allegations of corruption to the burning of the Capitol Building amidst a speakership row, Boakai's administration is entering the second year of his administration with mixed baggage.

From the very onset of his administration, President Boakai has had to contend with numerous allegations of corruption. These accusations have cast a shadow over his leadership, raising questions about the integrity and accountability of his government.

The suspension of tenure officials and apparent disregard for the rule of law have further fuelled these suspicions, leading to widespread public concern.

Just months into office, Boakai's administration announced a deal to procure 285 pieces of earthmoving equipment. This move was reminiscent of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) EBOMAF deal that ultimately fell short of reality.

The lack of transparency surrounding the funding for the procurement sparked skepticism across the nation. Legislators, opposition figures, civil society organizations, and media outlets have all questioned the government's commitment to transparency and respect for the rule of law.

For the last six years, President Boakai and his Unity Party criticized the former ruling CDC for massive corruption, human rights abuses, and a flagrant violation of the rule of law, and rightfully so.

Now, one year into office, President Boakai appears to be treading similar pathentering deals and committing the country to surreptitious transactions that have left citizens asking more questions than getting answers.

Despite the growing criticisms, some commend the administration's efforts for what they described as full-sightedness in seeking to procure the 285 pieces of equipment to advance road construction and rural development.

Amidst these unfolding events are also the allegations of corruption, which have led to the dismissals of several senior government officials just one year into the UP administration. Ministers have been suspended for purchasing luxurious vehicles and issuing fat checks that benefit them and their cronies.

Last week, President Boakai suspended over 450 officials for failing to declare their assets as required by law. They have suspended for time indefinite till they declare their assets.

All these are unfolding at the time thousands remained jobless, many turning into beggars and unable to pay medical bills and school fees, while the government remained indebted to Ivory Coast for unpaid electricity bills and the domestic debt portfolio remained high.

Meanwhile, one of the most dramatic events of Boakai's first year in office was the burning of the Capitol Building amidst a speakership row. The administration has been accused of playing a major role in the impasse at the Legislature, a standoff that has had far-reaching consequences. The Executive and the Senate have all been engaging with the majority bloc-passing budget and citing officials to appear before it.

Despite a Supreme Court ruling that called for both parties to return to the status quo, adding that decisions taken from both sides in the dispute are ultra vires, the Executive has remained engaged with the majority bloc headed by Rep. Richard Koon, who has described himself as a regime speaker.

With such backing from the Executive, the majority bloc has continued to engage in lawless activities, one of which was breaking into the office of embalmed House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa to remove his belongings in his absence.

On Second Thoughts: As President Joseph N. Boakai moves into his second year in office, the challenges and controversies of his first year will continue to shape his presidency. The allegations of corruption, the contentious earthmoving equipment deal, and the Capitol Building impasse are significant issues that will require careful and decisive action.

At the same time, the administration's desire to embark on road construction and rural development offers a glimmer of hope for positive change. The coming years will be crucial in determining the ultimate success and legacy of Boakai's presidency.

AS I SEE IT



with By Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr.; PhD.

An Effective Legislature Can Reverse the Powerful Presidency in Liberia

n a republican form of government, power rests with the people who elect their leaders to represent their interests and remove same (leaders) if the people's happiness and safety so require (Liberia Constitution 1985). Even though Liberia is a Republic, the Legislature is dormant, thereby shifting domineering power to the Executive, headed by the President. Historically, the Republic of Liberia did not experience intense presidential dominance from the date of the country's independence until the ascendancy of William V.S. Tubman to the presidency in 1943. Tubman established himself as the "father" of the state and head of all its institutions. This was possible because he was the first President to have brought in and signed several mining concessional agreements with foreign businesses and investors. Tubman accrued enormous wealth from those concessions thus making him the most influential statesman in the country then. The then international and economic system, nepotism and one-party system gave him too much power to rule autocratically. Succeeding presidents to Tubman continued the autocracy of the presidency owing to weak, many a time, inept, inexperienced, and impoverished egislators. Although the presidential cult in Liberia germinated during the Tubman era, egislators themselves are predominantly responsible for the domineering presidency in the State. Many a time, majority of Liberia's legislators are either illiterate or semi-literate, and or ill nformed about public policy making. They often lack thorough understanding of their duties and responsibilities, least to talk about the intricacies occasioning the issue of checks and balances in a republican form of governance, the operation of national government, understanding of the international socioeconomic, political, and diplomatic dynamics and legislative techniques. Sometimes the few literates or "educated" ones come to the legislature as inexperienced and impoverished individuals, thereby making them gullible to financial gains leading to the dollarization of legislative processes through receipt of bribes and huge "lobby fees". These bribes and extravagant lobby fees dictate the enactment of laws against the national interest of the state and the general population. The executive collects revenues, stores and expends them. Hence, gullible, and indigent legislators become subservient to the Head of State who proffers money to woo legislative support in times of making critical political decisions, some of which are against the national interest of the state and its people. The legislators sometimes neglect the use of their constitutional power to approve the scrupulous use of the country's resources during national budget formulation processes. They place emphasis on their amenities and benefits in the national budget as opposed to allocating substantive resources to pertinent national development priorities thereby negatively affecting the state and its people. The Chief Executive, in many instances, uses money and other emoluments to convince them pursue presidential agenda rather than an all-inclusive agenda agreed by all branches of the government and the people. Another factor responsible for presidential dominance is the people's failure to elect competent and well knowledgeable persons to the legislature. Similarly, the public fails in holding legislators accountable. Generally, the elections of lawmakers in Liberia have been influenced by persons, parties, emotions and sometimes tribalism or regionalism, instead of ssues based on public policies and national interest. Furthermore, majority of the citizens do not have access to the correct civic and voter education that would allow them vote for the rightful candidates. This can be blamed on the civil society and the national government. First, the civil society sometimes lacks the will power and resources to adequately educate the citizens on electoral matters. Some civil society agents advocate and gain public recognition that would later lead them to top political positions in which they entrench the very elitism they advocated against. **Equally**, the government deliberately downplays civic and voter education fearing that this would empower citizens to gain insights in the operations, rights and obligations, duties, and responsibilities of government, thereby providing critique of the political system. As a result of the foregoing, constituents blindly elect representatives and senators based either on kinship, campaign finances gained illegally and at the detriment of the very people, fraternity, political parties, and or just on mere popularity, thereby begging the question of who is really fit to serve in

