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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, MARCH 07, 2025	L\$197.8984/US\$1.00	L\$199.6642/US\$1.00

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

# The New Dawn

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# NPHIL in crisis?

# Koijee seeks U.S. intervention



**Ex-Mayor Koijee**

## -Writes President Donald Trump

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# Continental News

## Nigerian senator suspended after making sexual harasssment claims

Nigerian lawmakers have suspended a senator for six months, after she submitted a petition alleging she had been sexually harassed by the



Nigerian senators voted to suspend Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan for six months

senate president. Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan first made the accusations against one of the country's top politicians, Godswill Akpabio in an interview last Friday. After dismissing her petition on procedural grounds, the ethics committee recommended Uduaghan's suspension, saying she had brought ridicule to the upper

chamber of the National Assembly. Some senators argued that her suspension be cut to three months but a majority voted to stick with the six months

suspension recommended by the ethics committee. Women's rights activist Hadiza Ado told the BBC that Senator Uduaghan's suspension was a "sad day for Nigerian women". Uduaghan afterwards described her suspension as "an injustice that will not be sustained". She vowed to continue her "pursuit for justice" over her treatment. The accusations

have dominated discussions across Nigeria since she first made them nearly a week ago. Many highly placed people and groups have called for a transparent investigation. On Wednesday, two groups of protesters gathered at the assembly ground in the capital, Abuja - one backing Akpabio and the other in support of his colleague, chanting "Akpabio must go." Mrs Ado, who founded the Women and Children Initiative, said: "We've been following events at the Assembly keenly and hoping that investigation into Natasha's allegations would follow." "All we can say is that today is a sad day for Nigerian women fighting for emancipation. Out of 109 senators, only four are women and one is now suspended," she said. Many women on social media also expressed their anger over the suspension, with some calling it "oppression." During her suspension, Uduaghan will be barred from the National Assembly premises and her office will be locked. BBC

## Sudan takes UAE to world court over 'complicity in genocide'

Sudan is taking the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing it of supporting Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the civil war. Khartoum argues the UAE is "complicit in the genocide" of the Masalit community, in West Darfur, through its military, financial and political backing for the RSF. In response, the UAE has strongly rejected Sudan's allegations, calling the case a "cynical publicity stunt", and saying it will seek an immediate dismissal. Since the war began in April 2023, both the RSF and the Sudanese army have been accused of committing atrocities. The RSF has been accused of committing a genocide in Darfur - against the region's non-Arabic groups. According to news agency AFP, Sudan's submission to the ICJ says: "The United Arab Emirates fuels the rebellion and supports the militia that has committed the crime of genocide in West Darfur. "The United Arab Emirates must make full reparation for

the injury caused (by) its internationally wrongful acts, including paying reimbursement to the victims of the war." An unnamed UAE official said that "the allegations presented by the SAF representative at the ICJ lack any legal or factual basis, representing yet another attempt to distract from this calamitous war". UN experts monitoring the arms embargo on Darfur have previously described accusations of the UAE smuggling weapons to

the RSF through Chad as credible. The ICJ's advisory opinion is not legally binding but still carries significant political weight. The nearly two-year war has devastated Sudan, with tens of thousands killed and over 12 million people displaced, fuelling one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Earlier this week, heavy shelling on a camp for displaced people in North Dafur left dozens of people feared dead. BBC



The RSF has been accused of committing a genocide in Darfur - against the region's non-Arabic groups

## Injuries as Mozambique police fire on opposition protest

At least a dozen people were injured after Mozambican police violently dispersed a protest led by opposition leader Venâncio Mondlane, the runner-up in last year's disputed presidential election, Mondlane's team and a civil society group say. Eyewitnesses and Mondlane's aides said the police fired live rounds at the opposition leader's convoy and the anti-government protesters who had joined him on the streets of the capital, Maputo, on Wednesday. Neither the police nor the authorities have commented. The protests came as President Daniel Chapo, who took office in January, was due to sign a deal after talks with other political parties to end months of protests over the disputed election. Mondlane, who has been calling for the protests, was excluded from the talks leading to the ceremony.

children from a nearby school had died from the shooting. It said 16 people had been injured, including their camera person, with others seriously affected by tear gas. In a statement, it said Mondlane's condition was "unknown, and his whereabouts are causing concern among his entire team". A video shared on social media shows the moment when gunshots started ringing out as the procession approached what looks like an armoured vehicle on the streets. People run for safety and the crowds disappear, while the gunfire continues. More images of people bloodied from the incident have also been shared online. A witness, who was among the protesters, told the AFP news agency that police had started shooting, as if it was an "ambush scenario. It was just a march". "I saw some people bleeding from their wounds. My friend was wounded in the leg. I also saw a child who was shot and lost his life in hospital," AFP quoted 27-year old protester Silvestre Alexandre as



Mozambique's opposition leader has vowed to continue anti-government protests

A communique from Mondlane's office said the opposition leader had been leading a procession on Wednesday afternoon when his convoy came under fire. "A contingent of the UIR [a rapid intervention police unit] rammed into Venâncio Mondlane's convoy and began a barrage of gunfire, using live ammunition and tear gas," it added. In response to the incident, Interior Minister Paulo Chachine told reporters that the police had a mission to prevent any attempt to disrupt the deal-signing ceremony. He denied that there had been an attempt to kill Mondlane. Sixteen people were injured, according to local civil society group Plataforma Decide. The BBC has not been able to confirm the casualty figures. Mondlane's team said two

saying. Mozambique's former colonial power, Portugal, has condemned "the unacceptable attack on Venâncio Mondlane's convoy" while calling for "restraint from violence and respect for fundamental rights". In a post on X, the Portuguese foreign affairs ministry has also offered condolences to the bereaved families. Since President Chapo took over in January, he has made promises for a broad political dialogue that would include various sectors of the society, in order to end the country's post-election crisis. Some analysts have however criticised him for excluding Mondlane from the talks. On Wednesday, Mondlane condemned the political deal, calling it "an agreement of people without the people". He said that protests would continue. "If they don't do what the people want, they won't govern Mozambique," he said. Since October, close to 400 people have died in violence linked to the protests, according to civil society organisations.



# EDITORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are hearing that the House of Representatives has summoned the Ministers of Labor, Commerce, Bureau of Concession, Environmental Protection Agency and Serthi Ferro Fabrik Steel Factory to appear before it this Tuesday, 25 February to address the oxygen explosion at the factory that led to the death of an employee.

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

In his communication, Rep. Jones cites Article 8 of the 1986 Constitution, which guarantees just and humane working conditions for all citizens, stressing that the government must ensure that factories operating in Liberia adhere to strict safety standards.

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

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

# COMMENTARY

By Olivier Blanchard,  
Jean Pisani-Ferry

## Maintaining Progress in a Post-American World

PARIS - “The postwar global order is not just obsolete; it is now a weapon being used against us.” So says US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, perfectly encapsulating his boss’s attitude toward global governance. President Donald Trump’s administration is completely rejecting the principles that the United States has promoted since the 1941 Atlantic Charter.

The 70-plus executive orders and memos issued since Trump returned to the White House on January 20 envision a very different global system than the one that has prevailed for the past eight decades. Gone is the balance between privileges and obligations that characterized the rules-based postwar order.

Most governments are rightly appalled by what they are seeing. They still recognize the importance of preventing pandemics, respecting trade rules, limiting a race-to-the-bottom tax competition, and fighting climate change. The question is whether they can find common ground and act in an effective way without the US.

