



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

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR DATE **BUYING SELLING** MONDAY, MARCH 03, 2025 L\$199.4702/US\$1.00

L\$197.7073/US\$1.00

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

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Namibia's 'founding father' Sam Young child becomes second Nujoma honoured in state funeral person to die of Ebola in Uganda

Tamibia's founding president, Sam Nujoma, who steered the country to freedom from apartheid South Africa, was laid to rest in the country's Heroes Acre cemetery on Saturday.

It was attended by his widow, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and African leaders past and present.

They described Nujoma as an African icon, and a man of principles who defended the African continent against colonial systems.

final resting place of Namibia's heroes and heroines to lay to rest. A most distinguished son of the soil. A giant among leaders and a revolutionary icon," said incumbent president Nangolo Mbumba.

Mourners from all corners of the country gathered from early in the morning at Heroes Acre in the capital, Windhoek, to pay their respects to Nujoma who died two weeks ago at the age of 95.

Described as the "founding father" of Namibia, he rose from herding

"On these hallowed grounds the cattle as a boy to leading the county's independence struggle against apartheid South Africa. He was seen as the last of a

generation of leaders who headed anti-colonial movements and fought for freedom across the continent.

"He's an epitome of the struggle for the liberation of an African person. The African person in this context, Namibia, he is one of the few who stood up in the 50s to fight against apartheid, racial discrimination," said Pendukeni Ithana, vice-chairperson of the Sam Nujoma Foundation.

Nujoma who served three terms as president from 1990 to 2005 was widely credited with bringing peace and stability to Namibia.

Namibia had observed a 21-day mourning period, with flags at half-staff. Nujoma's body was honoured with a nationwide farewell as his remains were flown to seven regions including his village homestead of Etunda, in Okahao.

As his casket, draped in the Namibian flag, was lowered, there was a 21-gun salute and a flypast by the Namibian Air

four-year-old child became the second person to die of Ebola in Uganda since the outbreak was announced in late January, the World Health Organization said on Saturday.

On Tuesday, Ugandan health officials confirmed that the country had recorded 10 infections with the Sudan strain of the virus.

The death of the child is seen as a setback for health officials who had hoped the highly infectious disease had been "contained" after eight people had recovered following treatment.

The child passed away at the Mulago Hospital in the capital, Kampala, the only facility in the disease include fever, headaches, muscle pains, and bleeding. The virus is transmitted through contact with infected bodily fluids and tissue.

Contract tracing is key to stemming the spread of Ebola and the WHO said it and others were working to strengthen this together with surveillance.

There are no approved vaccines for the Sudan strain, however a vaccination trial was launched in Uganda earlier this month

The WHO has given Uganda at least \$3 million to support its Ebola response, but there are concerns about funding in the wake of the US administration's decision to cut funding to USAID.

Uganda's last outbreak, discovered in September 2022, killed at least 55 people before it was declared over in January 2023.



Egypt set to announce its plans for Gaza reconstruction at Arab Su

Pall-bearers carrying Sam Nujoma's casket

months of war is practical and million people and redeveloping can be achieved without forcing Gaza as a property project. people to leave.

to announce the Egyptian plan.

cycle of violence and assaults is for a political horizon to be present and to give hope to the Palestinian people that their legitimate aspirations can be achieved -- in establishing an independent state on all of their national soil," said the foreign minister.

He added that Egypt's reconstruction plan was a practical one with specific shortterm timeframes that are "completely doable and achievable without the need to displace any citizens from their land".

The Egyptian plan comes after

his country's plan to proposed removing the entire ✓ rebuild Gaza after 16 Palestinian population of two

Trump said the United States Badr Abdelatty was speaking would take over the Gaza Strip after meeting with the and rebuild it into a "Riviera of Palestinian prime minister days the Middle East", though ahead of an Arab summit in Cairo Palestinians would not be allowed back.

The Israeli military campaign in Palestinian Prime Minister Gaza has left the enclave in ruins. Mohammad Mustafa said "The only guarantee to break the Egypt's plan was a step towards

gypt's top diplomat says US President Donald Trump the formation of one Palestinian state, and that there was a need to unite Gaza and the West Bank.

> 'We will work on uniting the organisations, whether services, administrative, or security in order to form one state with one system, one law, and also one weapon," he said.

> this with Abdelatty and said he hoped that with the support of other Arab nations, these efforts would move forward and the summit would adopt the plan.

country for dealing with Ebola

The first victim was a male nurse who died the day before the outbreak was declared on 30 January.

More than 15,000 people have died of Ebola in Africa in the past 50 years.

It was discovered in 1976 in simultaneous outbreaks in South Sudan and Congo, where it occurred in a village near the Ebola River, after which Symptoms of the often fatal the disease is named.

He added that he had discussed **Senegal signs historic peace deal** with Casamance separatists

enegal Signs Historic Peace mediating the negotiations, which agreement with the Movement of and the state of Senegal," he stated.

Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco 2023, at least 250 MFDC fighters Embalo, was announced at a joint surrendered their weapons in press briefing in Bissau alongside Mongone, signaling a shift towards Senegalese Prime Minister reconciliation. This agreement Ousmane Sonko. The Casamance brings hope for stability and conflict, which began in 1982, has economic recovery in Casamance, claimed thousands of lives and marking the end of one of Africa's disrupted the region's economy.

The agreement marks a crucial step towards lasting peace in Senegal's southern region, which is separated from the north by Gambia. Prime Minister Sonko conveyed President Bassirou Diomaye

Faye's gratitude to

Guinea-Bissau for

Deal with Casamance had been ongoing for three days. Separatists Senegal has "We had to close the work on the reached a landmark peace negotiations between the MFDC Democratic Forces of Casamance The MFDC has been fighting for (MFDC), ending one of Africa's Casamance's independence for over longest-running conflicts. four decades, but recent years have The deal, brokered by Guinea- seen progress toward peace. In May

most enduring conflicts.











EDITORIAI

2025

The Sethi incident: Government should share some blames too Eljing – Some US commentators reserves. But America's gross de

t 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.

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by Yu Yongding

sustainability. But few have addressed PIMCO, one of the world's largest bond looks increasingly questionable.

ability to service its debt is the currentaccount deficit as a share of GDP, which has mostly remained at 2-4% in recent years but is these effects never materialized.

the end of 2023. This reflects the country's portfolio allocations. staggering \$23 trillion in net foreign debt. By contrast, in 2006, US foreign debt was only \$1.8 trillion, or 13% of GDP.

and private investment, budget deficit, and gains could be reversed at any time. investment income will be, respectively, 2%, 5%, and 1% of GDP, and US GDP growth will A case in point is the recent stock-market burden could approach 100% of GDP.

demand for foreign capital inflows goes unmet. With America's foreign debt currently on track to hit 100%, will foreign investors offset the country's savings shortfall?

have collapsed long ago had it not been for dollars, must be on guard. strong demand from other countries for dollar

EIJING - Some US commentators reserves. But America's gross debt was have recently expressed concern 122.3% of GDP in 2023, breaking the record about the country's fiscal set in 1946, and is set to swell. In December, America's external sustainability, which investors, announced that it was reducing its exposure to long-term US Treasuries, citing soaring government debt and a growing One common measure of the United States' deficit. All this makes it unlikely that foreign investors will continue purchasing Treasuries on the same scale as before.

projected to rise. Of course, a high reading In fact, official investors' share of foreign US does not always have the expected outcomes. Treasury holdings has already been steadily When America's current-account deficit declining, from 69.8% in 2015 to 53.4% in climbed to 6.3% of GDP in 2006, economists 2023. This reflects concerns about America's worried that foreign capital inflows would external sustainability given its growing dry up, causing a balance-of-payments crisis foreign debt. It also stems from the West's and a sharp depreciation of the dollar. But decision, following the war in Ukraine, to freeze the Russian central bank's foreignexchange reserves, which has undermined the There is, however, another important US government's credibility; many no longer measure of America's external sustainability: trust that America will honor its financial its net foreign-debt-to-GDP ratio, which has obligations. Lastly, domestic factors have led been rising steadily, reaching around 70% at some countries, such as China, to adjust their

Foreign holdings of US equities – the largest category of foreign-owned US securities have increased sixfold since 2009, primarily This ratio depends on four variables: the gap owing to the fourfold rise in US equity prices between private saving and private over the same period. But the concentration of investment, the size of the budget deficit, and market capitalization in the so-called investment-income levels (all measured as a "Magnificent Seven" - high-flying US tech share of GDP), as well as the GDP growth firms – and investors' outsize appetite for risk rate. Based on historical data, one can assume have also played a significant role in driving that the gap between America's private saving up equity prices, which suggests that these

average 2% in the coming years. According to selloff sparked by Chinese startup DeepSeek's my rough calculations, the US foreign-debt release of a low-cost large language model to rival OpenAI's ChatGPT. In the event of a more durable shock, the large inflows of A balance-of-payments crisis occurs when foreign capital into the US stock markets may suddenly become outflows.