AS I SEE IT, a combination of the aforementioned factors results into the formulation of policies that victimize, marginalize, and neglect the rights holders (citizens or electorates). Legislators enact laws that serve the interest of the elites rather than the mass population of the citizens. However, this trend of a powerful presidency can be reversed if legislators become independent in their thought, actions, deeds, and when they are well abreast of their constitutional duties and responsibilities and check the other two branches of government in the true spirit and intent of the Liberian Constitution. Equally, lawmakers need the requisite knowledge and experience to be effective and efficient. They need to have the knowhow to formulating pro-poor policies entrenched by and anchored on Human Rights Principles and Results Based Management If the government and civil society, as duty bearers, empower the electorates, they may likely elect the appropriate legislators who will enact laws for the common good of the people, be forthright with their duties, and exhibit the independence of the "first branch of government". The constituents themselves need to rise to the call to demand that their representatives do the right things or remove those (legislators) through the ballot box, if they fail to so do.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. is 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. 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 his Elective. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; a Diploma in Contemporary Diplomacy and Negotiations from the Islamabad Foreign Service Academy in Pakistan and he holds other professional diplomas and certificates from Italy, UK, China, and Israel. Prof. Kaydor is also an Adjunct Professor of International Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School.

Obituary Announcement:



Funeral arrangements for the late

Mr. Gabriel Wilson

is as follows:

The mortal remains of the late Gabriel Wilson will be removed from the Samuel A. Stryker Funeral Service on Saturday, September 10th 2022 at 8:30am. Thereafter, the remains will be conveyed to the Harvest Continental Church former Bethel church in Thinker Village (Beach side) for funeral service at 10:30am. Interment takes place at the Duazon Cemetery on the RIA Highway. Vision Online TV will stream the service. Please search for @vonlinetv to get them quicker.



MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW DAWN

A Memorial Service for the Late Mother Deemar Piah who died in 2020 during the COVID Pandemic will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at the Mount Galilee United Methodist Church in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County beginning at 11: 00 a.m.

A Night of Worship and Singspiration will take place on Friday, February 28, 2025 beginning starting at 9:00 p.m. at the family residence in Buchanan.

Friends and family members are invited to the Singspiration Night and Memorial Service in Buchanan, Grand Bassa

Signed Jerolinmek Matthew Piah Son of the Deceased

Boakai meets with WTO Director-General

Nyuma Boakai, has held a high-maximizing the benefits of global trade. level discussion with the Director- She highlighted the importance of Summit in Addis Ababa.

Monrovia, the meeting focused on global economic challenges. economic diversification agenda.

President Boakai reaffirmed his The meeting concluded with a mutual policies align with national development sector engagement.

capacity-building programs to empower Release Liberian businesses, particularly small

and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to compete in international markets. He also underscored Liberia's interest in exploring trade-related initiatives that foster sustainable economic and industrialization.

growth, job creation, Dr. Okonjo-Iweala commended Liberia's steady economic growth rate recently

ddis Ababa, Ethiopia, February trade reforms and expressed the WTO's 17, 2025 - President Joseph readiness to support the country in

General of the World Trade Organization enhancing regional trade under the African (WTO), Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, on the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) sidelines of the 38th African Union (AU) and encouraged Liberia to take advantage of WTO-led initiatives aimed at boosting According to the Executive Mansion in trade resilience, particularly in the face of

strengthening Liberia's integration into Both leaders acknowledged the the global trading system, enhancing trade significance of a rules-based global trading facilitation, and leveraging WTO system and reiterated their commitment to mechanisms to support Liberia's strengthening cooperation between Liberia and the WTO.

Administration's commitment to agreement to explore further avenues of deepening Liberia's participation in collaboration, including technical support multilateral trade and ensuring that trade for trade policy formulation and private

President Boakai said Liberia's active role The Mansion says, during the discussions, in regional and global economic dialogues President Boakai emphasized the need for is to prioritize economic transformation increased technical assistance and and sustainable development. Press



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE

Ex-vice presidential candidates shift to advocacy A group of former vice presidential candidates from the 2023 established just over a year ago

elections have come together to fight corruption, inequality, and following the 2023 presidential and other challenges facing Liberia.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah supporters, has been launched.

organization could play a significant United for Change, among others. role in addressing key issues facing Dr. James Kollie Barclay, Jr., co-

The organization aims to leverage organization's formation. It was

the collective influence and experience of former viceonrovia, Liberia, presidential candidates, who February 17, 2025 - A participated in the 2023 electoral new initiative aimed at process to contribute positively to promoting national unity and national cohesion and development. progress in Liberia through The launch, held at the EJS collective efforts of former vice- Ministerial Complex in Congo Town presidential candidates and their on February 15, 2025, gathered distinguished guests, family and The establishment of the Former well- wishers, and vice-presidential Vice-Presidential Candidates and candidates from various political Defenders for Liberia Common parties in Liberia, such as the Good (VPCADFLCG) seems to be a Liberian People's Party (LPP), step towards building a stronger, Democratic People's Party of more cohesive political landscape Liberia, Movement for Progressive here. By focusing on advocacy, this Change (MPC), and Liberians

the country. Its efforts may help chair of VPCADFLCG, delivering a create a more inclusive environment message on behalf of Chairman Dr. for the country's growth and Max O. Vargbele, provided important context about the

general elections when candidates from different political backgrounds came together.

www.thenewdawnliberia.com

"VPCADFLCG is a law-abiding organization, focused on the common good of all Liberians and operates in good faith", Dr. Barclay

His emphasis on the organization's commitment to addressing societal ills indicates that the VPCADFLCG plans to take a proactive role in confronting issues like corruption, inequality, and other challenges facing Liberia. This could mean they are focused not only on fostering to current President Joseph peace and unity, but also on advocating for real societal reforms that benefit all citizens.

