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# Court rules in Capitol's arson case

**- As case moves to Criminal Court "A"**











# LWSC urges P/Works to demolish structures on sewage and water lines

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# Continental News

## Claims of white genocide 'not real', South African court rules

A South African court has dismissed claims of a white genocide in the country as "clearly imagined" "genocide of white people". Despite vowing to crack down on immigration, Trump has said that white South African farmers



The treatment of South Africa's white minority population has come under increased scrutiny

and "not real", undermining claims made by US President Donald Trump and his adviser Elon Musk. The ruling came as the court blocked a wealthy benefactor's donation to white supremacist group Boerelegioen. Grantland Michael Bray wanted to bequeath \$2.1m ( £1.7m) to the group to help it "further its messages of racial hatred and separation". But the court ruled this request was invalid, vague and "contrary to public policy". Trump has referred to the "large-scale killing of farmers" in South Africa, while Musk has condemned what he said were "racist ownership laws" and previously condemned the

would be allowed to settle in the US as refugees because of the persecution he said they faced. Musk was born and grew up in South Africa before moving to the US. The court action was brought by Mr Gray's four siblings, who are also trustees and beneficiaries of the family trust. In it, they claimed that their brother had become "obsessed with the idea of an impending genocide of white people in South Africa" in the last 10 years of his life. He died in March 2022. Mr Gray, who was paralysed following an accident aged 26 while doing military service, had also become paranoid, believing the supposed "genocide" would occur soon.

"That idea was further fuelled by his already present racism and the online content that he was exposed to," Judge Rosheni Allie summarised in a 15 February ruling that has just come to light. Mr Gray first met members of the Boerelegioen in 2020 and allegedly gave them about \$326,000 (£258,000) in gold coins to help fund their cause and gain membership of the racist group. The Boerelegioen describes itself as a "civil defence movement that enables citizens to resist the promised slaughter of whites in RSA [Republic of South Africa] as well as the theft of their property". Mr Gray subsequently made the organisation a beneficiary to his estate, specifying that a portion of the money go towards the various training programmes the group ran. But because there were three entities all bearing the Boerelegioen name, the court found that Mr Gray's bequest made was "vague concerning which entity was the intended beneficiary" of his will. "The only expression of the [Mr Gray's] intention that is evident is the intention for the funds to be used for 'training' as well as [his] own assertions that he wanted the funds used to benefit an organisation which he deemed to be one which will exterminate every black person in South Africa and will be used to defend or ward off a white genocide,

## Spanish city 'adopts' Senegalese migrants who intervened in homophobic attack

A Spanish city has honoured two Senegalese migrants for their heroism in trying to save a gay man beaten to death by a homophobic mob. Ibrahima Diack and Magatte N'Diaye were given "adopted sons of the city" status in A Coruña on Monday in a formal ceremony recognising their actions. The men were the only ones to intervene in July 2021, when Samuel Luiz was set upon by a group of men and kicked and punched outside a nightclub in the north-western city. The 24-year-old later died of his injuries in hospital - an event which sparked national outrage and condemnation. On Monday, at a formal ceremony in the city council's hall, Mayor Inés Rey described the migrants' actions as "pure altruism". Footage of that night showed other bystanders watching on, some filming on mobiles, and the two being the only ones who intervened. "That two

undocumented migrants were the only ones who physically risked themselves to help the victim of a pack thirsting for horror leaves much food for thought and a series of lessons," Mayor Rey said. "Thank you for your example in risking everything despite having a lot to lose," said another councillor, Rosalía López, on Instagram in a post sharing videos of the ceremony. Mr Diack and Mr N'Diaye had been living in the city without

papers at the time and doing irregular work, putting them at risk of arrest and deportation if they came into contact with authorities. But both men on Monday said they had just done what they thought was the right thing in trying to stop the violence. In front of friends, civic servants and other guests on Monday, they were handed plaques by the mayor bestowing them with the status of "Adopted Sons of A Coruña".



Magatte N'Diaye and Ibrahima Diack - seen here with Mayor Inés Rey - have been honoured as "adopted sons of A Coruña"

## Getting Green Investment Where It's Needed Most

“ He told me that if I tried to escape, he would kill me."Pascaline, 22, recalls the words of her rapist at a prison in Goma, the largest city in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in the early hours of 27 January. "I was forced to let it happen instead of losing my life," Pascaline tells the BBC. He was the second man to rape her at Munzenze prison. The first attack was so violent that she passed out. Her attackers came over the wall from the men's block right next door called "Safina", she says. "We heard a noise as they jumped on the water tanks. There were so many of them, and we were so scared. The ones who were unlucky were raped. The ones who were lucky got out without being raped."Chaos was spreading through the jail, and the surrounding city. Rwandan-backed M23 rebels were closing in on Goma, after a

women's section, glancing at the scorched walls, scattered cooking pots and piles of clothing. Her hand comes to her mouth in wordless horror, and she shakes her head. "At one point I didn't know what was happening any more," she says. "It was after seeing the others die that I began to pull myself together, I would say that it was God who wanted me to be saved."Pascaline, an onion seller, wound up behind bars here when her employer accused her of theft. Nadine, 22, has also come back to the prison for the first time. In her mind, she cannot escape it. "When I sleep at night, everything I've seen here comes back to me. I see the dead again - as many dead bodies as I saw here until I got out. Instead of opening the door, they let us die like animals here." "They came with alcohol," she tells the BBC. "They wanted to drug people. They took me by force. They took all the women here." The BBC cannot verify how many women were raped that night, out of a total of 167 who,



Warning: This article contains distressing content, including descriptions of rape, from the start.

rapid advance through the region. Most of the prison guards and the city authorities had already fled. Shooting could be heard outside the jail. Hours later, inside the compound, there was a fire - apparently set by male prisoners as they tried to escape. By morning, about 4,000 male inmates had broken out. But few of the women managed to get away. A total of 132 female prisoners and at least 25 children burned to death, according to two sources. A UN official told the BBC that "at least 153 women had perished", quoting "reliable sources in the prison". A month on, Pascaline has come back to the charred shell of the prison complex, where an empty watch tower still stands. She wants to tell her story and is willing to be identified. She is also a voice for the dead. She walks through the main yard of the

sources say, were being held. Nadine is furious at the authorities - for locking her up in the first place over an unpaid debt, she says, and then failing to let her out. "I don't think that justice can exist in Congo," she says. "I condemn the way the government is running things." The DR Congo government - more than 1,500km (1,000 miles) away in the capital Kinshasa - is no longer running anything in Goma. The rebels are in full control and are continuing to advance in the east. Among the piles of ash that carpet the prison floor after the fire, there is a tiny pink sandal, which is burnt on one side. Some shiny buttons glitter in the dirt beside it, perhaps from children's clothing. Women prisoners were allowed to keep one of their children in the jail with them. Only two children out of 28 survived the blaze in the prison, according to a source. Child prisoners - held in a separate block - were released earlier in the day. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## The Sethi incident: Government should share some blames too

It is hardly believable that a huge steel manufacturing company like Sethi Steel Factory would operate in Liberia without license and other requisite operational documents. Sethi also faces concerns over safety issues that its employees have protested against for time in memorial.