We believe they can, especially if the European Union, which itself is governed by rules and shared commitments, takes the lead in organizing a collective response. To that end, EU countries should start reaching out to each other and non-EU countries to form “coalitions of the willing” across four key domains: global public health, climate change, international trade, and corporate taxation.

Start with public health. One of Trump’s first decisions as president was to withdraw from the World Health Organization, a move understandably met with dismay around the world. Fortunately, though, preventing future pandemics does not require US membership in the WHO. While there will certainly be budgetary consequences, the rest of the world can easily fill the gap, which amounts to some \$500 million per year. What matters most is that the WHO can continue to fulfill its mission, especially in disease-prone poorer countries.

On climate change, the EU already sets binding policy targets for member states, and is therefore well positioned to act as one, form alliances with third countries and exert significantly more global influence. It could negotiate new partnership agreements and build a coalition of the willing to maintain momentum toward net-zero emissions, despite the US withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. Potential partners include major advanced economies and many emerging markets, the most obvious one being China. Despite being the world’s top emitter of greenhouse gases, China has a vested interest in the net-zero transition.

True, as the Nobel laureate economist William Nordhaus has pointed out, the larger a climate coalition grows, the stronger the incentive for others to free ride on the discipline it provides. But this problem can be overcome. Nordhaus’s own

solution is to form climate clubs whose members would place a tariff on imports from non-participating countries. This option may not be legal under current World Trade Organization rules; but given Trump’s misbehavior, it may still be the way to go.

On the matter of international trade more broadly, the EU has powerful cards to play in response to US tariffs. Here, too, it can create a coalition of the willing with countries that want to continue to play by reasonable rules and help reform the global trade architecture.

Trade policy is a quintessential EU competence. The European Commission negotiates trade agreements on behalf of all member countries, and once an agreement has been reached, it must be approved by a qualified majority of member states in the Council of the EU and by the European Parliament. As illustrated by France’s failure to block the recent EU-Mercosur trade deal, a minority of holdouts cannot stymie the will of the majority.

This arrangement has been instrumental in making the EU a global trading power. Now, Europe should take the initiative to bring together those who want to salvage what is left of trade multilateralism and define an agenda for the future. Obvious partners include India and China. By launching a major negotiation, the EU would demonstrate that it is not blindly following the US.

That brings us to taxation. In October 2021, after a long discussion process, more than 140 jurisdictions agreed on a minimum effective tax rate on multinational corporations’ profits. If a firm does not pay 15% in one country, participating countries can collectively tax it on the difference and then prorate the distribution of the proceeds according to the share of production in each jurisdiction. The great advantage of this system is that it is self-enforcing. If a jurisdiction does not collect the 15% tax, others will, creating a powerful incentive to collect it oneself.

To come into force, this agreement must be ratified by national parliaments. So far, more than 40 countries have done so, and many others are scheduled to vote soon. The Trump administration’s abandonment of the agreement was largely symbolic, because Congress had not approved it. In any case, other countries can still bring the minimum tax to fruition, though they should expect US pushback.

In this new world, where major multilateral institutions are likely to find themselves paralyzed in the near term, coalitions of the willing will be necessary to advance global progress and cooperation. On global public health, climate change, international trade, and corporate taxation, Europe can lead by example and help to keep multilateralism alive. Now that the Trump administration is openly repudiating the postwar rules-based system that the US was instrumental in building, Europe and others can and must fill the leadership vacuum - including through partnering with China.





# Lord, what happening to ley Rescue Train na?

(Arepeat)

Dear Father:

So, they say whatin happening to ley Rescue Train na. You wan tell us it will reach to our owner junction na? I thought they say, it wor coming with speed? Oh, my son, you na hear ley news?

What news Father? Da whatin happening?  
You na hear they say ley Rescue Train engine get some problem? Tehy say ley Train na start leaking oil.

You say whatin! So soon?  
Oh, you jest hearing it. They say ley Rescue Train mon be dragging again-lol. Look all da speed thing you used to be hearing they say da vla.  
You joking!

Okay, be there. they say ley Recuse Train engine started smoking before it could even geh on ley main road. You wan see ley Rescue crew fighting for their own survival on le Train?

Da lie...hahaha, are you killing me?  
Be there, be talking leh you jest from Uncle Sam’s village. You will soon know whether goat can start from G.

Father, what dog care about family planning-ehn da jest to born and leave it with ley owner to take care of it?

Where? Da na in this rescue era oo. You hear ley people say ley oil seal and ley gasket maker on ley Rescue Train fini, they telling everybody to be patient da ley play ley dog mon come lee him children eh.

Father, ley thing you talking ay making me scarry na oo. In fact, next week I will hustle to geh small money to carry my dog dem for family planning, because right now those three women dogs when they try it, it will na be small thing.

Oh, you na wait for ley Resuce Train to come for you again. The play weh ley people fighting to rescue themselves eh da ley play you want com be waiting and expecting-you will balance.  
Father, dis one da true oo.

Be there, they will wait for you. The play ley man dem eh their teeth dem sharp, sharp.  
Hmm, no wonder my man wor telling me ley other day that him wor going to Pekin man village to get some quick, quick spare parts.

Yes, oo. If ley village people na do something, they will really stay long inside oo.  
Hmm, this our village-kpo. So, all ley delay ley train on, not knowing our man dem fighting for themselves inside there instead of helping to make sure ley train pick up very fast.

Hmm, you know Father, I was listening to ley Pekin man dem light ley other day, I wor too shame for ley. Ley man jest looking for all kina means to geh ley kina attention he used to have before bor no way.

Ley thing ley people can say empty drum can make plenty noise da true. How our man will make noise na when him gut full.

You know, when we were growing up, our people used to tell us to stop talking when we eating. They used to tell us ay na civilized, Da na I understand. How you will talk sef, when your mouth full-ley food will be falling from your mouth.

Hmm anyway, me I will na give up I still waiting for ley Rescue Train, even if da 2-hour sef remaining to reach, I will jump on it. Da me na suppose to?

OP-ED

By Jorge Heine

Trump and the Defense of Democracy in the Americas

BOSTON - While much of the media’s focus has understandably been directed at US President Donald Trump’s brusque treatment of Ukraine, Latin America has also been significantly affected by the new administration’s flurry of sudden policy changes. Most prominently, the United States is now pursuing mass deportation of undocumented immigrants from the region, imposing 25% tariffs on Mexico, and considering options for “taking back” the Panama Canal.

With so many big stories playing out at the same time, the election of the next secretary-general of the Organization of American States (OAS) on March 10 has gone largely unnoticed. Yet precisely because inter-American relations are facing such profound strains, the outcome of the race will be far more important than usual.

Founded in 1948 and based in Washington - in a grand neoclassical building on Constitution Avenue, close to the White House - the OAS is one of the oldest and most established of the Pan-American institutions. It embodies the very idea of “the Americas”: the notion that there is a common thread running across the Western hemisphere despite historical, linguistic, and economic differences.

Like all international organizations, the OAS has had its ups and downs. Decried in the 1950s and 1960s as the “ministry of colonies,” owing to its abject subordination to the US on matters such as the 1965 invasion of the Dominican Republic, it recovered a measure of dignity in the 1970s, when the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (an autonomous OAS entity) did its best to stand up for human rights during the dark years of military rule in the region.

Another high point came with the approval of the Inter-American Democratic Charter in Lima in 2001. This launched a strengthening of electoral processes and democratic institutions across the hemisphere, at a time when authoritarian threats came from elected governments, not old-fashioned military coups.