Highlighting other initiatives, he explains that VPCADFLCG has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with one of the best educational institutions in India. This could be a game-changer for deserving Liberian students. Scholarships for international education would not only help students but could also contribute to Liberia's development by bringing back knowledge and skills that could benefit various sectors of the country.

Dr. Barclay speaks of intent to convert waste to energy, which is another exciting development. This aligns with both environmental sustainability and addressing energy challenges in Liberia. This could also create jobs, improve waste management, and reduce reliance on traditional energy sources.

Former presidential candidate Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe attributes

-Clir. Gongloe slams Boakai and past Liberian leaders

Liberia's underdevelopment and widespread poverty to shortsighted leadership, decades of mismanagement and corruption.

Tonrovia, Liberia, February 17, 2025 -Renowned Liberian Human Rights lawyer and former presidential candidate, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, blames Liberia's continues poverty and underdevelopment Boakai and past Liberian leaders'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Delivering a keynote address, Saturday, February 15, 2025 on the topic "A Call for Transformative Change: Liberia's Path to Prosperity" he noted that Liberia is faced with

shortsighted leadership, decades

of mismanagement and

corruption.

productive, and thriving Liberia?" He wonders.

Commenting on the reality Liberians face, he laments that Liberia is rich in resources: gold, diamonds, timber, fertile land but these resources have not translated into prosperity for the majority of the people.

"Why is this the case? Despite the wealth beneath our soil, far too many Liberians lack access to basic services like education, healthcare, food security, and infrastructure. Our continued poverty is not a result of resource scarcity, but rather of poor governance and the prioritization of personal gain over national development", Cllr. Gongloe



UNFPA, UN W **IOMEN empower youth groups**

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

he United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the United Nations Women and the Young Men Christian Association officially hands over several computers and communication equipment to purposely accelerate digital opportunity for youth participation in building and sustaining peace in Liberia.

Speaking during the presentation ceremony held at the Invisible Park in Monrovia over the weekend, UNFPA's Resident Representative in Liberia, Bidisha Pillai, said the United Nations attaches importance to the involvement of youths, women and other marginalized groups in the maintenance of peace and participation in decision making process in the country.

According to Madam Pillai, the computers will go a long way in assisting young people, women and marginalized groups to have access to issues of national interests.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, the Vice President for International Affairs at the Federation of Liberian Youths, Abdullah Bility, who spoke on behalf of the youth organizations, thanked the UNFPA, UN Women and the Young Men Christian

young people in the project.

Also speaking on behalf of the Women In Peace Building Network Program, Delvin Morris, presentation of the computers and welcomed the decision to continue communication equipment to use materials, including digital because it is in line with the machines in making peace in the government's ARREST agenda.

Women said her organization is proud to work with the YMCA and the UNFPA in empowering women Several organizations that received and youth groups in Liberia.

UNPFA and the United Nations others. Women for the presentation of Editing by Jonathan Browne computers and other information

Association for the inclusion of sets to several youth organizations in the country.

> Minister McGill applauded the UNFPA and UN Women for the

The minister added that digital For her part, Bega Meles of UN transformation is essential to programs for young people in the

computers and communication Remarking during the presentation sets were Center for Exchange of ceremony, Deputy Minister for Intellectual Opinion, the National Youth Development at the Union of Organizations of the Ministry of Youths and Sports, J. Disabled, the Federation of Bryant McGill, commended the Liberian Youths, among many





undeniable truth that this country, despite its vast resources, remains one of the poorest nations in the world.

Commenting briefly on what he described as legacy of unfulfilled promises, Cllr. Gongloe argued that when President Boakai took office, he promised a "Rescue Mission" to transform Liberia, and accordingly, his experience in governance raised hopes for real progress.

nation, and it is clear that what we need is not just a change in leadership, but a revolution in governance - one that places the needs of the people above the wants of the few", he says.

Cllr. Gongloe, leader of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) continues that Liberia's future requires bold action, systemic reform, and a commitment to responsible, people-centered leadership.

"This paradox is not the result of a lack of natural wealth; rather, it stems from decades of mismanagement, corruption, and short-sighted leadership. Today, we must ask: What kind of Liberia do we want to build? A nation forever dependent on

foreign aid, or a self-sufficient,

notes.

Speaking of cutting waste and redirecting resources, he recommends that the first step toward transformation is eliminating waste in government. Cllr. Gongloe says it's

unacceptable for government officials to continue enjoying lavish salaries, foreign travel, and excessive state functions while majority of Liberians "Yet today, poverty still grips our struggle to access basic services. He urges the government to cut wasteful expenditures and reallocate those funds to the sectors that will drive real development, improve education, healthcare, infrastructure, and agriculture.

Cllr. Gomgloe: "Look at nations such as Botswana, Rwanda, and Mauritius - countries with fewer resources than Liberia that have managed to build thriving economies through human development, good governance, and wise resource management. If they can do it, so can we. Liberia has the resources and the potential; what we lack is leadership that prioritizes the people's needs over political interests." Editing by Jonathan

Browne

Le vice-président Koung exprime des inquiétudes face à ine rébellion en raison de la lenteur du développement

onrovia, 14 février 2025 – Le viceprésident Jeremiah K. Koung a exprimé ses préoccupations concernant un potentiel soulèvement populaire qui pourrait menacer la stabilité du gouvernement. Selon lui, l'instabilité persistante et le manque d'approvisionnement

projet Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access, le 12 février 2025, le vice-président a souligné la lenteur du développement, notamment en ce qui concerne la fourniture d'électricité, un facteur clé du mécontentement des Libériens. « J'ai écouté la plupart de nos partenaires, et leurs projets s'étendent jusqu'en 2030. Mais le peuple libérien perd patience. Le



en électricité dans tout le pays risquent d'alimenter le mécontentement croissant parmi la population.

problème de l'électricité pourrait faire s'effondrer le pays », a-t-il averti.