The glaring deficiencies came to public attention when an Oxygen explosion at the factory killed an employee on Monday, February 19, 2025, with reports of injuries, though the company says there was no injury besides the death of an employee, Saah Samukai.

Perhaps what is even more disappointing and disgusting about the incident is disclosure by the Environmental Protection Agency that Sethi that enjoys a monopoly on building materials such as steel, zinc, nails and others, has been operating in the country without license.

“This is a serious matter, 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, told reporters last week.

But how come that the EPA, under the watch of Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo did not know that Sethi Steel Factory has been operating in the country without license and safety gears for its workforce, most of whom are Liberians, who do the physical labor-intensive aspect of the job.

We are getting to know now that it took Dr. Yarkpawolo and the EPA more than a year since he took office in 2024 to visit Sethi Steel Factor which is less than an hour’s drive from central Monrovia to Japan Freeway in Gardersville to know that the company has been operating outside of Liberian law.

“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 added.

The Government of Liberia has reportedly fined the company US\$5,000 and shut it down, for operating without license and standard safety policies. However, it took the death of a fellow Liberian to have Dr. Yarkpawolo and his team at the EPA do their job of proper monitoring and enforcement of required safety regulations.

We wonder how many companies out there across Liberia that are having their way, violating the laws of the country and endangering public lives, especially Liberians that work in those places just to earn a living at the expense of their lives.

We are hearing that 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 this Tuesday, 25 February to address the oxygen explosion at the factory that led to the death of an employee.

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

In his communication, Rep. Jones cites Article 8 of the 1986 Constitution, which guarantees just and humane working conditions for all citizens, stressing 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 emphasized.

However, it is glaring that both the Legislature and the Executive are paying lip-service when it comes to safety and enforcement of laws on the book, leaving the citizenry vulnerable. The two important branches of government are preoccupied with achieving their selfish desires at the detriment of the people they claim to serve.

# COMMENTARY

By Geoff Mulgan

## Building the Next Generation of Public Institutions

LONDON - Public institutions worldwide are in crisis. Trust in them is declining, and US President Donald Trump’s administration, working hand in glove with the world’s richest man, Elon Musk, view them as enemies that need to be dismantled. In the face of funding cuts and geopolitical fragmentation, multilateral organizations look weaker than ever.

The attacks by Trump and Musk, who boasted about “feeding” USAID “into the woodchipper” and preparing to abolish the Department of Education, may be ill-conceived and set to backfire. But they are reminding us that there is no good reason why public institutions have to be just as they were a half-century ago. Simply defending existing institutions looks ever less like an adequate response.

Few of humanity’s biggest challenges - from shaping artificial intelligence and addressing mental health to managing energy transitions and industrial policy - are likely to be handled well without effective institutions. But today’s ministries, agencies, commissions, public services, and regulators often look ill-suited to meet these new needs.

So, what should the alternatives look like? Governments have always depended on institutions to do their work - to enforce laws, educate children, collect taxes, or provide security - and they have often invented new ones for new tasks, like reducing carbon dioxide emissions or fighting organized crime. Amid the funding cuts and attacks, reformers must focus on creating better expressions of the public interest, making the most of new tools and technologies to improve efficiency, and restoring public trust.

But the options for designing institutions today are very different from a generation ago. Global businesses like Alphabet, ByteDance, Amazon, and Alibaba have pioneered radically new business models and tapped into unprecedented economies of scale. A generation ago, few would have imagined that companies like Uber or Grab could provide a taxi service without owning any taxis. Meanwhile, civil society has also developed new models, such as Wikipedia, Ushahidi (data crowdsourcing), and Buurtzorg (home care), and there are many new forms of public-private partnerships, as well as thousands of B-corps (like Natura in Brazil) guided by social and environmental principles.

There has also been some remarkable innovation within the public sector. Since its launch in 2009, India’s Aadhaar program has provided biometric IDs to more than one billion people and helped vastly expand access to financial services. Over the past decade, Narendra Modi has been implementing his motto of “maximum governance and minimum government,” while China created the world’s first Cyberspace Administration in 2011, and its Government Guidance Funds have mobilized trillions of dollars for new technology since 2002.

But, in much of the world, public institutions have hardly changed. Most are still pyramid structures, as they were a century ago, and are too often opaque and unresponsive. When new institutions are created, they are typically designed by committees of relatively elderly politicians or civil servants and tend to be siloed, hierarchical, and inflexible.

Artificial intelligence shows starkly the gap between what’s there and what’s needed. It has been 20 years since AI started being widely used in some public services (including law enforcement and health care) and many private

ones (such as credit scoring and search engines). But the world is only just starting to create institutions to govern it well - from procurement to maximize its value for public services to regulation to mitigate abuses, as well as multilateral institutions to pool global knowledge about the risks and opportunities associated with the technology.

One reason for the delay was clever positioning by the industry, which discouraged governments from acting by framing AI as a fait accompli that should just be accepted. As Microsoft’s chief economist, Michael Schwarz, put it in 2023: “We shouldn’t regulate AI until we see some meaningful harm that is actually happening.”

Such arguments are obviously favorable to private interests. But public institutions’ duty is to the public. And as Daron Acemoglu, one of last year’s Nobel laureate economists, and others have shown, it is institutions that determine why some countries prosper so much more than others.

Still, it is one thing to tout the successes of the Central Provident Fund and Temasek in Singapore, Brazil’s Ministry of Social Development, the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. It is quite another to devise equivalents for our current needs.

What will it take to create agile, flexible, and trustworthy institutions? What is the best design for making the most of AI, data, and collective intelligence (as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change does for climate science)? Can we build on successes like Icarus, which mobilized satellite technology to build the “internet of animals” in an effort to help us track the state of animal populations on the planet?

These crucial questions are already a major focus within global bodies like the United Nations Development Programme. Its Istanbul Innovation Days conference in late March will feature innovators who are pioneering new methods to improve how institutions function.

