

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

Advertise Here!

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

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529

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

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025	L\$198.0330/US\$1.00	L\$199.8230/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
TRULY INDEPENDENT

French Version Inside

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 15 NO. 032 MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00

Protest greets VP Koung in America

Ellen commits to lifting African women



P11

Support Your Family Beyond Borders with MoMo.

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

Ivory Coast
 Ghana
 Uganda
 Mali

Guinea
 Sierra Leone
 Senegal
 Rwanda

and counting...

Continental News

DR Congo offers \$5M reward for rebel leaders amid ongoing conflict

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) has announced a \$5 million reward for the capture of three M23 rebel leaders, including former electoral chief Corneille Nangaa, military commander Sultani Makenga, and political leader Bertrand Bisimwa. The trio was sentenced to death in absentia last year for treason. Despite the bounty, arresting

them remains unlikely as Rwandan-backed M23 forces continue to dominate eastern DR Congo, seizing major cities like Goma and Bukavu. Thousands have been killed, and hundreds of thousands displaced. President Félix Tshisekedi is calling for international sanctions against Rwanda, which a UN report says has deployed troops to support M23. DR Congo has also urged

the U.S. to source minerals directly from its territory instead of Rwanda, which it accuses of smuggling gold and coltan, essential for electronics.

Rwanda denies looting DR Congo's resources but acknowledges supporting M23, citing security concerns over alleged Congolese ties to FDLR, a militia linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide—a claim DR Congo rejects.

About 4,000 Rwandan troops are fighting alongside M23 rebels in eastern Congo, where the rebels now control the capitals of the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, according to a report by U.N. experts.

M23 is the most powerful of the many armed groups vying for a foothold in Congo's east, a region possessing trillions of dollars in largely untapped mineral resources crucial for global technology.



Rebel leader of group of Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC) including M23, Corneille Nangaa, addresses a news conference in Goma, DR Congo, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025

Maasai Girls learn self-defence to fight Gender-Based Violence

"No, no no!" girls shout as they strike a cushion. They are practicing fighting techniques. And no, they are not part of a martial arts club. They are Maasai girls living at a boarding school in Transmara, Kenya, which doubles up as a rescue centre for teens who have escaped early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). 14-year-old Grace Musheni has been living and studying at the Enkakenya Centre for Excellence since 2023. "We learn how to protect ourselves, how to protect our bodies, and even educate our parents," she says. The centre was set up in 2009. It doesn't just offer a safe haven for girls at risk of early marriage - it also provides free high school education. This is used as an incentive for parents to allow their daughters to stay in school instead of undergoing Female Genital Mutilation - a ritual that is still common in Maasai girls aged 8-17, depending on where their birth-year falls in their respective age-set. Once a girl is circumcised, she is considered an adult and able to marry, meaning an abrupt end to childhood and education for many girls. Although Kenyan law prohibits Female Genital Mutilation and marriage below age 18, both are still practiced, especially in rural areas where education levels remain low. 2022's Kenya Demographic and Health Survey found that 56.3% of women with no education had undergone FGM, compared to 5.9% of women with more than secondary education. Girls' education has an impact on gender-based violence too, with

34% of all Kenyan women surveyed having been victims - a figure that drops down to 23% for women with more than secondary education. But 23% is still alarmingly high. So on top of providing that education, the Enkakenya Centre now partners with I'm Worth Defending (IWD) to teach combative self-defence techniques to all students. It's not so much so that they can physically fight potential abusers (although they could) - it teaches them to be assertive in all areas of their lives. "We train them with basic principles of assertiveness and boundary setting, which includes verbal and physical techniques," says Amelia Awuor from IWD. "These skills instil confidence to speak up against violations or fight off physical threats." The self-defence classes do also offer some protection against sexual abuse - which can end up trapping girls in violent marriages. "A man

can defile you, but the parents say the easier way is you going to that man and becoming his wife. And then they take back the cows (as bride price)," explains Musheni. 15-year-old Purity Risanoi has been at the school for five years. Her mother is a widow and farmed to raise her five children on her own, but cultural pressures from her community remain. "My parents still engage in traditional cultural practices which puts me at risk of being subjected to practices like sexual abuse, early marriage and FGM. But now that I am equipped with the skills I understand the risks and I can stand up for myself and defend myself," she says. Her long-term plan solution? Keep studying. One day, she wants to be a lawyer. Musheni meanwhile dreams of a career as a software engineer. She wants to come back here and use technology to uplift her community.



I'm Worth Defending officer Amelia Awuor, left, demonstrates self-defense techniques at Enkakenya Centre for Excellence in Narok County, Kenya, on Feb. 1, 2025.

South Sudan arrests key Machar allies as tensions rise

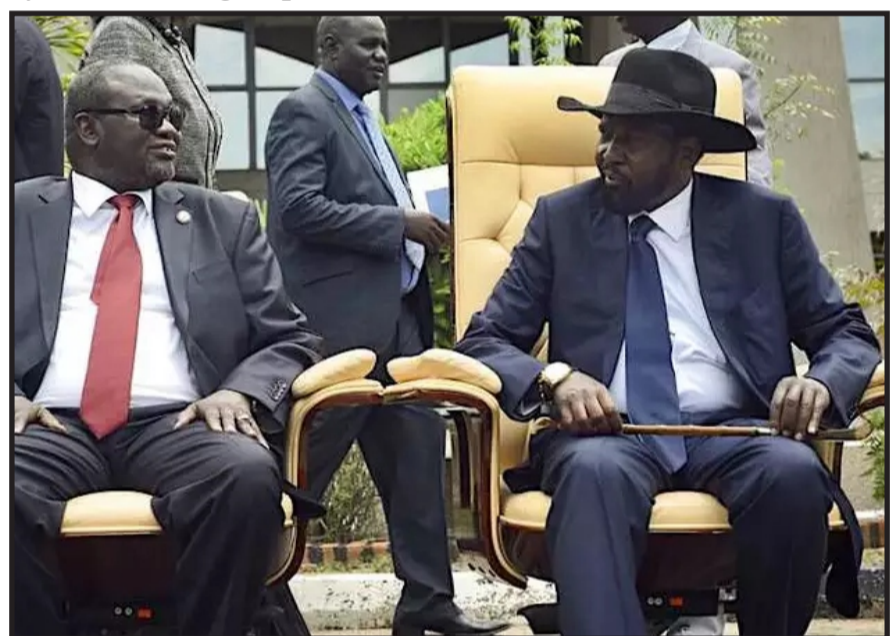
South Sudanese authorities have arrested several key allies of First Vice President Riek Machar, including Petroleum Minister Puot Kang Chol and Deputy Army Chief General Gabriel Duop Lam, amid rising political tensions. Soldiers have also surrounded Machar's residence in the capital, Juba.

The arrests follow an attack by an armed group allied

the move threatens the 2018 peace deal that ended South Sudan's five-year civil war.

Spokespersons for Machar's SPLM-IO party condemned the crackdown, calling it a violation of the peace agreement. They also raised concerns about growing military deployment around Machar's home, warning that the situation could reignite conflict.

South Sudan's army has accused Lam and his forces of working with White Army rebels, further



with Machar on a military base in Upper Nile state. No official reason has been given for the detentions, but Machar's party warns that

escalating tensions. Calls are mounting for the immediate release of the detainees to prevent the crisis from spiraling into renewed violence.

Egypt condemns Israel's aid blockade as ceasefire talks stall

Humanitarian aid trucks bound for Gaza were turned back to Egypt on Sunday after Israel halted all food and supply deliveries, intensifying tensions over a fragile ceasefire. Israel warned of "additional consequences" if Hamas failed to accept a new truce extension, while Egypt accused Israel of using starvation as a weapon.