Il a également fait référence à la Lors de son intervention à la frustration croissante des citoyens, cérémonie de lancement du visible sur les réseaux sociaux et

dans les médias. « Lorsque nous écoutons la radio chaque matin, et parfois sur les réseaux sociaux, cela semble d'abord une plaisanterie, mais elle pourrait devenir sérieuse. Certaines personnes postent : 'Je suis à Duport Road, nous sommes dans l'obscurité, que se passe-t-il dans votre communauté ?' Et, à partir de là, d'autres commencent à réagir. Un matin, vous pourriez vous réveiller et voir les gens dans les rues, prêts à renverser le gouvernement », a-t-il averti.

L'électricité : pilier du développement national

Dans son discours, M. Koung a abordé l'agenda ARREST du gouvernement, où le "E" représente l'énergie et le "A" l'agriculture. Il a souligné que l'agriculture, tout comme d'autres secteurs vitaux, ne pourrait prospérer sans un accès fiable à l'électricité, qu'il considère comme l'un des deux piliers essentiels au développement du Libéria, avec les infrastructures routières.

« L'électricité permet de conserver des aliments pendant une semaine grâce à des

CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Liberia : Emma Metieh-Glassco conteste sa suspension et défend son intégrité

2025 - Emma-Metieh-Glassco, directrice générale suspendue de l'Autorité nationale des pêches et de l'aquaculture (NAFAA), rejette les accusations de mauvaise gestion et affirme sa détermination à défendre son

Le 13 février, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr a suspendu Mme Metieh-Glassco avec effet immédiat, suivant une recommandation du Conseil d'administration de la NAFAA. Cette décision ministère de la Justice et de la Commission anticorruption du Liberia (LACC) sur d'éventuelles irrégularités managériales et financières.

Dans une correspondance officielle, le chef de l'État invoque une résolution du Conseil d'administration fondée sur l'article 3.9.2 de la loi instituant la NAFAA. Il cite également recommandation du Bureau de l'Ombudsman, qui reproche à Mme Metieh-Glassco un comportement inapproprié lors d'une réunion officielle, en violation de l'article 11.10 du Code de conduite applicable

aux agents publics. Le président Boakai a exhorté l'ancienne directrice générale à

onrovia, 14 février coopérer pleinement avec les enquêteurs pour faire toute la lumière sur ces allégations.

> Une suspension vivement contestée En réaction, Emma Metieh-Glassco s'est dite surprise par ces accusations, soulignant que son dernier audit financier ne signalait aucune anomalie. La Commission générale d'audit (GAC) lui a attribué l'une des meilleures évaluations possibles, sans relever de déficiences financières.

> « Je suis profondément préoccupée par cette décision et par son impact sur ma réputation », a-t-elle déclaré jeudi sur OK FM.

Tout en reconnaissant la nécessité précède une enquête du pour les autorités de mener leurs investigations, elle estime que ces cours, l'ancienne directrice allégations portent atteinte à son image sans preuve concrète. Toutefois, elle assure qu'elle se

soumettra au processus afin que l'affaire soit examinée de manière approfondie.

Un bilan reconnu à la tête de la NAFAA

Sous la direction de Emma Metieh-Glassco, la NAFAA s'est distinguée comme l'une des rares institutions sous l'ancienne administration à mobiliser d'importants financements internationaux. Son leadership a permis d'attirer plus de 40 millions de dollars d'investissements étrangers, renforçant ainsi la position du Liberia dans le secteur halieutique.

Alors que l'enquête suit son générale entend défendre son bilan et son intégrité face aux accusations qui pèsent sur elle.



Éditorial

<u>L'anarchie s'impose au Capitole</u>

Par Daron Acemoglu

a crise qui secoue la Chambre des représentants du Liberia a franchi un nouveau seuil d'escalade avec ✓ l'intrusion violente des députés majoritaires dans les bureaux du président contesté, J. Fonati Koffa. Destitué dans des circonstances controversées, ce dernier a vu son espace de travail investi de force par des élus déterminés à imposer leur autorité, sans aucun mandat judiciaire.

Soutenu par l'Exécutif, le bloc majoritaire a ainsi agi en marge du cadre légal, affichant un mépris flagrant pour l'État de droit et la Constitution. Une telle démarche, indigne de législateurs, remet en cause les principes démocratiques qu'ils sont censés défendre. L'incident survenu lundi marque un précédent préoccupant pour la gouvernance du pays.

Le président de la commission des règles, de l'ordre et de l'administration, James Kolleh, a tenté de justifier cette action en invoquant des demandes répétées adressées à M. Koffa pour qu'il libère les lieux. Toutefois, il a omis de préciser si l'usage de forces de l'ordre armées, en l'absence d'une décision judiciaire, respectait l'État de droit.

Cette intervention survient malgré un récent avis de la Cour suprême du Liberia qualifiant d'ultra vires – donc illégales – les actions menées par les deux camps dans cette lutte pour le contrôle de la Chambre. Pourtant, les députés majoritaires persistent à imposer Richard Nagbe Koon à la tête de l'institution, en violation des procédures établies.

Face à cette situation, J. Fonati Koffa a averti que ses opposants pourraient employer les mêmes méthodes illégales pour l'évincer physiquement de son bureau, comme ils l'ont fait en imposant un nouveau président alors qu'il revendique toujours la légitimité de son mandat.

Ces événements soulèvent de sérieuses inquiétudes quant au respect des principes démocratiques et de l'État de droit au Liberia. De nombreux citoyens s'interrogent : le pays est-il encore gouverné par la loi ou par des ambitions personnelles dictées par la soif de pouvoir?

