

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertise Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529

WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025	L\$197.2161/US\$1.00	L\$198.9609/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 15 NO. 021 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00



Havens of Liberia's stolen wealth

P11

Gov't shuts down Sethi Factory



-After oxygen explosion leads to death

Support Your Family Beyond Borders with MoMo.

Dial *156*1# to MoMo it in LRD or USD

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN | BnB

Ivory Coast	Ghana	Uganda	Mali
Guinea	Sierra Leone	Senegal	Rwanda

and counting...



Continental News

South Africa opens G20 talks but US snubs meeting

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has told G20 foreign ministers that a commitment to multilateralism and international law is vital to solving global crises.



South Africa's relationship with the US has become increasingly strained

His comments follow growing concern about the Trump administration's "America First" policy, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio boycotting the meeting and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent saying he will not attend next week's gathering of G20 finance ministers. Rubio said he would not "coddle anti-Americanism", while Bessent said he had other commitments in Washington. South Africa is the first African state to lead the G20, hoping to advance the

interests of developing nations in talks with the world's richest states. The G20 consists of 19 countries, along with the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU), and makes up more than 80% of the

global economy and two-thirds of the world population. The foreign ministers of China, Russia, France and the UK are among those attending the meeting in Johannesburg, while the US is represented by the deputy chief of mission at its South African embassy. In his opening address, Ramaphosa said that an "already fragile global coexistence" was threatened by rising intolerance, conflicts and climate change. "Yet there is a lack of consensus among major powers, including

in the G20, on how to respond to these issues of global significance," the South African president said. "It is critical that the principles of the UN Charter, multilateralism and international law should remain at the centre of all our endeavour," he added. South Africa holds the G20 presidency until November 2025, when it is expected to hand it over to the US. Relations between the two countries have become increasingly strained since President Donald Trump took office in January, raising questions about how much South Africa can achieve during its presidency. Trump has cut aid to the country, accusing it of "unjust and immoral practices" against the white minority Afrikaner community and by filing a genocide case against Israel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in December 2023. His decision was followed by Rubio saying he would not attend the meeting of foreign ministers because South Africa was "doing very bad things", using the G20 "to promote 'solidarity, equality, & sustainability.' In other words: DEI [diversity, equity and inclusion] and climate change". In a post on X, he added: "My job is to advance America's national interests, not waste taxpayer money or coddle anti-Americanism."BBC

Netherlands to return stolen Benin Bronzes to Nigeria

The Netherlands says it will return more than 100 Benin Bronzes that British troops looted from Nigeria in the late 19th Century and which ended up in a Dutch museum. Thousands of these culturally significant sculptures and carvings were stolen during the violent destruction of Benin City, in modern-day Nigeria's Edo state, in 1897. The treasures were sold, some to private collectors and others to museums like the Wereldmuseum in The Netherlands, which has displayed these artefacts for decades. The return of the 119 artefacts is the "largest repatriation of Benin antiquities", said Olugbile Holloway, director-general of Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM). Despite the name, not all the statues are made of bronze. They include figurines, tusks, sculptures of Benin's rulers, and an ivory mask. They



These are pendants worn by high ranking officials in Benin

First pharaoh's tomb found in Egypt since Tutankhamun's

Egyptologists have discovered the first tomb of a pharaoh since Tutankhamun's was uncovered over a century ago. King Thutmose II's tomb was the last undiscovered royal tomb of the 18th Egyptian dynasty. A British-Egyptian team has located it in the Western Valleys of the Theban Necropolis near the city of Luxor. Researchers had thought the burial chambers of the 18th dynasty pharaohs were more than 2km away, closer to the Valley of the Kings. The crew found it in an area associated with the resting places of royal women, but when they got into the burial chamber they found it decorated - the sign of a pharaoh. "Part of the ceiling was still intact: a blue-painted ceiling with yellow stars on it. And blue-painted ceilings with yellow stars are only found in kings' tombs," said the field director of the mission Dr Piers Litherland. He told the BBC's Newshour programme he felt

being the husband of Queen Hatshepsut, regarded as one of Egypt's greatest pharaohs and one of the few female pharaohs who ruled in her own right. Dr Litherland said the "large staircase and a very large descending corridor" of the tomb suggested grandeur. "It took us a very long time to get through all that," he said, noting it was blocked by flood debris and the ceilings had collapsed. "It was only after crawling through a 10m (32ft) passageway that had a small 40cm gap at the top that we got into the burial chamber." There they discovered the blue ceiling and decorations of scenes from the Amduat, a religious text which was reserved for kings. That was another key sign they had found a king's tomb, Dr Litherland said. They set to work clearing the debris - expecting that they would find the crushed remains of a burial underneath. But "the tomb turned out to be completely empty", said Dr Litherland. "Not because it was robbed but because it had been deliberately emptied." They then worked out that the tomb had been flooded - "it had



overwhelmed in the moment. "The emotion of getting into these things is just one of extraordinary bewilderment because when you come across something you're not expecting to find, it's emotionally extremely turbulent really," he said. "And when I came out, my wife was waiting outside and the only thing I could do was burst into tears." Dr Litherland said the discovery solved the mystery of where the tombs of early 18th dynasty kings are located. Researchers found Thutmose II's mummified remains two centuries ago but its original burial site had never been located. Thutmose II was an ancestor of Tutankhamun, whose reign is believed to have been from about 1493 to 1479 BC. Tutankhamun's tomb was found by British archaeologists in 1922. Thutmose II is best known for

been built underneath a waterfall" - just a few years after the king's burial and the contents moved to another location in ancient times. It was through sifting through tonnes of limestone in the chamber that they found fragments of alabaster jars, which bore the inscriptions of the names of Thutmose II and Hatshepsut. These fragments of alabaster "had probably broken when the tomb was being moved," said Dr Litherland. "And thank goodness they actually did break one or two things because that's how we found out whose tomb it was." The artefacts are the first objects to be found associated with Thutmose II's burial. Dr Litherland's said his team had a rough idea of where the second tomb was, and it could still be intact with treasures. The discovery of the pharaoh's tomb caps off more than 12 years of work by the joint team from Dr Litherland's New Kingdom Research Foundation and Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. BBC

EDITORIAL

Editorial: Lawlessness triumph on Capitol Hill

Majority 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 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.

COMMENTARY

By Albert Park,
Angela Bandemehr

Revealing an Invisible Health Threat

WASHINGTON, DC/MANILA - Lead is everywhere, often hiding in plain sight - in the water you drink, the air you breathe, the food you eat, your personal care products, and your children’s toys. Despite being a useful metal, it is highly toxic and difficult to detect: its fumes and dust are odorless, and exposure to them does not immediately cause overt symptoms in most cases.

This is particularly worrying because exposure to and ingestion of lead can negatively affect almost every part of the body. Recent research finds that exposure contributes significantly to cardiovascular disease, killing millions worldwide. But while lead poisoning is responsible for more deaths annually than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined, and more than tuberculosis, it receives a small fraction of the funding allocated to these better-known diseases.

The health effects are often irreversible and unequally distributed. For example, lead is especially harmful to children’s cognitive development, leading to lower IQs and behavioral problems. Today, one in three children worldwide have dangerous levels of the metal in their blood, and nearly all of them live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This inequality in exposure accounts for more than 20% of the learning gap between high- and low-income countries.

Moreover, the annual economic losses from lead poisoning are enormous, amounting to around 6.9% of global GDP. Health care for those sickened by the toxin, coupled with additional financing for special-education services to address the developmental and behavioral issues caused by lead poisoning, costs millions of dollars each year in the United States alone. Lead poisoning also reduces an individual’s lifetime earning potential, leading to lost tax revenue.

