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# Continental News

## Sudan military plane crashes in residential area

By Basillioh Rukanga

At least 46 people have been killed and 10 others injured after a Sudanese military plane crashed in a residential neighbourhood in Omdurman, the twin city of the capital Khartoum, state media says.

The Antonov aircraft came down after take-off from the military's Wadi Seidna air base on Tuesday evening, killing military officers and civilians.



The Wadi Seidna air base is an important hub for the military near Khartoum

The cause of the crash is unclear, but military sources have been quoted as saying that it was likely to have been a technical malfunction.

The crash came a day after the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) - which is at war with the army - said it had downed a fighter jet in South Darfur.

[Sudan war: A simple guide to what is happening](#)

The conflict has devastated large parts of Sudan - including

Khartoum and Omdurman - with thousands of people killed and about 12 million displaced.

The health ministry said that emergency teams rushed injured civilians, including children, to a nearby hospital following Tuesday's plane crash.

A senior army commander in Khartoum was among those killed, Reuters news agency quoted unnamed military sources as saying.

Witnesses said there was a loud explosion and several homes were damaged when the plane came down, the AFP news agency reports.

The crash also caused power outages in nearby neighbourhoods, it added.

Sudan has been hit by a civil war since April 2023, when the army and the RSF became involved in a vicious power struggle.

The war has split the country, with the army controlling the north and the east while the RSF holds most of the Darfur region in the west and parts of the south.

In recent weeks, the army has retaken parts of Khartoum and surrounding areas from the RSF.

## UK suspension of aid is 'punitive', Rwanda says

The UK's decision to suspend some aid to Rwanda is "punitive", authorities in the East African country have said.

In a statement, the UK said it was against Rwanda's support for the M23, a rebel group that has captured swathes of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in a deadly uprising.

Rwanda used to deny backing the M23, but recently it has adopted a more defensive line, saying fighting near the border between DR Congo and Rwanda is a threat to its security.

More than 7,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands have fled their homes since the conflict escalated in January, DR Congo's government says.

[What's the fighting in DR Congo all about?](#)

[The evidence that shows Rwanda is backing rebels in DR Congo](#)

The UK said the humanitarian situation in DR Congo was "critical" and that it would halt bilateral aid to Rwanda, "excluding support to the poorest and most vulnerable".

Earlier this month, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy said Rwanda receives about £32m (\$40m) of bilateral aid from the UK every year. Along with the suspension of aid, the UK will impose other measures, such as looking into potential sanctions and suspending "future defence training assistance", the statement said.

These measures will last until

"significant progress" is made in ceasing hostilities and withdrawing Rwandan military personnel from DR Congo, it added.

UN experts have previously estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 Rwandan troops are in eastern DR Congo.

Rwanda's foreign ministry said the "punitive measures" announced by the UK government "in response to the conflict in eastern DRC - where the UK has now clearly chosen a side - are regrettable".

"The measures do nothing to help the Democratic Republic of Congo, nor do they contribute to achieving a sustainable political solution to the conflict in eastern DRC."

The UK has previously enjoyed good relations with Rwanda. In 2022, the two countries signed a multi-million pound deal, in which some asylum seekers arriving on British soil would be deported to Rwanda.

The deal faced legal challenges and was scrapped last year after a

change in the UK's government.

DR Congo's government has been campaigning for international powers to suspend aid and impose sanctions on Rwanda.

Last week, the US Treasury Department said it had imposed sanctions on Rwanda's Minister of State for Regional Integration, James Kabarebe.

The US accused Kabarebe, a former army chief, of being central to Rwanda's support for M23.

Also sanctioned was Lawrence Kanyuka, the M23's spokesman, as well as two companies he controlled in France and the UK, the US Treasury said.

Responding to the US move, Rwanda's foreign ministry said the sanctions were "unjustified". The M23 says it is fighting to achieve [better rights for the Tutsis](#), an ethnic minority group in DR Congo, and to bring order to a failed state.

The rebels have captured eastern DR Congo's two biggest cities, Goma and Bukavu.



The Rwanda-backed M23 group have seized the two biggest cities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

## Tinubu ex-ally criticises Nigeria reforms

One of the architects of Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's 2023 election victory has criticised the reforms being carried out by his government.

In an interview with Arise TV, Nasir El-Rufai said the president's decision to import food to lower prices would impoverish the country's farmers.

In response, presidential spokesman Bayo Onanuga said that even though El-Rufai had worked hard for Tinubu's election, it was time for him to move on from the disappointment of not being made a minister.

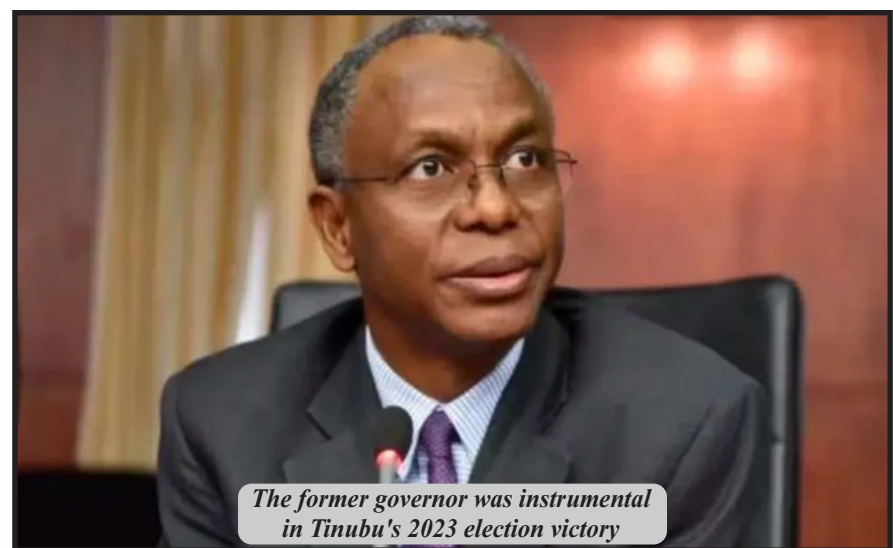
subsidised agricultural products from Europe and other countries," he said.

"I have issues with many of them [Tinubu's policies], and I'm in touch with many senior officials of the administration, and I give them my opinion privately."

The former minister also said his party had abandoned its founding values and internal democracy, warning he might leave if reforms were not made.

El-Rufai also said he had supported Tinubu in 2023 not because he was the best but because the 72-year-old was the candidate of his party.

"As a loyal party man, I was duty bound to support the party's candidate," he noted.



The former governor was instrumental in Tinubu's 2023 election victory

The 65-year-old, one of the founding members of the ruling All Progressives Congress party, was tipped to be one of Tinubu's most influential ministers before his nomination was declined by parliament.

"You don't address food inflation by destroying domestic agriculture," said El-Rufai.

"Food prices may be going down, but farmers are being impoverished because they are being made to compete with

He also spoke about his nomination as a minister which was later turned down by the senate over a security report.

"The idea that the National Assembly rejected me is not true. The decision was made by the president himself. Either he changed his mind, or some other factors influenced him. Regardless, I have moved on," El-Rufai said.

The politician, who has been seen with opposition figures recently, did not rule out moving to another party before the next general elections in 2027.

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# 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 Laurence Tubiana

## What European Security Requires

PARIS – Never has it been so obvious that Europe must stand on its own. But as European leaders debate how to do so, they should not fall for the bogus trade-off between security and competitiveness, on one hand, and climate goals on the other. Doing so would squander one of Europe's major strategic advantages: its substantial lead in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

This advantage is not just aluxury for calmer times or a distraction from the pursuit of security and economic resilience. After all, energy is at the heart of Europe's security challenge. Dependence on Russian gas proved to be a critical vulnerability in 2022, triggering economic and political shocks that are still reverberating. Higher energy costs have constrained many EU member states' fiscal capacity – and thus their ability to invest more in defense.

In the three years since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Europe has made positive strides in weaning itself off Russian gas. But while liquefied natural gas (LNG) from other suppliers has provided short-term relief, it does not offer lasting energy security. This winter's colder temperatures sent gas prices higher again, highlighting Europe's continued vulnerability. Investing in more LNG infrastructure will not solve this problem. The LNG market, perpetually subject to cold snaps, supply disruptions, and increased demand from other regions, is inherently volatile.