Le silence de la Cour suprême, qui se distance de cette crise institutionnelle, témoigne de la gravité de la situation. Les députés majoritaires mesurent-ils l'impact de leurs actions sur l'image des institutions?

Au-delà de cette querelle politique, c'est un message dangereux qui est adressé aux générations futures : contourner la loi pour satisfaire des ambitions personnelles serait un mode de gouvernance acceptable. Or, quelles que soient les victoires que certains pensent avoir remportées, une vérité demeure : ce qui est obtenu en dehors du cadre légal ne saurait être considéré comme légitime.

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(a)

Le vice-président Koung exprime des inquiétudes face à Starts from page 8

installations de stockage », a-t-il expliqué, ajoutant que l'accès à l'électricité est crucial pour le secteur de la santé. « Un médecin ne peut pas poser un diagnostic simplement en observant un patient ; cela nécessite l'utilisation d'appareils électroniques », a-t-il précisé.

Le vice-président a par ailleurs critiqué la Vision 2030, proposée par les partenaires de développement, qu'il considère trop éloignée par rapport à l'urgence des besoins libériens. « Les Libériens n'ont plus le temps d'attendre. Le pays a besoin de réformes urgentes et d'une action immédiate », a-t-il déclaré.

Concentration sur la production d'énergie

M. Koung a salué les efforts du gouvernement et de ses partenaires internationaux pour améliorer l'accès à l'électricité, notamment à travers des projets d'énergie renouvelable comme la ferme solaire de Scheffline et l'expansion du barrage hydroélectrique de Mount Coffee. Cependant, il a insisté sur la nécessité de se concentrer davantage production d'électricité hydroélectrique deviennent graves et entraînent des décès dans nos hôpitaux. Imaginez un patient sur la table d'opération, avec la LEC (Liberia Electricity Corporation) rationnant l'électricité, et soudainement, l'électricité disparaît. Les machines s'arrêtent, et une vie est perdue. Nous devons prioriser la génération d'énergie », a-t-il

L'électricité, un levier pour la réduction du coût de la vie

Enfin, le vice-président a souligné l'importance cruciale de l'électricité pour la réduction du coût de la vie. « Actuellement, beaucoup de Libériens doivent se rendre au marché chaque jour pour cuisiner, faute d'électricité pour conserver les aliments. Si quelqu'un prépare un repas et qu'il reste des restes pour le lendemain, ils doivent être jetés, faute d'électricité. Résoudre la question de

l'électricité pourrait régler de nombreux problèmes quotidiens », a-t-il conclu. sur la production d'énergie. « En saison sèche, les problèmes liés à la — Rédigé par Othello B. Garblah

Libéria : Un scandale de 650 000 dollars

éclabousse le Service national des pompiers onrovia, 14 février «institutionnalisée». pompiers et de secours du politique, a exprimé son Libéria (LNFRS) est au centre inquiétude face à ce qu'il d'un scandale financier considère comme une atteinte impliquant la disparition aux principes fondamentaux de inexpliquée de coupons de gouvernance.

L'absence de toute traçabilité de ces bons suscite de vives inquiétudes quant à la transparence et à la gestion des ressources au sein de l'institution. Cette affaire met en évidence de possibles lacunes dans les mécanismes de contrôle interne ou pourrait révéler des actes de malversation plus graves.

650 000 dollars américains.

Une gouvernance sous pression Cette révélation intervient dans un contexte où les préoccupations sur la corruption sous l'administration du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr se multiplient. De nombreux observateurs dénoncent un manque de rigueur dans la gestion des finances publiques, certains évoquant même une corruption impartiale menée avec rigueur

2025 - Le Service Lors d'un débat sur le sujet, national des Gamordeh Clinton, analyste

carburant d'une valeur estimée à Ø « Cette situation illustre un grave déficit de responsabilité, non seulement en matière de gestion financière, mais aussi en ce qui concerne le respect de l'État de droit », a-t-il déclaré.

> Des appels à une enquête indépendante

Face à la gravité des allégations, Paul Kennedy, un autre intervenant, plaide pour une enquête approfondie et transparente. Il recommande la mise en place d'un comité d'enquête interne, tout en soulignant la nécessité d'impliquer des organismes indépendants tels que la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC) et le ministère de la Justice.

« Une enquête

est essentielle pour rétablir la confiance du public et garantir que les responsables rendent des comptes », estime-t-il.

Une crise de gouvernance plus large

L'ancien représentant du district 9 de Montserrado, Moses Acarous Gray, affirme que ce scandale n'est que le symptôme d'un problème plus profond au sein de l'exécutif. Selon lui, de nombreuses institutions publiques sont minées par des pratiques douteuses.

Il cite notamment la National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) et le National Road Fund (NRF), déjà impliqués dans des affaires similaires.

Interrogé le 13 février 2025, le directeur du LNFRS, G. Warsuwah Barvoul Sr, a refusé de commenter l'affaire. Une posture qui alimente les interrogations sur la volonté des autorités de faire toute la lumière sur ce dossier.

Alors que la pression s'intensifie, les appels à des réformes structurelles se multiplient pour renforcer la gouvernance et lutter contre les dérives qui fragilisent les institutions publiques du pays.



anta, 14 février 2025 – Le vice-président du Libéria, Jeremiah Koung, a ordonné la fermeture immédiate des comptes bancaires multiples détenus par plusieurs ministères et agences gouvernementales, don't la Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), afin de renforcer la transparence financière et la bonne gouvernance.

Une gestion financière sous surveillance

Lors d'une retraite de deux jours sur le secteur de l'énergie, organisée sur son domaine agricole près de Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, le vice-président Koung a révélé que la LEC et plusieurs autres entités publiques gèrent plus de 30 comptes bancaires distincts.

Estimant que cette situation compromet la transparence et favorise d'éventuelles irrégularités, il a instruit le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement de procéder sans délai à leur fermeture.