This makes it all the more important to reduce and eliminate lead exposure. The good news is that it is possible to detect lead in soil, spices, food, paint, cookware, and other solid materials using a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer (pXRF), which provides near-instantaneous results and has already proven effective in many settings.

In Nigeria, health officials used pXRFs to help identify and clean up the source of a lead-poisoning epidemic that killed more than 400 children, ultimately saving thousands of lives. An assessment of lead levels in consumer goods and foods used the devices to test samples in 25 LMICs, finding that 45% of ceramic tableware, 52% of metallic cookware, and 41% of paint exceeded regulatory limits. The technology has enabled some governments to test the safety of toys and playgrounds, enforce lead-paint regulations in houses, and investigate whether lead exposure is the cause of health incidents. Researchers using pXRFs identified dangerous levels of

lead paint - which is still sold in many LMICs - in schools and playgrounds in Guyana.

But very few LMICs currently use pXRFs to determine the sources of lead poisoning. In some cases, policymakers lack awareness that lead exposure is a major public-health issue. Perhaps most importantly, these devices are expensive to buy and maintain, and training on how to interpret the data they produce remains limited.

What would it take to improve access to this valuable technology, so that LMICs can identify and eliminate the sources of lead poisoning that put their populations - especially their young people - at risk? To answer this question, a working group comprising global lead-poisoning experts, practitioners, policymakers, and funders gathered in “Room 3” - linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3 for Good Health and Wellbeing - within the 17 Rooms Initiative. In our discussions about how to make pXRFs universally available by 2030, we agreed that the recently launched Partnership for a Lead-Free Future (PLF), supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), is best positioned to bring together stakeholders to support such an initiative.

Regional hubs, centrally coordinated by the PLF, could be established to provide pXRFs at low cost, training for authorized users, and technical support - both in terms of maintenance and data analysis - for governments, NGOs, and academic partners. With sufficient demand, the proposed hubs can negotiate directly with pXRF manufacturers to lower prices and tailor device design to ensure cost-effective and accurate screening for lead in different sources.

The PLF could thus roll out this technology on a global scale - a breakthrough that would serve as a mechanism for international and local organizations to work together to raise awareness among LMIC governments about the importance of lead poisoning. This could include setting clear protocols and guidelines for using pXRFs to screen for lead in different sources and for acting upon the results.

When it comes to lead exposure, prevention is the only option, because there is no cure. Increased access to pXRFs could help us win the fight against lead poisoning, safeguard the health and future potential of millions of children and young people, and unlock billions of dollars in economic benefits.

This commentary draws on insights generated through the 17 Rooms Initiative, convened by the Center for Sustainable Development at Brookings and The Rockefeller Foundation. The views expressed here are the authors’ own and do not necessarily reflect those of 17 Rooms, its organizers, or funders.



Lord, Ley Papay moh geh vex again!

Dear Father:

Hmm, they say da na small vex ley Papay vex oo. Ley Oldman moh go flex him muscle again! Come see men and women dropping.

My son da whatin happen?

Um, they say ley Papay told him kitchen people them to declare all their belonging they had before coming to work in him kitchen. Bor they na listen. They say him called them and even sent messenger to them to declare all their belonging them-they still na listen.

Ley moh geh vex! Him say all ley people them who refuse moh go home, they moh stay home with no pay until they show all ley thin then they geh. You joking!

Father da na joke oo. You want see ley people from ley place they called Goworment Starting Astry taking our village property from them again! Tell me something!

Father, da ever since ley Oldman to them oo. You know in our village we can't take anything serious ehn. And wah making ley Oldman vex too is stealing bisnay. Everywhere you turn in our village people crying on ley Oldman and him people name.

You say whatin?

Father, da na small thing happening in dis our village here oo. Is leh somer them had really planned to come back to correct de mistakes they made during ley Old lady time in power.

The noise about stealing in ley village ay too much na. You come so, somebody na buy one big car. You come so, some body buy big house-and wein you loka ley money they making and ley time they na work for you will be thinking if ley people are magicians.

So, ley Papay say they moh tell ley village people ley thing them they had first before taking our village job, or else they will nag eh fwen.

Hmm my son, him moh na stop there oo.

What you mean Father-ay look leh da something you know oo.

Bor my son, corruption in ley village da na just failing to tell ley people de thin them you having before taking village job oo.

Other people vey closed to him na do plenty thin then jus in 1 year. Some of ley same thin them ley village people wor making noise for-leh dis bad company da collect our village taxes and sharing it with him people, while giving your village peanuts-if him serious him moh cancel it na na.

Father, da true oo, because dis one here da ley main thin our people want see oo. Yes oo, da na small money they stealing from our village oo.

Imagine da kina free money they taking jus sharing it with somer him big, big people. Ehn they say him Pekin behind it?

Aah Father my name oo. Somebody fini warning say i moh na talk inside dis one plenty before i com trun my fine woman to widow soon. They say da company that president them and their family eating place there, so I moh take my mouth from inside.

You joking my son

Father, dis one da na joke oo. They say no joke in snake mouth oo. Da ley p;ay ay na reach oo. They say Tamba da man, Tamba da man, da in Lofa oo. You take hungry people you put them over good food, what you think they will do? My name ooo.

OP-ED

By Andreas Goldthau,
Rüya Perincek

Ensuring Europe’s Supply of Critical Minerals

BRUSSELS/ERFURT - The European Union’s plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 has an Achilles’ heel: the EU relies on external sources - particularly Chinese companies - for 70-90% of the massive amount of critical raw materials needed to manufacture wind turbines, solar cells, batteries, and other green technologies. This dependency poses a serious risk: China’s recent ban on exports of gallium, germanium, antimony, and other dual-use materials to the United States suggests that it could take similar action against Europe, especially in light of EU tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles.

The new European Commission has rightly put critical raw materials at the top of its agenda.

Fortunately, it will not be starting from scratch. Last year, the EU adopted the Critical Raw Materials Act, which calls for the bloc to extract 10%, process 40%, and recycle 25% of what it consumes annually by 2030, and limits the share of any external supplier to 65%. To meet the CRMA’s targets, the Commission must focus on coordinating funding, engaging in resource diplomacy with Africa, and establishing secondary material partnerships.

Mining is a capital-intensive industry, and overseas upstream activities require public support in terms of both equity and debt. The CRMA anticipates mobilizing finance from various sources, including the EU’s Global Gateway initiative and the European Investment Bank. Some member states have also established their own national funds. Germany launched a €1 billion (\$1.04 billion) raw-materials fund, while Italy introduced a €1 billion “Made in Italy” fund for critical minerals, and France dedicated €500 million under its 2030 investment plan to enhance domestic industry’s resilience to disruptions of the metal supply chain.

But while several public-finance streams are available, the funding landscape is scattered and not well aligned, creating confusion. Moreover, there are no explicit rules governing how the Critical Raw Materials Board, which was established to support the CRMA’s implementation, designates projects as “strategic” and thus eligible to receive EU funds. The European Commission can address these issues by streamlining existing funding lines, which would ensure that national and EU finance work in tandem to achieve the best results and scale, and by establishing timelines for decision-making, which would provide clarity for corporate investment in upstream, midstream, and downstream assets.

The CRMA must also establish partnerships with resource-rich countries that deliver quick and tangible results. Bolstering ties with African countries, which hold some 30% of the world’s mineral resources, will be especially important. But, compared to other regions, investment in mineral exploration on the continent remains low, and China funds most of it. The EU’s resource diplomacy should focus on lowering investment barriers while helping African partners move into higher-value-added activities, such as downstream processing, and invest in industrial upgrading.