The only path to genuine energy security runs through the transition to a clean, domestic energy system based on renewables, batteries, and related technologies. Such a system would stabilize prices for households and businesses while insulating Europe from external pressure.

Europe has already made headway on this front. Renewables generated 47% of the European Union's electricity in 2024, surpassing fossil fuels, which fell to 29% – their lowest share on record. But we must maintain this momentum. No energy-intensive industry – including AI – can hope to invest and scale up in Europe if it remains exposed to fossil-fuel volatility.

The European Commission is rightly focusing on strengthening Europe's clean industrial base: the design and production of the materials and technologies that will drive both economic competitiveness and decarbonization. The EU's work toward a Clean Industrial Deal represents a chance to position Europe as a global leader, not just a participant, in the economy of the future.

But given budget constraints, any new funds must be deployed wisely. That means emphasizing emerging clean technologies like batteries – a market projected to grow by 30% annually up to 2030. While China has a head start with its vertically integrated battery supply chains and advanced expertise, Europe still has a chance to compete and establish a strong position. Indeed, Poland is already the world's second-largest lithium-ion battery producer.

Europe's strategy must align with our values. The Clean Industrial Deal will be a test of the EU's ability to ensure that no region or community is left behind. The EU is at its best when helping member states bolster social and regional cohesion. It has a strong track record of managing economic integration, mitigating the downsides of globalization, and fostering regional development through tools like cohesion funds. It now must devise bold social and employment policies (including retraining) to create high-quality jobs in all regions –

especially those with carbon-intensive industries.

This will require strong cooperation among member states. A free-for-all of national state aid and industrial policies would deepen regional divides. Last year's Letta Report on the EU's single market proposed that member states contribute a fixed percentage of their state aid allocations to a common fund. Contributions in the range of 5-15% could generate €8.5-51 billion (\$8.9-54 billion) annually, some portion of which could be allocated for clean industrialization.

Lowering Europe's climate ambition in the name of competitiveness would be a grave mistake. Companies across the continent are vying to secure a share of a global clean-technology market that is projected to exceed \$2 trillion by 2035. The EU Green Deal remains central to this vision, providing certainty for businesses by guaranteeing a growing market for their products.

Changing course now would significantly complicate matters, derailing countless business models and leaving Europe behind. Hence, some European companies have publicly warned against backtracking and many more, including several CEOs whom I have spoken to, express the same concerns privately.

The EU's sustainable-finance framework is an important part of its strategy. As last year's Draghi Report on EU competitiveness emphasized, Europe's problem is not a shortage of capital, but inefficiencies in how its abundant savings are allocated. Investors need high-quality, reliable, and comparable corporate disclosures, including insights into climate risks. The sustainable-finance framework might not be fashionable, but it is essential in providing this information. As investor groups managing some €6.6 trillion in assets recently warned, any significant backpedaling risks choking off European companies' access to finance. Thousands of businesses that are planning for and investing in a low-carbon economy would be undermined.

Strengthening European strategic autonomy requires not isolation but interdependence. Although the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act rightly aims to scale up domestic mining, refining, and recycling of the materials essential for the green transition, Europe will remain reliant on imports. Rather than chasing the illusion of total self-sufficiency, the EU should focus on deepening cooperation with reliable international partners.

Notwithstanding developments in the United States, many countries still believe in working together on shared challenges. As Olivier Blanchard and Jean Pisani-Ferry argue, the EU, which embodies multilateralism, is well placed to organize an effective collective response to climate change and energy insecurity with likeminded partners.

By committing to an ambitious 2040 emissions-reduction target of 90%, the EU can lead by example and negotiate new climate agreements with third countries such as Japan, Brazil, China, and (possibly) India. China, in particular, has a huge stake in building a green economy, not least because it needs export markets for its enormous clean-tech manufacturing sector.

Europe's climate leadership is not a burden, but a strategic asset. Doubling down on the green transition will help secure its economic edge, strengthen energy security, and reinforce its global standing. The choice is clear: We can lead with confidence or risk falling behind in a world that will not wait for us.



OP-ED

By Friedrich Merz

European Security Cannot Be Found in the Past

BERLIN – A short trip to Germany instead of the planned state visit. A four-way meeting in the Chancellery instead of the conference in Ramstein to coordinate future aid for Ukraine with some 50 participating states, including numerous heads of state and government. With Hurricane Milton in Florida preventing US President [Joe Biden](#) from adhering to his [planned itinerary](#), the entire European political scene was thrown off course.

There is no other way to describe the events of the last 14 days. Worse yet, what happened – or, more accurately, what *didn't* happen – in Germany exemplifies the desolate state of European foreign and security policy at a critical moment.

Why did the Ramstein conference have to be canceled? Was it only because the American president couldn't be there? Were the Europeans not strong enough to host a conference without the participation of the American president, or, if necessary, with the US Secretary of State or Secretary of Defense present?

The just-completed German-United Kingdom [defense pact](#) suggests that where there is a will, action can be taken. But Europe needs more than such narrowly tailored bilateral agreements, no matter how positive they can be.

The reason is abundantly clear: Ukraine is desperately waiting for more help. The third winter of the war Russian President Vladimir Putin launched in February 2022 is just around the corner, and the country's situation is getting worse by the week. That Ukraine will get “all the help it needs, and it will get it for as long as it needs it,” has been the routine refrain heard in most European capitals, especially from the German government, for two and a half years. But this claim is simply wrong, no matter how many times it is repeated.

The history of aid to Ukraine is a history of constant dithering and hesitation, of stalling and tactics. When nothing else helps, the American president is called upon to break the political logjam.

But Biden spent much of this year, before his withdrawal from the presidential race, on the campaign trail. Now he is on a farewell tour. A new president will be elected on November 5, and if his name is Donald Trump, there will be no slipstream for the Europeans to hide in. The canceled Ramstein conference would have been the perfect opportunity for Europe to at long last take the lead.

German Chancellor [Olaf Scholz](#) should have shown what the [Zeitenwende](#) (“turning point”) which Scholz declared following Russia's invasion means for Europe as a whole. Together with France and Great Britain, he should have made clear statements to Putin: If you did not end your war of terror against Ukraine's civilian population within 24 hours, they could have said, the range limits on the weapons being supplied to Ukraine will be lifted.

If that were not enough, it could have been added that Germany would supply [Taurus cruise missiles](#) to Ukraine to help destroy the Russian army's supply routes into the country. France and Great Britain are already supplying [cruise missiles](#) with the range needed to hit the Russian army's supply lines and are apparently prepared to go down this path.

Fear and the desperate hope of being able to portray himself as a “[peace chancellor](#)” shortly before Germany's federal election next year have become Scholz's dominant motives. But “fear is the mother of all cruelty,” as Michel de Montaigne, the sixteenth-century French philosopher, put it. French President [Emmanuel Macron](#) has no doubt read Montaigne and understands that warning.

Instead of acting decisively at Ramstein, Scholz had a nice coffee with Biden, shortly before the US president was awarded the special level of the [Order of Merit](#) of the Federal Republic of Germany. But that award ceremony was a moment that united Great Britain, France, Germany, and the US merely in nostalgia, not in defining the decisive action and sense of purpose which Europe needs today.

Indeed, the ceremony recalled nothing so much as how Germany's government behaved in the years before the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification, before the division of Europe was overcome, before the war in Ukraine. The old Europe of the Cold War sought comfort in the past and confidence in the solitary US leadership that defined the era. Europeans forging their own decisions were rarely even an afterthought back then. For example, did no one even think of inviting Polish Prime Minister [Donald Tusk](#) to the meeting in Berlin?

Biden's flight back to Washington following the aborted Ramstein conference and the diminished meeting in Berlin's Chancellery may take on an almost symbolic significance in the future: the last Atlanticist US president for a long time bidding farewell to Europe. And the Europeans, without leadership and without the slightest idea of what lies ahead, waving goodbye to him, dreamily reminiscing about earlier times.