Une pratique persistante depuis 2006

Le vice-ministre des Finances chargé de la gestion économique, Dehpue Y. Zuo, a confirmé ces informations, précisant que l'utilisation de comptes multiples par les institutions publiques remonte à 2006, sous l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, et qu'elle persiste encore

Il a dénoncé une pratique préjudiciable à la gestion des ressources publiques, affirmant que le ministère des Finances prendra des mesures correctives immédiates pour assainir les finances de l'État et renforcer la discipline

Un secteur énergétique en difficulté

Cette retraite gouvernementale visait à évaluer les performances des agences publiques impliquées dans le secteur de l'énergie, notamment la Liberia Electricity Corporation, et à identifier des solutions aux défis structurels persistants.

Dans un contexte de préoccupations croissantes quant à la mauvaise gestion financière et au manque de transparence, cette initiative s'inscrit dans un effort plus large du gouvernement pour restaurer la confiance publique et garantir une gestion plus rigoureuse des finances de l'Etat.



Le président Boakai en route pour le **38e Sommet de l**

onrovia, 14 février 2025 – Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a quitté Monrovia ce vendredi pour Addis-Abeba, en Éthiopie, homologues africains pour où il participera au 38e Sommet de l'Union africaine (UA), prévu du 15 au 16 février 2025 au siège de l'organisation panafricaine.

Une première participation pour le président Boakai

Il s'agit de la première participation du président Boakai à un sommet de l'Union fonction en 2024.

africaine depuis son entrée en Lors d'une déclaration faite le 13 février 2025, le ministre de l'Information, Jerolinmek Piah, a souligné que la présence du président à cet événement reflète l'engagement du Libéria à renforcer la coopération avec les autres nations africaines, dans le

développement du continent.

Des discussions axées sur la sécurité et l'économie

Au cours de ce sommet, le président Boakai rencontrera ses échanger sur des questions cruciales, notamment la sécurité régionale, la croissance économique et les solutions aux enjeux partagés.

En l'absence du président, les affaires de l'État seront prises en charge par le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, Sylvester Grisgbe, en concertation avec le viceprésident Jeremiah Koung.





ARTICLE ARTICLE

Police Officer Boima Massaley needs to be held accountable

By Seltue Karweaye Sr.

MONDAY

he recent Liberia Human Rights Report underscores the well-known poor human rights record of the Liberian government and the increasingly troubling daily experiences of its citizens. The report outlines several significant cases of rights abuses, including arbitrary killings by police, arbitrary detention by government officials, harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, serious issues regarding the independence of the judiciary, substantial restrictions on free expression and the press (including website blocking), official corruption, and a lack of accountability in cases of violence against women. This includes the government's inaction in instances of rape, domestic violence, and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). Additionally, the report highlights trafficking in persons, the existence of laws that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct between adults, and the use of forced or compulsory child

The recent tragic killing of a 22-year-old fisherman named "Favor" on Gbanjor Beach, located in the Bokon Community of Lower Virginia, has raised serious alarms about the conduct of Police officers in Liberia. On February 12, 2025, around 5:00 PM, off-duty police officer Boima Massaley, who is affiliated with the Police Support Unit (PSU), was enjoying a day at the beach with his girlfriend and her friends when he noticed Favor and his companions smoking marijuana.

Eyewitness testimonies reveal that Officer Boima Massaley approached a group of three to four young men on Gbanjor Beach with a noticeably aggressive demeanor, attempting to instill fear within them. As he brandished his firearm, the young men, sensing imminent danger, hurriedly

began to flee the area to escape. In a shocking turn of events, Officer Massaley discharged his weapon several times in their direction. Tragically, one of the bullets struck a young man named Favor, who fell to the ground on the beach but was pronounced dead at the scene.

The news of Favor's fatal shooting by Officer Massaley spread swiftly throughout the community, igniting outrage and confusion among residents. Many community members expressed concerns, alleging that Officer Massaley had been known to openly carry his firearm even while off duty, creating a climate of fear among the citizens. This incident has raised significant alarm regarding extrajudicial killings and highlights a disturbing trend of law enforcement's apparent disregard for fundamental rights, particularly the right to life and the right to a fair hearing.

Moreover, witnesses have noted that beyond their initial act of running, there is no credible evidence indicating that the young men were armed or had engaged in any verbal confrontation with Officer Massaley before his gunfire. The close-range shots fired by Officer Massaley further compounded the tragic nature of this incident and underscored the severity of the situation, ultimately resulting in the untimely death of "Favor." The community is now left grappling with the implications of this event and demanding accountability and justice for the young

Following the incident, members of the community

intervened and disarmed Officer Massaley as he attempted to escape. By departmental protocols, he was placed on administrative leave by the Liberia National Police while a thorough investigation was underway to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

Regrettably, this incident is not an isolated case in Gbanjor, Lower Virginia. There is a troubling history of violence involving police officers in Gbanjor, Lower Virginia. On August 4, 2024, at approximately 9:00 PM, another shooting incident occurred at the Gbanjor Gas Station. A confrontation between Police Inspector Fayiah and a resident, Mr. Mohammed, escalated when Inspector Fayiah discharged his firearm during the altercation. Mr. Mohammed was critically injured and rushed to a nearby medical facility, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Police Inspector Gary Coleman confirmed during a press conference that Officer Fayiah was in illegal possession of a firearm at the time of the incident. Following standard procedure, Inspector Fayiah was taken into custody at the Central CSD, awaiting the results of an ongoing



investigation into this deadly encounter. These incidents highlight the urgent need for accountability and reform within the police force to prevent any further loss of life.

The issue of power abuse and human rights violations remains a profound challenge in Liberia, prevalent under both military and democratic regimes. One of the most egregious manifestations of police power abuse is extrajudicial killing, often referred to as extralegal killing. The United Nations defines extrajudicial killing as "the deprivation of life without full judicial and legal process, and with the involvement, complicity, tolerance, or acquiescence of the government or its agents." This definition underscores the responsibility of state actors in these unlawful actions, highlighting the systemic failures within the justice system.