AfricaMaVal, an EU-funded project promoting sustainable partnerships and responsible mining on the continent, should become a vehicle for linking European and African firms and addressing extraction needs. Building on comprehensive assessments of mining prospects across Africa, and taking into account the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) skills of local workforces, AfricaMaVal can identify new business opportunities along the value chain. This could evolve into a joint investment platform for the sustainable production of critical raw materials. The European Commission would thus be doing what it does best: catalyzing private investment toward its policy goals, which, in this case, is building the infrastructure and clean-energy systems required for future mining projects.


Lastly, the Commission should address the CRMA’s major blind spot: the lack of domestic feedstock to meet its recycling targets. Global competition for secondary materials is already stiff, as evidenced by businesses’ increasing efforts to secure enough steel scrap. Recycling input rates - the share of total demand - are just 3% for light rare-earth elements and zero for battery-grade lithium.

Establishing secondary-materials partnerships with emerging economies, which have rapidly growing markets for cell phones, laptops, and other appliances, would boost the EU’s supply of recycled critical raw materials, particularly rare-earth elements. The focus should be on optimizing the recycling value chain by providing financing and capacity-building assistance for waste-sorting and collection systems in partner countries, creating mutually beneficial economic and environmental outcomes.

The EU is facing an uphill battle to source and produce the critical raw materials that will define its future. And while the CRMA hardly represents an easy fix for the bloc’s import dependency, it can strengthen supply-chain resilience, contribute to EU sovereignty, and bolster Europe’s economic security - in other words, boost the bloc’s industrial competitiveness against a worsening geopolitical backdrop. But to realize the CRMA’s full potential, the Commission must make it fit for purpose.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2025. www.project-syndicate.org

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



#: 1220-2024

SITTING IN ITS FEBRUARY TERM A.D. 2025.

BEFORE HIS HONOR .. NECULAR Y. EDWARDS, RESIDENT JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT

IN RE: THE PETITION OF GERALD PADMORE AND JAINE PADMORE STEGALL, PRAYING YOUR COURT TO ADMIT INTO PROBATE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE GEORGE ARTHUR PADMORE OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA.


NOTICE!NOTICE!!NOTICE!!!

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE GEORGE ARTHUR PADMORE, WAS IN DUE FORM BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2025. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "PETITION" ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 4TH DAY OF MARCH A.D. 2025, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID "PETITION "GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED TO THE EXECUTOR/TRIXES.

SEAL OF COURT

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT
THIS 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2025


HELENA SOGBE-STEWART
CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT
MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

Starts from back page

"Prioritize your priorities amid fiscal constraints"


revenue generation.
"This year's budget is US\$880.7 million, reflecting a growth of 19.2% over last year's Recast Budget of US\$738.9 million.
While this US\$141.8 million increase is undeniably impressive, it is still far below the upwards of US\$2 billion in funding requests for 2025 that the MFDP received from spending entities during the formulation of the current budget," the Ministry explained.
The memo informs senior management of spending entities that, with the country now in the second month of the Fiscal 2025 National Budget, it has been receiving a large number of requests for additional funds from spending entities.
These requests seek to address new priorities and spending pressures that were not included in the budgets of spending entities.
The Ministry stated, "The first source to fund an unforeseen demand or priority that arises during budget execution should be the budget of the

spending entity itself."
The Ministry also reminded all spending entities that only US\$3.26 million was approved as a contingency reserve fund in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. This is the only source of unallocated funds from which the Ministry can obtain additional funds to address unforeseen spending demands.
"This amount is obviously minuscule compared to the sheer number of legitimate unforeseen spending pressures that arise during the course of the year.
What this simply means is that the MFDP, operating within the structures of the Public Financial Management and Budget Transfer laws, must make the difficult decision of looking to other budgeted appropriations to fund legitimate unforeseen spending demands," the Ministry added.
The Ministry concluded by emphasizing that the cooperation of all spending entities is critical to ensuring the efficient, impactful, and equitable execution of the national budget. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.


The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertize Here!
Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES
of The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529
WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now



Wild Chimpanzee Foundation™

TENDER NOTICE
(30 days)

The WILD CHIMPANZEE FOUNDATION (WCF), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders in Liberia and business owners that are in compliance with the Liberian laws for the below listed items (vehicles), to be submitted by Thursday, 20th. of March 2025, 4 pm:

Description	Qty	Tender/Bid No.
Vehicle Hardtop (4.2L STANDARD 5-MT 4X4	1 Unit	WCF/EU (01)/Vehicle Hardtop jeep Series /1/25
Double cabin Pickup- STANDARD 5-MT 4X4	3 Units	WCF/EU (03)/vehicle double cabin-pickup series/1/25

Details and Terms & Conditions are available in the tender document that can be obtained from our office: Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Opposite German Embassy, Congo Town, Monrovia, liberia@wildchimps.org. WCF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.


Wild Chimpanzee Foundation™

TENDER NOTICE
(30 days)

The WILD CHIMPANZEE FOUNDATION (WCF), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders in Liberia and business owners that are in compliance with the Liberian laws for the below listed items (vehicles), to be submitted by Thursday, 20th. of March 2025, 4pm:

Description	Qty	Tender/Bid No.
Vehicle Hardtop (4.2L STANDARD 5-MT 4X4	4 Units	WCF/EU (04)/Vehicle Hardtop Series /1/25

Details and Terms & Conditions are available in the tender documents that can be obtained from our office: Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Opposite German Embassy, Congo Town, Monrovia, liberia@wildchimps.org. WCF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Monrovia: LNP announces temporary ban on commercial motorbike operations

Authorities at the Liberian National Police have placed a no-go zone restriction on commercials motorcyclists.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, February 21, 2025 - The Liberia National Police (LNP) has announced a temporary restriction on the movement of commercial

Cultural Affairs, and Tourism's (MIVAT) regular press briefing in Monrovia.

MICAT Assistant Information Minister for Public Affairs Daniel O. Sandor provided



motorbikes in certain key corridors of Monrovia. According to the LNP, commercial motorbike riders are now prohibited from operating along the main road between the ELWA Junction and the SKD Boulevard Junction via Tubman Boulevard, as well as in Sinkor, Freeport, Vai Town, and Central Monrovia. The announcement was made on Thursday during the Ministry of Information,

details of the restriction, citing a tragic incident that occurred on February 19, 2025. Sandor disclosed that a vehicle experienced mechanical failure while coming down Crown Hill when the driver managed to guide the vehicle down the hill toward a nearby depot, but it collided with a motorbike along the way, resulting in the death of a motorcyclist. "That singular action led to

the outrage staged by the motorcyclists yesterday. The incident occurred on Slipway before descending Johnson Street," Sandor explained. Following the accident, he further narrated that aggrieved motorcyclists reportedly went on a rampage, vandalizing police booths and other properties along Tubman Boulevard, Central Monrovia, and Freeport. The destruction raised concerns about public safety and vulnerabilities exposed by such incidents. In response, the LNP has imposed restrictions to assess the level of threat posed by the situation and develop measures to restore order. He says, "This restriction was put in place to assess the level of vulnerability and the threat so that the police can address it and ensure law and order in the country."

According to Sandor, the LNP has asked the public to be patient as it works to resolve the situation.

Meanwhile, Sandor concluded by saying that this temporary ban is not intended to punish the public but to ensure the safety of citizens. -Edited By Othello B. Garblah

Senate to look into USAID audit request

The Liberian Senate says it is reviewing call to audit all USAID-funded programs in the country.

