



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

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR **BUYING** DATE SELLING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 L\$198.7657/US\$1.00

L\$197.0086/US\$1.00

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







-As families begin exhuming the remains of ex-President Tolbert and 13 other officials

# Jangerous La



Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence -Expert describes new Port Regulatory Act.

Ambulah Mamey

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# Continental News

Villagers killed executionstyle in Sudan, activists say

days by the paramilitary but fell out over an

civilians have been not commented on the heart of this conflict is a killed in a cluster of allegations. The two had come falling out between Sudan's villages in Sudan over three to power together in a coup -



Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that is involved in a brutal conflict with the military, a local rights group has said. The Emergency Lawyers network said the attacks happened in al-Kadaris and al-Khelwat towards the north of White Nile state - areas where the military had no

RSF fighters were guilty of "executions, kidnappings, property looting", the from their homes. network added.

internationally backed plan to move towards civilian rule.

Some senior RSF leaders are currently in Kenya where they are expected to announce plans to form their own government in areas under their control.

Analysts warn the move could deepen divisions in Sudan. Humanitarians have been sounding the alarm over Sudan, where the conflict has enforced disappearances and forced about 12 million people

Tens of thousands of civilians The RSF, which was allied to have been killed, with both the the military before the civil RSF and army accused of

ore than 200 unarmed war broke out in April 2023, has committing atrocities. At the de facto ruler and army chief Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and his deputy-turned-rival Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, who leads the RSF.

The RSF was recently dealt a significant blow when the army regained control of parts of the capital, Khartoum - including its military headquarters.

Beyond the capital, the army has also won near total control of the crucial state of Gezira.

Following the setbacks, the RSF has rebounded with plans to launch a rival government in areas still under its control, which are mainly in Darfur and parts of Kordofan state.

The RSF is meeting allied groups in Nairobi to finalise the adoption of what it calls a "political charter for the Government of Peace and Unity".

Gen Burhan has rejected the move, and has vowed to reclaim the whole of Khartoum.

He is currently based in Port Sudan, having been forced to leave Khartoum months after the civil war broke out when the RSF seized the military headquarters and the presidential palace.BBC

# Rebels leave families devastated in wake of DR Congo advance

eshima winces in pain as he tries to shift his weight, sweat beading on his face. The slight 13year-old sits on a bed in a tent in the grounds of an overcrowded hospital in Goma city in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Heshima's left leg is a bandaged stump, his stomach is streaked with burn marks, and both of his parents have been killed.A relative, Tantine, tells us who is to blame: M23 rebels - backed by Rwanda and battling the Congolese army, known as the FARDC. The rebels now control the two largest cities in this mineral-rich area, which borders Rwanda."It was a Sunday," she says. "There was fighting between them and the FARDC. They dropped the bomb, and I lost six members of my family."The M23 portray themselves as freedom fighters, bringing peace and order to a failed state, and a failed leader in Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi.

The rebel group, mainly comprised of ethnic Tutsis, has been on the march since early 2022, seizing swathes of territory - with the help of up

the operating theatres, she says. "Our medical supplies were looted at the very beginning of the escalation of the conflict. And we had an influx that was unseen before - between 100 and 150 patients a day for weeks."

That is now down to about 10 admissions per day, according to Ms Favier, and "right now people are just trying to live again". Drive around Goma and the streets hum with motorbikes. Many shops are open, and pavement sellers are back with their piles of onions and avocados and tomatoes.

There is little sign of well-armed M23 fighters. They do not stand on street corners. They don't need to. Everyone knows they are in charge.People would accept the devil here, one local man said, if they thought he would bring peace. Others are more wary. A journalist said many in the media are "selfcensoring" what they report, waiting to gauge how the new rulers will behave.

One activist told me many were "living in a big silence" because of fear of reprisals by the rebels.

"This is the most worrying period of Goma's history," he said. "I am afraid, the future is very uncertain."Not according to the

"Expect peace, security, development, job creation... a



#### Mauritius ex-PM bailed at 'suitcases of cash' arrest spokesperson Ibrahim Rossaye

released on bail following his 63-year-old husband spent the As part of his bail conditions, dramatic arrest on Saturday on night in a detention centre, Jugnauth has been ordered not money laundering charges. He before a magistrate granted him to contact witnesses or to had been detained along with bail late on Sunday, setting it at interfere with them. He must three others after the anti- \$32,000 (£26,000). Jugnauth's also stay at a fixed address and corruption agency said it had co-accused - two prominent must inform the police if he seized suitcases of cash and businesspeople and a deputy decides to relocate. Jugnauth luxury watches in raids on 10 mayor - are still in detention, was the prime minister from locations, including Jugnauth's pending the outcome of their 2017 to 2024 and is a member of

the charges against him. elections, with his successor Navin Ramgoolam vowing to root out corruption. But few Mauritians expected the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) to move so quickly, or to arrest the former prime minister on such serious charges. Some people took to the streets of the capital, Port Louis, to celebrate by lighting firecrackers, while a handful of his supporters turned up outside court on Monday to show their solidarity with him, chanting: "Pravin! Pravin!"His

wife Kobita - who is not facing

Minister Pravind being questioned for hours by timepieces, were also Jugnauth has been investigators on Saturday. Her confiscated, he added. minister's lawyer said he denied have not yet commented on the dominated politics in charges against them.

said. Seven luxury watches, auritius' former Prime the charges - was released after including five high-end Cartier

home. The former prime bail applications. Their lawyers one of the dynasties that has Mauritius. Jugnauth oversaw a

Jugnauth's arrest came 100 days About \$2.4m in local and foreign historic deal with UK Prime after his landslide defeat in currencies - including US dollars, Minister Keir Starmer regarding euros and UAE dirhams - were the future of the Chagos seized during the raids, FCC Islands.BBC The former prime minister, Pravind

Jugnauth, spent a night in detention

to 4,000 Rwandan troops.

'de facto control" over the group - claims Kigali and Rwandan President Paul Kagame deny. Doctors are struggling to clear a backlog of civilians and soldiers wounded at the end of January, when the rebels took Goma. The M23 say they "liberated" the city. The death toll in the fighting was close to 3,000 people, according to a UN estimate. Four operating rooms are in use simultaneously - throughout the day and sometimes at night."It's been a terrible situation for the doctors," says Myriam Favier of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which

supports the hospital. The

medics have been sleeping in

future with zero refugees, zero That is according to UN corruption, zero hunger," Willy experts who say Rwanda has Manzi, a newly appointed M23 vice governor who has recently returned from Canada, posted on the social media platform X.

But a different message was delivered to tens of thousands of people who have sought refuge from fighting in recent years in a network of camps in Goma. They were given 72 hours to go. The M23 want the camps erased, along with any rival armed groups hiding in them. "They came and told us. 'You have three days to leave," says Divine, 19, who has one child on her hip, and another at her feet."We were very scared because we have nowhere to go. Our houses have been destroyed. Hunger is killing us here, but how we can go home to nothing?"