*Friedrich Merz is Leader of the Christian Democratic Union.*

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OPINION

by Jaynisha Patel

The Sahel's Dangerous Downward Spiral

LONDON – Africa's Sahel region is enduring a period of rapid change – and deepening instability. Military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger – now known as the Central Sahel – have rejected traditional partnerships with the West in favor of new patrons: China and Russia. Add to that the fragmentation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the region's geopolitical map is being redrawn, with consequences that stretch far beyond West Africa.

Geopolitical developments are not the only source of volatility in the Sahel. Accelerating climate change – temperatures in the region are rising 1.5 times faster than the global average – is disrupting traditional lifestyles, undermining livelihoods, and threatening food security. But shifts in the regional balance of power are making matters much worse.

As of last month, French troops have withdrawn from the Sahel altogether, following the severing of defense ties by the region's governments, from Mali to Chad. This process, together with the collapse of United Nations peacekeeping efforts, has created a security vacuum that extremist groups have quickly moved to fill. The likes of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (ISIS) are carrying out an alarming 35-40 attacks per week across the region – up 15% year on year.

Paralyzed by the wave of regime change across what has become known as the “coup belt,” and dealt a heavy blow by the recent departure of the Central Sahel countries, ECOWAS – once a pillar of regional stability – has struggled to mount a coordinated response to the surge in violent extremism. Extremists have exploited the deadlock in the fractured bloc to establish themselves as de facto authorities in a growing number of Sahelian communities. While the election of new African Union leadership offers a promising opportunity to re-energize the continent's collective response to these developments, extremist groups continue to capitalize on regional instability.

In areas where the state's presence is weak and competition for resources is high, such groups leverage their understanding of local grievances, as well as their ties to global extremist networks, to position themselves as providers of resources and guarantors of justice. As they enhance their legitimacy by maintaining order, distributing food, and managing land disputes, they deliberately weaken state institutions and exacerbate resource shortages to deepen dependency on their parallel governance structures.

This calculated and insidious strategy has been on display in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex of national parks – West Africa's largest protected wilderness area, shared by Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger. Once a model of cross-border cooperation, the WAP Complex has been closed since 2019, and extremist groups have exploited gaps in management to assert control over local security, taxation, and resource exploitation in some areas.

Meanwhile, external actors, such as Russia, have been leveraging political instability and weak governance to strengthen their foothold in the Sahel and secure access to strategic resources like uranium and other minerals. More broadly, the Sahel has become a key theater in an escalating global competition for geopolitical influence. All this means the region – in particular, the Central Sahel – could become a global flash point, with extremist groups embedded in communities, and external powers waging proxy conflicts and reshaping critical-mineral supply chains to their liking. The resulting volatility would almost certainly have spillover effects beyond the region – and even beyond Africa. As escalating conflicts draw in a growing number of actors and worsen the Sahel's humanitarian crisis, a surge in destabilizing migration flows would be all but guaranteed.

To avoid this outcome, the Sahel's ongoing geopolitical realignment must be managed through revitalized regional cooperation. A key element of this approach, as described in a recent report from the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, is a new Sahel Compact, which incorporates governance reforms, security measures, and the strengthening of economic resilience into a single framework. Implementation will require a clear and feasible strategy to address the intertwined challenges the region is facing.

Unlike past initiatives to strengthen regional stability, which tended to focus on isolated interventions, the Sahel Compact would emphasize not only sustained coordination, but also external support. Rather than deliver prescriptive diktats, however, Western governments must foster partnerships that respect the agency of African states. New players in the Sahel, such as the Gulf states and China, must also buy into a collective vision for revitalizing regional cooperation.

By aligning resource governance with security and economic development, and building genuine partnerships with West African governments, the international community can help foster long-term resilience and stability in the Sahel. But whether this will be possible amid the unfolding global contest for geopolitical influence remains an open question. One hopes that global players recognize just how high the costs of inaction would be, and get the geopolitics right, before the Sahel's downward spiral becomes irreversible.

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FEATUREARTICLE

# A Nationalist Wake-Up Call: Embracing Self-Reliance for Liberia's Future;

By: *Austin S Fallah-A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:*

In a rapidly changing world, the clarion call for self-reliance and pragmatic solutions resounds louder than ever, especially for the nation of Liberia.

As we stand at a crossroads, it is imperative that all Liberians, particularly the youths, politicians, and every citizen, rally together in an uplifting proclamation of nationalism and self-determination.

The time has come for the people of Liberia to wake up from years of dependency on foreign aid and prioritize our nation's social and economic well-being.

In light of shifting global dynamics, we must recognize that the days of reliance on financial handouts are over or almost over. Now, more than ever, we must embrace a mindset of resilience and self-sufficiency. The reality is stark. The international landscape is undergoing significant transformation.

Many nations, including Liberia, have received decades of foreign financial aid, military support, and political intervention.

However, as the world becomes more complex, the fundamental nature of these relationships is changing.

The reliance on external funding and intervention is not a sustainable strategy for a country that boasts rich natural resources and a vibrant, youthful population.

In fact, recent signals from major global players indicate that the era of easy aid is dwindling, and it is now incumbent upon Liberians to turn inward, identifying and harnessing our potential.

Once a stalwart ally providing aid to Liberia, the United States government has made it clear that business as usual is over.

While uncertainties abound in international relations, the underlying message remains that Liberia must chart its own course. The vibrant youth of this nation hold the key to a new era of prosperity.

Young Liberians must rise to the challenge, recognizing their intrinsic value and contribution to the nation's future. Occupying the sidelines or relying on foreign benefactors' promises is no longer sufficient.

Every Liberian should be actively involved in shaping their country's economic and social landscape. In embracing this self-reliant ethos, Liberians must prioritize investment in domestic industries.

Our nation has natural resources, rich soils, forests, minerals, and a youthful population ready to innovate and energize local businesses.

By promoting entrepreneurship, teaching entrepreneurship at all levels of education, particularly at the nation's highest nucleus of learning, the University of Liberia, and fostering an environment conducive to business development, we can unleash a

wave of creativity and economic growth. Our youths must become the architects of their futures, leveraging resources within our borders rather than looking to external entities for salvation. Politicians and policymakers have a crucial role to play in this transformative journey. Liberia's leadership must assess its people's wealth and potential and create policies championing local businesses and empowering individuals.

Political systems should favor regulations that minimize barriers to entry for aspiring entrepreneurs, provide access to affordable credit, and incentivize innovation.

This new focus on self-reliance must be a clear directive from government leaders who understand that their power lies in the hands of a motivated and capable populace. Furthermore, education must be the bedrock of this self-reliant vision.

Our educational institutions must cultivate critical thinking, encourage innovation, and foster a spirit of

When facing obstacles— economic insecurity, limited infrastructure, or skill gaps- we must frame these challenges not as deterrents but as catalysts for creative solutions.

The humanitarian spirit of Liberians once relied upon in times of need, should be redirected to foster a sense of unity and collective responsibility towards nation upliftment.

While it is tempting to dwell on the perceived failures of leadership or systemic inequality, such discussions are distractions that undermine our goal of self-reliance.

We must preach accountability, yes, but not as a means of casting blame but as a commitment to improving our collective endeavor.

Our leaders must be held accountable not only for their promises but also for creating an environment where youths/young people can thrive, new ideas are welcomed, and incentives for self-initiative. Liberia's evolution into a self-reliant nation does not mandate a complete severance of international ties; instead, it calls for a reshaped relationship.

We can and should engage with foreign partners in ways that promote mutual benefit, where Liberia is no longer a passive recipient but an active participant in the global economy.

By demonstrating our ability to stand on our own two feet, we can begin to negotiate as partners rather than as dependents.

Maintaining diplomacy and seeking trade agreements that reflect our growing capabilities is crucial, ensuring these engagements bolster our economy and empower our workforce.

In this new world order, let us embrace the potential of our vast natural resources, from the agricultural bounty of our fertile lands to the rich mineral deposits beneath our feet.

entrepreneurship among young people.

By equipping our young people/youths with skills relevant to the demands of the modern economy, we can enable them to become workers, leaders, and innovators.

Education can be liberating, breaking the chains of dependency and instilling the confidence necessary for taking risks, starting businesses, and creating jobs.