By Lincoln G Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, February 21, 2025 - The Plenary of the Liberian Senate mandates its Committee on Public Accounts and Audit to do a comprehensive analysis of a request for the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to audit all public institutions that received funding from USAID. Plenary's decision was predicated upon a communication from Montserrado County Senator Saah H. Josph, seeking the indulgence of the Senate to audit Ministries and Agencies here that have benefited funding from USAID during the period 2018 to 2025. In his communication submitted to Senate President Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence, on Thursday, February 20, 2025, Senator Joseph stressed the need for transparency and accountability in the use of donor funds. He acknowledges the

significant contributions of USAID funds, highlighting that the United States Aid for International Development has been a key partner in Liberia's development through financial interventions and technical support to governance, infrastructure, education, health and economics.

According to Senator Joseph, the proposed audit is also aimed at assessing allocation and disbursement of USAID funds, compliance with financial regulations and effectiveness of funded

projects. He adds that said audit will at the same time place the Legislature in a better position to understand and possibly recall the 2025 Budget or seek a recast of the budget to address funding gaps amidst the cancellation of USAID funds by President Donald Trump.

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, has acknowledged that there are direct and indirect impacts of the aid cancellation, noting that there are other international organizations

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



127 Liberians transitioned to full skill employment at ArcelorMittal

ArcelorMittal Liberia has transitioned 127 Liberian contractors to full time employees, giving them hope of job security. Several of the new employees come from the company's mining communities in Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa. They are mostly operators of the Articulated Dump Trucks (ADT). According to some of the elated employees, they have been on the job for three to six months following their training courses provided by the Mobile Training Section of ArcelorMittal Liberia. While in training, they were given a monthly allowance to

benefits such as school fees, rice and other things," said Melvina.

Sarah M. Seakel, another female operator, is appreciative for the change of status, stressing that she now feels secure but will at the same time take her job seriously because many are seeking the status she has now. Melvina Sonah climbs jubilantly climbed on her ADT to go for materials. In like manner, Junifort Mantor alluded that undergoing the ADT Operator's Training to gain a status with AML is a great opportunity for her, noting, "Being with AML as an employee is a great opportunity that many are



Three excited female operators who have transitioned to FTEs

cover transportation, food and housing. Upon completion of their training, they were offered Short Term Employment (STE) and have now been elevated to permanent employees or Fixed Term Employees (FTE), as of this February. Even though they were all yearning to gain an employment status, the pronouncement and subsequent distribution of letters came as a surprise to the ADT operators, and they believe that it was one great thing AML has done for Liberians to be elated.

Melvina Sonah, a young female operator, cannot wait to express how beneficial and significant the employment status is to her. "Right now, heaven has come to earth for me. I have a long-term hope to attend to my families by providing food on their table, paying my children tuitions and attending to other necessities. I am so grateful that I can work with AML as an employee because being an employee comes with

seeking. For me to be one of the employees currently gives me hope for the future in meeting the needs of my families."

Momoh B. Moore, Mines Superintendent, is also happy that people he supervises can gain employment status. Mr. Moore says the transition eases uncertainties the operators had, stressing that it will enhance productivity.

Mr. Moore added that in an environment like the mines, it takes an unbothered mind and care to operate, and what the AML Management has done leaves no doubt that the operators will work well in line with safety rules and policies. The 127 full time employees were transitioned in line with business improvement. According to Human Resources Business Partner, Attorney Patience Jordan Kargbah, there are more contractors to be employed because of business improvement, something she said AML is not hesitant to do when the business climate improves in areas of production and safety.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GSA Caps Government Vehicle Purchases at US\$60,000, Bans Specific Diesel Engines

The General Services Agency has announced a new policy that caps government vehicle purchases at US\$60,000 and bans diesel-engine vehicles.

By: Kruah Thompson

MONROVIA, LIBERIA—In a bid to promote cost efficiency and curb unnecessary expenditures, the General Services Agency (GSA) Director General

of poor performance. To prevent procurement-related issues and ensure compliance with GOL standards, all procuring entities must consult the General Services Agency for

vehicles:

GSA/AR-2025/002: The policy prohibits the purchase of electronically controlled diesel engine vehicles, citing their history of poor performance and maintenance challenges. Under this new regulation, no government vehicle may exit Liberia without prior written approval from the GSA Director General.

Security agencies and other government institutions have been mandated to enforce these measures to prevent the unauthorized use of state assets. The GSA aims to ensure that all government vehicle purchases adhere to these new guidelines, promoting better asset management and reducing financial waste. According to Director Korimal, compliance efforts have already begun, citing the recent return of a government vehicle by the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) to its designated agency. He warned public officials found in violation of these regulations would face administrative action. "Government properties should be used in the best interest of the country. We are working with the Liberia Immigration Service to ensure proper asset management," he said. - Edited By Othello B. Garblah



Galakpai W. Kortimai has announced a new policy capping the purchase price of government vehicles at USD 60,000. GSA Director General Korimal disclosed the measure, which aims to ensure responsible asset management, during the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism's press briefing on Thursday, February 20, 2025. "Effective immediately, all electronically controlled diesel engine vehicles are considered unsuitable for GOL use due to their history

technical evaluation before acquiring fleet assets. This regulation is the official framework for procuring vehicles that align with GOL operational needs," he said, citing instances where high-cost vehicles purchased by previous administrations became non-functional, resulting in substantial financial losses for the state. As part of the reforms, the GSA has introduced two new administrative regulations effective February 19, 2025, banning electronically controlled diesel engine

Starts from page 11

Gov't shuts down Sethi Factory

the august body about the explosion. He notes that such industrial accident continue to pose a threat to Liberian workers. Citing Article 8 of the 1986 Constitution, which guarantees just and humane working conditions for all citizens, Rep. Jones stresses that the government must ensure that factories operating in Liberia adhere to strict safety standards.

"When people leave their homes in the morning to go to work, their families expect them to return safely. If safety measures are not enforced, and these investors continue to operate without regard for human life, then this is a concern for all of us", he says.

He also highlights

environmental concerns raised by residents living near the steel factory, questioning whether the EPA is adequately performing its duty to ensure compliance with environmental safety regulations. The Margibi county lawmaker recalls past industrial accidents in Liberia, referencing a similar explosion during the 54th Legislature. He expresses frustration that despite

previous tragedies, no stringent measures have been put in place to prevent such reoccurrences.

"How many more lives must be lost before we take serious action? The EPA exists to ensure our environment is safe—are they doing their job? Are investors following safety protocols? These are the questions that must be answered". Editing by Jonathan Browne



Eugene descends on Solomon George

-Describes his resignation communication as trash

Former Representative Solomon George's exit from CDC receives backlash here.

By Lincoln G. Peters

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, February 21, 2025 Former Commissioner General of the Liberia Maritime Authority now Chief of Staff of Ex-President Weah, Eugene Lenn Nagbe, strongly descends on Montserrado County former district #7 lawmaker, Solomon C. George, describing his recent letter of resignation from the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change with wide allegations against the party as "trash."

Mr. George, a staunch and longtime supporter of the CDC announced his resignation this week, citing years of betrayal, intimidation, and internal corruption within the party.

In a scathing letter addressed to CDC Chairman Cllr. Janga A. Kowo, George accuses former President Weah of dishonesty, disloyalty, and fostering a culture of hypocrisy within the party.

The letter, dated February 12, 2025, details a series of grievances spanning five

future of the party amid ongoing internal disagreements.