"Each party must implement its obligations. The use of aid as a weapon of collective punishment and starvation must not, cannot, or should not be allowed," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, President Donald Trump's calling the move a violation of international humanitarian law. The ceasefire's first phase, which began on January 19, saw a surge in aid deliveries. The second phase is

on the truce. The International Committee of the Red Cross warned that unraveling the ceasefire could push Gaza's population of over two million back into crisis. Meanwhile, U.N. humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher called Israel's decision "alarming," while MSF condemned it as "unacceptable, outrageous."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was prepared to resume fighting if talks proved unproductive, adding that the government was fully aligned with residents reported food prices doubling as the blockade took effect, raising fears of renewed humanitarian catastrophe.

meant to secure the release of remaining hostages in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal and a permanent ceasefire, but negotiations have stalled. Hamas called Israel's aid cutoff "a war crime and blatant attack"



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 Aziz Huq

Trump's Tariffs Are Illegal, but That Won't Matter

CHICAGO – US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs on [Mexican](#), [Canadian](#), and Chinese imports rest on shaky legal ground. But they are unlikely to be struck down in court. By exploiting a gap between the law and brute power, the Trump administration is laying bare the weakness of America's constitutional order.

The US Constitution [assigns](#) authority over foreign trade and taxation to Congress alone. While Trump has made an extravagant show of ignoring Congress's duly enacted laws in recent weeks, his tariff orders themselves invoke federal law: the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). And yet, the IEEPA does not support Trump's current tariffs.

The law's [language](#) makes this clear. A president may declare a “national emergency” to address an “unusual or extraordinary” foreign threat to America's “national security, foreign policy, or economy.” Once that is done, the IEEPA grants vast emergency-specific powers, including the authority to “regulate” the “importation” of “any property.” But these additional powers apply only to the emergency at hand; they may not be used for “any other purpose.”

Thus, in January, Trump [declared](#) an emergency “at the southern border,” citing the threat posed by cartels, migration, and narcotics. Let us take this declaration at face value and assume that there is a crisis at the border. Even then, the tariffs imposed this month cannot plausibly be understood as a response to it.

This is most obvious with respect to Canada, a country that plays [almost no role](#) in supplying the American fentanyl market. The discontinuity between the vast tariffs being imposed on Canada and the notional emergency at the “southern border” is so glaring that the tariffs should be viewed as illegal on their face. The off-and-on nature of these tariffs underscores their lack of rational connection to any particular policy.

China is a more complex case, but the result is the same. While China is a source of precursor chemicals for opioid production, former President [Joe Biden](#)'s administration already secured an [agreement](#) with the Chinese to limit these exports. Blunderbuss tariffs against China, disconnected from any evidence that the previous agreement has gaps, cannot credibly be framed as a response to the crisis at the southern border. As with Canada, Trump's tariffs are obviously a response to some other issue.

Even with respect to Mexico, it is fair to ask whether the tariffs are truly aimed at changing the Mexican administration's policies on opioids. As Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum [noted](#) when she announced countermeasures this month, fentanyl seizures at the border had already dropped by 50% from October to January. Moreover, from 2019 to 2024, four out of five people detained at border crossings for [carrying fentanyl](#) were US citizens.

If there was any doubt that the latest tariffs are not really about the southern border “emergency,” Trump himself gave the game away in February, when he [said](#) that the purpose is to force manufacturers to move their plants to the United States. Similarly, in justifying the tariffs against Canada, he has not only

[complained](#) about ([non-existent](#)) barriers for US banks seeking to enter the Canadian retail market; he has also [explicitly linked](#) the policy to his illegal ambition of forcing Canada to join the US against its will.

The president's own words are sufficient evidence that the March tariffs are unlawful. Since they are not responses to the declared “emergency” on the southern border, the IEEPA expressly and clearly forbids their use.

To be sure, the White House would probably argue that the tariffs provide leverage over governments that could do something about the fentanyl problem. But permitting presidents to do whatever they want to create leverage with respect to a narrowly defined emergency would invalidate Congress's decision to specify the focus and scope of emergency powers in the language of the IEEPA. The exception would become the rule.

Lawyers often use hypotheticals to support such arguments. But no hypothetical is needed here. In putatively responding to the opioid epidemic, Trump would effectively [impose](#) a new \$1,000 tax on every American household – tantamount to adding a percentage point to Americans' marginal tax rate. No reasonable interpretation of the IEEPA's targeted authority allows for the president to trigger such sweeping changes.

Yet despite the obvious illegality of the policy, Trump's authority is unlikely to be seriously tested before the courts. Since the 1980s, federal courts have [flatly refused](#) to second-guess factual claims behind an IEEPA emergency declaration, and judges have [bent over backward](#) to grant the president broad powers in these contexts. Even where a president expresses an unlawful purpose, the Supreme Court has been willing to turn a blind eye. In the case of the first Trump administration's [Muslim ban](#), the Court spun a fine web of casuistry to suppress and ignore the president's many xenophobic and bigoted justifications.

Worse, in a challenge to Trump's 2018 steel tariffs, one circuit court [speculated vaguely](#) about the president's “independent” constitutional power over foreign trade. In effect, it conjured out of thin air a complete new presidential power that erased Congress's clear and exclusive authority over foreign trade and taxation.

According to this reasoning, even the minimal limits imposed on presidential power to reorder foreign trade – at a steep price to American taxpayers – would fall by the wayside. Yet in the past decade, courts have been increasingly willing to ignore the constitutional text in pursuit of an ahistorical [theory](#) of the presidency as the sole and exclusive anchor of American democracy and liberties.

Foreign governments and citizens confronted by erratic and unjustified US tariffs can take little comfort in knowing that these measures are likely illegal. The refusal by US courts to call Trump's bluff is a signal of how weak America's constitutional order has become, and how unwilling federal judges are to confront its nemesis.

Aziz Huq, Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, is the author of [The Collapse of Constitutional Remedies](#) (Oxford University Press, 2021).

OP-ED

By ~~Andrés Constantín~~
by ~~Jahannan D. Osili~~
Katherine Mayall

Canada Must Learn From the Green Backlash

TORONTO – As Canadians prepare to elect a new government, the rapid deterioration in relations with the United States will be front of mind. But the slow pace of decarbonization of our planet, and Canada's role in turning this around, must be right alongside it.

The chance of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above preindustrial levels, as set out in the 2015 Paris climate agreement, is now vanishingly small. Despite many countries' efforts, global greenhouse-gas emissions have not even started to fall, and would have to decline by a staggering 7.5% per year to stay within the carbon budget envisaged by the Paris agreement. If this does not change soon, the planet will start to cross climate tipping points, from the collapses of the Greenland Ice Sheet and the Labrador Sea Current to the abrupt thawing of the permafrost.

Addressing this existential crisis requires implementing policies that will accelerate the pace of decarbonization by leveraging the improvements in green-energy generation and infrastructure. The desire is seemingly there – global surveys show that voters want more, not less, climate action. But politicians rightly sense that they will be penalized in the next election for taking aggressive action, leading to an overly cautious approach. We are thus winning the war too slowly, which, as climate activist Bill McKibben has pointed out, is the same as losing.

The political backlash against climate action is growing worldwide. Green parties are in retreat across Europe, and the European Commission is rethinking its Green Deal legislation in light of the continent's declining competitiveness, stoking fears that the bloc may scale back its targets. From Australia to Germany, incumbent governments have faced public pressure to abandon green policies. In the United States, President Donald Trump ran for re-election on a platform that promised to “drill, baby, drill” and to reverse Joe Biden's signature climate policy. Similarly, in Canada, the Conservatives have embraced the rallying cry “axe the tax” – referring to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's carbon tax.

Policy backsliding is to be expected on occasion, and global progress must be resilient to such lapses, as it was during the first Trump administration. But the populist revolt against green policies offers some important lessons for the next Canadian prime minister.