Given this dynamic, it is easy to see that continue to purchase US financial assets to America's external sustainability is on a knifeedge. And the unpredictability of Donald Trump's second administration is exacerbating The answer may be no. According to the the situation – nobody knows what will happen Federal Reserve, foreign portfolio holdings next, leaving many foreign investors wary and of US securities totaled \$26.9 trillion at the perhaps more inclined to change course. end of June 2023, accounting for about 33% China, as the second-largest foreign holder of of US Treasuries, 27% of corporate debt, and US Treasuries and with more than \$3 trillion in 17% of equities. Indeed, the greenback would net foreign assets denominated mostly in

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By Mark Blyth

Austerity Is Back – and More Dangerous Than Ever

ROVIDENCE – What do Rachel Reeves, Javier Milei, and Elon Musk have in common? All are preaching the gospel of austerity as a necessary cure for what ails their respective economies.

Hence, Reeves, the United Kingdom's Chancellor of the Exchequer, has tightened rules for government spending and investment, despite the fact that fiscal constriction has been a major cause of the country's problems over the past 15 years. Similarly, Milei has framed austerity as the price Argentina must pay for 20 years of overextension. He argues that defeating inflation is the only path to prosperity, even if doing so deepens an already deep well of poverty. And for Musk, the United States supposedly needs austerity to spare it from bankruptcy. This argument is just a ruse: states with sovereign currencies, especially the main global reserve currency, cannot go bankrupt. Musk's obvious motivation for slashing public budgets is to make room for tax cuts, and to fire public employees who do not share his agenda.

The last time we heard the drumbeat of austerity was during the global financial crisis. In the US, the prescribed response took the form of a milquetoast "sequester" (spending caps). But in Europe, the fiscal tightening went much further, destroying a decade's worth of growth, undermining public investment, and contributing to many of the problems that the continent is still struggling with today.

What was obviously a failure of private finance was rechristened a crisis of runaway state spending. Bilateral loans to the European Union's periphery states were little more than disguised bailouts of core countries' banks "paid for" by fiscal contractions. Those offering elaborate arguments about the expansionary power of fiscal tightening were denying the obvious: When the private sector is trying to save and the public sector does the same, the economy inevitably will shrink, and the debt stock will grow larger as a share of GDP.

This was the essence of Europe's self-defeating experiment with austerity in the 2010s. By 2016, even the European Commission had begun to change its tune; and by the time that COVID-19 had struck, the days of "growing the economy by shrinking it" seemed to be over. How wrong we were. As John Quiggin argued at the time, austerity is a zombie idea: It cannot be killed, because it is immune to empirical refutation. The wisdom of the COVID crisis – when the sound response was to bail out the economy in the face of a global shutdown – thus became another "runaway debt crisis" that threatens to bankrupt the state.

Back in the 2010s, austerity in the EU was supposed to stabilize public finances by "restoring confidence" in the bond market. But cutting spending when the economy was already in recession simply compounded the problem. Fear of inflation owing to "all that spending" quickly turned into fear of deflation and declining confidence. Austerity in a recession simply produces more recession and unemployment. We have known that since the Bruning Chancellorship in Weimar Germany.

But what about austerity under other conditions? The current cases of the US and Argentina are interesting in this regard. For its part, the US is nowhere near a recession. The economy is powering ahead and facing inflationary pressures. In addition to freeing up fiscal space for tax cuts, another possible explanation for pursuing austerity under such conditions concerns geopolitics and global imbalances. When Joe Biden took office in early 2021, he kept most of Donald Trump's tariffs in place and embarked on a path of "green" re-industrialization. Now that Trump is back in power, he is raising tariffs further to force adjustments in exporting economies, and replacing Biden's green re-industrialization strategy with a fossil-fueled approach.

But this isn't the whole story. Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) are pursuing the long-held Republican (and libertarian) dream of dismantling the modern administrative state. They would much prefer the nineteenth-century state, which used tariffs both to protect domestic industry and raise government revenue. The implication is that Silicon Valley's tech lords will reprise the role played by the robber barons during the Gilded Age. Thus, austerity is being dusted off for a whole new set of purposes.

Argentina, by contrast, faces permanent high inflation without real (inflation-adjusted) GDP growth. More than a dozen stabilization plans have come and gone, and Milei has achieved what seemed impossible: a broad electoral coalition in favor of austerity. Milei owes his success (so far) to the distributional politics of permanent inflation. The Peronists lost their long hold on the poor and the working class because these are the voters who spend the greatest share of their incomes on consumption, and rising prices consistently eroded their purchasing power.

The Peronist coalition managed to shelter unions from inflation by indexing wages accordingly, and the professional classes sheltered themselves with US dollar holdings. For a while, this arrangement was sufficient for Peronists to win elections. But those without these protections suffered falling consumption, and poverty increased year after year. Milei offered a way out. He would embrace austerity, destroy the Peronist networks, disrupt the middlemen, and deregulate everything. It would hurt for a while, but it would crush inflation and destroy Peronist insiders' ability to protect themselves. Their pain would be your gain. Thus, austerity has become a form of schadenfreude politics, much like the war on federal employees and other "elites" in the US.

Will it work? In Argentina, if the point is to defeat inflation despite rising poverty, then yes, it is working. But it will be electorally sustainable only if lower inflation leads to more investment and rising real wages. If it leads to ever deeper poverty for those who voted for it, Milei will lose his base.

In the US, if the goal is to dismantle the administrative state, austerity will work. But in a country where 53% of counties — most of them Republican-leaning — are dependent on government transfers for a quarter or more of their incomes, it may backfire badly. Still, if Republicans get \$4 trillion worth of tax cuts for the top 10%, the scheme might just be worth it.

Austerity is back, but this time it is not just a bad idea. It is also a political weapon and a dangerous redistributive tool.

Mark Blyth, Professor of International Economics and Director of the Rhodes Centre for International Economics and Finance at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University, is the co-author (with Nicolò Fraccaroli) of the forthcoming Inflation: A Guide for Users and Losers (W. W. Norton & Company, 2025) and the author of Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea (Oxford University Press, 2015).

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OPINION

By Laurence Tubiana

What European Security Requires

ARIS – 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 a luxury 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 <u>sent</u> gas prices higher again, highlighting Europe's continued vulnerability. <u>Investing</u> 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 <u>Clean Industrial Deal</u> 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 <u>Letta Report</u> 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 <u>generate</u> €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 <u>publicly warned</u> 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.

Laurence Tubiana, a former French ambassador to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is CEO of the European Climate Foundation and a professor at the École Normale Supérieure.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblal

Rising lawlessness in Liberia-an alarming trend

ast week, the lawlessness in Liberia reached an unprecedented level, with officers from the Liberia National Police and the Armed Forces of Liberia displaying a blatant disregard for the rule of law. This issue pervades all levels of government, from the Executive to law enforcement agencies.

The violent clash between LNP and AFL officers, sparked by an attempt to enforce traffic laws, clearly demonstrates the new norm of violating laws with impunity here.

The story of the LNP and AFL officers is just the tip of the iceberg. In recent years, Liberia has been grappling with a surge in lawlessness that has sparked widespread concern both locally and internationally. The tiny West African nation, still recovering from the ravages of more than two decades of civil wars, now faces this new challenge: a rampant increase in lawlessness.

The new level of rising lawlessness in Liberia poses significant threats to the nation's stability and development. It also undermines the credibility and functionality of democratic institutions. The government can lose its legitimacy and support from its citizens if it cannot ensure their safety and security.

Furthermore, lawlessness and impunity, especially coming from those entrusted to uphold and protect the constitution, can deter foreign investment and hamper economic growth. Businesses are less likely to operate in areas where the rule of law is not respected.