The narrative of foreign dependency has often bred a culture of complacency, where local actors might feel they are not responsible for the well-being of their communities and country.

This notion must change, and instead of waiting for financial aid to sustain livelihoods, we must shift gears toward a proactive approach that encourages collaboration, resourcefulness, and community engagement.

When we come together as a nation, pooling our skills, knowledge, and efforts, we can build a robust, self-sufficient economy that thrives on our collective strengths.

Every Liberian must understand that the nation's challenges are not insurmountable but opportunities for growth and development.

Elevating local industries should not be viewed merely as an economic choice but as a patriotic obligation.

Liberia has faced its share of challenges, but these should serve not as signs of defeat but as inspirations to push forward, innovate, and explore the untapped avenues that lay before us.

My dear and fellow Liberians, the writing is on the wall.

It is time for every citizen, especially our dynamic young people, politicians, and national leaders, to awaken to the reality of our circumstances.

The winds of change are blowing, and we must seize this moment to embrace a proactive approach to our social and economic life.

The era of dependency must give way to self-reliance, where we honor our resources, invest in our youths/young people, and take ownership of our future.

Together, we can forge a new path for Liberia that echoes the sounds of innovating, growing, and thriving as a nation.

The time for handouts has passed, let us embrace our responsibility to uplift Liberia through resilience, creativity, and unyielding determination. Our destiny is in our hands.





## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MoH accused of interference and compromise

**-In bidding process**

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

**The Ministry of Health faces allegation of lack of transparency in bidding process leading to awarding of contracts.**

Monrovia, Liberia, February 27, 2025 - The Ministry of Health is entangled in allegations of interference and compromise involving bidding process and awarding of construction contracts. Kingdom Business Incorporated, a private entity here, accuses the Ministry of Health of manipulation and lack of transparency surrounding its bidding process for construction contracts. Chief Executive Officer of the Kingdom Business Inc, L. Swansey Fallah, says construction contracts which should be openly bided for, are now being influenced by top

government officials. He expresses anger over the alleged interference in MoH's procurement process. According to him, over the years, bidding process at the Ministry of Health has been interfered in by some top ruling Unity Party officials at the Ministry. He suspects that these alleged interferences are intended to award contracts to specific companies that officials have interest in for implementation of government projects, in return for kickbacks. He notes that the ministry has manipulated and compromised the system without following rightful bidding procedures of the government. Mr. Fallah further alleges that two

major projects were awarded to American Eagle Construction Company and Interior Prospective LLC without a competitive bidding process, as required by the Procurement Law.

He names said projects as upgrade of the Bo-Waterside Health Center Civic Work in Grand Cape Mount County, Construction of a Mental Health Hospital, including Completion of the Ministry of Health Partners Building that were awarded to the two companies through manipulation by top officials of government within the Ministry.

The Kingdom Business Inc CEO points out that his company has written several letters to the Minister of Health, Dr. Louise Kpoto, and the Executive Director of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC), Bodger Scott Johnson, for redress, but to no avail.

He adds that since then, his concerns have not been addressed due to reported lobbying by top officials in the Ministry of Health.

He narrates that during a recent site visit to the project site in Bentol City, Assistant Health Minister for Administration, Richard D. Kollie, used his

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

# Pastor Regina Joe Calls for justice through War Crimes Court

By: Kruah Thompson

In an impassioned sermon delivered to a packed congregation on Sunday, Pastor Regina Joe made a heartfelt plea for accountability and justice in the aftermath of the Liberian civil war. She called for the establishment of a War Crimes Court to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed during the conflict. "True healing cannot come without justice," Pastor Joe declared, her voice resolute. "We cannot rebuild our nation on the shaky foundation of impunity. Those who have orchestrated suffering, destruction, and death must face the consequences of their actions."

Addressing a congregation that included community leaders, survivors of the war, and families seeking closure, at the Calvary Revival Church in Caldwell, recently, Pastor Joe emphasized the importance of accountability not just as a legal principle but as a moral imperative. "Forgiveness is a virtue," she acknowledged, "but forgiveness does not mean forgetting. And it certainly does not mean rewarding those who have brought untold pain upon our people with positions of political power." The sermon was met with

resounding applause, with many attendees visibly moved by the pastor's words. Survivors of the war spoke to the press after the service, sharing their appreciation for her bold stance.

"What Pastor Joe said today speaks for all of us," said Mary Koroma, whose family suffered devastating losses during the conflict. "We have waited too long for justice. It's time for the truth to be told, and for those responsible to be held accountable." Pastor Joe's call comes at a critical moment as discussions around transitional justice and reconciliation continue to unfold. Many nations emerging from conflict face the delicate task of balancing the need for peace with

demands for justice. However, Pastor Joe was unequivocal in her belief that political stability cannot be built on a foundation of unaddressed war crimes.

"Power must be earned through integrity, service, and respect for human dignity," she said. "To reward perpetrators of violence with political office is to betray the very principles of democracy and justice."

Her sermon also included a plea for collective responsibility. Pastor Joe urged the congregation to advocate for the establishment of a War Crimes Court and to support survivors in their quest for justice.



# Boakai pumps water to Bopolu City

**President Joseph Boakai inaugurates first modern water supply system in remote provincial city, Bopolu in Western Liberia.**

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Bopolu, Liberia, February 27, 2025 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has officially dedicated the first modern water supply system in Bopolu City, Gbarpolu county, marking a significant step forward for the region. This development is a major milestone, offering residents access to clean water, which will contribute to improved health and quality of life. It's a vital achievement that will have lasting benefits for the community.

Water is life. It is one of the most essential needs of any community. Yet, since the founding of Bopolu City, the people here have never had a pipe-borne water supply system.

For decades, men, women, and children wake up at odd hours, walk long distances, and endure unsafe conditions just to fetch water. This of course is typical of a rural communities, a situation that must change. Too often, they have relied on hand pumps, creeks, and wells—some of which were not always safe for drinking.

As a result, families have suffered from waterborne diseases, costing

Bopolu, and while it may not yet cover the entire city, it is a major step toward that goal, he adds.

Even more pleasing, the President emphasizes is that installation of the water system is fully funded by the Liberian Government. Homes and businesses within the pipe network range can now register with the LWSC and get connected to clean and safe drinking water.

The benefits of this project go beyond mere convenience. It goes even further in helping significantly reduce the time and physical effort spent fetching water, allowing women and children to focus on more productive activities. Most importantly, it will help prevent spread of deadly waterborne diseases, ensuring a healthier community thereby reducing medical expenses for families.

"As we dedicate this water supply system today, I assure you that this is just the beginning. We will continue to work toward expanding access to clean water, not just in Bopolu but in every county across Liberia. As a matter of fact, we have a lot in our plan to improve infrastructure and health of the



them money that could have been used for food, education, or business opportunities.

At the dedication ceremony of the Bopolu Mini-Water Supply System on February 26, 2025, President Boakai highlighted the importance of progress for Liberia, emphasizing that it should not be the norm for communities to rely on hand pumps. He reiterates his government's commitment, as part of the ARREST Agenda, to transforming Bopolu City from reliance on traditional water sources to modern, piped water systems. This initiative reflects a broader effort to improve infrastructure and elevate living conditions across the country.

"This people-driven Agenda holds firmly that access to clean and safe drinking water is not a privilege—it is a basic right that every Liberian deserves", President Boakai says.

It is in this spirit that we have gathered here today—to celebrate the completion of the Bopolu Mini-Water Supply System, a project undertaken by the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC). This system is the first of its kind in

Bopolu and Gbarpolu citizens", the President remarks.

He pledges his government's commitment to ensuring that safe drinking water and improved sanitation become the standard for all Liberians, regardless of where they live. This evidently is a testament to the long standing commitment to decentralization, with the devolution of powers and services to all segments our society. LWSC Managing Director Mohammed Ali, campaign spokesperson of the ruling Unity Party, says government is commitment to expanding water access nationwide. He recalls a conversation with County Senator, Amara Konneh, who highlighted an urgent need for a water system in Bopolu City.