But the OAS is now going through another rough patch. Its mishandling of the 2019 Bolivian election, where its observer mission conveyed what turned out to be false information, accusing the government of rigging the results, was one such critical event. The OAS was thus instrumental in the ensuing military coup. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has also been steadily weakened. Perhaps the OAS’s most egregious failure, though, has been its inability to address the humanitarian and political crisis that has been unfolding in Haiti since 2021.

The election of a new secretary-general offers the OAS an opportunity to recover some of its standing and prestige. One candidate who clearly has what it takes to turn the ship around is Albert Ramdin, the foreign minister of Suriname. While his relatively low profile and association with a smaller country (located in South America, but belonging culturally and historically to the Caribbean) might seem like handicaps, they are in fact strong assets.

The OAS does not need a larger-than-life personality who wants to reshape the organization according to his or her preferences. It needs someone who will take on the hard work of rebuilding credibility and effectiveness from the inside. That means restoring internal morale and dealing effectively with all the challenges posed by a US administration that is openly hostile to multilateralism. The situation requires a consensus-builder who knows the inner workings of Washington. Only with that type of leadership will the OAS be able to take on a growing hemispheric agenda that includes security, migration, and climate change.

Ramdin has expressed a commitment to working closely with individual member states to channel their foreign-policy priorities and concerns about hemispheric matters. His long career includes a ten-year stint (2005-15) as assistant secretary-general of the OAS, and he was recently endorsed by the 14 members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In addition to these votes, he has the support of Peru and Honduras, which, with the recent collective endorsement from Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay, takes him to 21 votes, above the 18 needed.

The other candidate is Rubén Ramírez Lezcano, the foreign minister of Paraguay. Since Paraguay is the only country in South America that still has diplomatic relations with Taiwan, some have tried to portray this election as one between anti-China (Ramírez) and pro-China (Ramdin) candidacies. But this framing is grotesque. China has mere observer status at the OAS and plays no meaningful role in the organization. Moreover, as often happens, Ramírez’s own attempt to play the China card has backfired, with most observers seeing it as a cheap shot not buttressed by any evidence. In any case, US officials’ recent indications that they could work well with either Ramdin or Ramírez have rendered this argument moot.

Apart from the oddity of having a secretary-general from Paraguay succeeding one from Uruguay (some geographical rotation is desirable), a Ramírez victory would once again deprive the OAS of a Caribbean leader. The OAS has never had one, even though Caribbean countries make up nearly half the organization’s membership.

Caribbean countries, where the parliamentary Westminster system has been entrenched since independence (mostly in the 1960s and 1970s), have much to contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions and the defense of human rights in these perilous times. Many of America’s friends and allies are recognizing that they will have to become either more self-sufficient or more reliant on one another. Latin American countries are no exception. With the right leadership, the OAS can help them defend their interests and achieve their goals.

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## Koijee seeks U.S. intervention

state-sanctioned intimidation nearly resulted in an assassination attempt on former President Weah on June 6, 2024. Additionally, Liberians who welcomed Weah on this day were brutally assaulted.”

He says the President has also influenced arbitrary dismissal of numerous employees at the Monrovia City Government that he (Koijee) once headed, for simply expressing their grievances on social media, which he describes as clear violation of their constitutional rights.

On alleged corruption, Koijee details that when President Boakai took office with his “Rescue Mission,” the President pledged to fight corruption and uphold good governance, but according to him, the his administration has become a hub of financial misconduct, citing notable cases such as

US\$2.3 million in unaccounted miscellaneous expenses; US\$15 million in off-budget expenditures; US\$100,000 transferred onto the President’s personal debit card for unauthorized transactions; US\$374,239.24 paid to former Central Bank Governor Aloysius Tarlue, to coerce his resignation, and US\$75,000 allocated for a \$45,000 vehicle for the National Oil Company of Liberia’s CEO, Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, inflating costs through fraud. The President immediately suspended CEO Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, following a recommendation by the Board, pending investigation.

“Despite these glaring cases of corruption, millions of Liberians lack access to clean drinking water, electricity, employment, and healthcare.

Given this level of mismanagement, Liberia is unprepared to handle direct foreign aid under President Boakai. A full-scale investigation into previous USAID grants to Liberia is necessary, particularly the \$1.5 million allocated for voter confidence”, Koijee recommends in his communication to President Trump.

He notes that as a former Mayor of Monrovia, he had previously warned the U.S. government that USAID funds were being used to manipulate electoral integrity, adding that evidence has since emerged that the Election Coordinating Committee (ECC), which received these funds, was actively colluding with the ruling Unity Party.

“USAID’s unwavering support for the ECC, as expressed by Ms. Catherine Rodriguez, was an unacceptable intrusion into Liberia’s political system”, he argues.

He applauds the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency under Billionaire Elon Musk for exposing corruption within USAID and in countries like Liberia, while stressing that investigating foreign aid misuse is a necessary step toward accountability and reform to ensure that American taxpayer’s money is used appropriately.

Koijee lauds President Trump for restoring the image of the Holy Bible in the White House and across America, adding that establishment of the Faith Advisory Council is a monumental step in preserving religious freedom and combatting radical gender ideologies.

“Your leadership in this area mirrors the biblical role of Cyrus, the Persian ruler who liberated the Jews from Babylon”, he tells Trump.

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## Boakai extends Asset Recovery mandate

Suzanne A. Johnson.

“The Task Force will function under the Office of the Minister of State for Special Services and collaborate with key government agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Office of the Ombudsman, General Services Agency, Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), and the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA). Their collective efforts will focus on investigating, prosecuting, and recovering stolen assets, both within Liberia and internationally.”

Additionally, he added that the Task Force has been empowered to impose travel restrictions on individuals under investigation and work with Interpol and other diplomatic partners to repatriate suspects and recover stolen assets taken across the borders.

To ensure the smooth implementation of its renewed mandate, President Boakai has directed the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to allocate funds immediately for the Task Force’s operations.

“This decision underscores the President’s zero-tolerance policy on corruption and the misuse of public resources,” Sanoe emphasized.

“Public assets must be safeguarded and returned to serve the interests of the Liberian people.”

President Boakai has called on law enforcement agencies, government stakeholders, and international partners to support the Asset Recovery Task Force in its mission to uphold transparency, justice, and the rule of law. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Starts from page 6

## LACC begins asset verification

However, enforcement has been a challenge over the years, with reports of widespread non-compliance and lack of proper verification mechanisms.

In many instances, officials declare their assets but fail to provide accurate or verifiable information, making it difficult to hold them accountable. In 2024, President Joseph Boakai reinforced the importance of asset declaration as part of his administration’s broader

anti-corruption agenda.

This led to a renewed push for enforcement, including the suspension of over 457 public officials who failed to declare their assets as required by law. However, since the president initiated the process, the LACC has intensified efforts to verify and authenticate the submitted declarations, ensuring that government officials are held to the highest standards of accountability. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

### JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



#: 1220-2024

SITTING IN ITS FEBRUARY TERM A.D. 2025.

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

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

NOTICE!

NOTICE!!

NOTICE!!!

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

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

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



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

### Notice of Intent

#### Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kon Kweni Liberian Infrastructure Project

The general public and all concerned or interested parties are hereby informed that Ivanhoe Liberia Limited (“Applicant”), has hired Earthtime Inc. (“Consultant”) to prepare an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kon Kweni Liberia Infrastructure Project.