As she speaks a crowd gathers around us. There are silent nods and worried faces.BBC

By Kenneth Rogoff

# Editorial: Lawlessness triumph on Capitol Hill i

EDITORIAL

ajority lawmakers from the House of Representatives have reached the peak of their desperation for power by 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 55<sup>th</sup> 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 | Europe to turn the other cheek, because United Kingdom a Norway-style trade 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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# **Europe in Trump's Crosshairs**

AVOS - This year's World Economic continue doing so. Forum in Davos was brimming with especially about Donald Trump.

Europe must take full responsibility for intelligence. its own defense - a demand many struggling to meet the 2% target they forward. committed to during Barack Obama's presidency, it is clear why Trump's demand is a major source of anxiety.

DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) tale. policies, he is likely to impose

Europe's largest economy. After two replicates, and Europe regulates." consecutive years of recession, to follow.

response likely to be seen domestically need access to European markets. as a sign of weakness, the temptation to confront Trump's bullying and retaliate Even if Europe takes these steps, it will may be impossible to resist.

mind that most economists argue that stagnation. the surplus is largely due to Europeans' preference for investing in US assets, To be sure, Europe should be commended

creative ideas about how to save Third, Trump's plan to shore up America's the planet, reduce inequality, and energy supply puts Europe's green tackle urgent security needs. movement in a difficult position. The Overwhelmingly, though, the big European Union's energy prices are takeaway was how depressed the several times higher than those in the US, Europeans are, about their economy and largely owing to the Russia-Ukraine war and the cost of the bloc's rapid green transition. High energy prices are making Their anxiety is not baseless: Trump it increasingly difficult for EU industries poses an existential threat to Europe in to remain competitive, especially in three key ways. First, he insists that critical emerging sectors like artificial

political leaders find difficult to So, what can Europe do? For starters, comprehend. In his Davos speech, policymakers must stay focused and not delivered remotely from Washington, allow Trump's chaotic policies to distract Trump once again called on European them from their top priorities. Chief governments to boost defense spending among these is finding ways to reduce to 5% of GDP. Given that many EU energy prices, with small-scale nuclear countries like Italy are already technologies offering a promising step

Moreover, Trump's climate-change denialism and "drill, baby, drill" agenda represent a significant challenge for the Second, Trump seems determined to EU, already at risk of slipping into make good on his threats to impose geopolitical irrelevance. While sweeping tariffs, dealing a crushing blow embracing clean energy is admirable, to European exporters facing Europe's efforts alone will have a limited increasingly stiff competition from impact on global warming, especially China. While Trump's rhetoric appears to with China and India still generating leave room for individual countries to roughly 60% of their electricity from coal. negotiate lower tariffs, his record of To convince other countries to follow in fulfilling campaign promises suggests its footsteps, Europe must prove that it otherwise. Having reversed former can be both green and competitive; President Joe Biden's open-borders and otherwise, it will become a cautionary

"beautiful" tariffs next, despite In the face of Trump's threats and widespread opposition from economists. growing Chinese competition, European governments would do well to temper Trump's proposed tariffs would have a their enthusiasm for regulation. As the particularly severe impact on Germany, saying goes, "The US innovates, China

Germany's export-led growth model UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel appears to be faltering. If Trump Reeves rightly views deregulation as a imposes high import tariffs on German potential way to improve Britain's growth goods, a third year of recession is likely prospects. But the United Kingdom will struggle to restore growth unless EU member states - particularly France - set The textbook approach would be for aside petty grievances and offer the the country that imposes tariffs often deal. Such an agreement would be suffers the most from them. But try mutually beneficial: Europe needs the explaining that to voters. With a passive UK's financial sector, and UK companies

have a hard time dealing with Trump. To have a fighting chance, EU countries must The outcome of such a confrontation is recognize that the roots of their current anyone's guess. Trump, who views malaise run much deeper. Regardless of Europe's chronic trade surplus with the Trump's re-election, European United States as clear evidence of unfair governments need to address the competition, will not back down. Never underlying causes of economic

which have consistently outperformed for implementing policies to address Europe's and are widely expected to climate change and curb the tech sector's

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WEDNESDAY

By Rüya Perincek, Daniel M. Franks

# Africa Needs Mineral Security, Too

RISBANE/BRUSSELS - On February 3-6, policymakers and industry leaders will gather in Cape Town for the annual Investing in African Mining Indaba. At the top of their agenda will be Africa's reserves of critical minerals and how the continent can capitalize on their role in the global economy.

Africa has long served as one of the world's primary suppliers of raw materials, making it a focal point of resource diplomacy and geopolitical competition. In 2024, the European Union adopted the Critical Raw Materials Act, which aims to secure greater access to the continent's resources in exchange for a larger role in local processing and a development pathway aligned with political roadmaps like the Africa Mining Vision.

Yet a recurring question will be asked in the halls of Cape Town's International Convention Centre: To whom are these resources critical? In the context of raw materials and minerals, the term "critical" is often associated with the energy transition. In fact, a mineral is considered critical for two main reasons, both of which have little to do with promoting renewable energy: it is economically important and difficult to substitute, and its supply is at risk of disruption.

Both criteria depend on one's perspective: to whose economy the minerals are important and whose supply chains are at risk. The EU already has robust supply chains for most minerals, so it takes a highly selective approach. In addition to energy-transition minerals like lithium and cobalt, its list of critical raw materials includes beryllium (used in missile guidance systems), tantalum (used in capacitors and electronics), and even commodities in direct contrast to the energy transition, like coking coal.

But suppose we asked a different question: What are the mineral security needs of Africa? From the perspective of the Global South and the world's poorest populations, a list of critical raw materials would look radically different. It would include minerals essential for human security - cement for housing and infrastructure, fertilizers for agriculture, salt for nutrition and food preservation, chlorine for water purification and fluorspar for fluoridation.

Seen through this lens, mineral security is less about national security and capturing greater benefits from extraction, and more about access, affordability, and sufficiency for all. Just as food security is understood as universal nutrition, mineral security must support universal needs - shelter, mobility, communication, energy, and sustenance.

Building local value chains tailored to Africa's needs will be vital for the continent's mineral security. For example, Africa produces 30 million tons of mineral fertilizer annually but exports most of it, accounting for just 3-4% of global consumption - a consequence of high costs and complex supply chains. Crushed rocks offer a promising alternative source of crop nutrients, with the added benefit of capturing carbon dioxide. In Brazil, the Rochagem movement has pioneered the use of local rocks, cutting costs by up to 80% while producing crop yields equal to or higher than those obtained with conventional fertilizers.

Similarly, Africa consumes only 5% of global cement production despite accounting for 18% of the world's population. The high cost of imported clinker cement impedes economic development, weakens housing and transportation infrastructure, slows recovery efforts following natural disasters, and limits African countries' ability to protect coastlines from the effects of climate change. Alternatives like limestone calcined clay cement (LC3) can be produced locally from abundant clay resources with up to 25% lower costs and 40% lower carbon emissions.

Affordable access to globally integrated, mineral-based products like solar panels and batteries remains particularly elusive. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, produces 72% of the world's cobalt, a key component of lithium-ion batteries. But Africa is projected to account for just 0.1% of the global market by 2030.

This problem extends beyond Africa. Between 2002 and 2022, Latin American countries like Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia exported 1,980 kilotons of lithium, yet only 13 kilotons - less than 1% - returned to the region embedded in finished goods.