Some of this pushback reflects the fact that the costs of climate action are not evenly distributed. To be politically sustainable, such policies must internalize these costs in the initial design phase. For example, economists have rightly championed carbon taxation as the most efficient way to curb emissions. But sometimes efficiency must be sacrificed – in this case, by resorting to alternative instruments or complementary measures to soften the blow of the green transition on segments of society that are less able to bear the cost.

To be clear, that does not mean invoking the compensation principle, which claims that the most efficient policy maximizes the resources available to provide compensation for those negatively affected (it does), but fails to recognize that such compensation rarely takes place. Nor is it enough to say that if carbon taxation is revenue-neutral, as it is designed to be in Canada, this will somehow ensure that compensation will reach those who need it. Voters are smart, and unless policy credibly convinces potential losers that they will be made whole, the mere risk that they will lose can provoke a backlash. And, as we are seeing now, even a small group of affected citizens can wield outside political influence, and their cause can be taken up by populist politicians.

This is not idle theorizing. A paper that my former International Monetary Fund colleagues and I published in 2023 examined whether climate policies were politically costly in OECD countries, including Canada, over the last few decades. Our findings suggest that a voter backlash is avoidable when policy design ensures that those likely to lose disproportionately – whether poorer households or fossil-fuel firms – are protected, for example through social insurance, monetary compensation, or the gradual phase-in of green policies. Perceptions matter, too, and our research implies that some measures, especially carbon taxes, are particularly likely to be unpopular, while regulations that reduce emissions at a slightly higher social cost are more palatable for voters.

Climate policies must be compatible with social and political realities, and not based solely on economic efficiency. This is a lesson for all countries – including Canada – experiencing broad push back against green measures. The world cannot afford populist politicians denigrating decarbonization as a harmful obsession of the elite. Buy-in from the households and firms that will disproportionately bear the costs is necessary if we are to have any chance of avoiding catastrophic global warming.

OPINION

by Palwasha Hassan,
Shafiq Khpalwak

Let Afghan Women Lead

WASHINGTON, DC – This year's International Women's Day is marked by a sense of foreboding, even despair. Progress on women's rights and representation is stalling: the number of women in parliaments grew last year at the lowest rate in a generation, and the global financing gap for gender initiatives remains wide. At a time of widespread democratic backsliding – and with US President Donald Trump freezing foreign aid, including for gender initiatives – the prospects for improvement appear bleak.

No one understands the consequences of such setbacks better than women and girls in Afghanistan, where some of the world's most severe gender-based rights violations are occurring. And yet, Afghan women also offer compelling reasons for hope and powerful motivation – especially for those of us who enjoy rights, freedoms, and opportunities they do not – to keep fighting.

Afghan women have long had to find imaginative ways to resist and circumvent harsh repression. In the late 1990s, as the Taliban consolidated control of the country and imposed regressive policies, women established underground schools, community centers, and health clinics. Since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, Afghan women have renewed such initiatives. For example, they have set up secret schools, which girls – who are now prohibited from education past the sixth grade – can attend in person or online. Where such classes are not accessible, mothers often educate their daughters at home, using their phones or tablets to access the necessary materials.

Forbidden from speaking outside their homes, women have used social media and the press to tell their stories. Unable to protest peacefully without facing violence from the authorities, women have embraced creative forms of resistance, depicting their experiences and demanding change in poetry, paintings, and film. Sahra Mani's moving documentary, Bread & Roses, which provides a glimpse into Afghan women's efforts to resist Taliban repression, has earned international acclaim.

We are from Afghanistan, but we were fortunate to have the opportunity to restart our lives in a new country, where we can advocate for our sisters back home without fear for our personal safety. But the heroines of Bread & Roses, and countless other Afghan women activists, face mortal danger every day. It is thus imperative that we do not stop at listening to their stories. Admiring their courage or sympathizing with their plight means little if we do nothing to keep them on the global agenda. That is why, at the upcoming United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), we will be calling on the international community to take three critical steps to support Afghan women.

First, Afghan refugees must have credible and timely options for safe and permanent resettlement. When the Taliban returned to power, hundreds of thousands of refugees – including Afghan nationals who had worked with American or NATO forces during the war – fled to neighboring Pakistan, where they applied for their promised US visas. Many have waited for years for their chance at resettlement, often facing arbitrary detention and harassment in the meantime.

Far from accelerating this process, Trump has suspended the US Refugee Admissions Program. This has put Afghans at elevated risk of deportation – tantamount to a death sentence for many – by the Pakistani government, which has expressed frustration at the lengthy relocation timeframes. A credible pathway to permanent resettlement in safe locations must be established as soon as possible.

Second, the international community must give Afghan women the resources they need to effect change within Afghanistan. Afghan women have the vision, tenacity, experience, and commitment needed to make a difference. But, since the Taliban's return to power, donors have been afraid to support them. Far more financing must be provided to Afghan women-led programs, including those facilitating dialogue between Afghan women at home and in exile.

Finally, women – and civil society more broadly – must be included in any political dialogue or peace process related to Afghanistan. If the Taliban seek to deny women a seat at the table, as they have so far, the international community must push back. Afghanistan's future, and the region's stability, depends on it.

This year's CSW meeting will mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the world's most progressive blueprint for advancing women's rights. When it was created three decades ago, the women involved were filled with hope that the fight for gender equality had reached a turning point. But despite progress in some areas – including women's labor force participation, political representation, and financial inclusion – the declaration's promise remains unfulfilled. Now is the time to draw on the creativity, leadership, knowhow, and courage of a new generation of women activists – not least those in Afghanistan.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Liberia's Bid for the UN Security Council--A Historic Opportunity for Economic Growth and National Unity (A repeat)

The 193 member states of the United Nations are poised to head to the polls in June this year to elect ten new non-permanent members to the UN Security Council. The newly elected members will join the five permanent members, who possess veto powers, to serve rotational terms of two years each. The Security Council is the UN's primary organ tasked with maintaining international peace and security.

Liberia, a founding member of the United Nations since June 1945, is among the nations vying for one of these coveted seats. This bid marks a significant moment for the country, coming 65 years after it last shared a two-year term on the Security Council with the Republic of Ireland, with each serving one year.

This week, President Joseph N. Boakai is set to officially launch Liberia's campaign for the Security Council seat locally, aiming to garner national support amidst a politically divided populace. The launch is not only intended to rally local endorsement but also to foster unity among citizens despite political differences.

Liberia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Lewis G. Brown, has expressed optimism that Liberia's election to the Security Council will translate into significant economic opportunities and growth potential at home. He pointed to the economic booms experienced during President William VS Tubman's administration when Liberia last shared a term with the Republic of Ireland.

“When Liberia succeeds in the June elections, it will be 65 years since Liberia had the opportunity to sit on the highest platform in the world responsible for maintaining international peace and security. This time, the chance to sit on the Council will be even more historically significant and prouder for our country as it would be the first time Liberia will serve a full two-year term,” stated Ambassador Brown.

It is important to note here that Liberia's tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, some 65 years ago, marked a remarkable period in its history. During this time, Liberia utilized its position to advocate for the unity and independence of African nations, promote and support UN peacekeeping missions, and mediate in various international disputes. As a symbol of black sovereignty and independence, Liberia played a pivotal role in fostering dialogue, supporting decolonization processes, and advocating for peace and stability in conflict zones.

Liberia's contributions to UN peacekeeping efforts were significant and impactful. The country actively promoted the deployment of peacekeeping forces in Africa with the aim of stabilizing regions. One notable example of Liberia's support for peacekeeping missions was its involvement in the Congo crisis.

Liberia's contributions during its time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council remain a testament to its enduring legacy of advocacy, mediation, and support for peace and independence in Africa. Through its unwavering commitment to African unity, its promotion of UN peacekeeping missions, and its role as mediator, Liberia played a vital role in shaping the course of international relations and supporting the aspirations of African nations.

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

This 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 of 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).