Extrajudicial killings are not only unconstitutional and illegal but also represent a significant breach of human rights, particularly the fundamental right to life. These acts involve the state's agents—most notably police officers—illegally terminating the lives of individuals, often without any due process or accountability. In Western societies, the right to life is considered paramount, embodied by the belief that "one life lost is indeed too many." Conversely, in Liberia and other African contexts, there is an unsettling notion that "many lives lost mean little or nothing," particularly when the victims are unknown to the perpetrators. This chilling perception reflects a deeper societal desensitization to violence and death.

Culturally, Liberians often place a strong emphasis on commemorating death through elaborate and costly funeral ceremonies, which can overshadow the celebration of life itself. This unique social practice may stem from historical and cultural contexts that prioritize ancestral reverence over contemporary existence.

Moreover, the dynamic of power in Liberia reveals a delicate balance between exercise and abuse. The potential for power to be misused is evident but equally concerning is the failure to wield that power judiciously, particularly in situations that demand intervention or protection. Consequently, this dual nature of power—the propensity for both its application and neglect—creates a complex landscape where the rights and dignity of individuals can be easily compromised. Addressing these issues is crucial for fostering a society grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The Liberia National Police (LNP), like law enforcement agencies globally, is endowed with significant powers derived from the Constitution as well as various statutes and legislative acts. These powers encompass critical responsibilities such as crime prevention, the maintenance of public order, and the protection of lives and property. However, in practice,

the exercise of these powers often strays beyond legal and ethical boundaries. This is evident in instances of unlawful arrests and detentions, police brutality, corruption, and serious violations of fundamental human rights, including the right to life and the right to a fair hearing.

Notably, the tragic cases of Mr. Mohammed and the young man known as "Favor" highlight a disturbing trend of police abuse of power, particularly relating to extrajudicial killings. These incidents reveal a concerning pattern where officers of the LNP tend to overassert their authority, frequently opting for maximum, excessive, or even lethal force, in stark contrast to the norm of employing minimum force that is typically upheld in Western democracies.

These alarming practices underscore an urgent need for a comprehensive reorientation of the police force in Liberia. Implementing rigorous training and retraining programs for officers is essential to instill a deep understanding of the ethical responsibilities associated with policing. Officers must be thoroughly educated on the critical importance of upholding the rule of law, ensuring the protection of lives and property, and respecting the rights of all individuals—including the right to a fair trial—as opposed to engaging in arbitrary justice or summary executions.

Furthermore, the situation in which the police assume multiple roles—acting as investigator, prosecutor, judge, and executioner—poses a grave threat to the integrity of the criminal justice system. It creates an environment where abuses of power can flourish unchecked.

In particular, the case involving Police Officer Boima Massaley of the Police Support Unit (PSU), who was implicated in the killing of the young man referred to as "Favor," calls for immediate action. Prosecuting Officer Massaley is imperative to demonstrate a commitment to accountability and to deter similar misconduct within the police ranks. This serves not only as a warning to current officers but also as a critical step toward rebuilding public trust in law enforcement and affirming the importance of justice and human rights in Liberia. I rest my pen.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman itizens of Grand Kru County mainly from 'Electoral District #2, are calling on their Representative embattled Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, not to resign as Speaker of the 55th Legislature.

The citizens of in an exclusive

spoke via mobile phone came from Forpoh, Dorbor, Buah, Jloh, Sass Town, upper and Lower and Barclayville, respectively.

"We have broken down when we got the news that our Representative will soon resign his positions in this government; this will bring



interview via mobile phone from various towns and villages across the county say they are depending on Speaker Koffa for a better change of mind and his developmental innovation for the people of the district and the county at large.

Cllr. Koffa

They note that since 2017, Grand Gru County has improved relatively through infrastructural development, social justice and socioeconomic development that have impacted all 12 (twelve) traditional communities in the county.

According to the citizens, they have received heartbroken news that Speaker Koffa is contemplating to resign both as Representative and Speaker, thus creating fear amongst the local population. They have begun holding meetings across the county,

speaking out publicly for first the time since the political crisis began in the House of Representatives to remove Speaker Koffa.

The Grand Kru citizens that

shame and embarrassment to us that voted for him in 2023", they

Sunday E. Toogbabu, Sr., general coordinator for "Friends of Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa", Speaker of the 55th Legislature, pleaded with the embattled Speaker not to dream about resigning his post, least of resigning as a Representative.

Patrica Bartu of Sasstown Down Beach, Hawa Toogbabu of Weakeken, Barcyville city and Wesley Nagbe of Noakia, and Patricia Bartu, in separate interviews, expressed deep regret if Koffa stepped down as Representative of electoral District#2.

They note that the people of District #2 elected him to represent their interest in the Legislature, so if he resigned, the district will not get anybody

"We hope and pray that the rumors we are hearing is not true; we the people of his district and the entire county are standing with you, Speaker Koffa", a group of women

The citizens continues that it took them time to speak out publicly because they were waiting for the Supreme Court of Liberia's ruling into the case involving the Majority bloc and Speaker Fonati Koffa's supporters, dubbed as Minority bloc.

According to the, they were moved to speak out publicly when they saw on social media the forceful breaking into the Speaker's Office to have him evicted on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, led by the Chairman Rules, Order and Administration, Bong County District#2 Representative James Kolleh.

The Grand Kru County citizens disclose that they have planned to send a delegation to Monrovia to reassure embattled Speaker Koffa that they stand by him in these trial times.

"We calling on embattled House Speaker and Grand Kru County Electoral District #2 Representative Cllr J. Fonati Koffa, to always keep updating us back home because the disinformation is too much in the county, something that sometimes causes us to break down in tears", the say.