But, responding to Solomon George in an interview with journalists at the Liberian National Police Headquarters on Wednesday, when he went to express solidarity with Representatives Dixson Seboe and Abu Kamara, Nagbe termed these allegations made against ex-President Weah as trash, coming from a frustrated man that is desperately in need of job from the Boakai Administration.

According to him, Mr. George left the party long ago because when people listened to him on radio stations, he was criticized the CDC that once promoted him and instead, praised President Joseph N. Boakai, who he (Solomon) describes as the best leader of Liberia ever, only because he wants a job.

"I like to respond to the resignation of Mr. George and his communication as a trash. And I don't want to go further. That is the extent of our response. CDC is a political party and so the resignation of



Eugene

years, during which Mr. George claims his loyalty and dedication to the party were met with deception and hostility.

"Ambassador George M. Weah had at most times lied to me; stabbed me in the back and pretended as if we were on the same page in doing the right thing for the young people of the party and the country. This I see as a betrayal of trust. The party is infiltrated by wicked, evil, ungodly people, who have exploited Weah's popularity for personal gains," he writes. The sudden resignation of the prominent CDC stalwart and the explosion of Deputy Speaker Thomas P. Fallah have sent shockwaves through Liberia's political landscape, raising questions about the

him means nothing neither a break down to the party. I have resigned from the CDC before. Even ex-President Weah stepped down as standard bearer and didn't win the election that year; the party didn't break down. So, there is no one person that is so important that when they leave after a defeat in an election and there becomes an issue", a rather disappointed Nagbe reacts.

Commenting on the fate of Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph also a CDCian, Nagbe says Senator Joseph is still with the CDC because he has not resigned from the party, while rejecting there is internal wrangling within the CDC. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf en larmes

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a été submergée par l'émotion mardi matin, 18 février, alors que les familles de l'ancien président William R. Tolbert et de 13 autres hauts responsables du gouvernement ont entamé l'exhumation de leurs corps en vue d'une inhumation plus

membres de son gouvernement ont été exécutés sur une plage proche de la caserne militaire de Monrovia, sous les ordres du président Samuel Doe, alors chef du coup d'État. Madame Sirleaf, qui avait occupé le poste de ministre des Finances sous l'administration Tolbert à la fin des années 1970, avait démissionné avant de fuir le pays après le renversement du régime. Lors de la

Des débats persistent sur les commanditaires de l'assassinat de Tolbert. Certains récits avancent une implication de la CIA, notamment en raison de son engagement en faveur de la libération des États africains du colonialisme. Tolbert, qui était alors président de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine (aujourd'hui l'Union africaine), devait assister à la proclamation de l'indépendance du Zimbabwe la veille de sa mort.

Quant aux 13 officiels exécutés, leur massacre reste un événement marquant de l'histoire du Liberia. Ironie du sort, Samuel Doe lui-même fut capturé et exécuté en 1990 par l'ancien sénateur Prince Y. Johnson, en plein cœur des conflits qui ont plongé le pays dans plus de deux décennies de guerre civile.

Une exhumation en préparation depuis plusieurs mois

La cérémonie de mardi a débuté au cimetière de Palm Grove, sur Center Street, en présence de nombreuses personnalités, dont Madame Sirleaf, des enfants et petits-enfants des défunts ainsi



digne. William R. Tolbert, président du Liberia de 1971 à 1980, a été assassiné lors du coup d'État du 12 avril 1980. Dans les jours qui ont suivi, 13

cérémonie d'exhumation, elle a posé sa main sur l'une des tombes, laissant couler ses larmes en silence, sans faire de déclaration.

Un épisode encore controversé de l'histoire libérienne

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Une loi dangereuse ? Un expert alerte sur le nouveau Port Regulatory Act

Un projet de loi récemment proposé visant à créer une nouvelle agence de régulation des ports maritimes du Liberia suscite de vives critiques de la part d'experts en politique publique, notamment Ambulah Mamey. Selon lui, le Liberia Sea and Land Port Regulatory Act, s'il était adopté, entraînerait une hausse du coût des activités portuaires, créerait une confusion en matière de gouvernance et menacerait la réputation maritime du pays.

Le projet de loi, déjà approuvé par le Sénat et actuellement examiné par la Chambre des représentants, est qualifié de "loi dangereuse" en raison d'un conflit d'intérêts manifeste : il fait du régulateur proposé un opérateur portuaire, une situation comparable à celle d'un arbitre jouant dans son propre match.

Un conflit d'intérêts flagrant Dans une note politique adressée au Président et aux membres de la Chambre des représentants, Mamey met en évidence l'article 48 du projet de loi, qui permet à la future agence réglementaire d'exercer des activités commerciales dans les ports. L'article stipule : « L'Agence

peut, dans la limite des crédits budgétaires disponibles, acquérir, établir et améliorer des infrastructures portuaires et assurer leur exploitation et leur entretien. » Selon Mamey, cette disposition va à l'encontre des normes libériennes et des meilleures pratiques internationales, qui prévoient une séparation claire entre les fonctions réglementaires et commerciales pour éviter les conflits d'intérêts et garantir la transparence.

« Le Sénat propose de faire du régulateur des ports à la fois un arbitre et un joueur, ce qui est choquant. Ce même Sénat examine actuellement des mesures visant à empêcher la Liberia Petroleum

Refinery Company (LPRC) d'être à la fois gestionnaire et régulateur du secteur pétrolier », a déclaré Mamey.

Depuis plusieurs années, les réformes des entreprises publiques au Liberia visent à dissocier la supervision réglementaire des activités commerciales. Par exemple, la Liberia Telecommunications Authority régule tandis que LIBTELCO fournit les services ; la Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) supervise le secteur pétrolier, tandis que NOCAL gère les opérations commerciales ; et la Liberia Energy Regulatory



Éditorial

L'anarchie s'impose au Capitole

Par Daron Acemoglu

La 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.

Advertise with us!

Français

Starts from page 8 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf en larmes

que plusieurs figures éminentes de la société libérienne. L'exhumation est réalisée par la société St. Moses Funeral Parlor, dirigée par son PDG, M. Moses H. Ahossoucheb. Cette initiative fait suite à l'annonce du président Joseph N. Boakai, lors de son récent discours sur l'état de la nation, de son intention d'organiser des funérailles officielles pour les anciens présidents Tolbert et Doe. Avant même cette annonce, les familles des défunts avaient entamé des démarches pour obtenir les autorisations nécessaires à l'exhumation. Le Dr Richard V. Tolbert, neveu de l'ancien président, avait confirmé en avril 2024 que les familles, tant au Liberia qu'à l'étranger, collaboraient en vue de la construction d'un nouveau mausolée au Baptist Seminary. Ce projet vise à offrir aux victimes un lieu de repos plus

approprié. Une opération encore incertaine Dans une interview accordée à la presse, M. Ahossoucheb a précisé que les squelettes exhumés seront d'abord transportés au funérarium St. Moses pour être identifiés avant d'être réinhumés ensemble. « Nous suivons les instructions des familles. Si nous retrouvons les ossements, nous pourrions les identifier et les regrouper. Mais si leur état ne le permet pas, cela signifiera qu'ils se sont décomposés avec le temps », a-t-il expliqué. Mardi soir, à 18 heures, malgré l'excavation de la zone concernée, aucun reste humain n'avait encore été découvert. Les équipes ont annoncé leur intention de poursuivre les fouilles plus en profondeur.