These innovators are drawing as much from biology as from bureaucracy, thinking more in terms of mycelia (branching fungal networks) than pyramids. They are designing lighter mechanisms that can operate much faster during crises, and others that move more slowly and deliberately - like the establishment of a Future Generations Commissioner in Wales, which has inspired calls for a similar post at the European Commission.

Work is underway to build new institutions to protect against misinformation and election interference; to mobilize capital for urban energy transitions; to empower indigenous communities; and to help young people navigate the labor market during a period of turmoil and uncertainty. UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the challenge well in 2023: “We cannot effectively address problems as they are if institutions don’t reflect the world as it is. Instead of solving problems, they risk becoming part of the problem.” Institutions are like buildings: we shape them, but they then subtly influence us and how we operate. We may be in an era of dismantling, disruption, and disorder. But history suggests that such circumstances eventually lead to rebuilding and reinvention. When that time comes, we will need to have already done the work of exploring better options. As the Brazilian sociologist and politician Roberto Mangabeira Unger observes, “the world remains restless under the yoke of a dictatorship of no alternatives.” Fortunately, such restlessness can be fuel for imagination.



OP-ED

By José Antonio Ocampo

# What Should Be on the Global Financial Agenda?

BOGOTÁ - The United Nations Conferences on Financing for Development have been great occasions for building consensus on global financing issues. The next meeting, set for mid-2025 in Spain, will continue the progress made previously in Monterrey (2002), Doha (2008), and Addis Ababa (2015), and preparations are already underway with the launch of two major background documents. While a “Zero Draft” will serve as the basis for the negotiations, delegates also will consider a set of proposals from an international commission of experts that I had the honor of coordinating. Both reflect the ambition to build on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The central objective of this process is to support developing countries’ growth strategies. The commission of experts emphasized the need to restore and strengthen the transformative role of the state, envisioning it as a key driver of development and structural transformation. That means emphasizing the quality as well as the quantity of resources that are mobilized, and replacing a short-term project-focused agenda with one geared toward collectively defined longer-term goals. Each task calls for strengthening the currently weakened multilateral system and creating new regional platforms.

A crucial issue is public-sector over-indebtedness, which affects about one-third of developing countries, while several others face high debt levels and interest costs. This problem stems from the large fiscal imbalances during the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise in interest rates in recent years. Managing it will require an ambitious short-term renegotiation instrument, which can build on the G20’s 2020 Common Framework for Debt Treatments. This time, however, the renegotiation process must be faster, and access should be extended to middle-income countries. In the long term, we need a permanent mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring, which could be housed either in the UN or the International Monetary Fund, provided, in the latter case, that it remains independent of the IMF Board.

Another urgent objective is to reinvigorate development financing. An estimated \$4 trillion more is needed annually to fund the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Mobilizing these resources will require official development assistance on the scale that high-income countries committed to decades ago: “0.7% of gross national income to developing countries and 0.15-0.20% of GNI to least developed countries.” Most developed countries have failed to hit these targets, and the funds directed to low-income countries have actually decreased in recent years.

A second priority in this area is to increase the financing available from multilateral development banks (MDBs) and support the expansion of national development banks’ activities (or the creation of such institutions in the developing countries lacking them). Such efforts must include more financing in local currencies to mitigate the risks of debt escalation from exchange-rate depreciation, and support for the development of domestic bond markets in these countries. Beyond traditional lending, these institutions also should support developing countries’ efforts to provide international public goods such as pandemic preparedness and prevention, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity protection.

Increasing environmentally sustainable financing is crucial. While the recent Conferences of the Parties on climate change and biodiversity agreed to more financing, their targets remain insufficient. This is particularly worrying now that biodiversity losses are mounting and global warming has already begun to exceed the 1.5o Celsius threshold set by the Paris climate agreement. In these areas, and in development financing in general, greater private-sector involvement should be mobilized with the help of credits for environmental investments or complementary mechanisms such as loan guarantees from development banks.

Building adequate, progressive tax bases is also essential. We need to prevent multinationals from shifting their profits to low-tax jurisdictions and tax havens, and ensure adequate tax payments by the wealthy. The first of these objectives requires adopting the principle of “significant economic presence,” according to which multinationals pay a fair share of taxes in all countries where they operate, including through cross-border services. For rich individuals, a global asset registry based on beneficial ownership is essential.

The UN Tax Convention that is currently being negotiated could foster the international cooperation that these efforts require. But we also will need a coordinating institution, which could be created by transforming the current UN expert committee into an intergovernmental organ.

To support developing countries, IMF credit facilities should be improved, and their conditionalities should be revised. But we also need two new Fund instruments: an international swap facility and a fund that can intervene in international markets for emerging and developing countries’ bonds during downswings. These changes should be complemented by more frequent and strategically timed issuances of special drawing rights (SDRs, the IMF’s reserve asset), with the funds flowing into various mechanisms (including those within MDBs) to finance development or environmental goals while preserving their character as reserve assets.

In institutional terms, the most urgent priority is to promote regional monetary arrangements in the developing world. This, one hopes, would lead to a denser system of global and regional institutions, like what one finds with the MDBs.

In trade, the crucial issues are the need to uphold existing tariff commitments made at the World Trade Organization, and negotiating a new agreement to set the limits of industrial policies, but with special and differential treatment for developing countries. It is also essential to include exceptions for intellectual property rights related to health and environmental technologies. And to ensure fairness in the functioning of commodity markets, we must promote greater use of international and national buffer stocks.

One issue that past Conferences on Financing for Development have not touched is international financial regulation. Still, several important matters belong on this year’s agenda, including how to design or strengthen regulation of digital financial assets, international credit rating agencies, and international commodity futures markets. A new global investment agreement is also desirable, and existing investment-protection agreements should be revisited to avoid demands against national provisions that protect social and environmental standards.

Finally, several institutional reforms warrant attention. In addition to establishing adequate institutions to manage renegotiation of sovereign debt, oversee international tax cooperation, and bolster international financial cooperation, the world must heed the developing world’s longstanding demand for greater “voice and participation” in the Bretton Woods institutions. That means establishing a fair allocation of capital shares, increasing these countries’ basic votes, and creating more open, inclusive processes for selecting each body’s leadership.