It is undisputable that government officials, including law enforcement agencies, violate these basic traffic laws with impunity. A traffic law only becomes enforceable when it applies to ordinary citizens.

For example, law enforcement officers, including the police, AFL, and other security apparatus, violate traffic rules they are supposed to enforce by using unregistered vehicles, lacking driver's licenses or insurance, and ignoring nogo zones.

These actions highlight the pervasive disregard for the laws and constitution they are sworn to uphold. For them, these regulations are only applicable to citizens. They see themselves as being above the law.

And rightfully so, because they take queue from their bosses at the National Legislature and the Executive Branches of Government who have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate the flagrant violation of the very laws that empowered them.

Both the Legislative and Executive branches have disobeyed Supreme Court rulings. President Joseph Boakai ignored a Supreme Court decision that protected tenure positions and proceeded to suspend officials at his discretion while appointing individuals to act in their steads.

Similarly, the House of Representatives refused to comply with a Supreme Court ruling to return to the status quo after the Superior Court rendered its opinion in the ongoing Speakership dispute that has lasted for several months.

The Executive and the Senate would choose to ignore the Supreme Court, endorsing the actions of a so-called majority bloc that has since failed to gain legitimacy from the House of Representatives' leadership but has seized power by circumventing the law- and yet this is okay.

The above narrative tells how far Liberia has descended into lawlessness. What is more scaring is that, besides being an impediment to foreign investment, lawlessness undermines the stability of the state. Lawlessness deepens social divides and fosters a culture of mistrust among different communities. This fragmentation can lead to further violence and instability.

Finally, the escalating lawlessness in Liberia is a complex issue with deeprooted causes and far-reaching implications. Addressing this challenge requires concerted efforts from the government, civil society, and the international community. The Government can start by respecting the rule of law. The law is not discriminatory; it protects the weak against the strong and promotes equality and fairness.

AS I SEE IT



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

The AU Must Reconceptualize Regional Integration on the Continent to Achieve Peace and Sustainable Development

his opinion piece summarizes the PhD dissertation for Prof. Thomas Kaydor, Jr. from the Faculty of Government and European Studies, New University, Slovenia. The topic for the PhD research was 'reconceptualizing Africa's regional integration for peace and sustainable development'. Chapter five of the UN charter focuses on peace, and security; and Chapter VIII on regionalism. The dissertation investigated how AU utilizes its authority to mitigate conflicts on the continent. The research also evaluated whether Africa's regional integration leads to economic growth and development in Africa. You can read a full summary of the research at https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2024.807139.

The research has established that unless the continent engages in deeper economic integration, regionalism will not lead to regional development. It recommends how Africa might alleviate extreme poverty and attain sustainable development in the 21st Century and beyond. Its' four specific objectives were to: a) identify the benefits and challenges of Regionalism in Africa. b) ascertain why extreme poverty is widespread in Africa and propose what should be done through regional integration to alleviate the extreme poverty in Africa. c) find out the impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA) on Africa's regional development and propose ways to strengthen the impact of aid on poverty alleviation and economic development in Africa, and d) propose what Africa should do to Achieve Sustainable Development.

This research was Qualitative. Researchers use this method to explore meanings; investigate and study social phenomenon; or unpack meanings ascribed to activities, situations, events, or artifacts; and build a depth of understanding about some dimension of social life with detailed information from a small sample. Qualitative research is appropriate when one's primary purpose is to explore, describe, and explain.

Chapter one provided the research background, explained the research topic, discussed the research problem, and stated the research questions. It also contained the research aims, purpose and objectives. Chapter one further discussed the research methods used to undertake the research and described the chapters of the dissertation. It discussed other research already done on this subject matter. The chapter also indicates the anticipated research results and contribution that the research made to scholarship in general and specifically to international relations theory. It finally indicates the application of the research results. Narrative and explanatory methods were used in writing this chapter. The second chapter provided the theoretical perspective of this dissertation. It evaluated additional research already conducted is in this chapter. This chapter discusses what other authors and scholars have written and published about regional integration in Africa and other parts of the world. It found the research gaps in these previous scholarly works reviewed. These pieces of research have gaps that the dissertation attempts to bridge. The methods used in this chapter were historical, exploratory, and evaluative.

Chapter 3 in the PhD dissertation constituted the Review of Related Literature. This chapter reviewed not less than 100 academic pieces of literature related regional integration in African and globally. Chapter Four is the presentation, analysis, and discussion of field data. Chapter four presents, analyses, and discusses data collected through key informant interviews at the AU Commission. As indicated earlier, the AU has a chairperson who heads the AU Commission and a Deputy Chairperson who assists the Chairperson. The Union also has six commissioners responsible for thematic areas. The six commissioners are elected by the AU Executive Council and appointed by the Assembly for a four-year term renewable once. These commissioners head thematic areas, including Technology, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment; Political Affairs, Peace, and Security; Infrastructure and Energy; Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining; Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation; Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development. The heads of the departments of women, gender and youth, and civil society and diaspora were also interviewed.

AS I SEE IT, for Africa to have peace and achieve sustainable development through the continent's regional integration mechanism, the African Union (AU) needs to implement the 1991 Abuja Treaty; fully arm, equip and support the African Standby Force to make and keep peace. Africa needs a United States of Africa under one army, one border, one government, one foreign policy and one currency. The AU also needs to ensure that 80% of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in African states goes towards infrastructural development. Africa needs to constitute an AU sovereign fund for all Africans to contribute a dollar for infrastructural development on the continent. The AU needs to manage the environment appropriately and sustainably. The AU should focus on agricultural productivity, value addition and provision of safe drinking water to address the extreme hunger, malnutrition, water issues, hunger, and poverty on the continent. Finally, the AUC needs to become a Permanent Member of the UNSC.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. serves as an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. He holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he specialized in International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.' He earned a Master of Public Policy (MPP) specialized in Development Policy or Development Economics with Distinction from the Crawford School of Economics and Government (now the Crawford School of Public Policy), Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He also obtained his first master's degree as a Master oj Arts (MA) in International Relations (Highest Distinction), and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude in Political Science from the University of Liberia where his Minor was History with Mass Communication as his Elective. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; and he holds other professional diplomas and certificates from Italy, UK, Pakistan, China, and Israel. Prof. Kaydor is also an Adjunct Professor of International Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. Dr. Kaydor is an evidence-based researcher, a blogger, a columnist, and a published author. One can reach him via (kaydorth@ul.edu.lr or thkaydor@gmail.com).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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R is the party of I

-Rep. Kogar sounds caveat to emerging CMC By Stephen G. Fellajuah

As a new political party emerges in vote-rich Nimba County, the County. Any party that emerges in Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) of late Nimba means that its founders do Senator Prince Johnson sounds a caveat here.

imba, Liberia, March 3, county. affirming the opposition become more competitive. Movement for Democracy and If CMC gains traction, this could newly certificated Citizens ahead of future elections. Movement for Change (CMC) While accepting MDR's political party.

caution to the newly formed CMC, is solidifying his alignment with signaling that the MDR of late the party's influence in Nimba Senator Prince Yormie Johnson County. His statement suggests intends to maintain its strong gripe that any political group attempting on Nimba no matter which party to gain a foothold in the county is, emerges in the politically charged in his view, challenging the legacy

2025 - Senatorial aspirant With Nimba district#8 and Nimba County Representative Musa Hassan Representative Samuel Kogar, Bility now leading CMC, the draws a political line here by political landscape in Nimba could

Reconstruction (MDR)'s indeed lead to a major political dominance in Nimba, especially in showdown in Nimba, especially as response to the emergence of both parties position themselves

endorsement for the upcoming Kogar's caveat serves as a direct senatorial by-election, Rep. Kogar of the late Senator Prince Y.



"MDR is the party of Nimba not want the legacy of Senator Prince Johnson to remain here. Whether it is YDC, WTO, or any other party, bringing a new political group to Nimba, you are a confusionist", Kogar says.

"If anyone thinks they will cause noise in our backyard, the noise we will cause in their backyard will be worst", he cautions.

On March 1, 2025, the MDR officially nominated Rep. Samuel G. Kogar of Nimba County district# 5, as its sole candidate for the April 22, 2025, senatorial byelection in the county, solidifying his position as the party's frontrunner.