Innovative approaches, such as "materials as a service" schemes that promote leasing rather than selling raw materials, could help bridge these gaps by enabling mineral-producing countries to collect royalties at every stage of processing and production. Building on this approach, policymakers could also require end-product manufacturers to sell finished goods back at affordable prices.

To implement such programs, support from advanced economies, particularly in Europe, will be crucial. Technical cooperation and assistance will be especially important to promote human-centered mineral security, because the minerals sector receives just under \$600 million out of the \$239 billion spent on official development assistance globally in 2021.

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# OPINION

By Gernot Wagner

NEW DAWN

# **The Climate Policy Pendulum**

EW YORK - It is tough to be optimistic about the climate these days. While the costs of extreme weather events like the Los Angeles wildfires pile up, the US federal policy pendulum is swinging away from facts, reason, and basic human decency. Nonetheless, even as the US government moves in the wrong direction, trends in science, economics, and increasingly local politics indicate that the pendulum will swing back in due course.

After all, no one can argue with the physics of today's clean energy technologies. Heat pumps, induction stoves, and electric vehicles (EVs) - to name just three - are fundamentally better technologies than what came before. The best gas furnaces might reach 95% efficiency, meaning they are converting 95% of the energy they use into heat; but most heat pumps easily top 200%, with some reaching 400% or more. Similar comparisons can be made between induction and gas stoves, and between EVs and gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles. By and large, we know what technologies we should be using to eliminate greenhouse-gas emissions; and in cases where we don't, we know what kinds of things to try.

This knowledge extends well beyond EVs and heat pumps to entire industrial sectors like cement or iron and steel. Here, outgoing US President Joe Biden's administration has made an important contribution with the Department of Energy's Liftoff Reports, which chart pathways to commercialization for a broad selection of low-carbon technologies.

Consider cement, which accounts for some 8% of annual global greenhouse-gas emissions. Ordinary Portland cement, patented 200 years ago, has dominated the sector for decades. While measures like clinker substitution and efficiency improvements can abate up to 40% of emissions, getting to zero will require additional steps. These generally fall into two categories: cutting emissions from producing Portland cement or switching away from it altogether. Promising US start-ups like Brimstone and Sublime Systems are racing to demonstrate that either path is commercially viable.

One key ingredient is public subsidies to help firms climb the learning curve and slide down the cost curve toward faster commercialization. Both Brimstone and Sublime Systems received early research and development funding from the US Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and have now advanced to the deployment stage, receiving up to \$190 and \$90 million, respectively, to build their first commercial plants. All told, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act allocated around \$100 billion for such purposes, with public funding contingent on matching private investments.

Moreover, these sums are dwarfed by the Department of Energy's loan program. With just \$17 billion in taxpayer funds, the IRA authorizes the department's Loan Programs Office to lend \$350 billion for investments in clean energy and domestic EV manufacturing. And those public funds then catalyze multiples more in private investments. While some Republicans and members of Donald Trump's incoming administration want to cut this program, doing so would only hurt US competitiveness.

Can we restore sanity to our national policies? It might be trite to say that change begins at home, but what is trite is often true. A good place to look is New York. While the city has many problems, its climate policies are not among them. Around 70% of New York's direct emissions come from heating and cooling buildings, while the other 30% comes from cars and trucks. Fortunately, Local Law 97 is already addressing the former. The law is one of the most ambitious decarbonization measures for buildings anywhere, requiring most to reduce their emissions by 40% this decade, and by 100% by 2050. And while New York can do only so much about vehicle emissions, its long-delayed congestion pricing program is finally being implemented. That is a good start.

Given that New York used to be the world's most congested city, the quality-oflife improvement from less traffic can already be felt. The same goes for another measure that took an absurdly long time to address: the lack of trash bins. Over the past year, the city has finally issued official trash, recycling, and compost bins, with enforcement for residential buildings beginning this month. Cleaning up our own act - including with mandatory composting and other policies - will not save the planet. But effective government just might.

Physics alone will not push the pendulum all the way back to where it was before. That will require policies based on sound economics. As long as Trump does not break the fulcrum and bring the entire pendulum crashing down, policies pioneered by his predecessor and by local communities will continue to be a force applying pressure in the right direction.

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# 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.



**NEW DAWN** 

### **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 nstitutions. 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 esponsibilities, 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 nolding legislators accountable. Generally, the elections of lawmakers in Liberia have been nfluenced 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 ead 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

ASISEE 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 n 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 ment 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 nternational 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.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Govt to allocates USD\$8.8 million annually increase salaries for key sectors adjustments made based on state of salary ranges for other

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has agreed to personnel. provide USD\$8.8 million annually to enhance government salary "The process has already been top-ups exercise across critical sectors, including health, completed for the Ministry of education, security, and agriculture.

By; Kruah Thompson

2025, Civil Service Agency Education, and the Liberian onrovia, February 19, (CSA) Director-General Josiah National Police" Joekai.said 2025/ This initiative F. Joekai revealed that, since adding that as part of the salary will benefit the initial announcement, the top-up, the Ministry of

2025



employees in these sectors who sector ministries to finalize the earn below the minimum wage. process. In a statement issued earlier According to Joekai, CSA has government was considering effectively. salary top-ups for employees in "We are glad to report that, in and agriculture.

adjustments based on their Joekai said. respective categories.

MICAT's regular press briefing wage will see their salaries

Finance and Development like the Ministry of Health to Planning,. Augustine Kpehe develop the framework and Ngafuan informed a group of gather data to ensure the topjournalists that the up process is carried out Meanwhile, he says the

essential sectors such as addition to what employees are lives of its people, ensuring health, education, security, currently receiving, the accountability and Minister of Finance has allotted transparency in its actions," He indicated that those earning USD\$8.8 million annually for He concluded by emphasizing below the minimum wage this process, which will that any government official would see their salaries positively impact 5,612 who does not align with this increase to at least \$150, with employees in critical sectors,"

Making the disclosure at earning below the minimum B. Garblah. on Thursday, February 18, increase to \$150, with further

Health, the Ministry of approximately 5,612 agency had been working with Education will receive around USD\$3.1 million annually to supplement existing Information, Culture, and compensation, benefiting approximately 9,515 employees, mainly teachers in various categories.

> "The Minister of Finance has also allocated USD\$900,000 for the Liberian National Police, which will affect about 4,656 personnel, including those earning \$995. Additionally, the Liberia Immigration Service will receive USD\$750,714, which will benefit around 200 officers within the service." He added

However, Joekai noted that adjustments are still pending for other entities, and The last year, the Minister of collaborated with institutions latter increase is specifically intended to support employees playing critical roles in the country's healthcare system.

government remains committed to improving the

vision of accountability and integrity would be removed He added that employees from office. -Edited by Othello

### **Gov'T secures US\$80M World Bank Grant for Road Rehabilitation**

#### - MICAT Boss Announces Major Infrastructure Projects

The Government of Liberia has secured US\$80M grant from the World Bank to rehabilitate roads in Paynesville, Sinkor, and Central Monrovia.

Piah announced this on February Tourism's (MICAT) regular press briefing.

The initiative aims to improve urban mobility by addressing deteriorated road conditions, including deep potholes and poor drainage systems, which have long plagued commuters and businesses.