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS

0886484201 / 0777007529

WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.

Hurry and book now!

ARTICLE

Bong County: Rep. Kollie under fire

The Capricious Shadow of Authority

Politics is often perceived as the arena where ideals meet reality, where moral rectitude is frequently compromised by pragmatism and the desire for power. In examining the current political climate in Liberia, particularly in the context of the Supreme Court's opinion on the House of Representatives' impasse, it becomes evident that figures like former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf may not possess the moral standing requisite to critique the court's decisions. In juxtaposition, the Minnesota Supreme Court's involvement in similar legislative crises offers insights into how differing legal precedents and political cultures can shape the accountability and efficacy of leaders. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first female elected head of state in Africa, undoubtedly holds an essential place in Liberia's turbulent history. However, her leadership cannot be condoned when juxtaposed against the robust principles of moral accountability. The Supreme Court of Liberia recently emphasized the importance of co-equal branches of government, urging internal resolution of the impasse without their interference. It underscored that the majority faction's actions, deemed "ultra vires," called for a return to the status quo, indicating that the court views government actions through a constitutional lens.

Leadership and Accountability: A Double Standard:
Under former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's presidency, events that blurred ethical governance lines clouded political morality issues. Two speakers of the House were forcibly made to resign under circumstances drenched in political contention. During her administration, the lack of transparency and the use of political expediency to address internal conflicts set a precarious precedent that some House of Representatives lawmakers think should continue. Consequently, it becomes intellectually dishonest for Madam Johnson-Sirleaf to position herself as a moral compass criticizing the Supreme Court for advocating for a resolution to the current impasse. In contrast, the Minnesota Supreme Court's intervention in its legislative crisis emanates from an established legal framework and a seemingly transparent political culture. When the Minnesota House of Representatives encountered similar discord, the court's primary role was to assess constitutional validity rather than interfere directly with political maneuvers. The Minnesota Supreme Court's legal principles emphasize structured dialogue and conflict resolution. Their intervention is prompted by ensuring that constitutional stipulations remain intact rather than invoking a political standoff from personal ambition or vendetta.

Here, accountability within the leadership structures forms a sharp contrast. By virtue of her actions during her tenure, the former President of Liberia opened herself to scrutiny, and her criticisms of the Supreme Court reflect a form of hypocrisy. Under her leadership, political accountability appeared selectively applied, fostering an environment rife with opacity rather than forthright governance. **The Role of the Judiciary: Harbingers of Fairness or Political Tools?:** The judiciary's role in mediating political disputes holds paramount importance in democracies. In Liberia, the Supreme Court's stance represents a pivot toward maintaining an independent judiciary, despite the critiques from political figures such as former President Johnson-Sirleaf. When the court labels the actions of the majority block as "ultra vires," it strives to create a landscape where constitutional limitations bind all political entities.

This is an assertion of the court's role not as a political pawn but as an arbiter of fairness, reinforcing the rule of law. In Minnesota, the judiciary operates within a context where political practices often reflect negotiation and compromise. The Minnesota Supreme Court's decision regarding the House of Representatives impasse is predicated on a respect for legislative processes and judicial independence, two principles deeply ingrained in the state's political fabric. Their decision-making is far removed from perceived political favoritism, they strive instead to uphold the integrity of governance. Comparatively, Liberia's judiciary struggles with its image, mainly when its decisions are criticized by individuals who should respect its authority. Madam Johnson-Sirleaf's challenge to the Supreme Court undermines the leadership's response to constitutional queries. It inhibits the court's ability to carry out its mission of ensuring that legislative processes adhere to established guidelines. **Historical Context: Rewriting Liberia's History and the Shadow of Leadership:** The narrative surrounding Madam Johnson-Sirleaf's presidency will inevitably evolve as Liberia grapples with its post-conflict identity. History tends to reflect not just the actions of its leaders but the overarching political climate that influenced those actions. Even amid her questionable governance choices, the former president's crusade for moral superiority positions her as a product and perpetrator of Liberia's complex political landscape.

As the historical record of Liberia is penned, Madam Johnson-Sirleaf's legacy will not be one of unquestionable moral standing. Instead, it will showcase the entangled fabric of political expediency versus the essentialism of ethical governance. Rewriting history does not absolve leaders from the consequences of their actions. Critique of the current Supreme Court's stance reflects a significant deviation from self-awareness in understanding one's history. The laborious journey of reconstructing Liberia will necessitate leaders who embody the ethical fortitude that the nation yearns for, something former President Johnson-Sirleaf failed to exemplify during her presidency. **Seeking Genuine Political Morality in Leadership:** The comparative analysis of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's leadership in Liberia with that of the Minnesota Supreme Court's adjudicative role reveals stark differences in political morality and accountability. Johnson-Sirleaf's past actions diminished her moral authority to question the Supreme Court's opinions as she failed to navigate her presidency with consistent ethical convictions.

In stark contrast, the Minnesota Supreme Court demonstrates a commitment to judicial integrity that underscores its role in fostering a culture of democratic dialogue, where political entities must adhere to constitutional constraints. As Liberia inches toward redefining its political narrative, genuine leadership expectations grow paramount. The landscape calls for leaders to embrace accountability and a transparent ethos, recognizing that political morality must be the cornerstone of the best future governance, hopefully in 2029. While the Supreme Court has asserted its role in seeking a resolution to the current impasse, Liberia can genuinely hope to navigate its complex political terrain free of the shadows cast by those, who have governed in the past only through reclaimed moral conviction in its leaders. The call is for double accountability to the law and the people. Only then can political morality become synonymous with effective governance.

District politics in Bong County is heating up with criticisms of lawmakers on the rise.

By: Edwin N. Khakie
Bong County, March 10, 2025/
Bong County District #5 Representative Eugene Kollie is said to be under intense criticism from constituents following his suspension from the House of Representatives without pay and benefits.

Representative Kollie is among seven members of the House of Representatives suspended for "30 working sessions" in a unanimous vote by the Koon-led Majority Bloc.

Despite efforts to push for their salaries and benefits through a petition to the Supreme Court, many Bongense believe that suspended lawmakers' hope is hanging in the balance.

Recently, a political grassroots

effects about the lack of advocacy for the district interests in critical national matters.

LMSD noted that Legislation passed in Rep. Kollie's absence may fail to reflect Suacoco's needs and concerns, potentially leading to outcomes that do not benefit the district. It could hinder ongoing projects or initiatives within the district and delay or prevent the launch of new ones.

LMSD asserted that Re. Kollie's prolonged absence from plenary leaves the district without proper representation in the legislature, thereby putting citizens' interests and representation at risk in the discussions and decision-making processes.

The group further gave the district representative a two-week ultimatum to appear before the citizens of Suacoco at the Suacoco District Youth Center for clarification on his



Hon. Engine JM Kollie

Organization, Liberation Movement for Suacoco District (LMSD), criticized the Bong County lawmaker for absenteeism from the House of Representatives for three months, citing no impact on legislation and administrative challenges.

The political grassroots movement attributed Rep. Kollie's suspension to his failure to fulfill legislative duties and responsibilities.

The Liberation Movement for Suacoco District is blaming the suspended Re. Kollie for the slow pace of development during his suspension and further demanding clarification on the District's representation in the 2025 Budget Process.

The group highlighted detrimental

suspension from the Liberia National Legislature.

They stated, "It is imperative that he be held accountable to ensure the proper functioning of the national legislature and the well-being of our district."

These points, according to political pundits, reflect significant failures in Rep. Kollie's political journey, especially in his first term in legislative proceedings, with growing uncertainty over his re-election in 2029.

However, supporters of Rep. Kollie have labeled the criticism as "politically motivated," questioning why a similar thing is not being done in District#3 after Rep. Marvin Cole's suspension. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529

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

Hurry and book now!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia elected to host AFUR Conference and General Assembly

Liberia has been elected to host the 23rd Annual Conference and General Assembly of the African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR) in March 2027.