Despite financial constraints, Mr. Ali says the LWSC took on the challenge, constructing a new facility equipped with a 1.37-kilometer main pipeline and a 750-foot-deep well, ensuring a consistent and reliable water supply for the city's residents. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Starts from page 6 **MoH accused of interference and compromise**

official vehicle to transport personnel of Interior Perspectives LLC for the site visit, which he notes, conflict of interest without any regards for PPCC laws.

Mr. Fallah explains that in response to an inquiry on why personnel of the Interior Perspective LLC were taken to the site in the Ministry's vehicles, Assistant Minister Kollie said it was because the company didn't have a vehicle to get at the site.

According to Fallah, they had requested the procurement unit of the Ministry of Health to provide notification of intention to complete evaluation of the bidding process to allow request for debriefing in order to know which of the companies won the bid and reasons for its selection and disqualification of other contractors.

He continues that in the debriefing letter sent to the kingdom Businesses Inc., it was stated that the principal reason for his company score of 97.89 points out of 100 points, was because they didn't submit certificate for a site foreman.

But he expresses doubts about fairness of the bidding process, contending that one of his competitors, Interior Perspective, allegedly received special or preferential treatment from the ministry.

When contacted, Assistant Minister of Health for Administration, Richard D. Kollie, earlier declined to comment on the legitimacy of the bidding process, on grounds that the matter is

before the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) for adjudication.

"This matter has been taken to the PPCC, and I wouldn't comment further. Will you please wait on the PPCC for adjudication, because I cannot prejudice the case," Mr. Kollie replies.

At the same time, the Assistant Manager for American Eagle Construction Company, Rylis Kollie, says that his firm successfully participated in the bidding process. He denies his company's involvement in any illegal bidding process.

"If you get such information, all I can tell you is that American Eagle was part of various companies that bided for the project. We bided and were awarded the contract legally," Kollie argues.

However, the director of communication at the Ministry of Health, Augustus Walker, Jr., confirmed that they took some of the bidders to the project site in Bentol City, Montserrado County.

"Yes, we drove with some bidders to the project site, because our cars were down, but I can tell you the process was free, fair and transparent", he says. Meanwhile, the Public Procurement Concession Commission that coordinates procurement processes between government and business contractors to ensure transparency, is currently investigating allegations of irregularities or lack of transparency in the bidding process that led to awarding of contracts by the Ministry of Health.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

### **Lonestar Cell MTN provides safety gears for motorcycle and tricycle riders**

*GSM Company, Lonestar Cell MTN provides safety gears to commercial motorcyclists here.*

**M**onrovia, Liberia, February 27, 2025 – Liberia's leading mobile GSM company, Lonestar Cell MTN in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Liberia National Police and the National Federation of Motorcycle and Tricycle Association of Liberia takes a significant step towards enhancing roads safety and financial inclusion for commercial motorcyclists and tricyclists across the country. MTN distributes reflective safety vests and parasol umbrellas to empower these transport operators, while launching an exciting new Momo promotion that is tailored specifically for them.

In a release, the GSM company says the newly-launched initiative underscores MTN Liberia's commitment to improving welfare of cyclists, as the promotion is designed to incentivize motorcyclists and tricyclists to use its MoMo services hence, management will reward 100 motorcycle riders and 50 tricycle riders three (3) gallons of gasoline promotion, tailored specifically for them.

Acting General Manager of MTN, Abubakari Halidu, says this is meant to empower Liberia's transport operators.

"MTN Liberia remains committed to providing opportunity to benefit from our weekly gasoline rewards. At MTN, we are committed to ensuring the reflective vests and umbrellas will greatly enhance

visibility and comfort for our digital payments within the sector," he says.

The distribution of safety gears, coupled with the MoMo promotion, represents a holistic safety vision of improving transport services and road safety in Liberia.

A representative from the Ministry of Transport lauds the initiative and reaffirms government's support for innovative solutions that enhance transportation efficiency and driving financial inclusion by ensuring that everyone has access to seamless, reliable safety gears, play a crucial role in Liberia's transport ecosystem.

"We commend MTN Liberia for this remarkable initiative, which aligns with our broader transport sector goal of collaborating with stakeholders to enhance economic opportunities and digitalization", he adds.

He says this initiative is about empowering hardworking

motorcyclists and tricyclists, as the MoMo promotion will encourage greater adaptation, as they will not only enjoy the convenience of a secure cashless system but also gain the Mobile Money, emphasizing the importance of digital financial services in bringing about transformation across all sectors.

At the same time Lonestar Cell MTN has officially launched its Recharge & Bumpay Season Two, "The Money Season" ahead of a public launch.

MTN held its internal draws here to ensure that staff also benefit motorcycles, smartphones, and other exciting prizes.

The company says via a press release that the promotions are carried out in a fair and transparent manner.

This initiative underscores MTN's commitment to integrity, running exclusive staff promotions before extending to the public.

In the previous Recharge & Bumpay, MTN transformed a Liberian's life by awarding a



### **World Bank provides transponders for fishermen**

*The World Bank in partnership with the Government of Liberia empowers local fishermen.*

**M**onrovia, Liberia, February 27, 2025 – The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) is distributing 400 pieces of Automatic Identification System (AIS) Transponders to local fishermen on Popo Beach to enhance safety and efficiency. With funding from the World Bank through the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP), the transponders are distributed to licensed fisher folks in Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Grand Cape Mount Counties. The deployment also aims to significantly enhance real-time monitoring capabilities and facilitate swift emergency responses, ensuring the safety of fishermen at sea.



According to a NaFAA press release, the transponders will enable precise tracking of artisanal fishing vessels, help to prevent losses and optimize fishing routes for increased efficiency. The introduction of AIS Transponders further marks a pivotal advancement in navigational tracking and communication among small-scale fishermen, which play an essential role in sustainable fish stock management and

combatting overfishing by providing crucial data on fishing patterns and locations.

The AIS transponder is a state-of-the-art, portable device featuring diverse power options, including rechargeable batteries, wired connections, and solar energy compatibility. Its design ensures adaptability to various environmental conditions.



The transponder functions in two modes—normal and emergency alert—activated by distinct buttons, maximizing its utility in both standard operations and critical emergencies, as this versatility guarantees dependable performance under a range of scenarios.

At the same time, the joint press release noted that the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP) will provide comprehensive technical support and training to users of small-scale and semi-industrial vessels, ensuring this innovative technology's successful adoption and utilization.

Meanwhile, NaFAA, through the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project, reiterates its commitment to enhancing fisheries governance, improving livelihoods, and boosting revenue generation for the Government and people of Liberia. Press Release





# Français

## Le tribunal statue en faveur de l'accusation dans l'affaire d'incendie criminel au Capitole

Le tribunal municipal de Monrovia a statué que l'accusation disposait de preuves suffisantes pour poursuivre l'affaire concernant l'attaque incendiaire du Capitole survenue le 18 décembre 2024.

Dans son verdict rendu le

Sasay. Cette décision ouvre la voie à la transmission du dossier à la Première Cour judiciaire, Chambre criminelle “A”, pour un procès. Les principaux éléments de la décision

Le magistrat Barco a souligné que les preuves présentées par l'accusation, notamment les témoignages des témoins, les

Selon le premier témoin de l'accusation, Etheridge et Sasay auraient conspiré pour acheter de l'essence, utilisée ensuite pour incendier le Capitole, causant des dégâts estimés à plus de huit millions de dollars américains.

Les accusés sont également poursuivis pour agression sur un agent de police lors de l'incident. L'officier aurait subi des blessures l'ayant laissé inconscient, et son arme de service aurait été volée.

L'accusation a présenté trois témoins, dont les témoignages ont été jugés cohérents et concordants. Ces témoins ont expliqué comment les accusés et leurs complices auraient pénétré dans le bâtiment du Capitole, avec l'intention présumée de perturber les travaux législatifs dans la Chambre conjointe.