This move does not only affirm MDR's confidence in Kogar but also sets the stage for a competitive race, especially given the emergence of new political forces like the Citizens Movement for Change (CMC).

With this endorsement, Kogar is likely to intensify his campaign efforts, leveraging MDR's influence and the legacy of late Senator Prince Johnson to rally support.

However, it remains to be seen how other contenders would respond, and whether MDR's dominance in Nimba will face serious challenges in the pending senatorial election. Editing by Jonathan Browne

itional chiefs accuse Sen. Biney Maryland County Senator, James Biney, is in trouble with

traditional chiefs in his county, who have resolved to obstruct his ongoing projects.

Representative Samuel Kogar

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

leebo, Liberia, March 3, 2025 - Days after urging President Joseph Boakai to develop spine to drive Liberia's development, traditional chiefs from all 32 Nyanbo towns in Maryland have unanimously agreed to halt all ongoing projects by Senator James Biney, for allegedly opposing confirmation of a son of the town.

Prince Tarwin, a native of one of the thirty-two traditional towns, was nominated by President Joseph Nyuma Boakia, but allegedly denied confirmation by the Senate due to his academic credential, something which traditional elders believe was deliberately master-minded Senator Biney, because he doesn't want Mr. Tarwin to serve as Statutory District Superintendent of Pleebo Sodoken District.

The chiefs note that the Senate's refusal to confirm their son Tarwin, is because Senator Biney allegedly has his own interest to that he wants to recommend to the President for the position.

They emphasized that delay in the appointment is hindering

developments in the district, adding that it's one of the most politically and economically significant areas in Maryland County and Mr. Tarwin was recommended by them (Traditional chiefs) to serve the people of Pleebo Statutory District as Superintendent.

Executive that confirms Prince Tarwin's position.

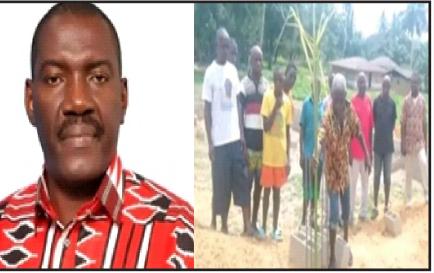
appointing Mr. Tarwin as our legitimate superintendent. Senator Biney is yet to speak or

Therefore, we do not want his development either," the chiefs declare.

As part of their resolution, the

chiefs have begun touring project sites linked to the senator, instructing contractors and beneficiaries to halt all activities. "We have taken the decision to shut down the two project sites of Senator Biney's. No contractor or beneficiary should continue work They further accuse Senator until he cooperates with our Biney of withholding an official demand to release the appointment letter from the appointment letter," a statement by the citizens says.

The traditional leaders have gone "Senator Biney has deliberately a step further, vowing not to refused to release the letter engage in any business or discussions with Biney.



The Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference calls for calm amid confroversy that has rocked the church over same-sex allegation.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

onrovia, Liberia, March 3, 2025 - The Resident Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference, Samuel Quire is taking a firm stance on the traditional definition of marriage amid ongoing split within the United Methodist Church (UMC) over same-sex marriage. Bishop Quire's reaffirmation of

traditional marriage in Monrovia reinforces the stance of the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Liberia. "Marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman", Quire declared.

The UMC has been experiencing deep divisions on this issue, with some congregations and regional

aligning marriage with biblical teachings and the laws of the nation, underscores the conservative position of many African UMC branches, where traditional views on marriage are widely upheld. The schism within the UMC has

led to significant departures, particularly with the formation of the Global Methodist Church (GMC), which was established as a more conservative alternative for congregations opposed to LGBTQ+ inclusion. Meanwhile, more progressive UMC conferences, especially in the U.S. and Europe, continue to push for greater inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in

This division highlights broader

marriage and ordination.



conferences choosing to disaffiliate due to differing views on same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+clergy.

Liberia's UMC, like many branches in Africa, has generally upheld a conservative theological stance on marriage and sexuality. Bishop Quire's reaffirmation of traditional marriage aligns with the broader sentiment of many African UMC churches, which have resisted the more progressive changes being embraced by some UMC conferences in the U.S. and Europe.

This debate has been a key factor in the formation of the Global Methodist Church (GMC), a new denomination that emerged as conservative congregations split from the UMC over disagreements on same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+ ordination.

Bishop Quire's statement reflects the deep theological and cultural divide within the global United Methodist Church (UMC) over same-sex marriage and

LGBTQ+ inclusion. "Marriage must align with biblical teachings and the laws of our nation," Bishop Quire

maintains. His emphasis on

tensions between cultural contexts, theological interpretations, and evolving social norms.

Bishop Quire's call for unity and reassurance of security for UMC places of worship suggests that tensions over the global schism have been felt locally, but the church in Liberia is striving to maintain stability.

His emphasis on traditional Christian values aligns with the broader stance of many African Methodist communities, which have remained steadfast in their opposition to same-sex marriage. Despite the international divide, his message indicates a commitment to the church's core mission, making disciples and teaching biblical principles. By urging local churches to focus on worship and spiritual responsibilities, he seems to be steering attention away from the controversy and toward maintaining the church's role in the community. It will be interesting to see how

the UMC in Liberia navigates its relationship with the global denomination in the coming years. Editing by Jonathan

Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Start From Page 6 Traditional chiefs accuse Sen. Biney

2025

come under scrutiny, particularly with regards to to see traditional leaders standing in the way." ongoing development projects championed by Senator Biney.

deliberately obstructing developmental initiatives, differences is important. which aim to uplift local communities.

Representative for two terms before his election to and the elected government. the senate in 2020, is undertaking infrastructural Community leaders convened meetings to discuss represents in Harper district.

chiefs voiced opposition to certain aspects of these that would benefit the entire community. projects, claiming that they do not align with the As tensions mount, outcome of this conflic cultural values or priorities of the community.

opposition is unwarranted and may stem from governance, particularly in regions where political rivalry or personal grievances.

community members, who expressed frustrations communication and mutual respect between over the lack of support from traditional leaders, leaders is clearer than ever, as the future emphasizing the importance of collaboration development of these towns hangs in the balance. between the chiefs and elected officials to foster

the issue but relationship between traditional chiefs progress. "We need these projects to improve our and elected officials in several native towns has lives," one local resident states. "It's disheartening

A local in one of the towns said, while they acknowledge the chief's role in the local Tensions escalate, resulting in accusations and governance structure, the importance of allegations that the traditional chiefs are prioritizing community welfare above political

He is calling for dialogue to bridge the divide and Senator Biney, who had served as Harper district forge a path that respects both traditional authority

projects that would address the needs of towns he potential solutions, emphasizing the need for unity in the face of challenges. There is a growing These projects include construction of town hall, sentiment among residents that cooperation youth center, and improving road networks. between the traditional chiefs and Senator Biney is However, recent reports indicate that the traditional essential for successful implementation of projects

remains uncertain. However, it serves as a critical But other residents of the county argue that such reminder of the complexities involved in traditional authority and modern political The New Dawn independently interviewed some structures intersect. The need for open

-Over lawmakers' salaries

By Lincoln G. Peters

The dispute over leadership at the House of Representatives over the speakership has created factions, with the majority bloc imposing itself as the new leadership.

upreme Court Chamber Justice Ceaineh D. Clinton-Johnson has summoned Finance Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan and the controller of the 55th National Legislature to appear and explain the justifications for the salary halt of some suspended House of Representatives lawmakers.

The lawmakers include Montserrado County District# 9 Representative Frank Saah Foko, Representatives Edward Papie Flomo of Montserrado County District #13, Abu Bana Kamara (District 15), and J. Marvin Cole of Bong County (District#3).

Eugene Kollie of Bong County (District#5), Alex Noah of Sinoe County (District #3), and Zinnah Norman of Gbarpolu County (District #1) are others.

The seven suspended lawmakers loyal to embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa recently sued the Government over unpaid salaries, unlawful treatment, and withholding their salaries.

The current "leadership of the House", headed by self-declared "Regime Speaker" Rep. Richard N. Koon, suspended the lawmakers dubbed the minority bloc for refusing to report for sessions and asked the executive to withhold their salaries.

But the aggrieved lawmakers say they are being unfairly punished, thus seeking redress before the Supreme Court.