Ivanhoe Liberia Limited hereby publishes its intention to commence work on the Liberian Transport Infrastructure project (“the Project”) once an Agreement with the Government of Liberia is finalized. The project will involve the transportation of iron ore from the Kon Kweni mine site in the south-eastern Guinean forest region, across the Liberian-Guinean Border to the Port of Buchanan in Liberia.

The proposed project will include the following components:

- A Guinea-Liberia border crossing in Yekepa.
- A haul road between Yekepa and Tokadeh.
- A stockpiling and loadout area at Tokadeh.
- Transport of ore along the existing Tokadeh-Buchanan Railway.
- A stockpiling area and infrastructure at the Port of Buchanan, and Port operations for iron ore export, likely including transshipment.

In keeping with Section 11 of the Environmental Protection and Management Law of the Republic of Liberia (2003), the Consultant is preparing an ESIA. The ESIA process will help the Applicant manage any associated environmental and socio-economic issues in accordance with company policies, the laws of Liberia, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Environmental and Social Performance Standards, and good international industry practice.

In the process of identifying potential environmental and social impacts that may result from activities of the process, the Consultant and Applicant will request and receive input from the public, including interested and affected parties. All persons who have views, comments or concerns regarding the proposed project are encouraged to contact the Applicant or Consultant as follows:

Applicant’s email:	infoLib@ivanhoeatlantic.com
Consultant’s email:	info@earthtimegroup.com
Contact number:	0777 744 586

Your participation or input in this assessment will be highly appreciated in order to guide decision-making relevant to the proposed project.



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# LNP officer forwarded to Court for Bokon Shooting

**By: Kruah Thompson**  
Monrovia, Liberia - The Liberia National Police (LNP) has formally charged and forwarded to National Police (LNP) on



court Officer Boimah Friday, February 14, 2025, Massallay of the Police said circumstances Support Unit (PSU) in surrounding the shooting connection with a fetal were under investigation to shooting in Bokon Community, determine the facts and Lower Virginia ensure full The incident, which occurred transparency. However, on February 12, 2025, providing an update on the resulted in the death of an case at the Ministry of individual identified as Information, Cultural Affairs, Talking Tom. According to and Tourism’s regular press police reports, Officer briefing on Thursday March 6, Massallay discharged his 2025, Deputy Information service weapon during an Minister for Press And Public

encounter, leading to the death of Talking Tom. Following the incident Massallay had been disrobed and charged with negligent homicide and recklessly endangering the life of another person. According to him, Officer Massaley was forwarded to court over the weekend to face prosecution for the crime he committed. “The officer has been forwarded to court for prosecution in connection with the crime committed,” Minister Sandor stated. He emphasized that the swift action taken by the LNP demonstrates the institution’s commitment to accountability and professionalism, reinforcing public trust in law enforcement. “We want to assure the public that the police force does not condone misconduct of any kind. Their actions in this case reflect their commitment to upholding the law and ensuring justice,” Minister Sandor closes

# LACC begins asset verification for government officials

Monrovia, Liberia - The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has launched an asset verification process for both current and former government officials who have declared their assets.

**By: Kruah Thompson**  
Monrovia, March 7, 2025/ The initiative seeks to ensure transparency and accountability by thoroughly verifying and authenticating the information submitted to the commission.

Making the disclosure on Thursday, March 6, 2025, Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs, Daniel O. Sanoe, told The NewDawn that Cllr. Alexandra Zoe, the Executive Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), informed him via phone that asset declaration remains ongoing for more than 457 public officials who were recently suspended by President Joseph Boakai. According to him, this verification exercise is a critical step in strengthening anti-corruption efforts and fostering public trust in government institutions.

“Once the process is completed, the LACC will submit an updated list to the

Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs.” He said further noting that the move aligns with the commission’s broader mandate to combat corruption and uphold integrity in public service.

Asset declaration is a key anti-corruption mechanism used by governments worldwide to promote transparency, prevent illicit wealth accumulation, and deter public officials from engaging in corrupt practices. In Liberia, the process is mandated by the 2014 Code of Conduct for Public Officials



requires government officials to declare their assets before assuming office, periodically during their tenure, and upon leaving office. The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) is responsible for receiving, verifying, and monitoring asset declarations to ensure compliance.

Officials are required to disclose their income, properties, bank accounts, business interests, and other financial assets. The goal is to prevent conflicts of interest, illicit enrichment, and abuse of public office.

# Boakai extends Asset Recovery mandate

Despite its rough start President Boakai has given the Assets Recovery Task Force another one year mandate extending the Executive Order No 126, by issuing another Executive Order No 145.

**By: Kruah Thompson**

Monrovia, Liberia - March 7, 2025 - In an effort to strengthen the fight against corruption and reclaim public assets, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. has issued Executive Order No. 145, extending the mandate of the Asset Recovery Task Force for another year.

The new order amends Executive Order No. 126, which initially established by the Task Force in March 2024 to identify, trace, and recover government assets allegedly misappropriated by former officials.

However, its operations were hindered by a prolonged legal battle with Gracious Ride Incorporated, which began in March 2024, after the Task Force seized several vehicles belonging to the company, alleging that they were fraudulently acquired by a

fraudulent construction firms, and theft of liquid assets.

He further disclosed that during the nine-month stay order imposed on AREPT by the Supreme Court, individuals of interest, acting under the cover of darkness, criminally transferred suspicious funds from their accounts, changed bank accounts, illegally transported Government of Liberia (GoL) vehicles to neighboring countries and sold them, resprayed and altered the original identities of GoL vehicles, changed title deeds overnight, and falsified documents to conceal the original identities of GoL assets. Speaking at the Ministry of Information Culture Affairs and Tourism MICAT regular press briefing on Thursday, March 6, 2025, Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs, Daniel O. Sanoe, announced that the Task Force’s mandate has been



former government official.

After nearly a year of legal proceedings, the Supreme Court of Liberia ruled in favor of the Asset Recovery Task Force on February 18, 2025, clearing the way for its work to continue. However, the Task Force’s mandate expired in March 2025, as it was initially authorized for only one year. This legal dispute significantly hindered the Task Force’s efforts to investigate other cases.

On February 20, 2025, The Chairman of the Assets Recovery & Property Retrieval Team (AREPT), Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin told the NewDawn that, during their legal battle with Gracious Ride, they were able to verify and seize 17 high-profile cases involving theft of public assets, acquisition of suspicious properties, embezzlement through fake road construction companies,

renewed for an additional year to continue pursuing those unresolved cases, and to ensure that all public assets unlawfully converted for private use are retrieved and reinstated.

“This Executive Order reinforces the Government’s commitment to combating corruption, ensuring accountability, and recovering assets wrongfully acquired by both former and current government officials,” Sanoe stated.

He further disclosed that a five-member committee will oversee the Task Force’s operations. The committee will be chaired by Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin, with Dr. Ranney B. Jackson serving as Vice Chairman. Other members include John Mulbah Gbilee, Crosby Johnson, and Atty.