L'affaire transmise à la Cour criminelle “A”

À la suite de cette décision, le magistrat Barco a ordonné au greffier de transmettre le dossier, ainsi que les accusés, à la Chambre criminelle “A” pour

éléments matériels collectés sur la scène du crime et les données électroniques récupérées, étaient suffisamment solides pour justifier la poursuite des procédures judiciaires.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



mardi 25 février 2025, le magistrat stipendié L. Ben Barco a déclaré que l'accusation avait établi un prima facie contre les accusés Thomas Etheridge et Eric

## Le gouvernement s'engage à achever tous les projets routiers de Monrovia d'ici mai

Par Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, le 26 février 2025 – Le gouvernement du Liberia a confirmé que tous les projets de construction routière actuellement en cours à Monrovia seront achevés d'ici mai 2025.

Dans une déclaration faite mardi au ministère de l'Information, de la Culture, des Affaires et du Tourisme (MICAT), le ministre de l'Information, Jerolimick Mathew Piah, a assuré au public que des efforts sont en cours pour finaliser les travaux en cours sur les principales routes de la capitale dans les délais impartis.

Des routes rénovées pour une meilleure mobilité

S'exprimant lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du MICAT, le ministre Piah a insisté sur l'impact positif de ces travaux sur la connectivité urbaine.

“Toutes les routes actuellement en chantier seront achevées. Après mai, elles ne seront plus dans leur état actuel,” a-t-il déclaré. “Nous sommes engagés à terminer ces travaux dans les

délais pour garantir une circulation fluide dans toute la ville.”

Il a également affirmé qu'à partir de mai, les automobilistes n'auront plus à circuler sur des routes parsemées de nids-de-poule, mais sur des voies entièrement pavées et modernisées.

Installation d'éclairage public après la réhabilitation des routes

Le ministre Piah a annoncé que des lampadaires seront installés dans toute la ville après l'achèvement des routes, afin d'améliorer la sécurité et la visibilité, notamment la nuit.

Il a par ailleurs souligné que l'administration en place dispose d'un mandat de six ans, ajoutant qu'il serait prématuré d'évaluer ses

réalisations avant la fin de son terme.

“Nous ne nous laisserons pas distraire car nous sommes déterminés à tenir nos engagements. Nous avons promis de réhabiliter les routes, et c'est exactement ce que nous faisons,” a-t-il affirmé.

Un engagement fort en faveur des infrastructures

Le ministre Piah a conclu en rappelant que ces travaux routiers s'inscrivent dans la volonté du gouvernement d'améliorer les infrastructures du Liberia, notamment en profitant de la saison sèche pour accélérer les chantiers.



## 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 Le tribunal statue en faveur de l'accusation

l'ouverture du procès. Ce renvoi signifie que l'affaire a dépassé la phase d'examen préliminaire, au cours de laquelle l'accusation devait seulement prouver l'existence d'un *prima facie* contre les prévenus. Le prochain procès permettra aux parties de présenter leurs arguments et leurs preuves devant une juridiction supérieure. L'attaque Incendiaire du 18 décembre 2024 avait choqué les habitants de Monrovia, alors que de

denses fumées noires et des flammes ravageaient le bâtiment du Capitole, détruisant l'ensemble de la Chambre conjointe du législatif. Les prochaines étapes Avec le transfert du dossier à la Chambre criminelle "A", les accusés affronteront un procès approfondi, au cours duquel l'accusation devra démontrer leur culpabilité au-delà de tout doute raisonnable. Si reconnus coupables, Etheridge et Sasay risquent de lourdes sanctions pénales.

## Ngafuan annonce des mesures pour combler le vide laissé par le retrait de l'aide de l'USAID

Par Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, le 26 février 2025 – Le gouvernement libérien a réaffirmé son engagement à combler le vide laissé par l'annulation récente des projets financés par l'Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international (USAID), en mettant en place des réformes fiscales et des mesures stratégiques. Un plan de réponse gouvernemental S'exprimant lors d'une interview radiophonique à Monrovia, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a précisé que l'État met en œuvre des réglementations internes et des stratégies de mobilisation des ressources pour atténuer l'impact du retrait de l'USAID. « Nous avons soumis notre rapport au président Boakai et nous le présentons également à l'Assemblée législative, en détaillant les impacts à court et à long terme ainsi que notre plan de réponse », a-t-il déclaré. Le ministre a rappelé qu'il avait récemment publié des directives budgétaires visant à rationaliser les dépenses publiques et a demandé aux ministères et agences de hiérarchiser leurs priorités afin de limiter les perturbations. Il a souligné que plus de 50 millions de dollars américains de financements ont été supprimés, affectant plusieurs projets majeurs prévus jusqu'en 2029, notamment la construction d'écoles primaires et de complexes modernes dans six comtés.

Mobilisation des ressources internes et coopération régionale Tout en reconnaissant le rôle crucial de l'USAID dans le développement du Liberia, Ngafuan a insisté sur la nécessité d'accroître la mobilisation des ressources internes et d'intensifier la coopération avec de nouveaux partenaires. « L'USAID nous a aidés à naviguer dans ces défis, mais nous mettons également en place des solutions pour compenser ce retrait », a-t-il ajouté. Le gouvernement envisage notamment des initiatives de ciblage budgétaire pour réduire les pertes et limiter le gaspillage. Par ailleurs, il mène des discussions avec la CEDEAO, l'Union européenne et d'autres partenaires internationaux afin de renforcer les infrastructures et garantir la continuité des projets de développement. Des critiques sur les dépenses publiques Toutefois, certains observateurs estiment que le gouvernement devrait réduire ses dépenses récurrentes, en particulier celles liées aux salaires des fonctionnaires, qui absorbent une grande partie du budget national.

« Nous attendons un plan stratégique et des recommandations basées sur des solutions concrètes de la part du ministre des Finances », a déclaré Dr. Francien Chenoweth Richardson, analyste politique. En réponse, Ngafuan a assuré que l'État reste déterminé à gérer la situation économique grâce à des décisions stratégiques et des réformes ciblées. Un impact majeur sur le développement Les projets d'aide de l'USAID au Liberia se concentraient principalement sur l'éducation, la santé, l'agriculture, l'énergie, et l'assainissement, avec un accent particulier sur la réhabilitation des routes agricoles, le développement des compétences et le soutien aux petites entreprises. Dans ce contexte, le gouvernement affirme son engagement à poursuivre ces objectifs en renforçant les infrastructures, la gouvernance et les programmes de développement communautaire, afin de favoriser une croissance économique durable et une résilience post-conflit.



## Le Président Boakai inaugure le réseau d'approvisionnement en eau du comté de Gbarpolu

Gbarpolu, Liberia, le 26 février 2025 – Le président Joseph Boakai procède ce mercredi à l'inauguration officielle du nouveau système d'approvisionnement en eau du comté de Gbarpolu, une infrastructure essentielle qui permettra aux habitants d'avoir un accès direct à l'eau potable dans leurs foyers. Il s'agit du premier réseau public d'eau potable construit par le gouvernement dans ce comté, marquant une avancée significative pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations locales. Un projet entièrement financé par l'État Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue la veille, Mohammed Ali, directeur général de la Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC), a précisé que ce projet a été entièrement financé par le gouvernement. Après l'inauguration, les habitants souhaitant être raccordés devront s'enregistrer auprès de la LWSC. Nous encourageons vivement le

gouvernement à poursuivre ces ccès à l'eau potable dans d'autres initiatives essentielles pour garantir régions du pays », a-t-il déclaré.