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OPINION

By Serge Ekué, Javier Díaz Fajardo

# Getting Green Investment Where It’s Needed Most

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY OF LIBERIA  
GATEWAY TO LIBERIA'S ECONOMY

NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE FIRE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY

RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/002/2025  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: 25 February 2025

BACKGROUND

The National Port Authority, with the Free Port of Monrovia as the principal gateway, plays a strategic role in facilitating the country's international trade and driving its economic development. The Free Port of Monrovia, as the largest and most active port, serves as a vital hub for imports and exports, supporting key sectors such as agriculture, mining, and industry. Alongside Monrovia, other significant ports, as the Ports of Buchanan, contribute to regional connectivity and trade facilitation. Each port has its unique role in enhancing Liberia's competitiveness and linking it to global supply chains.

To strengthen the contribution of these ports to the national economy, the DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE FIRE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM is aimed at strengthening the infrastructure capacity of the NPA to meet international safety standards. The Management intends to align infrastructure development with best practices in port safety management, the project will position Liberia's ports as competitive, resilient, and environmentally responsible trade hubs, supporting the nation's long-term socio-economic growth.

Purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP)

The National Port Authority is launching this RFP to solicit competitive proposals and select a Firm/Organization (hereto referred to as "Service Provider" or "Bidder") to enter into a contract. The selection process aims to ensure that the final selected Service Providers are of the highest caliber professionally, technically and ethically to implement and execute the necessary services.

The National Port Authority now invites qualified consultancy firms, or consortia to submit proposals for the DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE FIRE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM at the freeport of Monrovia. The objective is to create a sustainable and efficient port operations that align with environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals.

All interested eligible firms or consortia may obtain copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) Document from the Procurement Department of the National Port Authority, beginning February 25, 2025, Mondays through Fridays at 9:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M, when a non-refundable fee of USD 51.50 is paid to NPA's ECO Bank USD Account.

The Account Title and Number are: National Port Authority; 6100225392.

Submission and Opening of Proposals

Submission of the Proposal

All interested firms/ Consortia participating in this Request for Proposal, are requested to submit your proposal to the address mentioned below no later than 14 April 2025, 13:00:00 hours (1:00 p.m. o'clock) hereinafter referred to as "the closing date and time").

Proposals received after the closing date and time will be rejected. All proposals and supporting documents must be submitted in hard copy and also accompanied by a soft copy placed on a USB Drive (ensure that the document placed on the USB Drive is in PDF format) on or before the closing date and time stipulated above.

The Executive Director for Procurement  
The Procurement Department  
National Port Authority  
Bushrod Island

Email: info.procurement@npa.gov.lr  
Contact number:+231886501319/770777242

Please adhere to the following instructions, unless otherwise provided in the relevant Bid Documents. The Submission must be drafted in English and contain:

A Technical Proposal and supporting documentation, with clear and concise description of your proposed actions to execute the Scope of Work/Terms of Reference and Deliverables.

The Technical Proposal should include all supporting documentation, CVs, and company profile) for successful delivery.

- A Financial Proposal
- All the supporting documentation in relation to the evaluation criteria.
- Proposals must be submitted in two separate Envelopes.
- The Technical Proposal must be named RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/002/2025-TECHNICAL Proposal.
- The Financial Proposal must be named RFP NO. NPA/QCBS/002/2025-FINANCIAL Proposal.
- All financial information must ONLY be included in the Financial Proposal. No Financial proposals, quotes or any other related financial information should appear in the Technical Proposal.
- Proposals which do not comply with these requirements, e.g., combining the financial and technical proposals in one submission or submitted in any way, other than outlined above, will be rejected.

Late submissions shall be rejected. Non-compliance with the above requirements regarding the presentation of the RFP may lead to the exclusion from the RFP process for this contract.

The proposal must be valid for the period of 120 days from the deadline of proposals. The bidder shall provide a statement confirming the period of validity of its proposal when submitting the required documents for this RFP.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_  
MANAGEMENT



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Drug case in Margibi raises public concern

*The handling of suspects arrested in a drug case by state security in Margibi County raises public concern in the county.*

*Ramsey N Singbeh Jr in Margibi*

Monrovia, Liberia, February 26, 2025 - The handling of a drugs case by some members of the Margibi County Police Detachment has raised serious concern with

anything clandestinely, he could do it without people knowing but he is a professional officer, who believes and respects the law and his ethics.

A copy of Aisha's statement explains that she got a call from

did, and he responded, promising to call back but after a while, he switched off his phone. Two conflicting statements came from the CSD office: One says that Brutus Joe Korboi claimed to have had a written statement from Samuel, but he did not give the CSD the statement. Another one says there is no statement from him because the lady's explanation did implicate him and there was no need for that.

How be it, Brutus maintains that he openly turned everything related to the case to the CSD after he made the arrest.

Henceforth, the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) in Margibi County to which one of the suspects was turned over, says it is not in the purview of the police to investigate drugs case.

The LDEA also says the suspect released could be used as a state's witness in court during the adjudication of the matter, and that ignorance of the law excuses no man, so Samuel is supposed to be turned over to the LDEA for investigation like in the case of Aisha, because he is the prime suspect caught right-handedly with the drugs (marijuana).

Information shared by a prominent member of the Margibi County Joint Security, T. Ocarleus Subah says two suspects are detained and set to be sent to court.

At the moment, the LDEA says it is still investigating the issue and making efforts to get the guy who was released by the police.

No charge has been made yet, as we are still following up on the half bag of marijuana case in Margibi. Further updates will follow subsequently. Editing by Jonathan Browne



unanswered questions in the public.

The half bag of marijuana case involves a 38-year-old Sierra Leonean women, Aisha Kamara and 33 years old Liberian identified by police as Samuel Sannie.

The Crime Services Department of the Police was unable to make available a charge sheet, a statement or provide any recorded information.

The head of operations of the police in the county, Brutus Joe Korboi on Monday, February 24, 2025, confirmed the arrest on Saturday, February 22, 2025, during the night and detained Suspects Aisha Kamara and Samuel Sannie before subsequently turning them over to the CSD in the presence of journalists.

He says if he had intention to do

one of her brothers, Jebro from the village in Sierra Leone to take delivery of his goods and after that, she received call from an unidentified driver, who told her to go to Parker Paint Junction for the goods.

According to Aisha, she got the goods and made her way back to Kakaka, not knowing that it was drugs.

The statement also says when she got to Kakaka around Lonestar Cell MTN, she asked 33 years old Samuel to help her take the goods at her house, promising to pay him. Aisha's explanation notes that while en route with the goods at her house assisted by Sam, Police arrested them, saying that was when she got to know the goods received was drugs.

She requested the police to allow her call Jebro, which she

# VOMA Energy Incorporated to train over 200 Bongese in solar installation in Bong

*By: Edwin N. Khakie*

Voice of Mama Africa (VOMA) Energy Incorporated, one of the leading renewable energy companies in Liberia, has announced partnership with the Liberia Opportunities Industrialization Center (LOIC) Bong chapter to train over 200 Bongese in solar installation.