Speaker Koffa has been embattled since last year when a group of his fellow lawmakers. sponsored by the Executive, waged a campaign to oust him

He has fought back, challenging his removal before the Supreme Court. The Court described actions by both sides as ultra vires, and directed them to return to status code ante, to act within confines of the Constitution, but the Executive thru the Minister of Justice, interprets the Court's directive in its favor, empowering the Majority bloc to elect ruling Unity Party Representative, Richard Nagbe Koon, as Speaker, albeit illegally. *Editing* by Jonathan Browne

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effectively managed the rail Liberia into unfavorable operations for over 15 years and has a proven track record in moving Liberian iron ore—is another contentious point. Instead, HPX seeks preferential treatment for Guinean iron ore transit, thereby subverting established practices and national interests. The Ivanhoe letter clearly illustrates that HPX's actions are designed to force the Government into accepting an inequitable deal that benefits external investors over Liberian development. It seems that HPX is not interested in using the rail but more interested in demanding the removal of ArcelorMittal as an operator. Why is a company from Guinea making such a demand? Would HPX demand that the Government of Guinea change its rail operator?

A Call for Transparency and Accountability

Given these critical issues, it is incumbent upon Liberia's National Legislature to intervene. The Legislature must hold a public hearing on the Framework Agreement to scrutinize its legality, review its terms, and assess its implications for national sovereignty and economic policy. Public hearings would provide a platform for stakeholders—from civil society groups to industry experts—to voice concerns and demand transparency. The stakes are too high: an unratified and flawed framework could lock

obligations while undermining the nation's regulatory and legal integrity.

Legislative Oversight as the Way Forward

It is time for the National Legislature to stand up and demand accountability. A public hearing on the Framework Agreement is essential to ensuring that all contractual obligations are fully vetted and legally sound. Such oversight is necessary to protect the interests of Liberia and its citizens from external pressures and to guarantee that any future agreements are developed transparently, with full legislative and public participation.

The current climate—where HPX's threats and the framework's questionable legality converge—calls for decisive action. The Legislature must challenge HPX to either substantiate its claims through proper arbitration channels or withdraw its threats. Only through rigorous legislative oversight can Liberia safeguard its national interests, ensure compliance with the rule of law, and promote sustainable development.

The time to act is now. The National Legislature must take immediate steps to hold public hearings, scrutinize the Framework Agreement, and reaffirm Liberia's commitment to transparent and lawful governance.



raised.

However, Madam Glassco says integrity. she is surprised by the allegations, Notwithstanding, Madam especially considering the positive Glassco commits to availing General Auditing Commission ensuring that these allegations are (GAC) that gave her the secondbest opinion and did not flag any financial inefficiencies.

"I am deeply concern about the motivations behind the decision and the impact it has on my reputation", she laments.

She seems to acknowledge that there may be a need for authorities to do their job, but raises question of defamation of her character.

Her frustration seems to stem from a potential harm to her reputation without yet a clear evidence of wrongdoing.

According to her, she is determined to protect her integrity,

especially in such serious

accusations that bonder on her

outcome from her last audit by the herself to the process and thoroughly addressed. Her determination to clear her name shows she's resolved not to let the matter fade away without proper scrutiny.

She now faces investigation by the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

However, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority has made significant strive under the administration of Director Glaasco, being one of the few institutions during the previous government that attracted over US\$40 million from abroad as donors' support.

The suspended head of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority says she is surprised by a Board's resolution linking her to alleged managerial and financial inefficiencies.

onrovia, Liberia, Board of Directors. February 17, 2025 -The suspended Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA), Emma Metieh-Glassco expresses surprise by her suspension over allegations of managerial and financial inefficiencies.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai last week with immediate effect suspended Director Emma Glassco based on a resolution by the NAFAA

In a communication to Mrs. Glassco, President Boakai outlined the Board's resolution, which calls for her suspension due to managerial

and financial inefficiencies. The President notes in his communication that the Board's recommendation is in accordance with Section 3.9.2 of the Act that established NAFAA.

President Boakai also referenced a communication from the Office of the

Ombudsman, which recommended Mrs. Glassco's suspension and investigation based on allegations of insults. The alleged misconduct, considered unbecoming of a public official, was reportedly exhibited during an official investigation meeting. The Ombudsman's recommendation is based on Section 11.10 of the Code of Conduct Act.

The President urged the suspended NAFAA Director General to fully cooperate with these investigations in order to address the concerns



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Time for Legislative Oversight

-Exposing the Illegality of the Framework Agreement and HPX's Threats

reveal a troubling convergence of legal irregularities and corporate overreach. The March 2022 Framework Agreement, a document that HPX is using as an noose on the neck of the enforced, would compel Liberia colloquially as the "Weah to pay US\$37 million, compounded annually at 10%, based on an agreement that is fundamentally flawed and arguably illegal. Because the \$37 million was not an



Government of Liberia, is now under intense scrutiny—not only for its procedural deficiencies but also for the subsequent threats issued by HPX. As outlined in the Ivanhoe letter dated January 24, 2025, HPX has threatened to invoke a default under this framework if an Access Agreement is not signed by

investment but rather a loan then it should have been ratified, under Liberian Law. No investment would have required the Government to repay at the interest rate of 10% compounded annually. This was a predatory loan and it is illegal.

Illegality at the Core

The framework itself is tainted by a lack of proper legislative

ecent developments February 15, 2025. This move, if ratification. Known agreement," it was signed without adequate parliamentary oversight, undermining the democratic process and jeopardizing national sovereignty. Such a critical misstep raises serious constitutional questions about its enforceability and the legitimacy of the obligations it purports to impose on the Liberian Government. The absence of legislative endorsement not only renders the agreement questionable under national law, but it also exposes the Government to significant legal risks should HPX decide to enforce the default clause.

HPX's Baseless Threats

The threat from HPX goes beyond mere contractual enforcement. It is an aggressive attempt to pressure the Liberian Government into granting an impractical 30 mtpa rail capacity—despite the fact that the actual capacity is undetermined. Furthermore, HPX's demand to remove ArcelorMittal as the operator—a company that has

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