'Our salaries have been held for no reason, and this is unfair in keeping with the law; this is why we have come to the court", one of the

.S. investigators assess damage on Capitol Buil

Fire Investigators from the United States are in Liberia to assist with ongoing investigation into the December 18, 2024, arson attack on the Capitol Building.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 3, **2025** - A team of fire experts from the United States is in Liberia to assist with ongoing investigation of the December 18, 2024, arson attack on the Capitol Building here. The team will assess damages inflicted by the attack and support the ongoing inquiry.

The fire caused extensive damage to the Capitol Building, including destruction of the Joint Chambers and the iconic dome, disrupting legislative activities.

The Liberia National Police has charged several individuals in connection with the attack, alleging a conspiracy to destabilize the government.

In an interview over the weekend at the headquarters of the Liberia National Police (LNP), Inspector General Gregory Coleman clarified: "The U.S. fire experts" role is to assess the damage and assist in the ongoing investigation into the Capitol Building fire, rather than conducting an independent inquiry."

The U.S. experts including a fire chief have begun their assessment, working closely with the Liberian National Police (LNP) and the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service (LNFRS). Their collaboration aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the incident, ensuring a thorough and transparent

investigation. IG Coleman discloses that a joint press conference is planned upon completion of the assessment to update the public on the findings

investigation.

possible involvement of prominent figures, including Montserrado County Representative Dixon Seboe, who allegedly provided financial support to suspects prior to the attack. Additionally, House Speaker Fonati Koffa cut short a medical trip to address being named a person of interest in the

The collaboration with U.S. fire authorities' commitment to a thorough and transparent responsible parties to justice.

Monrovia City Court determined evidence stands as factual. that the prosecution established a Editing by Jonathan Browne prima facie case, requiring the

and any further steps in the defendants to answer to the charges in a higher court.

Notably, the investigation has The defendants are accused of raised concerns about the conspiring to set fire to the Capitol Building on December 18, 2024, resulting in over US\$8 million in damages. Testimonies indicate they allegedly purchased gasoline to ignite the blaze, disrupting legislative sessions. Additionally, they are charged with assaulting a police officer during the incident, leaving him unconscious and stealing his firearm.

Magistrate Barco highlights that experts underscores the Liberian evidence collected from the crime scene and electronic devices linked to the defendants investigation, aiming to bring all support the prosecution's case. He emphasizes that unless On February 25, 2025, the effectively rebutted, this

that sufficient evidence exists to Following this ruling, the court proceed to trial against ordered the case records and the defendants Thomas Etheridge defendants to be transferred to the and Eric Sasay in the Capitol First Judicial Circuit, Criminal Building arson case. Stipendiary Court "A" at the Temple of Magistrate L. Ben Barco ruled Justice for further proceedings.



Associate Justice Ceaineh D. Clinton-Johnson's decision is based on a petition for a writ of mandamus filed by the suspended lawmakers against the government of Liberia regarding the halt to their salaries and benefits.

A mandamus is a court order instructing a government official to perform their duties or stop breaking the law. The term comes from the Latin phrase mandamus, which means "we command."

" YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to notify The Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, represented by Honorable Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, and Mr. Emmanuel Kopi, Comptroller of the 55th Legislature, and all those under their control, also of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, RESPONDENTS in the above entitled cause of action, to appear (by filing their returns) before Her Honor Ceaineh D. Clinton-Johnson, Associate Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia, presiding in Chambers, at the Supreme Court Room, Temple of Justice, on/or before the 10th day of March, A. D. 2025, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., to show cause why the PETITIONERS' PETITION as

prayed for should not be granted"

she ordered.

aggrieved Representatives explained.

The lawmakers complained that the Ministry of Finance and the Comptroller of the House of Representatives were illegally withholding their salaries and benefits.

They claim this decision was not based on any legal ruling but was influenced politically by the "Majority Bloc," a group of lawmakers who illegally removed Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

They argue that they were lawfully elected on October 10, 2023, and officially sworn in office on January 15, 2024, so by law, they should receive their full compensation as outlined in the national budget.

But instead, their paychecks have stopped coming.

Feeling cheated, they turned to the Supreme Court, filing a petition for a writ of mandamus, asking the court to force the Ministry of Finance to release their salaries.

The Minority lawmakers are insisting that the Minister of Finance and the Comptroller of Legislature have a clear duty to process payments for all lawmakers, regardless of political differences. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.



Le Sénateur Snowe Plaide pour l'Accueil d'Institutions de la CEDEAO au Liberia

que le Liberia a officiellement lancé sa candidature pour un siège non permanent au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, des discussions sont en cours en vue de soumettre une candidature pour accueillir une institution de la

uelques semaines après soutien de ses collègues au Sénat, Une opportunité pour le Liberia sollicitant l'implication des ministères et agences concernés afin que le Liberia puisse se positionner comme hôte d'une ou plusieurs institutions de la CEDEAO.

> Dans une correspondance adressée à la présidente par intérim du Sénat, Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrence, le jeudi 27 février, lors d'une session



Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO).

Le sénateur du comté de Bomi, Edwin M. Snowe, a entamé des démarches pour rallier le l'incertitude.

publique, le sénateur Snowe a souligné que le retrait du Burkina Faso, du Niger et du Mali de la CEDEAO a laissé plusieurs institutions régionales dans

En janvier 2024, les autorités militaires de ces trois pays ont annoncé leur retrait officiel de la CEDEAO, une décision qui affecte directement environ 130 employés de l'organisation issus de ces nations. Le sénateur Snowe estime que le Liberia pourrait tirer parti de cette situation en postulant pour accueillir certaines, voire la totalité, des institutions concernées, ce qui contribuerait à la création d'emplois et au développement économique du

Selon lui, la CEDEAO emploie actuellement 77 personnes au Burkina Faso, 23 au Mali et 32 au Niger. Parmi les institutions hébergées dans ces pays figurent l'Organisation Ouest-Africaine de la Santé (OOAS) et le Centre de Développement de la Jeunesse et des Sports (EYSDC) au Burkina Faso, ainsi que le Centre Régional de Santé Animale au Mali.

« Madame la Présidente Pro-Tempore et chers collègues, tout en espérant que les autorités des États concernés reconsidèrent

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



'ancien candidat à la présidence, Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe, a réitéré l'importance de juger les auteurs des crimes commis durant les guerres civiles libériennes, notamment les seigneurs de guerre, les responsables gouvernementaux et les dirigeants de groupes armés.

S'exprimant devant des journalistes à Gbarnga le 27 février, Cllr. Gongloe a souligné que la mise en place d'une Cour pour les crimes de guerre et économiques permettrait aux victimes et à leurs familles d'obtenir justice et contribuerait à tourner la page d'un passé douloureux.

Lutter contre l'impunité et la corruption

Outre les crimes de guerre, Cllr. Gongloe a insisté sur la nécessité de sanctionner les crimes économiques qui ont entravé le développement du Liberia et aggravé la pauvreté. Il a exhorté le gouvernement à enquêter et poursuivre les auteurs de détournements de fonds publics et de pratiques de corruption.

Il a également appelé la communauté internationale à soutenir l'établissement de cette Cour en fournissant les ressources nécessaires pour garantir son efficacité. Selon lui, cette institution devra être indépendante et dotée des moyens requis pour mener à Une revendication de longue date Depuis plusieurs années, des

organisations de défense des droits de l'homme, des groupes de la société civile et des associations de victimes plaident pour la création d'une Cour des crimes de guerre et économiques. Toutefois, les administrations précédentes, notamment celles d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et de George Weah, n'ont pas concrétisé cette initiative, invoquant un manque de ressources et de volonté politique.

Malgré ces obstacles, Cllr. Gongloe et d'autres défenseurs des droits humains espèrent que l'administration actuelle prendra des mesures décisives pour garantir que justice soit rendue aux victimes des conflits.

Un impératif pour l'avenir du Liberia S'adressant aux journalistes, Cllr. Gongloe a insisté sur le fait que la création de cette Cour est essentielle

pour l'avenir du Liberia. Elle permettrait d'instaurer l'obligation de rendre des comptes, de renforcer l'état de droit et de prévenir de futures

Il a appelé le gouvernement et la communauté internationale à agir rapidement pour concrétiser ce projet. En parallèle, il a souligné l'importance de renforcer le système judiciaire libérien afin de garantir son indépendance et sa capacité à protéger les droits de tous les citoyens.