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# Police to maintain No-Go Zone restrictions

**By: Kruah Thompson**  
Monrovia, Liberia - March 7, 2025 - Authorities at the Liberia National Police (LNP) have announced that they will continue enforcing the No-Go Zone restrictions on commercial motorbikes until a full assessment of security risks in the affected areas is completed.  
The restricted areas include the stretch from ELWA Junction to Boulevard to Monrovia, as well as

Monrovia.  
The restrictions were introduced following a tragic incident on February 19, when a vehicle suffered mechanical failure while descending Crown Hill and collided with a motorbike, claiming the life of motorcyclist Emmanuel Trokon Pajibo. But the police say, the decision to maintain the restriction is based on security concerns and the need to protect public safety. And for this reason, they are

2025, Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs, Daniel O. Sanoe, stated that the police are actively working with the Motorcyclist Union President to address concerns affecting commercial motorcyclists, including the release of impounded motorbikes. "This effort demonstrates the police's commitment to collaborating with motorcyclists and ensuring their safety and welfare," Sanoe said.  
He clarified that the No-Go Zone restriction is not intended to indiscriminately target motorcyclists or deprive them of their livelihood but rather to enhance public safety and national security.  
"The measure has been implemented in the best interest of the nation, aiming to ensure law and order while safeguarding the well-being of all citizens," he added. Sanoe also cautioned the public against using motorbikes in the restricted areas, assuring that the LNP is committed to restoring law and order while protecting lives and property.  
Additionally, he announced that the LNP has started issuing access passes for businesses, NGOs, and other non-commercial motorbike users affected by the restrictions. These passes aim to minimize disruptions caused by the enforcement of the No-Go Zone policy.



from Freeport through Logan Town, Clara Town, and Central Monrovia. On March 3, 2025, members of the Motorcycle Union of Liberia took to the streets in protest, urging the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the government to lift the recently imposed temporary restrictions on commercial motorbikes in key areas of

going to assess the level of vulnerability in these areas before deciding whether to lift or extend the restrictions. "Until such a decision is made, the current restrictions will remain in effect," police say.  
Speaking at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) press briefing on Thursday, March 6,

# Second Lady Koung gives hope to women with disabilities

**By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh**  
Paynesville, Liberia, March 6, 2025 - Liberia's Second Lady, Madam Synleseh Stephenie Dahn-Koung, pledges to improve wellbeing of women with disability here.  
Madam Koung gave the assurance when addressed the 1st conference on Status of Women with Disabilities held in the gymnasium of the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville.  
She commits to improve lives of people living with disabilities across the country. "Your courage and unwavering efforts continue to inspire and renew my commitment to advocating for your rights, and rights of women across Liberia, the Second Lady says. She notes that for too long, voices of women with disabilities have been unheard, and their struggles overlooked. "For too long you have faced barriers to education, healthcare,

with them to achieve their goals, saying "Thank you for your resilience, and we are here to stand by you."  
Meanwhile, the first conference for women with disabilities in Liberia was held under the theme: "Empowering Women with Disabilities, Inclusion, Equity & Action. It brought together over a thousand women and girls with disabilities from over 17 organizations across Liberia, including women from all 17 districts of Montserrado County. Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Internal Affairs Ministry under fire

**-For alleged silence on Grand Kru land dispute**  
The Ministry of Internal Affairs comes under attack here, for doing nothing to resolve land disputes in Grand Kru County.

**By: Kruah Thompson**  
Monrovia, Liberia, March 6, 2025 - The Ministry of Internal Affairs faces growing criticism for its continued silence on escalating land dispute between Wedabo Zoloken and Gblebo Trehn communities in Grand Kru County, southeast Liberia. The long-standing conflict, which turned violent on February 17, 2025, resulted in gunfire, property destruction, and several injuries. But despite the severity of the situation, the Ministry has yet to take any concrete steps, raising concerns among local leaders about its inaction.  
In an exclusive interview with The NewDawn, Grand Kru County District #1 Representative, Nathaniel Zoe Bahway, expresses deep disappointment in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to him, after being informed of the situation, he immediately called Minister

"When I heard about the violence, I didn't just sit back. I followed up by calling the Inspector General of Police, the House of Parliament, and the county police commander to request immediate intervention." Bahway continues that from the efforts of the police and authorities in the county, about nine persons have been arrested, as the police continue investigations to determine the root causes of the violence. He condemns use of violence over land disputes, emphasizing "This is not a time for war." However, he stresses that national government's intervention is necessary to conduct a proper investigation and bring the matter under control.  
"My prayer now is to calm the situation before asking the Land Authority to conduct the final demarcation and put an end to this age-old problem," Bahway adds.  
The ongoing dispute dates back to 1970 when former Superintendent Francis Nyemah investigated the



Francis Sakila Nyumalin to request his intervention, but to his surprise, the minister told him that he was out of the country, and there was nothing he could do.  
Rep. Bahway also reveals that to date, the Ministry remained silent on the situation, despite the fact that he (Bahway) chairs the Committee on Internal Affairs in the House of Representatives.  
"I have not seen any of the partners of Internal Affairs stepping in. Only some of my fellow lawmakers called me, saying they would come to help, but none of them have shown up to date," the Grand Kru lawmaker laments.  
While lawmakers held a caucus meeting to strategize on resolving the crisis, Bahway notes that no concrete action has followed. Nonetheless, he vows to take the initiative by himself, stating that he has already begun efforts to calm tensions.

contested land and established a buffer to prevent farming activities until a formal boundary demarcation could take place. However, the tensions resurfaced in 2013 when people of Zoloken community allegedly attempted to offer the disputed land to Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL), a multinational concession company that harvests palm oil, but the situation was resolved. Similarly, the situation escalated on February 17, 2025, resulting in gunfire that left several people injured. Among the victims is Benjamin Toe, who is currently receiving medical treatment in Monrovia. Benjamin recounted the attack, stating that he was shot by an unknown gunman carrying a single-barrel gun. "I was coming out of my house when the individual fired at me and then ran into the bush," he said. So far, doctors have removed seven bullets from his body, with several more still lodged in critical areas. Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Français

## Samuel D. Tweah et d'autres anciens officiels espèrent avoir gain de cause

Capitol Hill, 6 mars 2025  
- L'ancien ministre des Finances, Samuel D. Tweah, ainsi que quatre autres anciens hauts responsables du régime de George Weah, font face à des accusations de sabotage économique. Quelques jours seulement

saisi la Cour suprême pour demander l'arrêt du juge Rosevelt Willie de la Cour criminelle « C » dans la poursuite de l'affaire. Cette démarche intervient après que le juge Willie a rejeté une requête des accusés visant à suspendre le procès au motif que la juridiction inférieure n'avait pas compétence sur cette affaire,

les informations, ces candidats auraient soit des liens compromettants avec les accusés, soit ne seraient pas aptes à juger cette affaire. Outre Samuel D. Tweah, les autres accusés sont Cllr. Nyanti Tuan (ancien ministre par intérim de la Justice), Stanley S. Ford (ancien directeur général du renseignement financier), D. Moses P. Cooper (ancien contrôleur du renseignement financier) et Jefferson Karmoh (ancien conseiller à la sécurité nationale du président George Weah). Ils ont été inculpés par la Commission anti-corruption du Liberia (LACC) pour sabotage économique, vol, décaissement et dépense illégaux de fonds publics, conspiration criminelle, détournement de fonds publics et facilitation criminelle. L'acte d'accusation allègue que les prévenus ont enfreint la loi sur l'Agence de Renseignement Financier de 2022 en conspirant pour transférer 500 000 dollars américains et 1 055 152 540 dollars libériens depuis la Banque centrale du Liberia



après que les avocats de la défense et de l'accusation n'ont pas réussi à sélectionner un jury en vue du procès de M. Tweah et de ses coaccusés, la défense a

considérée comme une question de sécurité nationale. Lundi dernier, les avocats des deux parties ont rejeté plus de vingt personnes présentées pour être sélectionnées comme jurés. Selon

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## ALCOD Intensifie son Plaidoyer pour le Vote des Libériens de la Diaspora