Starts from page 8 Une loi dangereuse ? Un expert alerte

Agency (LERC) régule le secteur de l'énergie, tandis que la Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) assure l'exploitation commerciale. Une duplication des compétences Mamey souligne que la nouvelle loi empièterait sur au moins cinq fonctions clés de la Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), notamment l'application de la Convention internationale sur les marchandises dangereuses (IMDG), la mise en œuvre des conventions de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI), l'établissement de normes de formation maritime et l'application des réglementations sur l'assurance maritime. Cette redondance risque de créer une confusion aussi bien sur le plan national qu'international. « Les instances maritimes internationales auront du mal à déterminer quelle entité détient l'autorité ultime au Liberia », prévient-il. Un fardeau financier et une hausse des coûts pour les usagers Le projet de loi propose un mécanisme de financement qui pourrait aggraver le déficit budgétaire et alourdir les coûts pour les opérateurs portuaires et, en fin de compte, pour les consommateurs libériens. L'article 306 prévoit un financement de la nouvelle agence à travers des allocations budgétaires nationales, des frais supplémentaires pour les usagers des ports et une taxe obligatoire de 10 % sur les revenus des exploitants portuaires. « Ce modèle fiscal augmentera le coût des importations et mettra davantage à mal l'économie libérienne, qui dépend fortement des importations. Pour les citoyens, cela se traduira par une hausse des prix des produits de base », explique Mamey dans sa note. Une approche contraire aux pratiques régionales

Mamey souligne que la loi ne correspond pas aux standards en vigueur dans la majorité des pays africains. Il cite une analyse comparée de quatorze pays, dont le Nigéria, le Ghana, le Kenya, la Sierra Leone et le Sénégal, qui maintiennent les fonctions réglementaires au sein des autorités maritimes tout en laissant la gestion commerciale aux autorités portuaires. En Afrique du Sud, pays qui dispose d'une agence de régulation portuaire dédiée, la gestion commerciale et opérationnelle des ports reste sous la tutelle de Transnet National Port Authority, garantissant ainsi l'efficacité du système. Selon Mamey, le “Port Reform Toolkit” de la Banque mondiale déconseille une réglementation excessive et préconise un système de supervision indépendant pour encourager la concurrence et éviter les lourdeurs administratives susceptibles de freiner l'innovation et d'entraver l'efficacité du commerce portuaire. Un appel à revoir les priorités Dans sa note, Mamey exhorte le législateur à éviter la création d'institutions inutiles et à concentrer ses efforts sur le renforcement des structures existantes afin d'éviter la duplication des fonctions et l'augmentation des charges financières. « Les réformes doivent viser l'efficacité, et non l'ajout de couches bureaucratiques inutiles, en contradiction avec les principes de bonne gouvernance », affirme-t-il. Il recommande notamment de moderniser la gouvernance de l'Autorité nationale des ports (NPA) et d'accélérer la mise en œuvre de l'initiative du guichet unique, qui permettrait de simplifier et d'accélérer les transactions portuaires tout en réduisant les coûts pour les usagers.

Le ministre de l'Information annonce d'importants projets d'infrastructure

Le gouvernement libérien a obtenu une subvention de 80 millions de dollars de la Banque mondiale pour réhabiliter les routes à Paynesville, Sinkor et dans le centre de Monrovia.



Minister Piah

Le ministre de l'Information, Jerolinmek Piah, a fait cette annonce le 18 février lors du point de presse régulier du ministère de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme (MICAT). L'initiative vise à améliorer la mobilité urbaine en résolvant les problèmes liés à la détérioration des routes, notamment les nids-de-poule profonds et l'absence de systèmes de drainage adéquats, qui compliquent les déplacements des habitants et des entreprises. Selon le ministre Piah,

le projet de résilience urbaine se déroulera en deux phases : Phase 1 : Réhabilitation des routes de Paynesville, en particulier celles situées sur le boulevard SKD et à l'Académie de Police. Phase 2 : Extension des travaux de réhabilitation à l'ensemble de Sinkor et au centre de Monrovia. Piah a assuré au public que les travaux débiteront dans deux semaines et devraient être achevés d'ici mai 2025. “Un élément clé du projet sera l'installation de systèmes de drainage efficaces pour éviter les inondations, qui sont une cause majeure de la dégradation rapide des routes à Monrovia”, a-t-il déclaré. En plus de ces nouveaux projets, le gouvernement poursuit les travaux routiers en cours à Johnsonville,

Environ 260 responsables exclus de la fonction publique

Le Directeur général de l'Agence de la Fonction publique (CSA), Josiah F. Joekai, annonce la suspension immédiate de 216 fonctionnaires de la liste de paie pour le mois de février 2025. Cette décision fait suite à l'instruction du Président Boakai, donnée le 12 février 2025, ordonnant la suspension de plus de 457 responsables n'ayant pas déclaré leur patrimoine. Parmi les fonctionnaires concernés, deux appartiennent au ministère des Affaires présidentielles, 198 au ministère de l'Administration territoriale et trois au ministère des Affaires étrangères. D'autres responsables issus d'organismes tels que la Commission de la Gouvernance, la Commission des marchés publics et concessions (PPCC), l'Autorité foncière du Liberia, le ministère de la Justice, l'Agence de lutte contre la drogue du Liberia et le ministère de la Défense nationale sont également touchés par cette mesure. S'exprimant jeudi lors d'une conférence de presse au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, le Directeur général Joekai a précisé que cette initiative vise à garantir le respect des lois sur la déclaration des biens. Il a souligné que tout fonctionnaire concerné ne percevra pas son salaire de février tant qu'il ne se sera pas conformé aux exigences légales. M. Joekai a exhorté tous les responsables concernés à déclarer leur patrimoine auprès de la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption et à obtenir une attestation de conformité du ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles. « Une fois ces démarches accomplies, les fonctionnaires seront réintégrés sur la liste de paie du gouvernement », a-t-il précisé. Par ailleurs, il a révélé que la suspension de ces 216 fonctionnaires a permis d'économiser environ 104 000,73 dollars américains. « Ce montant sera transféré sur un compte dédié », a-t-il ajouté, précisant



que l'agence travaille en étroite collaboration avec le Bureau des entreprises d'État pour évaluer les économies totales générées par cette mesure. Selon lui, une somme initiale de 14 000,73 dollars américains a déjà été déposée sur ce compte spécial, et des mises à jour supplémentaires seront communiquées une fois que le processus sera entièrement achevé. En conclusion, le Directeur général Joekai a assuré qu'un rapport détaillé sera soumis au Président Boakai, qui déterminera l'affectation des fonds économisés.

Mount Barclay et Freeport, où certaines sections sont déjà achevées à 90 %. Le ministre Piah a également souligné l'engagement du gouvernement à finaliser les projets routiers laissés en suspens par les précédentes administrations, avec l'objectif de terminer entre 35 et 45 % de ces travaux d'ici la fin de l'année. Une subvention supplémentaire du Japon Dans un développement connexe, le ministre Piah a annoncé que le Liberia a obtenu une subvention de 18 millions de dollars du gouvernement japonais pour soutenir davantage la construction de routes. La signature officielle des accords d'échange et de la convention de subvention est prévue pour le 12 mars à Monrovia. L'accord sera signé par le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères et l'ambassadeur du Japon

au Liberia, basé à Accra, au Ghana. Selon le ministre Piah, le projet routier financé par le Japon commencera en août 2025 et utilisera une structure composite pour améliorer la durabilité des routes. “La première couche sera en béton rigide, suivie d'un revêtement en asphalte, ce qui rendra la chaussée plus résistante à l'usure”, a-t-il expliqué. Les travaux prioritaires se concentreront sur le corridor reliant Chocolate City à Freeport, en intégrant des systèmes de drainage pour éviter une détérioration rapide des routes. “Le gouvernement ne se contente pas de faire des promesses, il agit concrètement. Les citoyens verront et ressentiront les effets de ces projets”, a déclaré le ministre Piah. Amélioration des infrastructures d'eau et d'assainissement