According to Minister Piah, the Urban Resilience Project will be executed in two phases, including Phase One, which will focus on Paynesville, particularly roads in SKD Boulevard and Police Academy, while Phase Two, Road rehabilitation will extend to the Central Monrovia.

May 2025. "A key aspect of the rapid deterioration. plan is the installation of "The government is not just

onrovia, February 19, Government of Japan to further 2025/Minister of support road construction.

Information Jerolinmek The formal signing of exchange notes and the grant agreement 18 during the Ministry of is scheduled for March 12 in Monrovia.

> The agreement will be signed by Liberia's Foreign Minister on behalf of the government, while Japan's ambassador to Liberia, based in Accra, Ghana, will sign on behalf of the Japanese government. Minister Piah stated that the

will begin in August 2025 and will use a composite road structure designed to enhance durability. "The first layer will be rigid concrete, followed by an asphalt overlay, making it more resistant to wear and tear," he explained.

Japanese-funded road project

He disclosed that the Chocolate entire Sinkor belt and into City to Freeport Road corridor will be prioritized, with Piah assured the public that drainage systems and other rehabilitation work will begin necessary infrastructure within two weeks, with the goal incorporated into the of completing the project by construction process to prevent



### bout 260 Officials Blocked rom Government Payrol

The Director-General of the Civil Service Agency (CSA), Josiah F. reinstated on the government Joekai, has announced the immediate suspension of 216 government officials from payrolls managed by the CSA for the However, he reported that, as a month of February 2025.

By: Kruah Thompson onrovia, February 19, 2025/ This decision follows President Boakai's instruction on February 12, 2025, to suspend over 457 officials who failed to declare their assets.

Among the affected officials, two are from the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, 198 are from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and three are from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Additionally, officials from other entities, including the Governance Commission, Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), Liberia Land Authority, Ministry of Justice, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Ministry of National Defense, have also been impacted. Speaking at the

Ministry of Information, Cultural

aim to ensure compliance with save about USD\$104,000.73. asset declaration laws.

affected by this decision will not receive their February salary unless they fulfill the required obligations

The CSA boss urge all affected from this measure.

officials to declare their assets with the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission and obtain clearance from the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.

"Once these steps are completed, officials will be payroll." He added

result of the their actions to Affairs, and Tourism on Thursday, block the 216 officials from Director-General Joekai government payrolls for the restore pothole-ridden roads. The government also focuses on explained that the CSA's actions month of February, they have

This amount will be moved into He emphasized that any official an extra account," Joekai disclosed, further noting that the agency is working closely with the Bureau of State Enterprises to determine the total savings



effective drainage systems to making promises but delivering prevent waterlogging, a major on its commitments. Residents cause of rapid road will see and feel the impact of deterioration in Monrovia."

"These interventions will Piah declared. across the city," Piah stated.

In addition to the newly announced projects, the government is making significant progress on existing roadwork in Johnsonville, Mount Barclay, and Freeport, where construction is reportedly 90% complete in some areas.

Minister Piah also emphasized that the government is committed to completing unfinished road projects inherited from previous administrations, with plans to finalize at least 35-45% of these projects by the end of the year. In a related development, Minister Piah disclosed that Liberia has secured a US\$18

million grant from the

these developments," Minister

and improve transportation upgrading water and sewer infrastructure to improve public health and sanitation.

> Minister Piah revealed that the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) has begun demolishing illegal structures built over sewer lines to enable proper drainage and sanitation services.

> Additionally, efforts are underway to expand access to clean drinking water beyond Monrovia. Key updates include the following: Water supply systems are fully restored in Bopolu City, and contracts are awarded to connect 2,500 new households in Monrovia, Paynesville, and surrounding

> > CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# lamic Cleric faces backlash Concerned citizens demand justice

-For failure to criticize Boakai

A renowned Liberian Muslim Cleric comes under public criticism here for allegedly turning blind eyes against ills under President was influencing his perspective Joseph Boakai, but Imam, Ali Krayee denies.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

onrovia, Liberia. 18, 2025. outspoken critic of former suggest that he feels his

appeared on OK FM on February

February 19, 2025 - According to Imam Krayee, he Liberia's Chief Imam, Ali the Liberian media has not Krayee, who was previously an amplified his voice, which might



President George Weah, faces messages or criticisms are being keeping silent on ills in President attention they deserve. Joseph Nyuma Boakai's"We have been talking.

among some of his followers and placed on the media", he points opportunity, but now, under political observers, who are out. questioning whether his failure He explains that in less than two to voice criticisms is due to a months after the Boakai shift in political stance or a sign administration took office, he of favoritism towards the new addressed an important issue

critic to remaining largely silent specifically noting that any under President Boakai has recovery effort that does not disappointment. Many people by Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, seem to feel that Krayee, who would be a "mockery." once actively addressed national This message, according to Mr his legacy, reminding the fulfilling that role.

his silence here, he shifts blame national matters, particularly public. Editing by Jonathan onto the media when he those related to accountability Browne

significant backlash here for overlooked or not given the

Unfortunately part of the blame quick to criticize the Weah His silence has raised concerns that we are not talking should be government at every

about the government's failed Krayee's shift from being a vocal Asset Recovery process. caused a lot of speculation and include the previous regime led

issues and held power Krayee, was part of his end-of- President that the people expect accountable, is no longer Ramadan address last year, him to do much better, while which suggests that he has encouraging Mr. Boakai to live up But responding to criticisms of continued to speak out on key to the expectations of the

and governance.

Asked if his new role at the National Port Authority (NPA) or causing him to tone down his criticisms, he retorts "The country belongs to everyone, regardless of religious background and anyone can fulfill a role in government."

criticism from Liberians who under the banner Concerned believe that his silence is directly linked to his new position as member of the Board of the National Port Authority

Many feel he has compromised his previous vocal stance on national issues in exchange for his government appointment.A caller, Musa Konneh, expressed frustration regarding Imam Ali Krayee's apparent shift in behavior since joining the NPA board. Konneh's disappointment highlights the belief that Krayee's new position has limited his ability to speak out freely, particularly on issues that matter to the public.

points out that "Krayee was once President Boakai administration, he seems to either remain silent or turn a blind eye to what is happening in the country."

A pro-Weah commentator, Frank Gibson, says Imam Ali Krayee is recent actions, or lack thereof.

However, he faced significant

Another caller Melvin Diggs

"compromised," reflecting the growing unhappiness many feel with the religious leader's Nevertheless, Chief Krayee cautions President Boakai about

The government's efforts to Minister Piah reassured citizens He further that President Boakai modernize roads and public that these projects will boost previously announced plans to utilities highlight a strong economic activity, ease urban connect 3,500 additional commitment to national travel, and improve public households within a year, with development. With funding health. "By May next year, already in progress. "Plans to partners like the World Bank and paved roads, free of the restore water access in Japan, these projects are potholes and water damage we

### **Gov'T secures US\$80M World**

residents, funded by the World initial funding secured," Bank.

Starts From Page 6

the first phase (2,500 homes) secured from international Liberians will travel on well-

#### communities at no cost to Greenville, with \$1.5 million in improve transportation drainage, and water access.

Buchanan, Zwedru, Pleebo, and expected to significantly see today."-Othello B. Garblah.