The training, which will take place 3rd March 2025 in Bong County, aims to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to become certified solar installers.

VOMA is a Liberia owned company situated in an ideal position that mirrors the actual energy needs of the average low-come households and small business in Liberia. The initiative is part of VOMA Energy's commitment to

promoting sustainable development and providing affordable, clean energy solutions to communities in Liberia.

According to the Managing Director of VOMA Energy, Mr. Benedict Samson, the partnership with LOIC is a part

of their vision to empower local communities and create job opportunities for young people in the renewable energy sector.

"We are excited to partner with LOIC to provide training in solar

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



# Ngafuan outlines measures to bridge gap left by USAID aid cut

*The Government of Liberia says it is resolved on addressing gap created by the recent cancellation of USAID-funded projects.*

*By Stephen G. Fellajuah*

Monrovia, Liberia, February 26, 2025 - Finance and Development Planning Minister, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, reiterates here that government is committed to addressing gap created by the recent cancellation of USAID-funded projects through the implementation of fiscal reforms and policy measures. Minister Ngafuan recalls that recently, he issued fiscal rules for the government to streamline expenditures and wrote to ministries and agencies, urging them to prioritize their priorities.

He says while over US\$50 million in USAID-funded projects have been canceled, the government is implementing domestic regulations and measure to bridge the gap, while also engaging the international

targeting to minimize losses and reduce waste.

The Government of Liberia is engaging new partners and exploring regional cooperation within ECOWAS, the EU, and other blocs. Conversations are already underway on how government can strengthen connectivity to mitigate the impact of aid withdrawal.

However, critics suggest that government should reduce high recurrent expenditures on payroll, arguing that a significant portion of the budget is allocated to it.

Political commentator Dr. Francien Chenoweth Richardson states, 'We expect a strategic plan and solution-based recommendation from Finance Minister Ngafuan.'

Ngafuan assures that government remains committed to managing the country's economic situation through measures and



Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan

community to explore solutions.

According to him, some of the projects were up to 2029, including building primary schools, modern complexes across six counties. "We have submitted our report to President Boakai and are also presenting it to the legislature, outlining the short- and long-term impacts as well as our planned response," he says during a radio interview in Monrovia.

He emphasizes a need to engage partners and increase domestic resource mobilization, saying "USAID was helping us navigate that but there are other things we are doing to make sure that what we do for ourselves can compensate the aid withdrawal", he adds.

Additionally, government says it will engage in fiscal

strategic decisions.

USAID's primary aid projects in Liberia focus on improving access to quality education, health care, and infrastructure, particularly in areas such as agriculture, energy, and sanitation.

With a strong emphasis on supporting economic growth through farm-to-market road rehabilitation, workforce development, and small business support, government aims at helping Liberia recover from past conflicts and build a sustainable future. Key areas include education, healthcare, agriculture and food security, energy access, community development, governance and elections, WASH, and post-conflict recovery. Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Français

## Tweah et d'autres demandent l'immunité dans l'affaire de sabotage économique

L'ancien ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, et plusieurs anciens hauts responsables gouvernementaux ont déposé une requête en annulation des poursuites pour sabotage économique, invoquant leur immunité en raison

ministre par intérim de la Justice et ex-procureur général, Stanley S. Ford, ex-directeur de l'Agence de Renseignements Financiers, Jefferson Karmoh, ancien conseiller national de sécurité et ancien membre statutaire du Conseil national de sécurité, ainsi que D. Moses P. Cooper,

des comités de sécurité nationale protégées par la loi, rendant toute poursuite judiciaire illégitime.

« L'enquête menée par la Commission anticorruption libérienne (LACC), qui a conduit à l'acte d'accusation contesté, porte sur des activités relevant du Conseil national de sécurité du Liberia. Conformément aux lois en vigueur, ces activités sont protégées par le secret d'État et ne peuvent faire l'objet d'un examen judiciaire », ont soutenu les avocats des accusés.

Les anciens responsables affirment également que les accusations de sabotage économique, vol et autres infractions connexes violent leurs droits fondamentaux garantis par l'article III, section 21(g) de la Constitution de 1986. Selon eux, l'acte d'accusation cherche à criminaliser des actes constitutionnels, légaux et discrétionnaires



des fonctions exercées au sein du Conseil national de sécurité.

Outre M. Tweah, les co-accusés incluent Cllr. Nyenati Tuan, ancien

ancien contrôleur de l'Agence de Renseignements Financiers. La requête en annulation, déposée le lundi 24 février 2025, affirme que les accusations portées contre eux

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Ce que prévoit le nouvel accord entre ArcelorMittal Liberia et le gouvernement libérien

Des sources proches de la Commission nationale des investissements (NIC) ont révélé que le gouvernement du Liberia est sur le point de finaliser un accord historique avec ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML). Cet accord, qui amende la Convention de développement minier (MDA) existante, sera prochainement soumis au Parlement pour examen et ratification.

Selon FrontPage Africa, le gouvernement libérien a intensifié ses efforts pour obtenir des conditions plus avantageuses, notamment une augmentation des contributions financières, la création d'emplois et le renforcement des programmes de développement communautaire. « Le gouvernement met une pression considérable sur l'entreprise pour garantir des bénéfices plus importants pour le pays », confie une source proche du dossier. « Les négociateurs exigent des paiements annuels plus élevés, davantage d'emplois et une part plus importante des

revenus pour les comtés concernés. »

Un moteur pour la transformation économique et l'emploi

L'amendement proposé pourrait avoir un impact majeur sur l'économie libérienne. L'expansion de la phase II devrait attirer 1,4 milliard de dollars en investissements directs étrangers, s'ajoutant aux 1,7 milliard déjà investis par AML depuis 2005. Ce nouvel investissement deviendrait ainsi le plus important depuis la fin de la guerre civile.

Sur le plan de l'emploi, la construction de la nouvelle usine de concentration d'AML générera 2 000 emplois temporaires. Une fois opérationnelle en 2025,

l'usine créera 1 200 emplois permanents et qualifiés pour les Libériens. Afin de préparer la main-d'œuvre locale, l'accord inclut des programmes de formation spécialisés pour permettre aux travailleurs de maîtriser les technologies complexes utilisées dans l'usine. Ces initiatives offriront des opportunités durables, en particulier pour les jeunes. Un soutien renforcé aux comtés affectés

Les informations divulguées révèlent une amélioration notable du Fonds social de développement des comtés (CSDF). Les contributions

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# 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.

