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

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Continental News

Somali forces end a 24-hour siege by al-Shabab militants on a hotel

By Basillioh Rukanga

Somali security forces on Wednesday ended a 24-hour siege at a hotel in the central city of Beledwyne, leaving an unknown number of people dead, including all the al-Shabab militants who launched the attack, officials said.

The attack began when a car bomb exploded Tuesday at the Cairo Hotel, which houses traditional elders and military officers involved in

coordinating the government's offensive against al-Shabab. The mayor of Beledwyne, Omar Alasow, on Wednesday said security forces had "successfully ended the siege" and that six al-Shabab militants died. It is still unclear how many civilians were killed in the attack.

The al-Qaida-affiliated al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack.

Beledwyne, about 335 kilometers (208 miles) north of

the capital, Mogadishu, is the capital of the Hiran region and a strategic location in the ongoing campaign against al-Shabab.

Estimates of the death toll from the attack varied. One local resident, Muhsin Abdullahi, said six people, including two well-known traditional elders, were killed. But witness Hussein Jeelle Raage said three of his family members were among at least 11 people he knew were dead. Footage shared on social media showed thick smoke rising from the hotel, with significant destruction to the building.

Al-Shabab, which opposes Somalia's federal government, frequently carries out bombings and assaults targeting government officials and military personnel in the Horn of Africa nation. The group controls parts of rural Somalia and poses a significant threat despite sustained military operations by government troops and African Union peacekeepers.



Frame grab from video shoot Wednesday, March 12, 2025, showing the aftermath of a car bomb exploded Tuesday at a hotel in the central Somali city of Beledwyne

AU rejects Sudan's parallel government, warns of threat to unity

The African Union's Peace and Security Council (PSC) has rejected Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) declaration of a parallel government, warning it threatens Sudan's unity.

Following its March 11 meeting in Addis Ababa, the PSC urged AU members and the international community not to recognize or support any such entity.

This comes after the RSF and 18 allied movements announced a "peace and unity" government in Nairobi, drawing scrutiny. Kenya, initially defending its role, later softened its stance.

The AU reaffirmed its commitment to Sudan's sovereignty and urged peaceful negotiations, as the ongoing conflict has killed thousands and displaced millions since April 2023.

Sudan descended into a

deadly conflict in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary rebels broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to other regions.

The war has killed more than 24,000 people and driven over 14 million people — about 30% of the population — from their homes, according to the United Nations.

An estimated 3.2 million Sudanese have escaped to neighboring countries.



Rapid Support Forces (RSF) deputy commander Abdul Rahim Dagalo, gestures as he arrives for a planned signing ceremony of the Sudan Founding Charter in Nairobi, Feb. 18, 2025

12 dead, dozens hurt in South Africa bus accident

A bus overturned on a highway Tuesday and passengers were thrown out of it, killing at least 12 people and injuring 45 in the South African city of Johannesburg, emergency services said.

Emergency crews were trying to lift the bus back onto its wheels to see if any more victims were trapped underneath it, said William Nthladi, a spokesperson for the city's Ekurhuleni Emergency Management.

"On arrival we found patients lying across the road," Nthladi said.

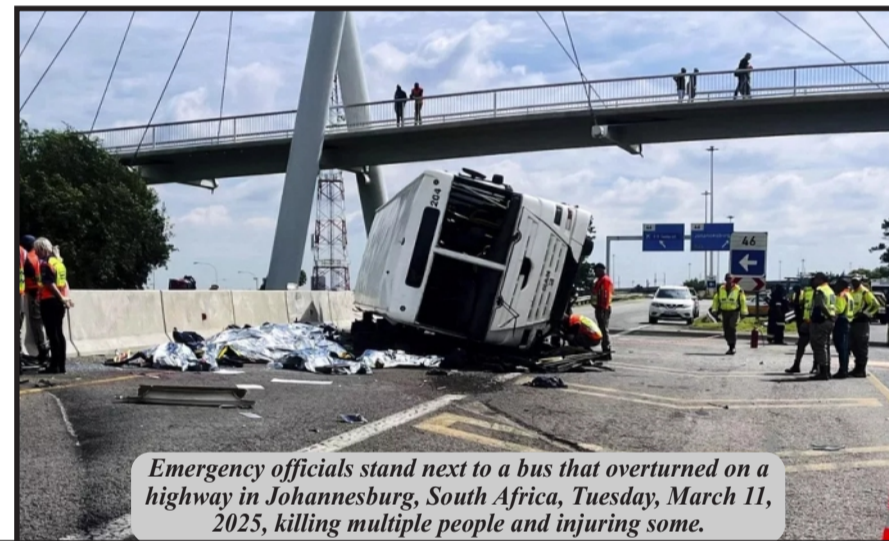
The early-morning crash happened on a highway near

Johannesburg's main O.R. Tambo International Airport. The bus was lying on its side near the edge of the highway. It had been transporting people from the township of Katlehong, east of Johannesburg, officials said.