# **Explosion leaves one dead at Sethi**

colleagues.

Samukai, offering support during this difficult time. "Our thoughts to the family, friends, and Sethi Ferro Fabrik said.

Starts From back Page

investigation.

will do everything in our power Garblah.

The Company, through its to support the family of Mr. 'We have initiated immediate communication department, Samukai and work alongside the engagement with the family of said it is fully cooperating with authorities to understand and the deceased, identified as Saah local authorities to aid the address this tragedy. Our Spokesperson Gray laments thoughts and prayers remain "Our employees are the heart of with the bereaved family, and and sincere condolences go out our operations, and their safety we will continue to provide the is our top priority. This loss is necessary support during this colleagues affected by this deeply painful for all of us," difficult period." The statement tragic loss," the management of stated the management. "We added. -Edited by Othello B.

#### -Over alleged Chinese brutality

A group of concerned Liberians are threatening to protest over alleged brutality against one of their colleagues by a Chinese national, Michael Shio

By Lewis S. Teh

onrovia, Liberia, February 19, 2025 - A Group of citizens Citizens of Liberia vow here to protest against the government for what they term tremendous injustices that are being perpetrated against peaceful citizens across the country.

"If the Boakai Administration fails to take drastic actions against people who are in the constant habit of brutalizing peaceful citizens, we will stage a protest action in demand of justice", they threaten. Spokesperson Alpha Gray in a

news conference Tuesday, February 18, 2025 said government was shielding foreign nationals and other perpetrators, who allegedly kill and brutalize peaceful citizens without any actions social injustice, poverty, business as usual, and bad labor practice, among others.

He says it is saddening that an environment that should have provided safety for its own citizens would turn out to be a scene of horror, saying "We as a group will not allow this to go unchanged."

Gray reveals that the hideous violent act carried out against Momo Davis under the order of Chinese national Michael Shio include torture, chase down, burn with hot oil and beaten severely, acts he describes as not only barbaric but speak volumes about moral decline amongst those who feel they are untouchable.

"The sight of a fellow Liberian citizen being treated in their own country in such a way is a profound violation of human rights that should sicken every citizen."



On January 13, 2025, it was Liberians to rise up, saying as reported that a Chinese citizens of Liberia, we can't national along with three of afford to be complacent, as his accomplices subjected a the absence of the Chinese Liberian, Momo Davis, to an abhorrent act of violence and inflicted pains on him for some unknown reasons at the alleged perpetrator's firmly and decisively. residence in Monrovia.

took place right under the nose of President Boakai and the government, sparking serious criticism about safety and protection of citizens.

But reacting to the incident, that allowing a foreign national to brutalize a Liberian on his own soil is not only a disgrace but a shame for a government that campaigned with a promise

to rescue the nation from

Gray, however, calls on national Michael Shio and his accomplices, present an opportunity for the government to respond

According to him, suspect He notes that the incident Michael Shio and his accomplices are currently unaccounted for, lamenting that absence of justice in such a case is a grave matter that must resonate throughout the Liberian society and into the hall of leadership.

> Gray says if it is proven that the perpetrator along with his accomplices escape

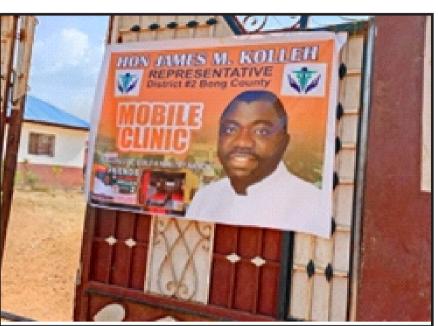
> > CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# rançaıs

#### Le SUP exige justice pour la moi l'étudiante Lovette Tamba au JFK malheureusement tourné au

Unification Party du Liberia réclame justice a suscité de vives inquiétudes

e Vanguard Student 2025 des suites d'une présumée négligence médicale à l'hôpital ■(SUP) de l'Université de maternité du JFK. Son décès



camarade Lovette Tamba au John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital (JFK). Le SUP exige une enquête immédiate et approfondie sur les circonstances entourant cette tragédie. Lovette Tamba, étudiante à l'Université du Liberia, est décédée le 14 janvier hospitalisation

après le décès de leur quant aux pratiques médicales et à la qualité des soins dispensés au sein de l'établissement.

> Selon les informations, Miss Tamba, âgée de 32 ans et enceinte de 26 semaines, s'est rendue au JFK le 9 janvier 2025 en raison de douleurs abdominales. Son

drame, entraînant son décès cing jours plus tard.

Le SUP dénonce vivement le fait que Dr. Gonkernue Nuahn, anesthésiste de renom au JFK, ainsi que les autres membres du personnel médical impliqués dans son traitement, continuent d'exercer sans faire l'objet de sanctions ou de suspension. Manifestation pour exiger des réponses

Le 17 février 2025, des étudiants se sont rassemblés devant le siège du Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC) à Monrovia pour exiger justice. Odecious Mulbah, secrétaire général du SUP, a exprimé l'indignation de son mouvement face à l'absence de résultats concrets malgré les démarches entreprises par la famille de la défunte auprès du Dr. Benetta Collins Andrews, présidente du LMDC, et de l'administration du JFK.

Selon lui, cette lenteur serait intentionnelle et

CONT'D ON PAGE 9

# **Weah s'appuie sur une prophétie pour** sa candidature présidentielle de 2029

Liberia, George Weah, envisage un retour à la présidence en 2029, s'appuyant sur une prophétie d'un prélat nigérian. Primate Elijah Ayodele, chef de l'INRI Evangelical Spiritual Church, l'a désigné comme le « futur président du Liberia ».

de six ans, George Weah politiques et lui permettra de revenir au pouvoir pour répondre aux défis du pays et alléger les difficultés rencontrées par les Libériens sous l'administration actuelle

de Joseph Boakai. Lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2023, Weah avait reconnu sa défaite et concédé la victoire à son adversaire sans contestation, évitant ainsi toute instabilité. « Je ne pouvais pas être l'agneau du sacrifice, car

L'ancien président du j'ai reconnu notre défaite. Nous nous sommes battus nous-mêmes en raison de nos divisions, il n'y avait donc pas lieu de poursuivre le combat », a-t-il déclaré. Lors de ce scrutin, son rival Joseph Nyuma Boakai, candidat du parti Unity Party (UP), l'avait emporté avec 50,58 % des voix contre 49,28 % pour Weah.

À la tête du Congrès pour le Malgré un unique mandat Changement Démocratique (CDC), Weah bénéficie d'un conserve une popularité soutien massif pour un présence de personnalités significative. Il espère éventuel retour en 2029. Ses comme l'ancien viceque cette prophétie partisans, don't l'ancien gouverneur de l'État renforcera ses ambitions collaborateur Sekou Kalasco d'Edo, Phillip Shaibu, et le Damaro, affichent leur impatience. « Je serais

anéanti s'il perdait en 2029. Si l'élection avait lieu aujourd'hui, M. Boakai ne serait plus président », a-t-il affirmé.