La Conférence All-Liberian sur la Double Nationalité (ALCOD), principale organisation des Libériens de la diaspora défendant la double nationalité et le vote hors du pays, a décidé d'ajuster sa stratégie en matière de vote des Libériens de la diaspora en sollicitant l'avis d'experts juridiques et d'autres personnalités influentes en dehors du gouvernement. Cette décision s'appuie sur les recommandations de juristes spécialisés en droit constitutionnel et en droits de l'homme. Lors de leur visite au Liberia en décembre 2024 pour participer à l'événement annuel "Diaspora Liberians Annual Return", une délégation d'ALCOD a rencontré des avocats spécialisés en droits constitutionnels et humains pour discuter de leurs stratégies de plaidoyer en faveur du vote des Libériens vivant à l'étranger. Jusque-là, ALCOD avait notamment

engagé des discussions avec la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) et des législateurs sur les possibilités de permettre aux Libériens de la diaspora de voter lors des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2029. Fondement Constitutionnel Le plaidoyer d'ALCOD en faveur du vote hors du pays repose sur l'article 80, section C, de la Constitution libérienne de 1986, qui stipule : "Tout citoyen libérien a le droit d'être enregistré dans une circonscription électorale et de voter lors des élections publiques uniquement dans la

circonscription où il est inscrit, soit en personne, soit par vote par correspondance ; à condition que ce citoyen ait le droit de changer de circonscription électorale selon les modalités prescrites par la législature." Appel à la Présidence Lors des réunions avec ces experts juridiques et autres personnalités, il a été suggéré qu'ALCOD sollicite une position officielle du président Joseph Nyuma

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## Éditorial

### L'anarchie s'impose au Capitole

Par Daron Acemoglu

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

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

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

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

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

Ces événements soulèvent de sérieuses inquiétudes quant au respect des principes démocratiques et de l'État de droit au Liberia. De nombreux citoyens s'interrogent : le pays est-il encore gouverné par la loi ou par des ambitions personnelles dictées par la soif de pouvoir ? Le silence de la Cour suprême, qui se distance de cette crise institutionnelle, témoigne de la gravité de la situation. Les députés majoritaires mesurent-ils l'impact de leurs actions sur l'image des institutions ?

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

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# Français

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## Samuel D. Tweah et d’autres anciens

via le compte opérationnel de l’Unité de Renseignement Financier (FIU). La semaine dernière, M. Tweah et ses coaccusés avaient déjà déposé une requête auprès du juge Willie pour obtenir l’annulation de l’acte d’accusation de sabotage économique. Ils soutenaient que la Cour criminelle « C » n’avait pas la compétence pour juger cette affaire, invoquant des enjeux de sécurité nationale. Cependant, dans sa décision du vendredi 28 février, le juge Willie a estimé que l’affaire ne pouvait pas être rejetée, compte tenu des circonstances et des lois applicables. Selon le juge, la LACC n’a fourni aucune preuve documentaire, telle qu’une instruction ou une lettre de demande de la Sécurité nationale conjointe, de la FIA ou d’une résolution de sécurité conjointe émanant de l’ancien président à l’intention de Samuel Tweah, pour justifier l’approbation et le transfert des montants litigieux vers le compte de la FIA. Le juge Willie a ajouté que, compte tenu de ces faits, la LACC, par l’intermédiaire du ministère de la Justice, allègue que les accusés ont agi en dehors des privilèges accordés aux agents du président en vertu de l’article 61 de la Constitution libérienne de 1986. Par conséquent, ils ne peuvent bénéficier de cette immunité et doivent répondre de leurs actes devant la Cour criminelle « C ».

« EN CONSÉQUENCE, cette affaire ne peut être rejetée pour défaut de compétence en matière de sujet, au regard des faits, des circonstances et des lois exposés ci-dessus. Le ministère public doit avoir l’opportunité de prouver son affaire. Ainsi, la requête en annulation est rejetée et le procès doit se poursuivre immédiatement », a conclu le juge Willie.

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## ALCOD Intensifie son Plaidoyer pour

Boakai, Sr., sur la question du vote hors du pays, notamment sur les définitions de “circonscription” et de “vote par correspondance” telles que stipulées dans l’article 80 ‘C’ de la Constitution. Parmi les éminents juristes consultés figurait le Conseiller Tiawan Saye Gongloe, avocat spécialisé en droits de l’homme et droit constitutionnel. Il a souligné qu’une clarification de la position du gouvernement libérien sur cette question aiderait ALCOD à élaborer une stratégie définitive pour le vote hors du pays. En l’absence d’une telle clarification, le Cllr. Gongloe a averti qu’ALCOD pourrait rencontrer des obstacles dans son plaidoyer pour ce droit électoral. Pour concrétiser cette initiative, ALCOD a mandaté son président éminent, M. Emmanuel S. Wettee, de conduire les démarches auprès du président Boakai pour obtenir les définitions officielles de “circonscription” et “vote par correspondance” mentionnées dans la Constitution. M. Wettee a également pour mission de mobiliser d’autres organisations de la diaspora libérienne pour qu’elles joignent leurs efforts à ceux d’ALCOD. Rencontres avec la NEC et les Législateurs La délégation d’ALCOD a rencontré à plusieurs reprises la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour explorer les moyens de concrétiser le vote hors du pays. Selon ALCOD, la NEC s’est montrée disposée à soutenir cette initiative dès lors que les conditions de plateforme, de financement et d’infrastructure seraient réunies. En parallèle, des discussions ont eu lieu avec certains législateurs favorables à l’idée de collaborer avec d’autres parties prenantes pour modifier ou créer des lois permettant le vote des Libériens de la diaspora.

ALCOD exhorte également toutes les organisations de la diaspora libérienne à soutenir activement cette initiative, à l’instar de l’effort collectif qui a permis de légaliser la double nationalité avec le célèbre slogan : “Une fois Libérien, toujours Libérien”. Soutiens et Initiatives Complémentaires ALCOD a exprimé sa gratitude envers M. Michael Mueller, président du conseil de la Fédération européenne des associations libériennes (EFLA), et le Cllr. Jerome Verdier, pour leurs efforts constants en faveur du vote hors du pays à travers d’autres moyens de plaidoyer.

Contexte Historique Fondée en décembre 2012, ALCOD a mené une campagne de longue haleine pour la reconnaissance de la double nationalité, objectif atteint en juillet 2022. Le 11 novembre 2021, la Chambre des représentants libérienne a adopté une loi modifiant la Loi sur les étrangers et la nationalité, éliminant la perte automatique de la nationalité libérienne pour les citoyens ayant acquis une autre nationalité. Cette loi, soutenue par plus de 30 parlementaires, a marqué un tournant historique, permettant à plus de 1 000 Libériens disposant de la double nationalité d’obtenir leur passeport libérien dès juillet 2022. Selon ALCOD, environ 15 000 Libériens avec une double nationalité pourraient obtenir leur passeport d’ici la fin de 2026. En continuant sur cette lancée, ALCOD entend désormais faire du vote des Libériens de la diaspora une réalité, renforçant ainsi leur implication dans la vie politique et sociale de leur pays d’origine.