La résolution relative à la création de la Cour des crimes de guerre et économiques a déjà été signée par l'Exécutif, la Chambre des représentants et le Sénat. Elle vise à remédier aux obstacles qui ont freiné le développement du Liberia et à assurer une justice équitable pour tous.



Éditorial

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

Par Daron Acemoglu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

leur décision de quitter la communauté, nous entre la CEDEAO et les trois États concernés ne pensons que si ce retrait se confirme, le Liberia serait idéalement placé pour accueillir l'une des institutions ou agences touchées. Cela permettrait également au pays de bénéficier des programmes et projets actuellement menacés par cette situation », a plaidé le sénateur Snowe.

Un impact économique positif

Au-delà de l'aspect institutionnel, il a souligné que l'accueil d'une agence de la CEDEAO renforcerait le rôle du Liberia au sein de l'organisation et stimulerait l'économie locale grâce aux emplois générés.

« Compte tenu de ces éléments, je demande respectueusement au Sénat de mandater les commissions des Affaires étrangères et des Finances pour travailler avec les ministères des Affaires étrangères et de la Planification et du Développement afin d'élaborer et de présenter une candidature officielle du Liberia », a-t-il insisté.

Le sénateur Snowe a également informé le Sénat qu'il avait, dès le 9 octobre 2024, adressé une correspondance aux ministres des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beyslow Nyanti, et des Finances, Augustine Ngafuan, pour solliciter leur appui dans cette démarche.

Dans sa réponse datée du 31 octobre 2024, la ministre des Affaires étrangères lui aurait indiqué que l'idée d'accueillir des institutions de la CEDEAO avait déjà été évoquée de manière informelle auprès de l'organisation. Toutefois, elle a précisé que le Liberia ne pourrait officiellement soumettre sa candidature tant que les négociations seraient pas finalisées.

Des projets de plusieurs millions de dollars menacés

Le sénateur Snowe a également mis en avant les lourdes conséquences économiques du retrait du Burkina Faso, du Niger et du Mali, citant notamment la suspension de plusieurs projets régionaux d'envergure, don't :

La Réserve régionale de sécurité alimentaire, qui compte près de 17 000 tonnes de stocks dans ces trois pays, soit 52 % des réserves régionales.

Le Programme régional d'appui au pastoralisme au Sahel (PRAPS), financé par la Banque mondiale à hauteur de 215 millions de dollars pour ces États. Le Programme d'appui à l'irrigation au Sahel

(PARIS), également soutenu par la Banque mondiale, pour un montant de 103,43 millions de dollars. Le Programme de résilience des systèmes

alimentaires régionaux (FSRP), financé à hauteur de 230 millions de dollars par la Banque mondiale. Le projet d'identité unique pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et d'intégration régionale (WURI). Le Marché régional de l'électricité de la CEDEAO

(WAPP), qui vise à connecter tous les Etats membres à un réseau électrique régional.

Le sénateur Snowe a conclu en appelant ses collègues et les autorités compétentes à saisir cette opportunité stratégique afin de renforcer le rôle du Liberia au sein de la CEDEAO et de stimuler son développement économique.

ept membres suspendus de la Chambre des représentants, proches du président contesté de l'Assemblée, J. Fonati Koffa, ont porté plainte contre le gouvernement libérien devant la Cour suprême. Ils dénoncent le gel de leurs salaires et prestations, qu'ils qualifient d'illégal et politiquement motivé.

Les députés concernés sont Frank Saah Foko (Montserrado, District #9), Edward Papie Flomo (Montserrado, District #13), Abu Bana Kamara (Montserrado, District #15), J. Marvin Cole (Bong, District #3), Eugene Kollie (Bong, District #5), Alex Noah (Sinoe, District #3) et Zinnah Norman (Gbarpolu, District #1). Une Sanction Jugée Injustifiée

Ces parlementaires ont été suspendus par la direction actuelle de la Chambre des représentants, dirigée par le député Richard N. Koon, qui s'est autoproclamé "Président du Régime". Ils sont accusés d'avoir boycotté les sessions législatives et, en conséquence, l'exécutif a été sollicité pour suspendre leurs salaires.

Les députés suspendus dénoncent une décision injuste et réclament la restitution de leurs émoluments devant la Cour suprême.

« Nos salaires ont été bloqués sans raison légale, ce qui est contraire aux lois en vigueur. C'est pourquoi nous nous tournons vers la justice », a déclaré l'un des plaignants.

Ils estiment que le ministère des Finances et le comptable de la Chambre des représentants retiennent illégalement leurs salaires sous la pression du « Bloc Majoritaire », groupe de parlementaires ayant destitué J. Fonati Koffa dans des circonstances

Le Président de la FOMTUL dénonce une manipulation politique

politiques.

Le 26 février 2025, des Quelques jours après l'entrée mai 2025.

Selon les manifestants, cette internationaux. mobilisation vise à faire Un Mouvement Manipulé? pression sur la Police nationale Interrogé sur cette initiative lors du Liberia (LNP) et le gouvernement afin d'obtenir la levée des restrictions temporaires imposées à la circulation des motos-taxis dans certaines zones clés de Monrovia.

Un Contexte Tendu

La mesure restrictive a été instaurée le 20 février 2025 à la suite d'un accident tragique survenu la veille à Crown Hill. Un véhicule ayant subi une défaillance mécanique est entré en collision avec une moto, entraînant la mort d'Emmanuel Trokon Pajibo, un conducteur de moto-taxi.

En réaction à cet incident, des motards en colère ont

e président de la déclenché des émeutes, Fédération des Unions vandalisant des postes de de Motocyclistes et police et d'autres Tricyclistes du Liberia infrastructures le long de (FOMTUL), John Abel Tubman Boulevard, dans le Kenyor, a fermement rejeté centre de Monrovia et à toute participation ou soutien à Freeport. Face à cette escalade une manifestation, en de violence, la LNP a décidé de particulier lorsqu'elle est restreindre la circulation des motivée par des considérations motos-taxis dans certaines zones.

membres de l'Union des en vigueur de l'interdiction, un Motocyclistes du Liberia ont groupe se présentant comme été aperçus marchant de l'"Union des Motocyclistes" l'intersection d'ELWA jusqu'au est descendu dans la rue pour ministère de la Justice pour annoncer la tenue prochaine de informer les autorités de leur leur manifestation et solliciter intention de protester le lundi 3 l'attention du gouvernement ainsi que de ses partenaires

du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT) le 27 février 2025, M. Kenyor a déclaré ne pas être au courant d'une telle mobilisation.

Il a révélé que depuis leur première conférence de presse une semaine plus tôt, il avait reçu des appels de personnes qu'il identifie comme membres de partis politiques cherchant à s'impliquer dans l'organisation de la protestation. Face à cette situation, il a catégoriquement refusé de soutenir le mouvement, affirmant qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une initiative indépendante de l'union des motocyclistes, mais d'une action politiquement motivée.

Tout en regrettant les tensions actuelles, il a dénoncé toute tentative d'exploiter cette crise pour ternir l'image du pays.



Edward Papie Flomo

controversées.

Un Conflit Politique Persistant

Les plaignants rappellent qu'ils ont été élus le 10 octobre 2023 et officiellement investis le 15 janvier 2024. À ce titre, ils doivent percevoir l'intégralité de leur rémunération, comme prévu par le budget national. Or, leurs paiements ont été interrompus sans justification légale.

Se sentant lésés, ils ont introduit une requête en mandamus auprès de la Cour suprême, demandant à celle-ci d'ordonner au ministère des Finances de débloquer leurs salaires. Ils insistent sur le fait que le ministre des Finances et le comptable du Législatif ont l'obligation légale de traiter les paiements de tous les députés, indépendamment de leurs affiliations politiques.

Un Bras de Fer Juridique

La Cour suprême du Liberia a déjà qualifié d'ultra vires (au-delà de ses pouvoirs légaux) la destitution du président Koffa, ordonnant un retour au status quo ante et le respect des procédures légales. Cependant, le Bloc Majoritaire, avec le soutien de l'exécutif dirigé par le président Joseph Boakai, continue d'ignorer cette décision.

Les tensions ont atteint un point critique avec l'intrusion forcée des partisans du Bloc Majoritaire dans le bureau du président Koffa, où ses effets personnels ont été jetés à l'extérieur, sans mandat judiciaire.