Monrovia, March 10, 2025/ The election was held during the 21st AFUR Annual Conference and General Assembly, which took place on March 6, 2025, in Douala, Cameroon.

During this event, the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) was said to have submitted a successful bid to host the 23rd AFUR Conference and General Assembly.

A delegation from the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) led by the Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Hon. Claude J. Katta, including Commissioner Amara M. Kamara, Managing Director Augustus V. Goanue, and Engineer Abu Dekontee Sanso, attended the 21st AFUR Annual Conference and General Assembly in Doula, Cameroon from March 4 - 7, 2025. The theme was *"The Use of Intelligent Technologies in Utilities – How Does the Regulator Promote Innovation while Protecting Consumers."*

The 21st AFUR Conference and General Assembly brought together regulators, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss how technologies like

artificial intelligence, smart grids, and data analytics can improve utility services.

LERC's delegation shared valuable insights on Liberia's regulation of utilities, particularly electricity, and discussed integrating these technologies into Liberia's energy sector by exchanging best practices with counterparts from across the continent.

During his presentation, LERC Managing Director Mr. Augustus V. Goanue highlighted the Commission's significant accomplishments as the newest regulator in Africa and its role in Liberia's electricity market reform.

He noted that LERC is currently ranked 10th out of forty-three (43) member states in Africa by the African Development Bank's latest Electricity Regulatory Index, climbing from 37th position in 2021. He also highlighted LERC's involvement in the West African regional electricity market reform by serving on various committees of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA).

The delegation held bilateral meetings with African regulatory bodies to discuss knowledge exchange and partnerships for stronger regulatory frameworks and faster adoption of intelligent technologies. Insights from the conference will guide LERC in creating a modern, efficient, and inclusive energy sector for Liberia.

It can be recalled that the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission was admitted into the membership of AFUR in August 2024 after a rigorous admission process and was later invited to the 21st Conference and General Assembly for induction and certification into the continental body. *-Press release.*



LERC delegation at the 21st AFUR Conference and General Assembly

House clarifies allotment to Speaker's Office

The House of Representatives debunks reports of US\$5 Million allotment to Office of the Speaker.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 7, 2025 - The House of Representatives clarifies here that contrary to reports that the office of "Regime Speaker" Richard Nagbe Koon is allotted US\$5 Million in 2025 National Budget, the actual amount of money allocated to the Office of the Speaker US\$1,505,555.00

The Director of Press at the House of Representatives, Robert Haynes, unequivocally states that following thorough scrutiny and subsequent passage by the Legislature, the approved budget for the Office of the Speaker is \$1,505,555.

He says this represents a reduction compared to the previous budget allocation of \$2,036,017 in the 2024 National Budget.

He notes that under the

leadership of "Regime Speaker" Richard Nagbe Koon, the House of Representatives remains steadfast in its commitment to transparency and accountability in governance.

"The institution has absolutely nothing to conceal from the public, and we encourage fact-based discourse rather than misinformation intended to

mislead the Liberian people; Let it be made clear that no amount of falsehoods or propaganda will distract the House of Representatives from its core mandate working in the best interest of the people".

Director Haynes maintains that their commitment remains unwavering in advocating for a people-centered budget that ensures tangible benefits for ordinary citizens across Liberia. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



speaker Richard Nagbe Koon

UL President forges partnership abroad

The University of Liberia is forming partnerships abroad aimed at improving academic programs and strengthening ties with sisterly institutions.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 7, 2025 - The President of the University of Liberia (UL), Dr. Layli Maparyan, says she has secured significant partnerships abroad aimed at advancing the University's academic programs and strengthening ties with international institutions.

During a press conference on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at the Capitol Hill campus, Dr. Maparyan provided a summary of her accomplishments during her February's visit to the United States.

Among key achievements, she highlights signing of two important Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with U.S.-based institutions.

The first MoU was signed with

State University (KSU) to discuss potential collaboration on developing a conflict resolution master's or PhD program at UL, with a trauma track. This would provide students with advanced training in conflict resolution, a crucial skill in Liberia's post-conflict society.

She mentions discussions regarding Georgia Tech Online Master's Program in Computer Science, noting that this partnership could lead to future announcements about collaborative educational opportunities.

Additionally, Dr. Maparyan is engaged with the World Bank Country Director about potential support for UL's fisheries program, an initiative aimed at strengthening Liberia's capacity



UL President Dr. Layli Maparyan

MBC to offer an online Hospitality Management Certificate program, aimed at expanding the University of Liberia's academic offerings and providing students with valuable industry skills.

The second MoU, with CSU, is centered on a healthcare administration program, further strengthening UL's educational capacity in the field of healthcare management. The connection to this agreement was further facilitated by the involvement of UL Board Chair, Senator Numene H.T. Bartekwa.

In addition to these agreements, Dr. Maparyan outlines UL's "Plans to increase the number of faculty members holding PhDs". She also reveals efforts to secure slots for UL faculty from UCL (University Consortium for Liberia) member institutions, a move intended to enhance faculty development and academic excellence.

During her trip abroad, Dr. Maparyan met with representatives from Kennesaw

in this critical sector.

The UL President also participated in UCL-sponsored fundraising and "friendraising" events in Atlanta, Georgia, which were instrumental in furthering the university's mission to build global partnerships and attract investment for its programs.

Other highlights of her trip include meetings with units affected by the USAID shutdown, as well as discussions with MAP International regarding health sciences supplies for UL.

Dr. Maparyan says she received a letter of support from the President of the University of Georgia (UGA), reaffirming their commitment to collaborate with the UL in advancing higher education here.

Her recent trip to the U.S. is expected to bring long-term benefits to the University of Liberia, positioning it for greater academic excellence and stronger international partnerships in years to come.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Koijee adresse un courrier au président Donald Trump pour solliciter l'intervention des USA

L'ancien maire de Monrovia et actuel secrétaire général du principal parti d'opposition, le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), Jefferson T. Koijee, a adressé une lettre au président américain Donald Trump, l'appelant à soutenir le peuple

également le président Trump de reconsidérer le projet de déportation de 1 563 Libériens actuellement résidant aux États-Unis. Il souligne que nombre de ces personnes ont fui les persécutions politiques et la violence dans leur pays d'origine et ont largement contribué à l'économie américaine ainsi qu'au développement du

mettrait leur vie en danger et dévasterait leurs familles », déplore-t-il.

Koijee rappelle à Trump ses politiques antérieures en faveur du Liberia, notamment l'extension en 2018 du « Deferred Enforced Departure » (DED) et la promulgation en 2019 de la « Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness » (LRIF). Il plaide : « Un acte de compassion similaire aujourd'hui renforcerait les relations entre les États-Unis et le Liberia et protégerait des milliers de personnes vulnérables. »

Accusations de mauvaise gouvernance
Koijee dresse un tableau sombre de la situation actuelle au Liberia, dénonçant un usage abusif de l'aide étrangère américaine ayant conduit à des crises sociales et politiques profondes. Il cite notamment l'annulation présumée d'un projet fiscal de 17 millions de dollars et l'absence de reddition de comptes concernant 1,5 million de dollars alloués par l'USAID pour renforcer la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



libérien face à la corruption, aux violations des droits de l'homme et à l'érosion démocratique.

Dans cette lettre datée du 26 février 2025, Koijee implore

Liberia grâce à leurs envois de fonds.

« Les expulser sous le régime du président Boakai — marqué par des viols généralisés, des meurtres et un effondrement économique —

Un officier de la LNP déferé en justice pour la fusillade de Bokon

L'agent Boimah Massallay de l'unité de soutien de la Police nationale du Liberia (LNP) a été officiellement inculpé et déferé devant le tribunal en lien avec une fusillade mortelle survenue dans la communauté de Bokon, à Lower Virginia.