## Le Parlement libérien élit de nouveaux représentants à la CEDEAO

Monrovia, Liberia, le 26 février 2025 – La Chambre des représentants du Liberia a procédé à l'élection de trois nouveaux députés pour représenter le pays au Parlement de la CEDEAO, en remplacement d'alliés du président déchu de l'Assemblée, Fonati Koffa. Cette décision a été prise à l'issue d'un vote à bulletin blanc, dans un contexte de tensions politiques internes sur l'autorité législative et la représentation du Liberia au sein de l'organe régional. Trois nouveaux élus pour porter la voix du Liberia Les représentants fraîchement désignés sont : Moima Briggs Mensah (Bong, District #6) Augustine Chiewolo (Lofa, District #5 – Parti au pouvoir, Unity Party) Samson Q. Wiah (Sinoe, District #2 – Opposition, CDC) Chiewolo et Wiah remplacent ainsi Rev. Samuel Enders et Taa Wongbe, initialement nommés sous l'autorité de Cllr. Koffa. Les nouveaux parlementaires auront pour mission de défendre les intérêts du Liberia au sein de la CEDEAO sur des questions clés telles que le commerce, la sécurité, la gouvernance et l'intégration régionale. Une élection marquée par des tensions politiques Ce vote fait suite à une décision controversée du président de la Chambre, Richard Nagbe Koon, ordonnant le retrait des anciens représentants. Deux parlementaires, Johnson S.N. Williams et James Kolleh, avaient en effet saisi la Chambre, estimant que les nominations faites par Koffa n'avaient pas reçu l'approbation de la plénière et ne garantissaient pas un équilibre politique adéquat. Le remplacement des proches de Koffa constitue un changement majeur dans l'équilibre des pouvoirs au sein du Parlement libérien, alors que les députés cherchent à reprendre le contrôle sur la représentation du pays au sein de la CEDEAO. Une décision contestée au niveau régional Cependant, ce remaniement est loin de faire l'unanimité. Le sénateur Edwin Snowe, parlementaire



libérien le plus influent à la CEDEAO, a vivement critiqué la révocation des anciens représentants, rappelant que l'institution régionale dispose de ses propres règles de gouvernance. Le Parlement de la CEDEAO est une entité indépendante. Même le président en exercice de la CEDEAO, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, ne peut imposer une telle révocation. », a déclaré Snowe, exhortant le président Joseph Boakai à rester neutre dans cette affaire. Un avenir incertain pour la délégation libérienne Selon certaines sources, le Parlement de la CEDEAO pourrait rejeter ces nouvelles nominations, en raison d'irrégularités procédurales. Une telle issue plongerait la représentation du Liberia dans l'incertitude, affaiblissant ainsi son influence au sein de l'organisation régionale. Malgré cette controverse, les trois nouveaux élus sont censés prendre leurs fonctions immédiatement. Toutefois, ce conflit révèle les profondes divisions politiques qui secouent l'Assemblée nationale et souligne les défis que devra relever le Liberia pour assurer une représentation stable et efficace à l'échelle régionale.

Des études achevées pour d'autres villes Par ailleurs, Ali a annoncé que la LWSC a finalisé les études pour l'installation de nouveaux réseaux d'eau à Greenville et Zwedru. Il a ajouté que les travaux devraient être achevés d'ici la fin de l'année, poursuivant ainsi les efforts de modernisation des infrastructures hydrauliques du pays. Cette initiative s'inscrit dans le cadre des engagements du gouvernement en matière d'accès à l'eau potable et de développement des services de base, un enjeu crucial pour la santé publique et le bien-être des citoyens.



## LIBERIANS DEBATE

**Topic:** *Fighting drugs addiction in Liberia*

***By Naneka Hoffman***

***President Boakai mentioned in his Annual Message recently that his government is committed to the war against dangerous drugs being brought into the country. Ordinary Liberians gave their views on the President's commitment on paper and what is obtaining on the ground in the country. Read their comments as compiled below.***



***Morris Simoni***

**“I think the drugs issue is getting serious in the country. President Boakai, last time took the lead to do drugs test but that is not stopping drugs from entering in the country. Speaking on it at in his SONA is good. But we all need to**

fight this drugs business in the country. It's not about saying it but the drugs law need to be implemented. We all know that the drug is spoiling our youths; secondly, not only the youths; we feel bad too at times because more often when our brothers and sisters take in the drug, they don't even want to know about human beings. They take human beings as chicken in their eyes. At times they will even be walking sleeping in the street. So we all will help President Boakai to fight drug in our country. And we all are willing to go from ghetto to ghetto to see how best we can take drugs from various communities."



## Jeremiah D. Duah

In my view, President Boakai's statement was not wrong. It is good that he says he will fight drugs but, he should implement the drugs law by taking actions

against dealers, because we are still seeing more drugs coming in our country. These few days, police officers in Margibi County arrested a lady and a boy with drugs. That is good but there should be vigorous enforcement of the law. Also, taken away zogos from the streets is not too bad, but they should build a rehabilitation area where they will get people that will learn trade to be able to build themselves, so that they will not come back in the street. And that will be one of the best ways to limit this drug business."

"The statement from President Boakai at the SONA to fight drugs in the country is welcoming, as we all know it is good for a leader to be exemplary, so as a leader, you set the example and you inspire other people. The drug issue is seriously increase in Liberia. So we're so happy mainly me; I am happy that our President actually says he will fight drugs from all angle. Most communities, if you observe, you will see young people just gathered together getting hard and doing all types of things. So the drug issue in the country is very much important because the youthful generation has to be

**Hartzel Seton**

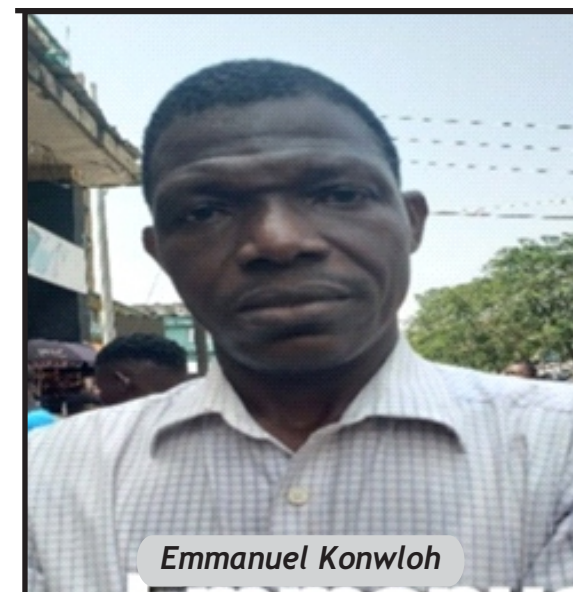
fully prepared for the generation to come. But if they are overwhelmed by drugs, that means they will not be able to do anything good.”

“The speech of President Boakai is fine and good. But firstly, the issue of drugs will not finish now, because fighting drugs is a collective work. You can’t be arresting drugs sellers then you say you want to fight drugs. I think they should be dealing with dealers then we know they are serious to fight drugs. Drug is not a very good thing and I am not in support of that. My advice is that everyone should be security on security for themselves, mostly the LDEA; that is the only way drugs will be



**Alex Tyee**

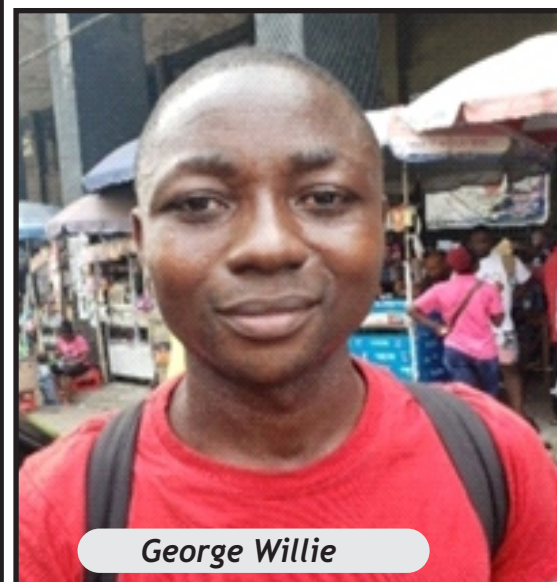
restricted in our country.”



**Emmanuel Konwloh**

**“The statement from President Boakai that he will fight drugs; but he along can’t fight this drugs issue. His regime needs to empower the LDEA and make each one of the as security on security. I think this is the only way this drugs issue will be**

limited in the country. All the LDEA officers need to do drugs test. That will show that he is serious about fighting drugs in the country, because drugs are taking over the country. It is making our country to not have any youthful generation. It is affecting our children, from even day one, we ourselves will have no future. Communities have to help because it is communities that keeping those ghettos. If they were bringing report to the government, saying oh, this person has ghetto in my area; I mean the government will help to stop those people. So, everybody has to put hands together to stop this drug business in our county."