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# Français

## Starts from page 8 Tweah et d'autres demandent l'immunité

effectués dans le cadre de leurs fonctions officielles visant à protéger les intérêts de la sécurité nationale. Les prévenus ont averti que toute procédure judiciaire visant à examiner les actions du Conseil national de sécurité risquerait de divulguer des informations classifiées, en violation directe de la loi sur le Conseil national de sécurité. La National Security Reformed and Intelligence Act de 2011 stipule, en effet, que : « Tout membre ou employé du Conseil national de sécurité est tenu au secret concernant les informations obtenues dans le cadre de ses fonctions. La divulgation non autorisée est passible d'une amende de 100 000 dollars libériens, d'une peine pouvant aller jusqu'à dix ans de prison, ou des deux, et cette obligation demeure en vigueur jusqu'à vingt ans après la fin du mandat ou de l'emploi. » Contexte judiciaire complexe L'affaire connaît des rebondissements depuis décembre 2024, lorsque le ministère de la Justice a saisi la Cour suprême pour contester la validité d'une caution immobilière de 8 millions de dollars américains, approuvée par le juge A. Blamo Dixon de la Cour criminelle 'C'. Le juge Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay avait alors suspendu temporairement la procédure et convoqué une audience le 10 décembre 2024 pour examiner les objections du ministère public. En janvier 2025, Justice Gbeisay a ordonné la récusation du juge Dixon, invoquant des soupçons de partialité soulevés par l'accusation. Depuis, la défense n'a cessé de critiquer le parquet pour ses retards et son incapacité à fournir les preuves nécessaires, dénonçant des tactiques dilatoires qui compromettent le droit des accusés à un procès équitable. En réponse, le juge Roosevelt Z. Willie de la Cour criminelle 'A' a exigé en février 2025 que le ministère public transmette toutes les pièces pertinentes à la défense, soulignant l'importance du respect des délais procéduraux. Vers une décision décisive Alors que l'affaire reste dans une impasse juridique au 24 février 2025, les avocats de la défense pressent la cour de rejeter les charges, invoquant les retards du parquet et les doutes persistants quant à l'impartialité judiciaire. L'audience sur la requête en annulation est prévue pour ce mercredi. Les décisions judiciaires à venir seront cruciales pour déterminer l'issue de ce procès très médiatisé.

## Starts from page 8 Ce que prévoit le nouvel accord entre

annuelles d'AML passeront à 3,5 millions de dollars, au profit des comtés de Bong, Grand Bassa et Nimba. Alors qu'auparavant seulement 20 % du CSDF étaient directement attribués à des projets sélectionnés par les communautés, le nouvel accord prévoit que 100 % des fonds soient désormais gérés localement. Cette modification donnera aux autorités locales un contrôle accru sur l'utilisation des fonds, permettant des investissements significatifs dans les infrastructures, la santé, l'éducation et d'autres services essentiels. Le gouvernement continue également de négocier pour obtenir des contributions encore plus importantes afin de stimuler davantage le développement local. Un système ferroviaire et portuaire accessible à plusieurs utilisateurs L'accord consolide également le contrôle du Liberia sur ses infrastructures stratégiques, notamment le chemin de fer et le port. Le gouvernement en demeure l'unique propriétaire, mais l'amendement introduit un cadre multi-usagers, permettant à d'autres entreprises, y compris des sociétés minières guinéennes, d'accéder à ces installations. AML exploitera le chemin de fer selon un modèle de recouvrement des coûts, sans générer de bénéfices supplémentaires grâce aux autres utilisateurs. Ces derniers paieront directement un droit de transit au gouvernement libérien. Par ailleurs, les entreprises souhaitant utiliser ces infrastructures devront contribuer financièrement à leur extension, renforçant ainsi la capacité logistique et commerciale du pays. Une augmentation substantielle des revenus publics Ce nouvel accord pourrait doubler, voire tripler, les revenus publics issus des activités d'AML. Actuellement, l'entreprise verse entre 30 et 40 millions de dollars par an en taxes, redevances et droits divers. Avec l'expansion, ce chiffre devrait atteindre 75 millions de dollars annuellement, et jusqu'à 200 millions lorsque la phase II atteindra sa pleine capacité. La production de minerai de fer devrait également tripler, passant de 5 millions de tonnes par an (mtpa) à 15 mtpa de concentré de haute qualité. À long terme, l'accord prévoit la possibilité d'augmenter la production jusqu'à 30 mtpa, positionnant ainsi le Liberia comme un acteur majeur du marché mondial du minerai de fer. Des initiatives communautaires et sanitaires renforcées Le gouvernement libérien veille également à ce que les communautés locales bénéficient directement de l'accord. AML a déjà investi plus de 48 millions de dollars dans des projets communautaires, incluant des programmes de formation en agriculture, cosmétologie, alphabétisation et menuiserie. Côté santé, AML gère deux hôpitaux et deux cliniques à Buchanan et Yekepa, qui accueillent près de 30 000 patients chaque année, dont plus de 60 % proviennent des communautés locales. L'entreprise a également versé plus de 24 millions de dollars en compensations aux agriculteurs pour les pertes de récoltes et les déplacements liés aux activités minières. Le gouvernement souhaite désormais obtenir davantage d'investissements dans les secteurs de la santé et de l'éducation, ainsi que des compensations supplémentaires pour les communautés affectées. Une dernière étape avant la ratification Les négociateurs gouvernementaux sont en train de finaliser les derniers détails avant de soumettre l'accord au Parlement. « Cet amendement ne se limite pas à l'exploitation minière », affirme une source au sein de la NIC. « Il représente une opportunité unique de transformation économique, de création d'emplois, d'amélioration des infrastructures et de progrès social. » Alors que le Liberia se prépare à examiner cet