L'incident, qui a eu lieu le 12 février 2025, a entraîné la mort d'un individu identifié sous le nom de Talking Tom.

Selon les rapports de police, l'agent Massallay a utilisé son arme de service lors d'une altercation, causant ainsi la mort de Talking Tom.

À la suite de cet événement tragique, les autorités de la LNP avaient annoncé, dès le vendredi 14 février 2025, qu'une enquête était en cours pour faire toute la lumière sur les circonstances de la fusillade et garantir une transparence totale.

Mise à jour sur l'affaire : inculpation et poursuites judiciaires

Lors du point de presse régulier du ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, le jeudi 6 mars 2025, le vice-ministre de l'Information chargé de la presse et des affaires publiques, Daniel O. Sandor, a confirmé que l'agent Massallay avait été démis de ses fonctions et inculpé d'homicide par négligence et de mise en danger

imprudente de la vie d'autrui.

« L'agent a été déferé au tribunal pour répondre des faits qui lui sont reprochés », a déclaré le ministre Sandor.

Il a souligné que la réaction rapide de la LNP témoigne de son engagement en faveur de la responsabilité et du professionnalisme, renforçant ainsi la confiance du public dans les forces de l'ordre.

« Nous tenons à rassurer le public que la police ne tolère aucune forme d'inconduite. Les mesures prises dans cette affaire illustrent notre détermination à faire respecter la loi et à garantir la justice », a conclu le ministre Sandor.



Éditorial

L'anarchie s'impose au Capitole

Par Daron Acemoglu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertise with us!

Français

Starts from page 8 **Kojee adresse un courrier au président Donald**

confiance des électeurs.

« Le président Joseph Boakai viole constamment les lois de notre nation, sapant la responsabilité démocratique et les fondements mêmes sur lesquels notre démocratie a été bâtie », accuse-t-il. Kojee dénonce également ce qu'il qualifie de « coup d'État législatif » orchestré par Boakai, accusant ce dernier d'utiliser les ressources de l'État pour destituer le président légalement élu de l'Assemblée nationale, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa. Cette manœuvre viserait, selon lui, à consolider le contrôle sur la législature et à manipuler la politique budgétaire.

Il affirme que le gouvernement Boakai opère avec un budget « criminel », non signé par le président de l'Assemblée, compromettant ainsi les contre-pouvoirs essentiels à une bonne gouvernance.

Violations des droits de l'homme et répression politique

Kojee décrit un climat de violations des droits humains sans précédent sous l'administration actuelle, avec plus de cent décès signalés en un an. Il attribue ces morts à des persécutions d'État, des violences sexuelles, des brutalités policières et des meurtres rituels.

« Malgré ces atrocités, le président n'a pas su réconcilier notre nation, approfondissant les plaies du Liberia et entravant le développement national et la paix », ajoute-t-il.

Il dénonce en outre des actes de harcèlement politique, rappelant les interventions policières violentes contre le siège du CDC en août 2024, ainsi que les tentatives d'intimidation visant l'ancien président George Weah lors de son arrivée à l'aéroport international Roberts.

Allégations de corruption

Selon Kojee, le président Boakai, malgré sa promesse de lutter contre la corruption, dirige une administration marquée par des malversations financières. Il cite notamment :

- 2,3 millions de dollars de dépenses diverses non justifiées.
- 15 millions de dollars de dépenses hors

budget.

- 100 000 dollars transférés sur la carte bancaire personnelle du président pour des transactions non autorisées.
- 374 239,24 dollars versés à l'ancien gouverneur de la Banque centrale, Aloysius Tarlue, pour forcer sa démission.
- 75 000 dollars alloués pour l'achat d'un véhicule de 45 000 dollars pour la PDG de la National Oil Company of Liberia, Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, entraînant une inflation frauduleuse des coûts.

Bien que la PDG Dennis ait été suspendue dans l'attente d'une enquête, Kojee s'indigne que « des millions de Libériens n'aient toujours pas accès à l'eau potable, à l'électricité, à l'emploi et aux soins de santé ».

Appel à une enquête américaine

Kojee recommande une enquête approfondie sur les précédents financements de l'USAID au Liberia, en particulier les 1,5 million de dollars destinés à la confiance des électeurs. Il soutient que l'USAID a été utilisé pour manipuler l'intégrité électorale, accusant le Comité de Coordination Électorale (ECC) de collusion avec le parti au pouvoir.

Il salue le Département de l'efficacité gouvernementale des États-Unis, dirigé par Elon Musk, pour avoir mis en lumière la corruption au sein de l'USAID et d'autres pays, y compris le Liberia.

Conclusion

Dans sa lettre, Kojee félicite également le président Trump pour avoir restauré la place de la Bible à la Maison-Blanche et pour la création du Conseil consultatif sur la foi, qu'il considère comme un geste monumental pour préserver la liberté religieuse et lutter contre les idéologies de genre radicales.

« Votre leadership en la matière reflète le rôle biblique de Cyrus, le souverain perse qui a libéré les Juifs de Babylone », conclut-il.

Boakai prolonge le mandat de la Task Force de récupération des actifs

Dans le cadre de ses efforts pour renforcer la lutte contre la corruption et récupérer les actifs publics, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. a signé l'Ordre Exécutif n° 145, prolongeant d'un an le mandat de la Task Force de récupération des actifs.

Ce nouvel ordre modifie l'Ordre Exécutif n° 126, qui avait initialement créé la Task Force en mars 2024, avec pour mission d'identifier, de localiser et de récupérer les actifs du gouvernement prétendument détournés par d'anciens responsables.

Un départ difficile entravé par des batailles juridiques Les opérations de la Task Force avaient été perturbées par une longue bataille judiciaire avec Gracious Ride Incorporated, entamée en mars 2024, après la saisie de plusieurs véhicules appartenant à la société. La Task Force alléguait que ces véhicules avaient été frauduleusement acquis par un ancien fonctionnaire.

Après près d'un an de procédures judiciaires, la Cour suprême du Liberia a statué en faveur de la Task Force le 18 février 2025, permettant ainsi à ses travaux de reprendre. Cependant, le mandat initial d'un an étant arrivé à expiration en mars 2025, cette dispute légale a fortement freiné ses capacités à enquêter sur d'autres dossiers.

Bilan et perspectives de la Task Force Le président de l'équipe de récupération des actifs et de restitution des biens (AREPT), Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin, a indiqué au journal *NewDawn* le 20 février 2025 qu'en dépit des obstacles juridiques, la Task Force avait pu vérifier et saisir 17 affaires de haut niveau. Ces affaires incluaient des vols d'actifs publics, des acquisitions suspectes de propriétés, des détournements de fonds via de fausses entreprises de construction routière et le vol de liquidités.

Il a également révélé que durant les neuf mois de suspension imposée par la Cour suprême, des individus impliqués avaient transféré des fonds suspects, changé de comptes bancaires, transporté illégalement des véhicules du gouvernement libérien vers des pays voisins, falsifié des documents et modifié l'identité des biens publics.

Renouvellement du mandat et nouvelles stratégies Lors du point de presse régulier du ministère de l'Information, de la Culture et du Tourisme, le 6 mars 2025, le vice-ministre de l'Information chargé de la presse et des affaires publiques, Daniel O. Sanoe, a annoncé le renouvellement du mandat de la



Task Force pour une année supplémentaire. L'objectif est de poursuivre les affaires non résolues et de garantir la récupération des actifs publics détournés à des fins privées.

« Cet Ordre Exécutif renforce l'engagement du gouvernement à combattre la corruption, à promouvoir la responsabilité et à récupérer les actifs acquis de manière illicite, tant par d'anciens que par des responsables actuels », a déclaré M. Sanoe.

Composition de la nouvelle Task Force La Task Force sera supervisée par un comité de cinq membres, présidé par Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin, avec Dr. Ranney B. Jackson comme vice-président. Les autres membres incluent John Mulbah Gbilee, Crosby Johnson et Atty. Suzanne A. Johnson.