L'enthousiasme autour de Weah s'est manifesté récemment à Lagos, au Nigeria, lors de la consécration du nouvel auditorium de 10 000 places de l'INRI Evangelical Spiritual Church. Lors de cette cérémonie, en

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# 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'Etat 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'Etat 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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# Français

Le SUP exige justice pour la mort de Starts from page 8

viserait à protéger certaines personnes. Il a médical et de la recherche au LMDC, a rappelé que le SUP demeure la voix morale des étudiants et des citoyens, accordant 72 heures aux autorités gouvernementales et hospitalières pour fournir des explications sur l'état d'avancement de l'enquête, sous peine d'actions de protestation plus

« Des responsables doivent être tenus pour comptables de leurs actes. Il est inacceptable que des violations flagrantes des droits des patients soient passées sous silence. Une enquête rapide et indépendante sur le décès de Lovette Tamba ne doit pas être enterrée ou étouffée. Le SUP ira jusqu'au bout dans cette affaire », a déclaré Mulbah. Une enquête en cours, mais sous pression

De son côté, Joseph J. Colmah, directeur

assuré que le conseil prend cette affaire très au sérieux. Il a précisé que le Comité d'éthique et des griefs du LMDC est activement saisi du dossier et a convoqué la famille de Lovette Tamba pour des échanges.

L'Implication du Dr. Peter Coleman à la tête de l'enquête est considérée comme un facteur clé pouvant garantir la crédibilité du processus. Colmah a souligné la rigueur de la démarche adoptée par le LMDC, incluant l'examen des dossiers médicaux, des auditions et des interrogations des soignants du JFK ainsi que des consultants concernés. Il a néanmoins reconnu que la confiance du public dépendra de la transparence et de la rapidité avec lesquelles ces investigations seront menées.

# **Weah s'appuie sur une prophétie pour**

président de la Fédération bénédiction prophétique Alors que l'élection nigériane de football, d'un chef religieux Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, nigérian. Avant son Primate Ayodele a surpris élection en 2017, il s'était l'assemblée en annonçant rendu auprès du défunt le retour de Weah au prophète T.B. Joshua, pouvoir.

Starts From Page 8

fois que l'ex-président Yormie Johnson du comté libérien reçoit une de Nimba.

grâce à l'intermédiaire du Ce n'est pas la première regretté sénateur Prince présidentielle de 2029 approche, les partisans de Weah et les analystes politiques suivront de près l'évolution de cette prophétie et son impact sur la scène politique libérienne.

# Une nouvelle Église méthodiste voit le jour au Liberia

La Conférence annuelle de l'Église méthodiste unie United Methodists for traditionnelles. Biblical Christianity ».

d'une nouvelle dénomination baptisée « New Wesleyan Methodist Denomination », affiliée à la Global Methodist Church (GMC). Une rupture

S'exprimant devant la presse, le Révérend Dr. Jerry Perry Kulah a attribué cette scission aux tensions engendrées par la politique régionalisation et l'introduction du mariage homosexuel au sein de

doctrinale

l'Église méthodiste unie (UMC). Selon lui, ces du Liberia s'est évolutions doctrinales officiellement scindée, sont en contradiction avec donnant naissance à une les enseignements nouvelle faction bibliques et les valeurs dénommée « Liberia m é t h o d i s t e s

Ancien directeur du La division survient à la programme de maîtrise à suite de vives controverses l'Université méthodiste sur le mariage homosexuel unie, Dr. Kulah a rappelé et l'application d'une que la « Book of Discipline nouvelle loi de » de 2020/2024 redéfinit régionalisation au sein de désormais le mariage l'Église. Lors de la 192 comme « une alliance

« Le mariage est une union instituée par Dieu entre un homme et une femme, en conformité avec les Écritures. L'homosexualité est incompatible avec les enseignements et les valeurs chrétiennes, ce qui nous laisse sans autre choix que de nous désaffilier de la Conférence annuelle de l'UMC », a déclaré le Révérend Kulah.Une fracture grandissante

Le schisme au sein de l'Église méthodiste unie du Liberia Conférence annuelle sacrée et perpétuelle s'inscrit dans un contexte plus récemment conclue à entre deux adultes large de divisions sur des Gbarnga, dans le comté de consentants », et non plus questions doctrinales et Bong, la faction dissidente strictement comme une éthiques. Selon le Révérend a annoncé la création union entre un homme et Kulah, les tensions croissantes



### L'Université du Liberia célèbre son anniversaire de fondation

'Université du Liberia (UL) a célébré, ce lundi ■17 février 2025, son 74 anniversaire de fondation sous le thème « L'avenir commence maintenant », mettant en avant la nécessité de réformer son curriculum académique pour mieux répondre aux défis sociétaux et mondiaux. L'événement, qui s'est tenu à l'auditorium du campus de Capitol Hill, a rassemblé des universitaires et intellectuels engagés dans cette réflexion.

libérien de renom et directeur du Centre d'Etudes sur la Diaspora et les Migrations, a exhorté le repositionner les de réflexion

soulignant l'urgence d'une réforme éducative proactive et tournée vers l'avenir. Fondée en 1951 à partir du

Liberia College, créé en 1862, l'Université du Liberia est une institution publique principalement financée par le gouvernement libérien. La célébration de la Journée du Fondateur constitue un moment de réflexion sur son parcours, son impact sur la société et son rôle dans le développement national.

S'exprimant depuis les États-Unis par A cette occasion, le Dr visioconférence, la William Ezra Allen, historien présidente récemment nommée de l'UL, le Dr Layli Maparyan, a exprimé sa gratitude pour cette célébration. Elle a souligné président de l'UL et son l'importance de cet équipe à repenser et événement comme un temps



afin de répondre aux enjeux sur l'importance pour l'université d'adapter son réalités locales et activités académiques, aux défis économiques développement du pays. récents.

par une table ronde animée par Inez Reeves Soko et réunissant l'Assistant Kesselly-Gborie et Mme sur le thème « L'avenir déclaré. commence maintenant »,

programmes académiques d'engagement pour le progrès national. Le Dr contemporains. Il a insisté Maparyan a assuré que l'UL continuerait à renforcer les compétences des Libériens à offre de formation aux travers la recherche et les internationales, notamment contribuant ainsi à la face aux crises sanitaires et croissance et au

Le Dr Allen a réitéré la La cérémonie a été marguée nécessité d'une réforme académique permettant de mieux anticiper les crises mondiales. « Nous avons vu Professeur de droit, Cllr. les conséquences du Kwame Clement, l'Assistant Coronavirus et d'Ebola ; il Professeur Dr Sonnie Rose est donc impératif de prendre en compte ces défis Jessica A. Morris. Les dans notre approche intervenants ont échangé académique », a-t-il

NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

PETITION 'FOR

FORCLOSURE OF

MORTGAGED

IN THE CIVIL DIVISION, NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BONG COUNTY

GBARNGA, BONG COUNTY REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Liberian Enterprise Development Finance Company (LEDFC),

represented by its General Manager, Mr. Ambrose Houphouet of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, .PETITIONER Republic of Liberia.....