## L’accord avec HPX devient de plus en plus complexe

MONROVIA, Liberia – Dans une décision qui pourrait s’avérer coûteuse sur les plans financier et politique, le Liberia a cédé à la pression de High Power Exploration (HPX) en acceptant de recruter un opérateur indépendant pour la ligne ferroviaire Buchanan-Yekepa. Cependant, une question cruciale persiste : que se passera-t-il si la Guinée refuse de permettre à son minerai de fer de transiter par le Liberia ? L’accord, fortement encouragé par HPX, repose sur une hypothèse fragile : celle que la Guinée autorisera le transport de son minerai de fer via les infrastructures libériennes. Pourtant, le gouvernement de Conakry n’a donné aucune approbation en ce sens. Bien au contraire, la Guinée a lancé son propre projet d’infrastructure de 15 milliards de dollars, comprenant une ligne ferroviaire de 670 kilomètres et un port en eaux profondes à Moribayah. Ces initiatives visent à conserver le contrôle national sur les exportations de minerais. Face à cette stratégie claire, pourquoi la Guinée choisirait-elle de contourner ses propres infrastructures pour privilégier un itinéraire via le Liberia ? Le silence persistant de Conakry laisse entendre que le Liberia pourrait commettre une coûteuse erreur de calcul. Les enjeux sont de taille. Si la Guinée décide finalement de ne pas utiliser le chemin de fer libérien, le gouvernement de Monrovia se retrouverait engagé à payer un opérateur ferroviaire indépendant pour un service potentiellement inutile. Que se passerait-il alors ? Le gouvernement libérien serait-il contraint de subventionner un opérateur ferroviaire inactif, au détriment de secteurs déjà sous-financés tels que la santé, l’éducation et les infrastructures ? La situation est d’autant plus complexe que le Liberia dispose



déjà d’un opérateur expérimenté prêt à continuer d’exploiter et d’entretenir la voie ferrée sans coût pour l’État. Depuis 2005, ArcelorMittal Liberia gère le corridor ferroviaire Buchanan-Yekepa, assurant son bon fonctionnement et sa maintenance. Malgré cela, le Liberia envisage de réorienter les frais de transit collectés auprès des utilisateurs ferroviaires pour financer un opérateur indépendant, sans aucune garantie que la Guinée utilisera réellement la ligne ferroviaire. Pour un pays aux ressources financières limitées et aux besoins sociaux pressants, cette décision soulève de sérieuses inquiétudes. Pourquoi le Liberia devrait-il engager ses maigres ressources financières pour satisfaire un exploitant minier guinéen qui n’a même pas encore obtenu l’autorisation de son propre gouvernement ? Les priorités nationales – telles que l’amélioration des écoles, des hôpitaux et des routes – ne devraient-elles pas passer avant les exigences d’une société minière étrangère ? En poursuivant cet accord, le Liberia court le risque de s’exposer à l’embarras sur la scène internationale. Engager et rémunérer un opérateur ferroviaire indépendant, pour finalement constater que le minerai guinéen attendu n’arrive jamais, constituerait une grave erreur politique. Plus important encore, cela porterait un coup aux intérêts économiques du Liberia, détournant des fonds destinés aux besoins de développement national urgent au profit d’un accord minier spéculatif. À moins que Monrovia n’obtienne des garanties concrètes de Conakry, sa décision de faire appel à un opérateur ferroviaire indépendant pourrait bien s’avérer être un pari que le Liberia ne peut se permettre de perdre.

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# Liberia hosts Health Workforce Development Confab

The Government of Liberia has promised to institutionalize best health practices across Africa by fostering regional collaboration.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; March 6, 2025- Liberia’s Minister of Health, Doctor Louise Mapleh Kpoto, has assured the country’s commitments to optimize a

human health workforce through public service excellence: building resilient and institutions for sustainable development.

Addressing the forum, Doctor

workforce.

“This conference is in recognition of our common priorities, that is, the need to build a sustainable team and optimize resilient workforce capable of delivering quality healthcare to every citizens across our region.”Liberia is honored to host this critical dialogue as part of our commitment to addressing public service excellence and strengthening workforce development”, Dr. Kpoto added.

Civil Service Agency Director General, Josiah Joekai, highlighted the objectives of the conference and its potential of reshaping public service institutions across the region.

“This conference is a crucial step toward building resilience and strengthening innovative institutions for sustainable development,” Joekai said.

Meanwhile, day one of the conference saw panel discussions and highlights on key challenges affecting public administration and health care governance.

The first-ever Regional Public Service Leadership Conference on Human Health Workforce Development, is fully sponsored by the Health Development Partnership for Africa and the Caribbean (HeDPAC). Editing by Jonathan Browne



resilience Health Workforce capable of delivering quality healthcare to citizens.

Liberia is currently hosting the Regional Public Service Leadership Conference on health workforce development, from 4th to 7th March 2025, with participants from Ivory Coast, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Central African Republic (CAR).

The conference is being held under the theme: Advancing

Kpoto, promised to institutionalize best health practice across the region by fostering regional collaboration to addressing health workforce challenges, such as ghost workers, absent placement, and sub-optional workforce performance.

She said establishment of a network for health workforce in Liberia will ensure transformative merits-based recruitment of health

# LERC Suspends Unauthorized “Expedited Connection Fee” Charged by LEC

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

March 7, 2025, Monrovia, Liberia - The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) has announced the suspension of unauthorized ‘expedited connection service fee’ charged by the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

The expedited connection fee of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (US\$150.00) being charged by LEC is not authorized and does not comply with the regulations set forth by the Commission. The Commission has further mandated that LEC immediately cease the collection of this unauthorized fee from customers seeking expedited connections. In line with its decision, the Commission has also initiated an investigation to assess the legality of the expedited connection service fee and to determine the basis on which LEC has been charging a fee that wasnot approved by the Commission.

“We are committed to ensuring that electricity services are affordable and accessible to all Liberians,” said Atty. Kla-Edward Toomey, II, Acting Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. “This decision reflects our ongoing commitment to protecting consumers and ensuring that all utility charges are fair and transparent.”

The Commission has also

called for a meeting with the management of LEC to discuss this matter and ensure that LEC complies with the Commission’s directive. Meanwhile, the Commission is cautioning utilities to refrain from imposing unauthorized fees on customers for the supply of services. The Commission will continue to monitor compliance and take appropriate action against any utility found to be in violation.



# “We want UNDP to expand Forestry Project

- Beneficiaries appreciate positive impact

Monrovia, Liberia; March 6, 2025: Monrovia, Liberia; March 3, 2025: Beneficiaries of the Community Based Forest Management Project (CBFM) supported by UNDP with funding from Sweden in Kailahun and Lukas in Lofa county, say the project has greatly impacted their communities, and are calling for replication in other areas. Sam Jomah, an eco-guard, is among those who have benefited from the CBFM project. For Sam, he sees the project as critical to transforming his life, making use of every opportunity he has. “I had no prior knowledge of the importance of safeguarding our forest especially, preserving wildlife. However, with the training provided by the CBFM after my recruitment as an eco-guard, I know how to use a surveillance camera in the forest.

The training covered modules on identifying high-conservation wildlife species and illegal human activities within the protected area. It

This project has empowered us to send our children to school. I can proudly say to you that through this project, two of my children are now high school graduates. For this I am grateful,” he added. Sam is 42 years old and has six children. He is among 80 community members recruited and trained as Eco Guards by the project in the Northwest of the country covering Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu Counties.

These eco-guards are equipped with tools, logistics, and accessories including motorbikes, tablets, tents, and other assorted items to aid them in conducting research and monitoring the forest for illegal activities.

In protected areas in Lofa, the Eco-guards work closely with forest rangers of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) supported by UNDP/CBFM for forest conservation and sustainable forest management. The FDA has established community-based forest patrol teams that help reduce illegal activities such as logging, poaching, and land encroachment



also included GPS operation skills, usage of camera traps, and a compass, all geared toward making bio-monitoring effective. The camera traps are deployed in the forest to monitor the different species of the landscape.