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Saah Joseph College nears completion

-Targets first batch of 8,000 Liberian youths

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia, February 21, 2025 - Montserrado County Senator Saah H. Joseph has termed 90% completion of Ducor Technical and Vocation



College undergoing construction as a complete poverty reduction strategy, while publicizing the institution gradual preparedness to develop the first batch of 8,000 Liberian youth following completion. Speaking during a late tour of the facility on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 in New Georgia Gulf Community, Japanese Freeway, Senator Joseph and the Technical Project Manager confirmed 90% completion of the structure, while assuring Liberians that the remaining 10% will be addressed shortly.Despite failing to tell the exact date or month the facility will be completed and operationalized, Senator Joseph disclosed that they have received partnership from universities in the United States and the Philippines that have taken over the entire Medical Department, which will enable them provide training materials, manpower and equipment to strengthen passionate Liberians who have interest in the medical profession. “Preparations are ongoing and very soon we will be calling students, who have taken entrance for the medical program.We are also in the process of recruiting instructors. We have individuals who have expressed interest from Ghana, Sierra Leon and Nigeria. Also, we have four instructors who will be here from the Philippines to help our medical students. I know people have been concerned

about the building and when it will open, that is why we have brought you here today to see the work,” he explains. On March 10, 2020, Senator Joseph promised the people

of Montserrado County that he will build four vocational colleges in the county, as he laid the first brick for a US\$1.5M mini college in New Georgia Gulf Community. He gave his one year salary which amounts to US\$90,000 and added US\$10,000 to start the foundation of the mini Ducor Vocational and Technical College. The college will take an estimated 8,000 students of which 1,000 will be nursing students, 3,500 for the morning session and 3,500 for the afternoon session, all adding to the four high schools that have been in operation for about 10 years. Senator Joseph projected then that the project will cost US\$1.5M, including furnishing, while the second mini college will be constructed in Bentol, the third in Mount Barclay and the fourth in District#17. Outlining the importance of the project, he said it is meant to provide opportunities for Liberia, especially the youthful population where they can go and acquire skills to be good citizens and contribute to the economic growth and development of Liberia. According to him, everyone is aware today that the only source of income for young Liberians is tricycle riding, something he described as troubling for the country, while suggesting and naming technical vocational education and human capacity development as perfect means of defeating poverty and unemployment.

“The school will be open soon; we are nearing completion as you can see. We are 90% in terms of completion work and anticipate doing the remaining 10% very soon. It has not been easy, but we want to thank God. I also want to appreciate Jefferson Baptist Church in the United States for the contribution of approximately US\$ 500,000 and other friends who made personal contribution. I also took money from banks to ensure that the project is complete. Our goal is to decentralize this and so, when this is fully functioning, our next step will be Mount Barclay with a capacity of up to 10,000 students. They are in conversation to get land to construct the third college,” he added. The senator says he is going to work with the government and his colleagues in the legislature upon completion and operation of the school, to legislate the Ducor Technical and Vocational College, adding that it will be introduced on the flow of both houses and later the President will sign the bill to ensure that they move forward. However, he expresses sadness over the skyrocket of disadvantage youth who are involved in substance, while promising to work with rehab homes and institutions to ensure that they are rehabilitated and train through the Ducor Vocational School to integrate them back to the society with tools in their hands and knowledge in their heads. “Well, we are discussing with our partners; I mean those that contributed toward this project. Most of the target groups of which we are hoping will come and attend, they can’t afford the registration to attend. And so, we will engage national government and looking at how much they can contribute toward the process to address staff and materials. But any partnership that will compel our people to pay fees, we will not accept it, we will look for the money for people to come free of charge,’ he promises. Editing by Jonathan Browne

House defers election of representatives to ECOWAS Parliament

By Bridgett Milton
Monrovia, Liberia, February 21, 2025, --- The Plenary of the House of Representatives has deferred election of Liberia’s representatives to the ECOWAS Parliament to next Tuesday, allowing more time for lawmakers to engage in intense lobbying. The decision was reached during Thursday’s session to ensure a fair and transparent process by giving aspirants more time to consolidate their support before the final vote. Liberia’s previous representatives to the ECOWAS Parliament included Moima Briggs Mensah (Bong County District# 6), Taa Wongbe (Nimba County District# 9), and Rev. Samuel Enders (Montserrado County District# 6) but they were recalled by the House of Representatives. According to insider reports, Moima Briggs Mensah is expected to retain her seat, while Augustine Chiewolo of Lofa County District# 5 and Samson Q. Wiah of Sinoe County District# 2 are likely to replace Wongbe and Enders.



While an official confirmation is yet to be made, these emerging names indicate a shift in Liberia’s delegation, with lawmakers actively lobbying to secure votes. With the election now set for next Tuesday, aspirants are intensifying their lobbying efforts, reaching out to colleagues for support. The process is expected to be highly competitive, as Liberia’s representatives to the ECOWAS Parliament play a key role in regional decision-making on economic, political, and security matters. Speaking after the deferment, Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah emphasized the importance of electing capable representatives who can effectively advocate for

Liberia’s interests at the regional level. “We want to ensure that those we send to the ECOWAS Parliament have the full backing of their colleagues and can represent Liberia’s interests effectively. This extension allows more engagement among lawmakers”. Liberia’s representation at the ECOWAS Parliament is crucial, as members contribute to policy discussions that impact the entire West African region. The selected lawmakers will be responsible for voicing Liberia’s stance on key issues, including trade, security, governance, and regional integration. The ECOWAS Parliament consists of representatives from all 15 member states, and Liberia, like other countries, seeks to ensure that its delegation remains influential in regional affairs. Recently, during the 8th-day sitting under the gavel of Majority Bloc Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon, the plenary ruled that Representatives Moima Briggs Mensah, Taa Wongbe, and Samuel Enders be withdrawn from the ECOWAS Parliament. The decision followed a formal request from Representatives Johnson S.N. Williams and James Kolleh, who argued that the appointments were made unilaterally by embattled Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa without plenary’s approval. They further contended that the selections did not reflect appropriate political representation and violated ECOWAS protocols.However, Senator Edwin Snowe, the most senior Liberian lawmaker at the ECOWAS Parliament, has pushed back against the recall attempt. He emphasized that the ECOWAS Parliament operates independently and is not bound by Liberia’s internal legislative decisions. According to Snowe, efforts to recall the lawmakers will not be enforced at the regional level. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Havens of Liberia's stolen wealth

President Joseph Boakai's Assets Recovery Czar, Cllr. Edwin K Martins has named Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Dubai havens for Liberia's stolen wealth.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, February 21, 2025/Cllr. Martins, who faced legal hurdles from the onset of his taskforce operations,



told journalists here on Thursday, February 20, that the three countries were identified by international partners as places where Liberian officials hide their stolen money- in cash and assets.

"Through the aid of our international partners, AREPT (Assets Recovery & Property Retrieval Team) has identified three hotspots in the world where Liberia's stolen liquid assets have been banked and invested: Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Dubai," Cllr. Martins said while addressing journalists at the regular MICAT press briefing.

"We are working tirelessly with our partners to ensure that proper international protocols and litigation are applied for the repatriation of those assets," he added.

Cllr. Martins stated that while his task force was entangled in a legal dispute with one of the companies he suspects was established with stolen government money, he was busy establishing relationships with international partners in the UK, Ghana, and Nigeria to trace stolen wealth from Liberia hidden in those countries.