Elle fonctionnera sous l'autorité du ministre d'État chargé des services spéciaux et collaborera avec plusieurs agences gouvernementales clés, notamment :

- Le ministère de la Justice
- La Commission anti-corruption du Liberia (LACC)
- Le Bureau de l'Ombudsman
- L'Agence des services généraux (GSA)
- L'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA)
- L'Agence de renseignement financier (FIA)

Ces institutions uniront leurs efforts pour enquêter, poursuivre et récupérer les actifs volés, tant à l'intérieur du Liberia qu'à l'international.

Mesures supplémentaires pour renforcer l'efficacité La Task Force aura également le pouvoir d'imposer des restrictions de voyage aux personnes sous enquête et de collaborer avec Interpol et d'autres partenaires diplomatiques pour rapatrier les suspects et récupérer les actifs volés à l'étranger.

Pour garantir la bonne exécution de ce nouveau mandat, le président Boakai a ordonné au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement d'allouer immédiatement des fonds pour soutenir les opérations de la Task Force.

La LACC lance la vérification des actifs des responsables gouvernementaux

La Commission Anti-Corruption du Liberia (LACC) a entamé un processus de vérification des actifs pour les responsables gouvernementaux actuels et anciens ayant déclaré leurs biens. Cette initiative vise à garantir la transparence et la responsabilité en authentifiant minutieusement les informations soumises à la commission.

Objectif de la vérification des actifs Jeudi 6 mars 2025, lors d'un entretien avec *The NewDawn*, le vice-ministre de l'Information chargé de la presse et des affaires publiques, Daniel O. Sanoe, a révélé que Cllr. Alexandra Zoe, présidente exécutive de la LACC, lui avait indiqué par téléphone que la déclaration des actifs se poursuivait pour plus de 457 responsables publics récemment suspendus par le président Joseph Boakai.

Ce processus de vérification est une étape cruciale pour renforcer la lutte contre la corruption et instaurer la

confiance du public dans les institutions gouvernementales.

« Une fois le processus achevé, la LACC soumettra une liste mise à jour au ministère des Affaires présidentielles », a déclaré M. Sanoe, soulignant que cette démarche s'inscrit dans le cadre du mandat plus large de la commission visant à combattre la corruption et à promouvoir l'intégrité dans la fonction publique.

Le rôle de la déclaration des actifs dans la lutte contre la corruption

La déclaration des actifs est un mécanisme clé utilisé par les gouvernements du monde entier pour favoriser la transparence, empêcher l'accumulation illicite de richesse et dissuader les responsables publics de se livrer à des pratiques corruptives.

Au Liberia, le processus est régi par le Code de conduite pour les fonctionnaires publics de 2014, qui exige des responsables gouvernementaux qu'ils déclarent leurs actifs avant d'entrer en fonction, périodiquement pendant leur mandat et à leur départ.



ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The Liberian Leaders of AML: Mulbah Gbozee, AML's Civil Engineer Maintaining the Country's Rail Asset

What does infrastructure development have to do with professional growth? In Liberia, they go hand in hand—putting Liberians in leadership roles and ensuring the country's assets are managed by its own people. This is the story of Mulbah Gbozee, ArcelorMittal Liberia's (AML) Rail Maintenance Manager, who plays a crucial role in maintaining the 245km railway operated by AML.



Mulbah Gbozee, Rail Maintenance Manager, ArcelorMittal Liberia
Mulbah Gbozee, Rail Maintenance Manager, ArcelorMittal Liberia
Mulbah's journey began when he graduated as a Civil Engineer from Stella Maris Polytechnic University in 2010. His first role was with Odebrecht, the engineering firm that partnered with AML to fully rehabilitate Liberia's rail system in 2010. As a fresh graduate, he stepped into the industry as a Planning Engineer, securing a job in his field thanks to AML's bold investment in Liberia in 2005. For two years, Mulbah worked on the rail rehabilitation project, gaining invaluable experience in the rail industry. As a Planning Engineer, he collaborated with a team to develop, manage, and monitor the project schedule, ensuring efficient execution. He later took on roles with other organizations in Liberia, contributing to various civil engineering projects. Then, in 2013, an exciting opportunity arose—a scholarship to pursue a Master's in

Civil Engineering at Central South University in Changsha, Hunan Province, China. Studying in China came with challenges, but it also broadened his perspective and deepened his technical expertise. Mulbah earned his degree and immersed himself in a new culture, spending four years in China. Armed with his qualifications, Mulbah returned to Liberia in 2017, eager to contribute to infrastructure development. He rejoined AML as a Rail Maintenance Planning Engineer, overseeing maintenance schedules for both rail infrastructure and rolling stock—the fleet of locomotives, wagons, and critical railway equipment. He focused on preventive and corrective maintenance, optimized resource allocation, and minimized downtime to ensure smooth rail operations. Through data analysis and coordination with maintenance teams, he enhanced operational efficiency to support AML's Direct Shipping Ore (DSO) operations.

His dedication didn't go unnoticed. In 2022, he was promoted to Rail Maintenance Manager, taking full responsibility for maintaining both the rail infrastructure and rolling stock. In this role, he oversees routine and preventive maintenance to ensure the railway's reliability and efficiency. With AML's Phase II Expansion Project, Mulbah has played a critical role in collaborating with the Project Team to execute railway rehabilitation. This includes:
Replacing wooden sleepers with steel sleepers
Upgrading the rail profile
Extending passing tracks
Improving track alignment and substructures to support increased traffic
Throughout the rehabilitation process, he has worked closely with the Project Team and contractors to ensure smooth execution and adherence to technical specifications. Significant progress has been made—97% of the sleepers on the mainline have been successfully replaced with steel sleepers, strengthening the rail infrastructure for the ramp-up to 15 MTPA and beyond.

With the arrival of new on-track maintenance equipment, including tampers for leveling tracks, regulators for maintaining track alignment, and welding trucks for

quicker rail repairs, AML is shifting toward more efficient rail maintenance. In addition to structural rehabilitation, AML has also invested in a Positive Train Control (PTC) system, which uses GPS and real-time data to monitor and control train movements, enhancing safety and efficiency. Mulbah's journey is a testament to personal determination and AML's commitment to investing in Liberian talent. Commitment to Continuous Learning & Leadership
Beyond his professional growth, AML has supported Mulbah's development through several internationally recognized programs. He has completed:
A Postgraduate Certificate in Project Management from UCLA
A Maintenance Management Program at Dalhousie University
Various professional courses at ArcelorMittal University
ArcelorMittal's Leadership Pipeline Program CONNECT 1 (2024)
To further his expertise, Mulbah attended InnoTrans 2024, a leading rail trade fair, where he explored cutting-edge innovations for potential implementation in AML's railway



operations.
Giving Back & Inspiring the Next Generation
Passionate about nurturing young talent, Mulbah gives back to his community. As a father of two boys, he values mentorship and runs a football club for young Liberians in AML's Buchanan concession, providing opportunities both on and off the field. Mulbah's Loopers Football Club
His Advice to Aspiring Engineers?
"Be willing to explore opportunities and stay open-minded. Embrace new technologies and always remain curious about your craft. Liberia is growing, and AML's investment in the rail ensures that many more will follow in my footsteps. If you're interested in engineering, go for it—there will always be a need for engineers and experts in this field."
Mulbah's story highlights the power of education, resilience, and strategic investment in local talent. With professionals like him leading the way, Liberia's infrastructure—and future—are in capable hands.



Protest greets VP Koung in America

A group of diaspora Liberians in America have protested before Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung, who is visiting the U.S., demanding end to corruption, economic hardship, extra-judicial killings and high cost of living in Liberia.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Maryland, United States, March 10, 2025 - Aggrieved Liberians residing in the United States of America,

Responding to question about his involvement in decision making for the state and whether he is a “park car” like current President Boakai said when he served under former

President has to request that assistance first, but, if the President doesn’t request that assistance, the Vice President can’t perform.