George Willie

**“President Boakai regime needs to go in ghettos and break them down, and give more punishments to those drugs dealers, because these are some**

of the promises they made to us during the campaign that they were going to take Kush out of the country. So we want to know who all in the Kush business so we can quarantine them until the Kush leaves their body. When you talk the talk, you must walk the walk. It was very much disappointing that President Boakai didn't mention about people with disabilities in his SONA. The bread and butter issues are what we are waiting for. By now, we expected the rescue price; let the rice price come down for the poor people."

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# Nyonblee faces potential removal

*Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karngar Lawrance is said to be on enterhooks as plans for her potential removal as Pro-Temp gain momentum.*

**By Lincoln G. Peters**  
Senate Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrance is facing potential removal, as speculations and momentum build at the Senate.

Sources say the Grand Bassa County Senator recently withdrew the Liberty Party from its collaboration with the ruling Unity Party, which has strained her relationship with Vice President Jeremiah Koung.

Reports suggest VP Koung feels threatened and is distancing himself from her, possibly orchestrating her removal due to fears of her influence in the 2029 elections.

The Grand Bassa County Senator, whose removal as Senate Pro-tempore has been lingering in the corridors of the Senate for some time now, recently gained strength and support among senators following her statement withdrawing the Liberty Party from collaboration with the ruling Unity Party.

Madam Karngar-Lawrence, speaking during the recent reconciliation convention of

the crisis-pruned Liberty Party in Congo Town, declared that all agreements that brought the two parties together ahead of the 2023 elections had expired.

It appears this statement has not gone down well with the ruling UP hierarchy. Many close allies say the Pro-Tempore's recent statement has deepened frictions between her and Vice President Jeremiah Koung.

According to information in the Senate corridor, Vice President Koung feels threatened by Madam Karngar-Lawrence's statement and is said to be masterminding a palace coup.

Sources told the New Dawn Newspaper investigative team that Vice President Koung has become more distanced from Madam Kangar-Lawrence, a move intended to reduce her influence and affluence.

Sources say VP Koung currently sees Madam Kangar-Lawrence as a threat ahead of 2029, and therefore, her continuous presence in that position gives her the claw to do battle in 2029.

Meanwhile, prior to her recent statement nullifying the marriage between the UP and LP, there have been countless

attempts and conversations surrounding her removal due to the alleged poor relationship between her and her colleagues and staffers at the Liberian Senate.

Some Senate staffers have often accused her of practicing favouritism and corruption. They alleged that on two separate occasions, she withheld extra sitting fees intended for staffers, the most notable one being the Grand Bassa Senate sitting.

Furthermore, some senators who confided in the New Dawn Newspaper but refused to be mentioned confirmed that there is a poor working relationship between Senator Kangar-Lawrence and her colleagues on grounds that she is "mean" and can't extend her hand to them. They also alleged that she takes the lion's share of benefits and doesn't have time for her colleagues.

Meanwhile, the names of Senator Emmanuel Nyque, Gabahnzogay Milton Findley, and Bong County Senator and Chair on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget Prince Moyee and Bomi County Senator Alex Tyler have emerged as her possible replacement. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**



## Starts from page 7 Lonestar Cell MTN provides safety gears

grand prize of a two-bedroom house. This season, aptly named "The Money Season," will be even bigger. MTN will make 10 solidarity with our subscribers," says Mr. C. Foday Emeh, Corporate Communications Manager. Recharge & Bumpay Season 2 is officially live, and raffles are ongoing! The public is encouraged to participate more, all aimed at empowering subscribers to support their families, businesses, and open doors for new opportunities and growth.

MTN says it believes in touching lives, and 'The Money Season' is its way of standing in lucky Liberian millionaires, awarding L\$10 million each to 10 subscribers as grand prize. Additional prizes include cash rewards, smartphones, and motorcycles, among others. "These prizes will not only provide financial relief but also subscribers simply need to recharge, earn points, and stand a chance to win big", says the MTN Management. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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## Motorcyclists and Police head for standoff

*Starts from Back page*  
the ban, which is already creating significant problems for them and other citizens. "The ban has caused problems, and this is the only way to call the government's attention so they can reconsider their decision. They asked us to register our bikes, and we did. Some of the bikes we have are worth less than \$200, but we paid \$300 to register them, just to abide by government regulations. So, it is our prayer that the government lifts the ban immediately," he said. He further emphasized that the ban is a complete violation of their rights because crimes are not transferable, saying "We will never support any form of violence." While condemning the incident that led to the restriction, he pointed out instances where police officers had killed peaceful citizens, and the

individuals responsible were dismissed, but not the entire police force. Therefore, he noted that punishing them for crimes committed by their colleagues is wrong and violates their rights as citizens, so on this note, he thinks the government should rethink its decision. Meanwhile, the group clarifies that the planned protest would be peaceful, but if the government does not heed their calls, they plan to extend the protest across all 15 counties.

As tensions mount, question lingers whether the police will stand firm or give in to the cyclists' demand. Critics say a stone-hearted approach could have a significant impact on the country's already struggling economy in coming days. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## "Complete lawlessness"

*The complete disregard for rule of law by those entrusted to enforce the law has been the recipe for chaos of such magnitude here.*

**By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh**

Personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Liberia National Police (LNP) have clashed over supremacy here in Paynesville.

The violent clash, which saw the exchange of live bullets erupted on the SD- Cooper Road erupted when AFL personnel riding a motorbike violated Police "No-Go-Zone" on motorcyclists, using commercial bike.

The AFL officer, Sergeant Loyarty S. Garven, who was dressed in civilian attire at the time of his arrest, refused to identify himself and was manhandled by the police after he refused to adhere to the no-go zone restriction.

Violence ensued after dozens of AFL soldiers who had seen the video of their colleague being manhandled by traffic police officers circulating online responded.

The alleged assault on the AFL Soldier, which might have escalated the Wednesday dramatic chaos between the Police and the AFL officers, occurred on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, in Paynesville, when two Police officers unmercifully beat Sergeant Garven, forcing him into a pickup while aggressively treating him as a common criminal.

In response to the video, reports

suggest personnel of the AFL who were plying on the main street of Paynesville, encountered officers of the Liberian National Police (LNP), who were enforcing a "No Go Zone" mandate on commercial motorcyclists.

Witnesses told the New Dawn that dozens of AFL Soldiers had responded to the Police action, preventing them from using commercial motorcycles to ply the main streets. The soldiers' action was in retaliation to their colleague, Sergeant Garven, being brutalized by a Police officer just a day ago.

"The Army man them was passing on bike, using the main road, and then the Police officers, came to Stop them," that how one of the AFL slapped the Police officer and they both started beating him, while chasing behind other Police, "Flomo Piah, a witness said.

According to report, the situation rapidly escalated, with reports of gunfire and aggressive confrontations from both sides.

Residents have been left in a state of fear and confusion as the two security forces entrusted with their protection turned against each other in a power struggle.

At least one officer of the Liberia National Police (LNP) identified as William K. David" has been injured and hospitalized at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital in Sinkor, while other Police officers escaped the scene after being assaulted in the chaos.

Further reports said other injuries were said to have occurred as the army overpowered the LNP officers. **-Edited By Othello B. Garblah.**





## ***-As commercial cyclists plan protest***

***By: Kruah Thompson***

and Freeport. This prompted the Liberia National Police (LNP) to impose the restriction.

However, this has caused significant challenges for residents, as motorbikes have long been one of the easiest ways to navigate the city, particularly during rush hours, due to severe traffic congestion.

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, members of the Motorcycle Union of Liberia here were seen marching from ELWA Junction to the Ministry of Justice to notify officials of their planned protest on Monday, March 3, 2025. They also submitted a copy of their communication to the United Nations at the One UN House.

Speaking after submitting their petition to the UN, the group's leader stated that after several meetings, they have agreed that no motorbikes would operate on Monday.

He explained that they will come out in large numbers to pressure the government to lift



temporary restrictions placed on their movement in key areas of Monrovia. The incident reportedly sparked a rampage by aggrieved motorcyclists, who vandalized

The ban was imposed on February 20, 2025, following a tragic incident on February 19, 2025, when a vehicle

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



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A collage of New Dawn materials. It includes a calendar for the month of May, a notebook with a blue cover, and a white card with the New Dawn logo. The background is a light blue gradient.