He said that because of those efforts during their non-active period, one of the partners from the UK is expected to visit Liberia in March this year to assist in

reviewing evidence to help the Liberian Government pursue those who looted the country's coffers.

Liberian President Joseph Boakai issued an executive order in March 2024 to identify and recover stolen state assets and prosecute current and former officials who wrongfully acquired government assets.

However, Cllr. Martins and his team are racing against time and need to act quickly. This is because the Executive Order granting the Assets Recovery Team the authority to pursue stolen state assets, both physical and liquid, expires next month.

When our reporter quizzed Cllr. Martin about the Executive Order's expiration next month, he (Cllr. Martins) acknowledged that it has a lifespan of one year. However, he expressed confidence that the President would review and renew it to enable his task force to continue.

Meanwhile, he has urged individuals who will be invited for questioning to cooperate with their upcoming investigations, warning that they could face former charges, indictments, and prosecutions if they fail to

honor the initiations.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the press, AREPT maintains that, as much as it complies with the rule of law, it calls on persons of interest who will be invited for questioning to also comply and abide by the same rule of law," said Cllr. Martins.

"Any wilful and deliberate refusal on the part of persons of interest to respect its invitation will leave the investigative panel with no alternative but to use available evidence in its possession to formally charge, indict, and subsequently prosecute said persons in keeping with the rule of law," Cllr. Martin added.

It could be recalled that the work of the Assets Recovery Taskforce was made difficult due to a legal dispute between Gracious Ride Incorporated and the Assets Recovery Team. The Task Force had seized several vehicles belonging to Gracious Ride Incorporated, alleging they were fraudulently acquired by an ex-official from the former government.

This legal dispute, which had been pending since March 2024, was recently resolved when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Assets Recovery Team on February 18, 2025.

Commenting on the ruling, Cllr. Martins inadvertently acknowledged some missteps and that his team, following that ruling, has initiated new steps to investigate those suspected of possessing state assets, acquiring suspicious assets, or stealing public funds.

According to him, his team has been able to verify and seize 17 high-profile cases involving theft of public assets, acquisition of suspicious properties, embezzlement through fake road construction companies and fraudulent construction firms, and theft of liquid assets. Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Gov't shuts down Sethi Factory

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia shuts down steel factory Sethi Ferro Fabrik Incorporated, after an industrial explosion killed an employee here.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh & Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, Liberia, February 21, 2025 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) alarms here of unsafe working environment at steel factory Sethi Ferro Fabrik Incorporated, in Gardnerville along Japan Freeway, amidst recent oxygen explosion, resulting to the death of an employee and injuries of several others, though the company denies there were any injuries, but confirm one death. The company has been shut down, and risks additional punishment, pending full investigation.

Monday, February 19, 2025, Oxygen explosion at Sethi Ferro Steel Plant, instantly killed one of its workers, Saah Samukai.

According to investigation, Samukai and three other foreign workers had been on duty during the day, but the two expatriates reportedly left Samukai alone with drilling of the Oxygen Plant, connecting to an iron that bruise into fire, killing him.

"This is a serious matter,

telling Sethi Management.

In an aftermath interview, following an extensive tour of the company's facility, the EPA boss announced that Sethi Ferro Fabrik has been shut down, for operating without license, amidst the tragic death an employee.

"The first thing, when we heard about the accident, our team came immediately and shut down the factory; another thing, we have observed Sethi Ferro has been operating without license, and we are going through the investigation for a stringent action", he adds.

Meanwhile, the Management of Sethi Ferro Fabrik Factory, has assured cooperation with relevant authorities to enhance ongoing investigation. The company also extends sympathy to family of the late Employee Saah Samukai.

Thursday's investigative tour of the facility brought together the EPA, the Liberia National Police (LNP) Ministry of Labor and the Liberia National Fire



because a Liberian's life has been taken away, so my team of the EPA has come to observe and find out exactly how the accident took place.

And we have gathered in our preliminary findings a bit of safety concerns; there are several things: some are good and some are bad, and we must take the bad ones very seriously", EPA Executive Director, Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo, tells reporters.

Dr. Urey notes safety warning about the facility and protection for workers, while touring and instructing the Sethi Ferro Fabrik Management.

"I think you have a huge investment here, but again with all of these investments, you must ensure the right things be done. If all of these safety measures - like the fire extinguisher, were in place, we wouldn't be talking about a life being lost", Dr. Urey was heard

Service.

At the same time, the Plenary of the House of Representatives has summoned the Ministers of Labor, Commerce, Bureau of Concession, Environmental Protection Agency and Serthi Ferro Fabrik Steel Factory to appear before it next Tuesday, 25 February to address the oxygen explosion at the factory, leading to the death of an employee.

Plenary took the decision here Thursday, 20 February based on a communication from Rep. Ivar K. Jones of Electoral District 2, Margibi County.

Rep. Jones prays the indulgence of his colleagues to invite the Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Labor and the Management of Serthi Ferro Fabrik Steel Factory to appear and address

Starts from page 6

Senate to look into USAID audit request

that had been supported by USAID and they have scaled down support, with USAID being Liberia's second largest donor next to the World Bank.

He recalls that USAID support to Liberia from 2021-2929 totals US\$422 million, and agreement had been concluded to receive support in the tune of more than US\$100 million to support education, health, agriculture and other key areas when everything was halted by President Donald Trump.

Asked what Liberia is doing to mitigate obstacles faced by the cancellation of USAID-funded projects, he says the government has accepted the decision of the United States Government, and discloses that the Ministry of Finance has just concluded and will be submitting to President Boakai and the 55th Legislature short and long-term impacts and what is to be done to addressing the shocks. Editing by Jonathan Browne

-Gov't Urged Spending Entities

government spending entities to adhere to their approved budgets for Fiscal Year 2025 and to exercise fiscal prudence in what it describes as a "challenging fiscal environment."

Additionally, the Ministry has reminded government institutions of the importance of managing their budgets effectively.

“Please manage your budget well. Your budget is for the entire 12 months of 2025. So, you’re strongly advised not to execute your budget as if it were a six-month or one-quarter budget”

The Minister further said that all spending entities will likely not receive any supplemental resources from the government if they exhaust their budget lines early.

The Ministry memo further informed government institutions that the budget is a projection until revenue is actually raised through the efforts, dedication, integrity, and sacrifice of the Liberia Revenue Authority, the MFDP, and all other stakeholders involved in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 05

February 20, 2025, by Finance Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan and addressed to Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions, the Ministry emphasized the importance of remaining mindful of limited



"Prioritize your priorities" as the scarcity of resources remains a significant reality" In a memo issued Thursday,

resources.

“Scarcity of resources is a reality, and all Heads or Senior Management of Spending Entities must not lose sight of this reality. You’re advised to prioritize the priorities,” the Minister stated.

The Minister has issued strict instructions for all

**MoMo
WAYSAY
WASA 4**

Everyone
is a Winner

It's Raining Rewards.

Dial *156#
to transact and win.

The advertisement features a vibrant yellow background with colorful streamers. In the center, a man and a woman are shown celebrating. The man is holding a smartphone and a small trophy, while the woman is holding a smartphone and looking excited. Behind them are several prizes: two motorcycles, two large bags of rice, and a television set. The bottom of the advertisement features the MoMo logo, the Lonestar Cell logo, and the MTN logo.

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

Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529
0886978282 / 0775407211

Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com
Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a magazine with the headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Houtby-elections', and a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE'. The publications are overlapping and set against a colorful, abstract background.