“Every Vice President is park car. Any Vice President who wants to be a running car, that Vice President can get in trouble. If President Joseph N. Boakai is working with me, yes. As Vice President, if I get advice and go into the room to the President and advise him whether the President takes that advice or not, my own ends in that room. If it came outside, the only thing I can do is to defend it or talk somehow around it. But, I can’t come from that room and say I tell the President and he didn’t not listen, now see what is happening. And so, with that, you undermine your boss man. The power of the Executive is inherited in one person, and it’s the President.” he notes.

According to him, if anyone is a Vice President, whether popular or not, the power of the Executive is in that one person and only that person has that authority.

On March 6, 2025 in the United States of America, Vice President Koung attended a Town Hall meeting organized by the Liberian Communication Association in DMV area. The program, held at the Miracle Conference Center Reception Hall in Laurel, Maryland, U.S.A, was graced by several Liberians.

The purpose of the meeting was to enable Vice President Koung to engage and interact with diaspora Liberians in the region, share insights and strengthen ties between Liberia and its global citizens. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

President Sirleaf, VP Koung notes that every Vice President is a park car due to the way Liberian laws are written.

“Where I’m now talking to you people, if President Boakai calls and tells me to drop the microphone and leave this place, I will do because that is the work of the Vice President. In fact, every vice president is a park car. Because the President said that I should be here that is why I’m here. If you are a Vice President, before you travel, you have to tell the President and if he says yes, you will go and no, you will not. Every Vice President that wants to act like your head is big, the history is there and you have been seeing it; me, it will not happen to me because I know my role” Vice President explains.

According to him, every vice president of Liberia is a park car, because the 1986 Constitution of Liberia provides clearly that the Vice President will assist the President and that means, the

especially Washington, D.C. staged a protest, resisting Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung, who is visiting the U.S. during a Town Hall meeting in demand of justice for extra judicial killings, rising cost of living, economic hardship and corruption in Liberia, but Vice President Koung describes the Office of the Vice President as a “park car.”

In a video footage circulating on Social Media, the diaspora Liberians were seen chanting battle cries, as Vice President Koung mounted the podium to speak.

They demanded immediate justice, solution to rising economic challenges and end to corruption and ritualistic killings across the country.

Following over twenty minutes of disrupted speech, the aggrieved Liberians were escorted outside of the Town hall as the program continued with Vice President Koung addressing the gathering.

No room for unqualified teachers

***-MoE warns** Government of Liberia wants against placing unqualified teachers in schools.*

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 7, 2025 - The Ministry of Education (MoE) emphasizes a need to improving quality of teaching in Liberian schools. Ensuring that all teachers undergo proper training is crucial for enhancing the education system and student outcomes. Deputy Minister for Instructions at the Ministry of Education, Amos Armah Fully, stresses that a strong foundation in early education can have long-term positive effects on students' learning outcomes. He sternly warns here, "There is no space for unqualified teachers in the educational sector." His statement highlights a strict policy to ensure that only trained educators are teaching in schools. It makes sense that individuals with

backgrounds in fields like criminal justice, rather than education, would be redirected to more relevant roles. Having untrained individuals in the classroom, according to him, can negatively impact student learning and overall academic standards. His stance suggests that the Ministry of Education is prioritizing properly trained educators to improve the quality of teaching. Mr. Fully is however urging individuals who are not trained educators to reconsider their role in teaching and either seek proper qualifications or pursue other career paths. This message is about ensuring that teachers are properly equipped with the skills and knowledge to effectively educate students. The Deputy Minister's remarks

were contained in program marking official induction of officers-elect of the National Association of Private Teachers Training Institutes in Liberia Inc, held in Monrovia. The President of the National Association of Private Teachers Training Institutes in Liberia, Rev. Andrew S. Fayiah, acknowledges the Ministry of Education's renewed commitment in encouraging teacher training in Liberia. Fayiah is actively focusing on recent improvements at the Ministry of Education and committed to strengthening the education sector through his leadership. His recognition of these developments suggests that there is ongoing collaboration between NAPTTI and the MoE to improve teacher training.

China's boasts of creating over 1.1 million jobs in Africa

From Back Page railways,” he said.

“China stands ready to deliver on the ten partnership action that China and Africa seek to jointly advance modernization, including supporting Africa in accelerating its industrialization, agriculture modernization, implementing zero tariff treatment for 100% tariff free, fostering new sanitary life with new growth to harvest like digital green, and AI industry and promoting one thousand small and beautiful projects, enhancing governance experience sharing and rising representation on voice of Africa in international office,” Mr. Wang said while responding to China’s steps toward implementing the FOCAC summit target to enable Africa improved better on its economy and prosperity taking into account current challenges.

He further stated that this year, the D20 summit will be held on the African continent for the first time, adding that the summit supports Africa in carrying out its duties as

G20 President and in leading a proper African mark in global governance.

The Chinese Foreign Minister described China and Africa as good friends, saying they are brothers that shared a single future, while noting that under the guidance of China President Xi Jinping and African leaders, the China Africa relationship is now at its best in history.

According to him, China has established strategic partnerships with all African countries that have diplomatic ties with it, and the China Africa Community with the Shared Future has been elevated.

He further indicated that Africa is a third tier of the twenty-first century, and there will be no global modernization without Africa's modernization. He asserted that the stability of development is quite in true humanity, and the world must listen to Africa and heed its concerns. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

Ellen commits to lifting African women

Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, launches MUSIEHJAH or African Women's House, a groundbreaking initiative to promote women in leadership on the continent.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 10, 2025 - Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has introduced MUSIEHJAH, the African Women’s House, a groundbreaking initiative, emphasizing its vision and significance in promoting women's empowerment across Africa.

The project was on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center's 5th Anniversary, held at her private residence in Fish Market, Monrovia.

The occasion was attended by distinguished leaders and international partners, including President Joseph Nyuma Boakai of Liberia, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, and former Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde.

MUSIEHJAH is part of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development. It serves as a hub for training, learning, and knowledge exchange, where women can come together to share strategies, successes, and elevate one another.

The initiative aims to uplift women by providing a platform for those who have already succeeded to help mentor the next generation of female leaders.

During remarks, Madam Sirleaf reflected on the inspiration behind the initiative, sharing that in 2018, when she received the Mo Ibrahim Prize in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, she pledged a portion of the prize money to promote women in leadership roles across Africa. She emphasized the critical role women play in making fundamental and systemic changes necessary to achieve Africa’s goals, particularly the Africa 2063 Agenda.

“Our purpose is to see more women all over Africa holding positions of authority, influence, and power. It is only these women, who can create the changes Africa needs to reach its full potential”, the first former female on the continent

said.

Starting from a library, the initiative expanded to AMUJAE, its flagship program dedicated to supporting women in leadership. Madam Sirleaf declared that MUSIEHJAH when constructed, will be a living symbol of women's resilience, democracy, and rights.

Liberian President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, who spoke at the event, expressed his government's strong support for the initiative, stating “Liberia is the best place for this because of your leadership. We are here to let you know that this government will support this project.”

Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, a self-proclaimed "HeforShe," commended Madam Sirleaf for her dedication to empowering women and pledged his continued support. “Continue to stand firm and strong,” he encouraged Madam Sirlef.

Sahle-Work Zewde, former President of Ethiopia, praised Madam Sirleaf's unwavering commitment to advancing women's leadership across Africa. She highlighted the importance of ensuring that women, who break barriers are not left behind, but instead, supported and equipped to reach greater heights.

The initiative marks a significant step toward transforming the political and leadership landscape for African women, providing them with the tools, resources, and encouragement they need to succeed. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