#### **VERSUS**

A.S. Moye Business Center by and thru its General Manager Mr. Augustine Moye, City of Gbarnga, Bong County, Republic of Liberia...... 1st RESPONDENT

Mr. Augustine S. Moye, of the City of Gbarnga, Bong County, Republic of Liberia ..... 2nd RESPONDENT

#### NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, Final Judgment in the above entitled captioned case was rendered against the Defendants on the 26th Day of November, A.D 2022, adjudging them liable to pay the amount owed the Petitioner, Liberian Enterprise Development Finance Company (LEDFC), the amount of US\$ 52,760.40 (Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty United States Dollars Forty Cents), by the auction of Mortgaged Property Foreclosed with preference given to the Defendants to redeem the Mortgage by payment of the amount of the Mortgage loan.

Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty United States Dollars Forty Cents), a writ of Execution was accordingly issued, served and returned and the Sherriff of this Court by authorization of this court, levied upon Mortgaged Property/ assets of the A.S. Moye Business and Mr. Augustine S. Moye lying and located in Gbarnga, Bong County, Republic of Liberia as more fully described herein below:

WHEREAS, DEFENDANTS failed to make settlement of the full amount of US\$ 52,760.40 (Fifty

"Commencing at the Southern-western corner of lot number six, and thence running on these magnetic bearings as follows: North 46 degrees East 132 feet to a point; North 44 degrees West 82.5 feet to a point; South46 degrees West 132 feet to a point; South 44 degrees East 82.5 feet back to the place of commencement and containing 10,890. sq. ft or 1 (one) lot or ¼ acre of land and no more".

NOW THEREFORE, the general public is hereby informed that by the virtue of this levy and pursuant to the Final Judgment and the Writ of Execution served on the herein described assets/properties, said properties will be sold to the highest bidder on the grounds of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, Gbarnga Bong County, Republic of Liberia, on the 5th Day of March, A.D. 2025, at the hour of 12:00Noon in the afternoon to raise the total sum of US\$ 52,760.40 (Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty United States Dollars Forty Cents). Interested persons may inspect said property/assets through the offices of the Sherriff of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, Gbarnga, Bong County, and Republic of Liberia during the official working hours of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, as well as for further information regarding the day, date place and time of sale.

> GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 5th DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D 2025.

Mr. Perry Kender, SHERIFF, NINTH JUDICIAL CURCUIT COURT, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Cell Nos. 077 605 113 68/0886468397

#### Starts From Page 11

ports, and will increase the ports and duplicating functions and fees for port users that commercial activities. In straining the country of would be transferred to South Africa—the country the finances that it Liberians through high in the region known for desperately needs to prices for imported having a dedicated port invest in health, goods. Section 306 of the regulatory education and road Act calls for financing the agency—commercial and programs that directly new agency through a operational management impact the lives of combination of national of all the ports remain Liberians. "Reforms budget allocations, with Transnet National should be about additional port user fees, Port Authority, ensuring efficiency not adding and a mandatory 10% levy efficiency. Mamey says, unnecessary layers of on revenue collected by the World Bank's Port bureaucracy which port operators. "This Reform Toolkit advises conflicts with the fiscal model will increase against excessive principles of good the cost of importing regulation and highlights governance," he said. He goods, further straining the importance of asked the legislature to the Liberian economy maintaining independent direct its energy to that heavily depends on oversight in port updating the Act of the imports. For ordinary governance to foster NPA to reflect current Liberians, this means competition and avoid day reality, modernize its higher prices on basic bureaucratic bottlenecks governance structure commodities," Mamey that stifle innovation and and align it with the best explained in the memo. His memo emphasizes ability to effectively and work with the Executive that the new law does efficiently facility trade. to fast-track the not align with the The memo calls on the operationalization of the dominant practice in the Legislature to abandoned Single seaport sector across discontinue the creation Window Initiative which Africa. He provided a of additional institutions can make transactions at matrix of fourteen where they are not the seaports faster, African countries, needed and focus on easier, and less costly for

Senegal etc. that retain regulatory functions

within maritime

authorities while

allowing the Port

Authorities to manage

# **Dangerous Law**

undermine the ports global practices and to including Nigeria, Ghana, strengthening existing port users and their and Kenya, Sierra Leon, institutions to avoid constituents.





MANO RIVER UNION **UNION DU FLEUVE MANO** 

#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING FIRM)

FOR THE PROVISION OF FUNCTIONAL LITERACY FOR PROJECT BENEFICIARIES INVOLVED IN CROSS BORDER TRADE ACROSS 3 VALUE CHAINS IN SELECTED **PROJECT COMMUNITIES** 

**COUNTRIES**: Sierra Leone and Liberia

**Sector:** Gender Equality

**Mode of Financing:** Grant

Project ID: P-Z1-ID0-009 **Grant No:** 5900155016801

**Issued Date**: 17 February 2025

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the hiring of a consulting firm for the provision of functional literacy for project beneficiaries involved in cross border trade across 3 Value Chains (cassava, palm oil and vegetables) in the selected project communities.

The overall objective of the assignment is to provide functional literacy training services to women who are involved in cross-border trade in the three value chains in the four project communities as a way of strengthening their capacity for increased business performance and subsequently, improved livelihoods. The assignment will be 10 months

The Mano River Union Secretariat requires that interested Consulting Firms shall provide information on their qualifications and experience, availability of appropriate skills on functional literacy, description of similar assignment with AfDB or other Donor funded projects and eligible for AfDB contract, i.e. not debarred. (cover letter, supporting documents referencing similar services and showing demonstrated experience in similar assignments, etc.) to undertake this Assignment.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group

funded Operations" (BPM), dated 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at http://www.afdb.org. MRU is under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.

Interested Consulting Firms may query or obtain further information and Terms of Reference from the Procurement Specialist email address: kensah@mru.int during the Office's working hours between 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT.

Expressions of interest must be delivered by email to procurement@mru.int not later than March 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 14: 00 hours Sierra Leone time and mention "EOI FOR THE PROVISION OF FUNCTIONAL LITERACY FOR PROJECT BENEFICIARIES INVOLVED IN CROSS BORDER TRADE ACROSS 3 VALUE CHAINS IN SELECTED PROJECT **COMMUNITIES".** 

**Attention:** 

Mano River Union Secretariat 32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown Rep. of Sierra Leone Tel: +23276964965

E-mail: procurement@mru.int

# en sheds tears <u>Dangerous Law</u>

2025

Former President William R. Tolbert was assassinated on leader disclosed that they April 12, 1980, his assassination was followed by the execution of 13 government officials in the coming days.

By Lincoln G. Peters

lednesday, February 19, 2025/ Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was all tears on Tuesday morning, February

However, what is certain is that his 13 officials were executed on a beach near the Military Barracks in Monrovia by slain former President Samuel Doe and his group of enlisted men.



18, as family members of late President Tolbert and 13 former government officials began exhuming the bodies of the former statesmen for proper burial elsewhere.Mrs. Sirleaf, who served as Minister of Finance in the Tolbert administration in the late 1070s, resigned and fled the country after the Tolbert government was overthrown. She placed her hand on one of the tombs while tears rolled down her cheeks. She made no comment.

There is still debate surrounding the men who assassinated Tolbert during the 1980 coup, with many accounts claiming it was the work of the CIA. Tolbert, as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, now AU, was due to attend Zimbabwe's Independence from the British the day before his assassination. He had been upfront with the Americans pushing for the Liberations of African states from colonial rule.