Face à cette situation, les députés suspendus persistent dans leur combat juridique, espérant obtenir justice devant la plus haute juridiction du pays.



A Call for Fiscal Responsibility: Liberia's Urgent Path Forward:

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

MONDAY

n recent weeks, reports of budget overspending and fiscal irresponsibility from the Boakai-.Koung Administration have called Liberia's economic health into question.

As the country battles an increasingly challenging economic landscape, the Liberian government must heed lessons from both its own past and the broader global economic climate.

Liberia's various socio-economic setbacks are not unique. Many African countries grapple with similar predicaments, misallocated resources, unchecked government spending, and mounting debt.

This backdrop raises a critical question: What is Liberia's path forward, and what can it learn from its neighbors?

A glance across Africa highlights nations like

Zimbabwe, South Sudan, and Angola, which have suffered due to a lack of fiscal accountability. Zimbabwe, infamous for hyperinflation, recently saw its currency collapse as government spending remained unchecked.

In South Sudan, years of conflict compounded with poor fiscal management has led to a humanitarian crisis, where millions rely on foreign aid to survive.

Similarly, despite its vast oil reserves, Angola battles rampant corruption and mismanagement, leaving its citizens in poverty while state coffers run dry.

Dr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's Administration: A Tenuous Balance:

The new administration under Dr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai faces a monumental challenge in recalibrating Liberia's fiscal policies.

The news of a spiraling budget and overspending is disheartening. If left unchecked, it threatens to exacerbate the hardships faced by ordinary Liberians. For a nation that has endured years of civil unrest and economic mismanagement, the time for a paradigm shift toward responsible governance

Liberia's economy is fragile, built on a foundation of agriculture, mining, and a burgeoning service industry.

Yet, the challenges remain immense. Basic infrastructure needs urgent attention, education and healthcare systems languish under the weight of underfunding, and women and children, often the most vulnerable, continue to bear the brunt of poor governance.

Irresponsible fiscal policies only compound these issues, creating a cycle of poverty that can last for generations.

What is especially alarming is the potential shortterm versus long-term impact of budget overspending.

While it might present a temporary solution in the form of infrastructural projects or government handouts, the underlying reality is that such measures usually lead to crippling debt.

translate into long-term detriments, compromising the state's ability to support its citizens.

Lessons from Global Economic Movements:

The current world economic instability, partly instigated by the United States' fiscal policies, serves as a cautionary tale for Liberia.

The United States economy, which plays a significant role in global trade, faces its own challenges that reverberaorldwide.

As nations grapple with inflation, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions, Liberia cannot afford to operate in a vacuum. The ripple effects of global economic policies

As seen in Zimbabwe, short-term gains can swiftly

administration.

For instance, participatory budgeting, in which citizens have a say in how the budget is allocated, could empower people and guarantee that resources are directed toward the most pressing needs, such as improving healthcare and education, notably higher education, like the University of Liberia.

Furthermore, addressing issues related to women and children is a non-negotiable aspect of responsible governance.

Investing in women's education, healthcare, and economic opportunities has yielded significant socioeconomic benefits.

Such initiatives can create multiplier effects within the nation and communities, fostering resilience and reducing vulnerability.

The Road Ahead: A Call to Action:

Fiscal responsibility should resonate from the highest levels of government down through every sector of society.

The Boakai-Koung Administration must acknowledge the shortcomings of previous administrations and actively work to establish a new framework for budgeting that is adjacent to accountability and transparency.

Examples from other African nations, such as Rwanda, which has made remarkable strides in governance and economic management postgenocide, provide a blueprint worth considering.

Rwanda's emphasis on accountability and strong anti-corruption policies

have substantially improved public services and national morale.

Liberia can achieve this ambition by committing to responsible budgeting and prioritizing citizens' needs.

With 2025 just two months away and beyond, the time for action is now.

The government must stop the spread of budget overspending and start reflecting the people's aspirations for progress.

The world is watching, the Liberian people are hopeful, and the spirit of resilience remains intact.

However, the Boakai-Koung Administration must realize that fiscal irresponsibility will diminish the future of today's population and future generations.

The months and years provide a unique opportunity for the current administration to unite and commit to fiscal accountability and responsible governance.

Liberia can forge a deeper path toward economic stability and social prosperity by learning from the successes and failures of other countries and the world at large.

The promise of a brighter future rests on the decisions made today. Liberia's journey starts with steadfast, responsible financial stewardship.



must inform Liberia's fiscal decisions.

Dr. Boakai must understand that the consequences of fiscal irresponsibility extend beyond national borders.

The dynamics of international trade mean that poor economic decisions at home can lead to less foreign investment, reduced aid, and increased vulnerability during global economic downturns.

To navigate these turbulent waters successfully, it is crucial for Liberia to integrate an understanding of global economic trends into its governance strategy.

Moreover, fiscal accountability can never be overstated. It is essential for the Boakai-Koung Administration to prioritize transparency in budget allocation, ensuring every cent is accounted for and serves the purpose of uplifting the community.

It calls for establishing more verifiable fiscal policies that resonate with the people's aspirations, aligning governmental goals with the needs of its citizens. This should be the hallmark of governance in Liberia.

Empowering Citizens Through Fiscal Reforms:

Fundamentally, the government exists to serve the people. With many disenfranchised, it is crucial to return power to the citizens through fiscal reforms.

Initiatives that promote inclusive growth and citizen engagement will help create a more accountable MARCH 03 www.thenewdawnliberia.com **NEW DAWN 11** 2025

More chaos engulfs the United Methodist Church here, as breakaway church members clash with police in forceful eviction.

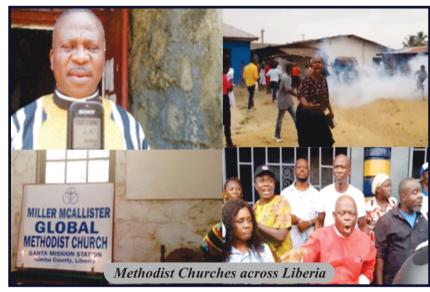
By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh & Thomas Domah, Nimba County

MONDAY

onrovia, Liberia, March 3, 2025 -Sunday, March 2, 2025, worship turned dramatic at Methodist Churches across Liberia over

been denied access to the church facility due to their split from the United Methodist Church over issues related to LGBTQ+policies.

Similar chaos erupted in other United Methodist Churches,



the eviction of breakaway members from Church properties for refusing to accept same-sex marriage under the new regionalization

The chaos started at the 72nd Methodist Church, where more than a hundred members and worshippers withdrew their membership from the United Methodist Church a few weeks ago over allegations of the enforcement of Same-Sex Marriage through the new Regionalization Law, under the Book of Discipline.

The law allows two consenting adults to marry rather than a Man-to-Woman Marriage, as mandated under the law of Liberia.

The aggrieved 72nd Methodists, under the now Global Methodist Church headed by Rev. Dr. Jerry Kulah and Resident Pastor Kanneth Jackson, supported by 142 Methodists, were determined to resist the UMC leadership, which had gone to evict them from the Church building to install a new

The day became bleaker when resisting worshippers clashed with Police that had accompanied the United Methodist Church leadership under the Liberia Annual Conference to install Pastor Simeon Doe while evicting the newly-formed Global Methodist Church worshippers.

But the resisting worshippers sang songs and slogans while throwing stones, leading the Police to fire tear gas canisters and chase them away.

"We do not want gay rights", they chanted.

According to them, they have

including N.B. Whitfield United Methodist Church in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Ganta United Methodist Church in Ganta, Nimba County, Dwazohn United Methodist Church, and New Georgia United Methodist Church opposite New Georgia Estate.

The breakaway Methodists' opposition to the church's doctrine supporting gay marriage and appointment of gay bishops remain resolute in their commitment to preserving what they believe to be true teachings of Jesus Christ, even at the risk of their lives.

Dr. Jerry Kula and his followers are campaigning against the UMC's regionalization policy that encourages and approves gay rights and other immoral activities within the church. They vow to remain steadfast in their opposition to such strange teachings that run contrary to the Holy Bible, which preaches marriage between a man and a woman only.

Speaking briefly upon their release, Rev. Kula accused the Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Quire, Jr., of betraying the church's original teachings.

"Bishop Quire and all of us agreed that the day the United Methodist Church Worldwide passes the regionalization policy, we will leave and go our separate ways", Rev. Kula reveals.