## Le Sénat libérien examine la demande d'audit des fonds de l'USAID

Le Sénat libérien a annoncé qu'il étudiait une demande d'audit de tous les programmes financés par l'USAID dans le pays. La plénière du Sénat a mandaté sa Commission des comptes publics et d'audit pour analyser en profondeur la requête adressée à la Commission générale d'audit (GAC) visant à auditer l'ensemble des institutions publiques ayant bénéficié de financements de l'USAID. Cette décision fait suite à une communication du sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Saah H. Joseph, adressée le jeudi 20 février 2025 à la présidente pro tempore du Sénat, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence. Dans sa lettre, le sénateur Joseph a souligné l'importance de la transparence et de la reddition de comptes dans l'utilisation des fonds des donateurs. Il a reconnu la contribution significative de l'USAID au développement du Liberia, notamment par des appuis financiers et techniques dans les secteurs de la gouvernance, des infrastructures, de l'éducation, de la santé et de l'économie. Selon le sénateur Joseph, l'audit proposé permettra d'évaluer l'allocation et la distribution des fonds, la conformité aux règlements financiers ainsi que l'efficacité des projets financés. Il estime également que cet audit aidera la Législature à mieux comprendre l'utilisation des ressources et pourrait conduire à une révision du budget 2025 afin de combler les lacunes financières apparues suite à l'annulation des aides américaines par le président Donald Trump. Le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a reconnu les impacts directs et indirects de l'arrêt des aides. Il a rappelé que plusieurs organisations internationales soutenues par l'USAID ont réduit leurs



activités, l'USAID étant le deuxième plus grand donateur du Liberia après la Banque mondiale. Il a précisé que l'USAID avait investi environ 422 millions de dollars entre 2021 et 2029 et que des accords étaient en cours pour débloquer plus de 100 millions de dollars supplémentaires pour l'éducation, la santé, l'agriculture et d'autres secteurs clés avant que l'aide ne soit interrompue. Interrogé sur les mesures envisagées pour pallier les conséquences de cette suspension, le ministre Ngafuan a déclaré que le gouvernement avait pris acte de la décision des États-Unis. Il a ajouté que son ministère avait finalisé un rapport sur les impacts à court et à long terme, qui sera prochainement soumis au président Boakai et à la 55e législature pour orienter les actions à entreprendre face à ces défis.

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# Concerned Liberians petition House

**-Over proliferation of substandard building materials**

Concerned citizens petition the House of Representatives to intervene in the manufacturing of substandard building materials in the country.

By Bridgett Milton  
Monrovia, Liberia, February 26, 2025 - A group of Liberians under the banner Concerned Liberian Businessmen and



Women petition the House of Representatives here, over proliferation of substandard building materials in the country. According to the group, the use of such materials poses a serious threat to safety of citizens as well as hinders progress and development of infrastructure. "We must take swift action to address this issue and ensure that only high-quality building materials are used in

construction projects. The production and sale of substandard materials must be strictly regulated and those found to violate quality standards must be held accountable," the group urges. Presenting its petition Tuesday to the House of Representatives, the Spokesperson of the group, Sam Freeman said foreign entities, especially Sehti Brothers Incorporated, have dominated the steel rod market in Liberia, driving local businesses out and depriving the economy of valuable opportunities for growth and development. Mr. Freeman notes that

furthermore, the substandard quality of these materials and increase in steel rod prices by Sehti Brothers Company, pose a serious risk to the safety and stability of buildings and infrastructure. The group is calling for strict implementation of regulations and standards for the production of steel rods and other building materials to ensure they meet quality and safety standards as well as conduct regular inspections and audits of manufacturing plants to ensure compliance. Freeman continued that they want the Legislature to penalize companies found producing substandard materials to deter such practices, provide incentives and support for local businesses to enhance their capacity and quality standards in the manufacturing sector. Receiving the petition on behalf of the House, the Chairman on Claims and Petition, Representative Prince Toles thanks the petitioners for coming to the Legislature, because issues raised are very important. Rep. Toles assures that the petition will be presented to plenary to make a decision and get back to them. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Former deputy minister donates to J.J. Dossen Hospital

Former government minister Isaac Doe donates to JJ Dossen Hospital in Maryland County.

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County  
Maryland, Liberia, February 26, 2025 - A former deputy minister of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Isaac Doe, has donated essential supplies to the JJ Dossen Hospital in his native Maryland County. The donation, which reflects Mr. Doe's ongoing humanitarian work and commitment to his home county, was held at the hospital, bringing together hospital administrators, nurses, youths, women and patients. The donation includes soap, sanitary pads, tissues, Omo soap, among others with an estimated cost of 150,000 Liberian Dollars. Making the presentation on behalf of Mr. Doe, Sarafina Butty expressed gratitude to the hospital's healthcare workers for their dedication and emphasized the vital role the institution plays in region's healthcare. She emphasized a need for increased support to complement government's efforts, adding that the hospital has been contributing greatly to

the people in the southeast. "I am here today to appreciate all of you for your hard work in caring for the people of Maryland, especially those who fall ill. You are doing a great job, and I believe you deserve more recognition and support from us as citizens. We must continue to supplement government's efforts", Mrs Butty said. He said former minister Doe is committed to giving back to his people, and that the donation is just the beginning. She quotes Mr. Doe as saying the

donation followed a conversation he had with a resident, who described the hospital's challenges, including lack of basic supplies like tissue in the bathrooms. "That conversation moved me to make this small contribution to help our people out," she quotes Doe to have said. Receiving the items on behalf of the hospital, Dr. Bill Davis lauded Mr. Doe for the timely donation and encouraged others to follow his example. He pointed out that while financial donations are helpful, he prefers tangible goods as they directly support the hospital's daily operations. Editing by Jonathan Browne.



Isaac Doe

# House elects new representatives to ECOWAS

The ECOWAS Parliament is to receive new representatives from Liberia.

By Bridgett Milton  
Monrovia, Liberia, February 26, 2025 - The House of Representatives has elected three lawmakers to represent Liberia at the ECOWAS Parliament, replacing allies of embattled Speaker Fonati Koffa.

The decision was reached through a white-ballot process. It follows internal political disputes over legislative authority and Liberia's representation in the regional body.

The newly-elected Representatives are: Moima Briggs Mensah of Bong County District # 6, Augustine Chiewolo of Lofa County district #5, from the ruling Unity Party, and Rep. Samson Q. Wiah of Sinoe County district #2, representing the opposition CDC.