Today, Sam is an Eco-guard, trained, skilled, and equipped to patrol and monitor the forest for illegal activities such as poaching. He is paid a stipend that enables him to provide for his family, and even saves to start a business, possibly a green business.

Sam symbolically displayed the surveillance camera to UNDP’s Resident Representative Aliou Dia and the Assistant Local Government Minister Orando Armah, when they toured project sites.

“We want to say a big thank you to the UNDP and the government of Liberia for this project. The camera is intended to keep surveillance in protected areas in the forest.

in protected areas and forest fringe communities. This has come a year after the CBFM project provided new motorbikes, GPS, camp beds, rain gear, tablets, cameras, back-backs, remote sensing technologies, and carbon monitoring tools the FDA uses to monitor more than 30 cluster forest communities.

The aim is to boost the operational capacity of forest rangers and officers at the county, district, and community levels in promoting biodiversity monitoring, forest maintenance, and wildlife conservation using the SMART data collection method. This intervention has also seen over 400km of forest areas under improved management through regular surveillance with the recruitment and deployment of eighty (80) eco-guards (34 women and 46 men) conducting monitoring patrols led by FDA rangers in the Gola National Park and Foya Proposed Protected Area.



# NPHIL in crisis?

The National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) is said to be engulfed with leadership crisis that has raised concerns about the integrity and operational effectiveness of the public health institute.

The latest is the Board of Directors that has recommended the suspension of institute Director General Dr. Dugbeh Chris Nyan for one month without pay,



citing violations of several sections of the NPHIL Act. This recommendation, however, comes amid the ongoing indefinite suspension of the institute's deputy director for administration, Dr. Adams Lincoln, who is also embroiled in allegations of vehicle theft at the entity. Compounding the leadership crisis is the indefinite suspension of NPHIL's deputy director, Dr. Adams Lincoln, due to his ongoing investigation of his involvement in allegations of vehicle theft, which led to his suspension by President Joseph Boakai recently. NPHIL, established to enhance public health in Liberia, has been pivotal in managing health crises, including the Ebola outbreak, the COVID-19 pandemic and now the fight against Monkeypox (Mpox) and other diseases that pose a threat to the country. However, the recent turmoil within its leadership, including the Board of Directors' dissatisfaction over the running of the institute, has sparked fears about the institute's ability to fulfil its mandate effectively. The Board of Directors, in its resolution signed by its chairman and six other members, said its decisions further stem from a series of alleged violations of the NPHIL Act, which governs the operations and conduct of the institute's leadership. Those who signed the resolution are Dr. Stephen B. Kennedy, Chair, Board Of Directors, Dr. Sia W. Camanor, Co-Chair, Atty. Siaffa B. Kemokai, Ministry of Justice-Co-chair, Inquiry Committee, and Dr. Bernice T. Dahn, member, University of Liberia. Others are Mr Patrick Guzeh, a member of the Ministry of

Health, Dr Angela O. Benson, a member, and Dr Samuel Dopoe, a member. In a statement released by the Board, which is in possession of this paper, they said, "By the of the Board, Media Relations and Communication, and World Health Organization (WHO) -Liberia Report, among others," the statement noted. According to the release, the Board discussed the above-mentioned issues during its Regular and Emergency Meetings on January 14 and 21, 2025, seized the situation, and constituted a Committee of Inquiry (Col) to further investigate based on meetings (Face-To-Face and/or Virtual) with the Director General, Deputy Director General, Mnister of Health, and Chief Medical officer (CMO), and observational institutional spot-check, among others. The Board, however, disclosed that the findings and recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry were presented and extensively discussed at an Emergency Board Meeting on February 4, 2025. Meanwhile, the Board has also recommended that "The indefinite suspension of the Deputy Director General for Administration effective immediately with pay pending the results of the ongoing investigation into the vehicle theft and alleged dysfunction within the administrative structure of the NPHIL. The Board further indicated that he should be formally warned regarding his communications with external parties and the sharing of sensitive information without proper authorization. The Board asserted, "NPHIL shall establish clearer communication and reporting procedures within the organization that would be approved by the Board to ensure that the Director General has institutional oversight and that staff report to the appropriate authorities that are aligned with the NPHIL's statutory framework to prevent administrative future internal conflicts and ensure seamless operations." The Board further announced during the suspension of the Director General and Deputy Director General for Administration, Dr Thelma Nelson will act as Interim Director General and Mr Mohammed Kiadii as Interim Deputy Director General for Administration, to coordinate and collaboratively work with the Board, Ministry of Health, and partners to stabilize the institution during this crisis period. when contacted by the New Dawn NPHIL Communications Director Joseph Wiah declined knowledge of any Board resolution.

# Koijee seeks U.S. intervention

Ex-Mayor of Monrovia writes U.S. President Donald Trump, seeking his intervention in Liberia.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 6, 2025 - Former Mayor of Monrovia and current Secretary General of the main opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) Jefferson T. Koijee, writes U.S. President Donald Trump, calling on him to stand with the people of Liberia in tackling corruption, human rights violations, and democratic erosion. In his letter dated February 26, 2025, to the U.S. President, Koijee also pleads with Trump to reconsider planned deportation of 1,563 Liberians currently residing in the United States, noting that many of those Liberians fled political persecution and violence back home and have contributed immensely to both the U.S. economy and Liberia's development through remittances. "Deporting them under President Boakai's regime—marked by widespread rape, murder, and economic collapse—would endanger their lives and devastate their families", he laments. He reminds President Trump of his previous policies on Liberia that, according to him, demonstrated a commitment to protecting Liberians, including his 2018

democracy was built." Koijee also accuses Boakai of orchestrating a legislative coup d'état by using state resources to remove a legally elected Speaker, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, in an effort to consolidate control over the Legislature and interfere with fiscal policy. He notes that Boakai Administration is operating a treasonable budget, one that was not signed by the duly elected Speaker, thereby eliminating necessary checks and balances in governance. He points to Article 76, Section 5 of the Liberian Constitution that defines treasonable acts as, "Abrogating or attempting to abrogate, subverting or attempting or conspiring to subvert the Constitution by use of force or show of force or any other means which attempts to undermine this Constitution." According to him, human rights violations under the government have reached an unprecedented level, with over one hundred reported deaths in just one year, saying "These deaths stem from state-sponsored persecution, sodomy, gang rape, police brutality, and ritualistic killings. Despite these grave atrocities, the President has failed to reconcile our nation,



Ex-Mayor Koijee

extension of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) and the 2019 enactment of the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF) provision, pleading, "A similar act of compassion today would strengthen U.S.-Liberia relations and safeguard thousands of vulnerable individuals." Turning to the current state of affairs in the country, he outlines a plethora of issues, including misuse of U.S. foreign aid that he says has led to deep social and political crises, citing government's alleged cancelation of \$17 million tax advisory project, and lack of proper accountability of US\$1.5 million allocated by USAID for voter confidence. "President Joseph Boakai has consistently violated our nation's laws, undermining democratic accountability and the very foundations on which our

exacerbating Liberia's deep wounds and hindering collective national development and peace." The CDC national scribe continues that the President has also engaged in political harassment against institutions and individuals who express dissent, recalling that on August 5 and 22, 2024, police violently invaded the headquarters of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), attacking peaceful citizens and causing over \$50,000 in property damage. He notes that President Boakai instructed the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia to deploy soldiers at the Roberts International Airport to prevent former President George Weah from accessing the VIP Lounge upon his arrival. "This act of



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