Dr. Kula continues, "Bishop Quire is on record campaigning from Church to Church, district to district, but after his 2023 engagement with the global convention, he somersaulted."

He and his followers argue that the acceptance of gay practices within the church is not only a violation of moral standards but also a direct breach of Liberia's Constitution, which strongly opposes such acts.

Despite the growing religious tensions surrounding the debate, the Government of Liberia, led by President Joseph Nyuma Boaka, is keeping a tight-lipped about the situation.

Meanwhile, Police made several arrests, including Rev. Dr.Kulah Kula and some of his followers, who were released subsequently with one vehicle destroyed in the clashes.

St the same time one of the heads for the breakaway faction of the Methodist Church that is now referred to as Global Methodist Church, Rev. Eblezener Belleh and Rev. Jerry Kandea openly blame the government under President Boakai for not speaking on the current crisis in the Methodist Church.

According to them, the authorities are waiting to see if the situation turns bloody.

During Sunday worship at Miller MCALLISTER United Methodist Church in Ganta, now under the control of the Global Methodists, the congregants vow they will not allow anyone to remove them from the premises.

The Government of Liberia has deployed armed police officers from Yekepa and Ganta, respectively, to protect the church's properties.

The New Dawn gathered that Pastors Jerry Kandea and Eblezener Belleh, two ranking members of Gompa District United Methodist Church, have crossed over to the Global Methodists led by Dr. Jerry Kula. They vowed not to allow anyone from the United Methodist Church to worship in the edifice.

State securities assigned at the Miller MCALLISTER United Methodist Church compound in Belleh, who had allegedly gone to attack them.

But when contacted, the former District Superintendent Rev. Belleh confirmed carrying a cutlass during the night hours but didn't attack security officers, as alleged.

The NEW DAWN also gathered that several properties, including the Sanniquellie First United Methodist Church, have been renamed Sanniquellie Global Methodist Church by its head Pastor, Rev. Stanley K Manbah, joining ranks with Dr. Kula and his new denomination. Editing by Jonathan Browne

From Back Page ArcelorMittal's new \$1.4 Billion Expansion

In 2019, the governments of Guinea asserts that it should remain the and Liberia signed an agreement allowing limited transport of Guinean ore through Liberia, capping at an annual maximum of five million tons per annum (mtpa). HPX, which operates in Guinea, now seeks to transport its ore through Liberia under significantly different financial terms.

While ArcelorMittal is willing to pay \$200 million annually in revenue to Liberia, HPX's proposed deal would contribute only between \$5 million and \$10 million for transport fees. Despite this stark difference, HPX insists that ArcelorMittal should not remain the railway operator—a demand that ArcelorMittal argues is unfair.

A Matter of Equity and National Interest

ArcelorMittal has invested approximately \$800 million in rebuilding Liberia's railway, which was severely damaged during the country's civil war. The company operator of the rail, given its longterm commitment to Liberia, its role in mining Liberian iron ore, and its employment of thousands of Liberians. ArcelorMittal contends that if HPX were in its position, it would not accept being forced to relinquish operational control under similar circumstances.

With Liberia standing to gain \$200 million annually from ArcelorMittal's expansion compared to just \$10 million from HPX's proposed arrangement, the question remains: should HPX be allowed to block a deal that holds the potential to significantly boost Liberia's economy, create thousands of jobs, and help the government meet its national revenue targets?

The Boakai administration faces a critical decision that will shape Liberia's economic future and the strategic management of its natural resources.

Nimba County District 7 Representative Musa H. Bility, former chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties and former embattled Chairman of the Liberty Party now heads a new political party.

imba County, March 3, 2025/ Nimba County Distret #7 Representative Musa Hassan Bility has been elected on a white ballot to head the newly established Citizens Movement for Change (CMC). Rep. Bility was elected alongside Mr. James M.V. Yogee, who was elected Chairman, and Mr. Wilfred Bangura, who was elected secretary General, all on a white ballot. The new CMC leadership was elected at the party's first convention held in Saclepea, Nimba County on Friday, February 28. The convention brought together an array of prominent opposition figures who showed up to support the CMC on its new political journey. Inducting the new CMC leadership on Saturday, March 1, human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe called on the CMC to be the difference that Liberia needs, especially given that the country is facing a quagmire wherein when a new government comes to power, promising to right the wrongs of the past, it always ends up repeating those same mistakes.

"What kind of country is this, where one government comes to power, promising to right the wrongs of the Ganta say they arrested a past, only to repeat those very same cutlass from Rev. Eblezener mistakes? What kind of country is this where, under the guise of leadership, we violate international law and human dignity? We cannot continue to operate in a nation that ignores the very principles upon which it is supposed to stand. This is why we need a new kind of leadership, a leadership that will respect the rule of law, uphold human rights, and lead with dignity, not ignorance and arrogance. The time for change is now! Let us stop pretending that these are small issues. They are huge. They are the very issues that keep families perpetually in a state of abject poverty and make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to break free from the chains of poverty. Liberia needs a leadership that will change the current direction of Liberia toward progress and prosperity. I want to ask you, my fellow Liberians —when will we stop this madness? When will we decide that

our future is worth more than the

comfort of a few?

"Liberia cannot continue down the same path of neglect. We need to invest in our children, in our schools, in our healthcare system, food production, infrastructure and in our future. Let's rise up! Let's demand better governance! We need to change the mindset that has held us back for so long. Let us build a Liberia where no one is above the law, where corruption is rooted out, and where justice is for all-not just for the rich and influential, the elites. A better Liberia is possible, but it will not come with the same leaders, the same practices, or the same mindset. We must make tough choices during election time. "We need a leader who understands that Liberia's future is in the hands of its people and that the only way forward is good leadership. More than that we need a national crusade of all wellmeaning Liberians beyond party lines to change the direction of Liberia for the better. The time to act is now. We need a new Liberia—a country where every child has an opportunity to thrive, where there is hope for the future generations of Liberia and where the government is no longer a place to steal, but a place to serve. Let's build the Liberia we deserve! Together, we can make it happen! Can we? I want an answer! Can we? Can we? Yes indeed, we can!" Cllr. Gongloe said.

Addressing the delegates and the audience, newly inducted Political Leader Bility said the CMC is a people-focused political party that is here to make a difference, not an election-time political institution that has come for mere posturing.

"Today is not just another day. Today is the beginning of something new. Today, we gather not just to form another political party, not just to add another name to the long list of parties that come and go with election cycles. Today, we launch a movement—one that belongs to the people, one that will stand with the people every single day, whether in government or in opposition.



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ArcelorMittal's new \$1.4 Billion Expansion Plan in jeopardy

ArcelorMittal has proposed a \$1.4 billion expansion in Liberia, a move that promises to usher Liberia into a new, glorious era of ore production.

ArcelorMittal

onrovia, March 3, 2025/ The deal economists say will bring major economic benefits, including 2,000 new direct jobs and increased government revenue from 40

Already, ArcelorMittal's expansion project has created 3,000 new jobs for Liberians, and if the expansion proceeds, the government stands to gain an annual revenue boost from approximately \$150 million

High Power Exploration (HPX), a Guinean mining company that is lobbying aggressively to derail the deal. The main point of contention centers around control of Liberia's railway, a crucial transportation infrastructure for mining operations in both Liberia and Guinea.

Key Issues at Stake

The dispute over the railway is rooted in HPX's own selfseeking, deeply rooted in an anti-AML agenda. HPX and its collaborators, for obvious reasons, do not want AML as operator of the rail.

The first amendment to to AML.



ArcelorMittal's Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), signed in 2006 and ratified in 2007, included provisions for third-party access and for ownership of the railway and port to eventually revert to the Government of Liberia (GoL). While ArcelorMittal has consistently cooperated with the government regarding potential third-party rail users, discussions have stalled due to external influences unrelated

The company, which still has

million to about \$200 million

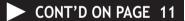
each year

six years remaining on its current agreement, is set to expand its rail and processing operations while upgrading infrastructure such as the railway, port, and a new ore processing plant.

addition. This substantial increase could meaningfully contribute to President Joseph Boakai's administration's goal of raising national revenue to \$1 billion, especially given that Liberia's current budget stands at \$800 million.

Liberia

However, the expansion plan faces intense opposition from









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Opposite the National Investment Commission