President Doe himself would be butchered 10 years later in public glare by late Senator Prince Y. Johnson during the early years of the country's more than two decades of civil war.

On early Tuesday, family members of the deceased held a memorial ceremony at Palm Grover Cemetery on Center Street, where speeches and reflections were made. Madam Sirleaf, the children and grandchildren of former government officials, and prominent Liberians graced the program.

The exhumation process is currently being carried out by the St. Moses Funeral Parlor, headed by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Moses H. Ahossoucheb.

The move comes weeks after President Joseph N. Boakai announced plans during his recent State of the Nation address to conduct a proper burial for both former Presidents Tolbert and Doe. Prior to President Boakai's pronouncement, family Edited by Othello B members of the late Liberian Garblah.

were in the process of obtaining permits for the exhumation of the remains of Tolbert and his 13 officials.Dr. Richard V. Tolbert, nephew of Tolbert disclosed on Monday, 22 April 2024, that his family and families of other deceased officials were in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to exhume the remains from a mass grave at Palm Groove Cemetery on Center Street.

He explained that plans were underway between the children and family members of the deceased government officials, both home and abroad, for a contraction of a new tomb at the Baptist Seminary.

He said at the time that the new tomb would lead to the removal and reburial of the deceased early this year.

Liberian history has spoken much about the life and death of the late President Tolbert, given his contributions to Liberia and the African continent.

However, speaking in an interview with a journalist during the exhumation process, Mr. Moses H. Ahossouche said that, as per their arrangement with the family, when the skeletons are removed, they are going to be taken to the St. Moses Funeral Home to categorize them and later buried together." We were told to do them, so we are here to do that. So, if they are visible, we will see them, but if they are not, it means they deteriorated over the period of time," Ahossouche added. Meanwhile, as of 6 PM on Tuesday, the area earmarked for the exhumation was dug without any parts of the remains being discovered. Excavators have announced plans to dig a bit further. -

Policy Expert Spots Conflict of Interest, Regulatory Crisis, Fiscal Burden, and Risk of Higher Port User Fees in New Port Regulatory Act.

onrovia, February 19, a new agency to regulate the instance, the Liberia seaports in Liberia has drawn strong criticism from policy experts, including Ambulah Mamey, who warn that the proposed Liberia Sea and Land Port Regulatory Act-if enacted—will increase the cost of doing business at the ports, create serious governance confusion, and threaten the country's maritime reputation.

The Act, which has already passed the Senate and is now before the House of Representatives for concurrence, has been described as a "dangerous law" that makes the proposed regulator a port operator—a glaring conflict of interest, like a referee being a player in the same game.

In an open policy memo to the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives, Mamey highlighted Section 48 of the proposed Act, which grants the proposed regulatory agency the authority to engage in Organization (IMO) conventions,

historically aimed to separate 2025 - A newly proposed regulatory oversight from law aimed at establishing commercial activities. For Telecommunications Authority regulates while LIBTELCO provides services; the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) oversees the petroleum sector while NOCAL handles commercial operations, and the Liberia Energy Regulatory Agency (LERC) regulates the energy sector while Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) handles commercial operations. This model, which ensures checks and balance in other sectors, is now at risk under the proposed Port Regulatory Act for the seaport sector.

> Mamey's memo also highlights how the proposed Act significantly overlaps more than five key functions of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA). Functions such as enforcing IMO's Convention on Dangerous Goods (IMDG), implementing International Maritime





commercial port operations. The setting standards for maritime Agency may—within the limits of available maintain such port or harbor facilities." He argues that this provision conflicts with Liberia's standard and best practices, which separate regulatory and commercial roles to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure accountability.

"The Senate is making the will also place Liberians in citizens to stand in proposed Port Regulator both a referee and a player in the seaport sector, and this is National Police to launch a and injustices under the shocking because this same Senate is currently conducting hearings to prevent the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC) from acting as both the referee and player in the management of the petroleum

> sector," Mamey said. Reforms of State-Owned <u>Enterprises in Liberia ha</u>

specific provision reads: "The related training, and enforcing maritime insurance regulations -remain with the LiMA but are appropriations—acquire, also given to the new agency. establish, and improve port or This duplication of mandate, harbor facilities and operate and according to Mamey, will cause confusion both domestically and internationally if not reversed. "International maritime bodies will struggle to understand who has the ultimate authority in Liberia on the specific issues the new Act overlaps with the Maritime Authority." Mamey noted.

> Fiscal Burden and Rising Costs of Good for Consumers

> The proposed Act proposes a funding mechanism that could place unnecessary financial burden on the already insufficient government budget for regulatory activities that the Maritime Authority has authority to do, strain the port authority of revenue it needs to invest in

### **Concerned citizens demand justice**

justice, the concerned citizens will send a strong message to the world that Liberia is a vulnerable state, a place that foreigners can inflict injuries and carry out violence act on peaceful citizens without fear of punishment."The silence of the police, and the judiciary surrounding this matter is

https://thenewdawnliberia.com

government allowed this to it is not just Momo David's be swept under the rug, it pain, it's a shared sorrow will not only emboldened that resonate across the perpetrator of crimes, but country, I'm calling on danger."

He calls on the Liberia who have suffered violence manhunt for Michael Shio and his accomplices to bring Editing by Jonathan Browne them to justice.

deafening; if the We must all remember that

solidarity for every Liberian Boakai Administration."

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CONT'D ON PAGE 10



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 VOL. 15 NO. 019

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# plosion leaves one dead at Sethi

### th reports of injuries being kept hidden by the company

Sethi Steel Factory, once a beacon of industrial prowess and injured people but have been economic growth, has recently come under scrutiny due to a series of alarming industrial incidents. Reports indicate that poor safety measures have frequently endangered the lives of employees, leading to growing safety concerns.

By: Wise Wesseh

onrovia, February 19, 2025/ On Monday, February 17, an

The latest explosion, which occurred early Monday morning at the company's oxygen plant, left one employee, Saah explosion has rocked the Sethi Samukai, a machine operator,



Ferro Fabrik Steel Factory in Chicken Soup Factory for the second time in less than four years, leaving one dead and another critically injured.

The Last incident left seven employees-four Liberians and three Indians critically injured, with safety measures at the factory remaining a concern.

gruesomely killed as his burned body parts spread around the oxygen cylinder.

It took the efforts of the Police Rapid Response Unit around the area and citizens near the factory to rescue some of the employees caught in the explosion.

Eyewitnesses say other explosions at the factory have

kept hidden from authorities. According to inside sources, the factory lacks several safety measures, and authorities have made no effort to bring Sethi into compliance.

"We heard the blast, and before we could rush, we saw the huge fire in the air, and everyone was afraid, a witness told the New Dawn on Tuesday.

"We managed to narrowly escape the fire. It was not easy, and this happened in the morning while we were trying to melt the iron into the pot," a worker at the Factory said.

The 36-year-old Saah Samukai is said to have worked with Sethi Ferro Fabrik since 2017. This is the second time such an explosion has taken place at Sethi Ferro Fabrik Steel Factory; in August 2021, seven workers, including four Liberians and three Indians, were involved in an explosion at the Steel Factory.

The company in a statement released on Tuesday, the company described the incident as tragic while expressing its condolence to the family, friends and

CONT'D ON PAGE 7





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