Both Representative Chiewolo and Wiah replace

political representation. The recall of Koffa's allies is seen as a significant shift in the power dynamics of the House, as lawmakers move to assert greater control over the country's delegation to the ECOWAS Parliament. It may be recalled that Senator Edwin Snowe, Liberia's most senior lawmaker at the ECOWAS Parliament, strongly opposed the recall, warning that ECOWAS operates independently and may not recognize the decision. Snowe cautioned against using internal political disputes as justification for recalling representatives and urged President Joseph Boakai to remain neutral in the matter. "The ECOWAS Parliament is governed by its own rules, and not even the current ECOWAS Chairman, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed



Rev. Samuel Enders and Taa Wongbe, both of whom were selected under Cllr. Koffa's leadership. The new lawmakers will represent Liberia in ECOWAS policy discussions on trade, security, governance, and regional integration. The election follows a contentious ruling by majority lawmakers under Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon, which ordered withdrawal of the previous representatives. Lawmakers Johnson S.N. Williams and James Kolleh filed a formal complaint, arguing that Koffa's selections were made without plenary's approval and failed to ensure proper Tinubu, can enforce such a recall." Snowe had said. Despite the decision, reports suggest that the ECOWAS Parliament may reject the recall attempt, citing procedural concerns. If the regional body refuses to accept the changes, Liberia's representation could be thrown into uncertainty, weakening its influence in ECOWAS affairs. For now, the newly elected lawmakers are set to assume their roles, but the controversy surrounding their selection highlights ongoing political tensions within the legislature. Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Court rules in Capitol's arson case

The Monrovia City Court says state prosecution has sufficient evidence to proceed with the December 18, 2024, arson attack against the Capitol Building.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, February 26, 2025 - The Monrovia City Court Stipendiary Magistrate, L. Ben Barco,



rules in favor of the state here, in the Capitol building arson case. The case, which involves Defendants Thomas Etheridge and Eric Sasay, has attracted significant attention due to the high-profile nature of the crime. In his ruling delivered on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, Magistrate Barco emphasized that "The prosecution had presented enough evidence to establish a prima facie case." This means that the evidence adduced was sufficient to warrant further legal proceedings against the defendants, Thomas Etheridge and Eric Sasay, for the charges brought against them in the Capitol building arson case. The court's decision indicates that the case will proceed, and the defendants will have to answer to the charges, which could have serious legal consequences, if

found guilty. The ruling further highlighted testimony from the prosecution's first witness, who provided crucial details about the

case. According to the witness, Defendants Etheridge and Sasay allegedly conspired and coordinated their actions to purchase gasoline, which was then used to set the Capitol Building on fire. The fire resulted in the destruction of property worth over eight million U.S. dollars. The court clarifies that the case is still in its preliminary examination stage, where the prosecution had the responsibility to prove a prima facie case against the defendants. Besides arson case, the defendants were also accused of attacking a police officer during the incident. The officer allegedly suffered injuries that left him unconscious, and his firearm was stolen. The court notes that testimonies of all three prosecution witnesses were consistent and corroborative in detailing how the defendants, along with their co-conspirators, gained

access to the Capitol Building. According to the witnesses, the defendants' primary intention was to disrupt the proceedings of lawmakers in the Joint Chambers. This coordinated effort to interrupt governmental operations adds another layer to the charges against the defendants. In his ruling, Magistrate Barco acknowledges, "The prosecution had presented substantial evidence in an effort to establish a prima facie case. This evidence included materials collected from the crime scenes, as well as data retrieved from electronic gadgets." The court emphasizes that unless the defense can effectively rebut this evidence, it would remain strong and stand as facts in the case. The Monrovia City Court has ordered the clerk of court to transmit the case records, along with Defendants Thomas Etheridge and Eric Sasay, to the First Judicial Circuit, Criminal Court "A" for further proceedings. This decision signifies that the case has moved beyond the preliminary examination stage, where the prosecution successfully established a prima facie case. Now, the higher court will take over for a more in-depth trial process, during which both the prosecution and defense will present their full arguments and evidence. On Wednesday morning, December 18, 2024, residents of the capital Monrovia woke up to thick black smoke and flames from the Capitol building, destroying the entire joint chambers of the legislature. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# LWSC urges P/Works to demolish structures on sewage and water lines

The plan if effectively implemented could solve the problems of faeces spilling on the streets.

By: Kruah Thompson

Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC), Managing Director Mohammed Ali has urged the Ministry of Public Works to help demolish structures built on water and sewage lines within Monrovia. This request, according to Mr. Ali, follows an extensive investigation conducted by the LWSC management to determine whether they have the legal right to take such action. Making the disclosure Tuesday February 25, 2025, Mr. Ali inform the NewDawn that their investigation uncover that the water and sewage systems in Liberia were initially constructed in 1960 during the presidency of William V.S. Tubman. 'Before the construction began, a commission was established to collect claims from landowners whose properties would be affected by the placement of the water and sewage lines.' He stated At the time, he said that landowners were compensated for 15 feet of

lines, which is contributing to the persistent problems of sewage spilling in the streets of Monrovia. He claims that their technicians who have been investigating the issue discovered that some buildings were obstructing the manholes, which are essential for the maintenance and cleaning of the sewage system. As a result, the sewage lines cannot be properly serviced, even if vacuum trucks are used to remove the waste. In response to this issue, the LWSC has identified all sewage lines and manholes affected by these constructions and has called for the demolition of any structures that are obstructing these vital systems. "It does not matter who builds on the sewage line, we will ask the public works Ministry to demolish it," Mr. Ali stated. He claims that One example of this issue is located between Broad Street and McClain Street, where stores were built directly on top of



Mohammed Ali

land, and it was made clear that no construction should take place within this 15-foot boundary of the water and sewage lines. In addition to this, he claims that President Tubman issued a proclamation stating that it was illegal for anyone to build within 15 feet of the water and sewage infrastructure. But despite these measures, the LWSC managing director reported that numerous structures have been built on top of or very near to these critical sewage and water

the sewage line. "When the matter was raised for demolition, the case went to court. Based on the evidence presented, we are confident that these structures will soon be demolished." He added Meanwhile LWSC has emphasized the importance of clearing these obstructions to ensure the proper functioning of the sewage and water systems, which are vital for public health and sanitation in Monrovia. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

## Starts from page 7 VOMA Energy Incorporated to train over

installation to the people of Bong County. This training will not only provide opportunities for employment but also contribute to the development of the county and the country as a whole," he said. The training program will cover topics such as solar panel installation, maintenance and troubleshooting, as well as business management and customer service. The training will be conducted by qualified solar experts and will include both theoretical and practical components. Meanwhile the Director of LOIC Bong chapter, Mrs.

Rachel Pay, expressed her gratitude for the partnership with VOMA Energy and stressed the importance of renewable energy in promoting economic growth and sustainable development in Liberia. She encouraged Bongese to take advantage of the opportunity. "We are pleased to partner with VOMA Energy to empower the people of Bong County with skills in solar installation. This is a great opportunity for young people to acquire new skills and create opportunities for themselves and their communities," she said. The training program is expected to kick off in the

coming weeks and will be open to all interested Bongese. Upon completion, participants will receive certification from VOMA Energy and LOIC, which will enable them to start their own solar installation businesses or work with established companies in the sector. This partnership between VOMA Energy and LOIC is a step towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

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