Nthladi said 12 people were declared dead at the scene of the crash by paramedics.

Nthladi also couldn't give exact details on the extent of the injuries but said they ranged from serious to critical. The driver was among those taken to the hospital.

No other vehicle was involved in the crash and officials weren't yet able to determine the cause. Police are investigating and the crash was being treated as a crime scene because of the fatalities, Nthladi said.



Emergency officials stand next to a bus that overturned on a highway in Johannesburg, South Africa, Tuesday, March 11, 2025, killing multiple people and injuring some.

Gabon's interim president to face three challengers in presidential poll

Gabon's interim President Brice Oligui Nguema is to face three challengers in presidential polls due to take place on 12 April.

The official list was published by the interior minister on Sunday, one day after the deadline for candidature. Nineteen others were rejected, but they were given 72 hours in which to lodge an appeal with the Constitutional Court.

Nguema seized power in a 2023 military coup that ended the long-standing rule of his predecessor Ali Bongo and his family.

There has been much speculation about whether Nguema would seek to remain in power after a new constitution published last year did not bar him from standing.

The charter was overwhelmingly approved by the people of Gabon in a referendum, with the military authorities saying it would be a stepping stone to democratic rule.

His main challenger is seen as Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze, Ali Bongo's last Prime Minister.

Nguema will also face Doctor Stéphane Germain Iloko, a former executive of the Gabonese Democratic Party, PDG, which dominated politics from 1961 to 2023.

The final candidate is Joseph Lapensée Essigone, a lawyer and tax inspector.

All four are running as independents with campaigning scheduled to begin on 29 March.



General Brice Oligui Nguema held aloft by soldiers in Libreville, 2023

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 Raghuram Rajan

Trumponomics' Exorbitant Burden

NEW YORK – A prominent economist once told me that macroeconomic policy debates are all about the prime mover to which other variables respond. The implication, he explained, is that “You can invert policy prescriptions simply by claiming a different forcing variable.” A [paper](#) by [Stephen Miran](#), published just before he was nominated to chair US President Donald Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, does precisely this. Since his views likely reflect those of the administration, they surely warrant close attention.

The traditional view of why the United States runs chronic trade deficits is that it overspends, owing largely to its fiscal deficits (the forcing variable). But the true forcing variable, Miran argues, is the rest of the world's hunger for US financial assets, especially Treasuries. Foreigners want ever more US Treasuries for their foreign-exchange reserves and for financial transactions, and the US has had to run large fiscal deficits to meet this exorbitant demand. The resulting capital inflows keep the dollar too strong for US exporters to compete, leading to persistent trade deficits.

The argument is unpersuasive, for several reasons. First, consider the timing. The US started running a [steady trade deficit](#) in the mid-1970s. It began running a steady fiscal deficit around the same time, with the exception of the late 1990s, when [capital-gains taxes](#) and [private consumption](#) soared because of the dot-com boom, temporarily shifting the locus of US overspending from government to households.

While foreigners have been buying US financial assets for a long time, and US entities have been repaying the compliment, the “forcing” effect of dollar accumulation by foreign central banks really took off only after the Asian financial crisis of 1997, when East Asian economies, seared by the harsh conditions imposed on them by the International Monetary Fund, built reserves to protect against sudden stops in financing. Again, the timing is off.

Moreover, the US does not run a uniform trade deficit. Rather, it has a trade deficit in goods and a net surplus in services (nearly [\\$300 billion in 2024](#)). When economists encounter that kind of pattern, they see orthodox comparative advantage at work, which benefits the United States. Apple reaps large profit margins selling the superbly designed iPhone (and its software content) to the world, while Foxconn gets tiny margins manufacturing iPhones in China and India. Even though the overall trade numbers may reflect a large deficit, the US is far from being a victim.

Another problem is that any excess demand for US Treasuries from the rest of the world should show up in a huge excess premium for US bonds. Yet Miran complains that US bond interest rates don't reflect such a premium, giving the US little benefit from producing high-demand financial assets. This seems strange. Why would such demand hold up the dollar but not push down US bond rates?

The simpler explanation is that the US Congress spends as it wishes, relying on the rest of the world to buy Treasuries to fund what domestic revenues cannot cover. Has there ever been a member of Congress who says the US should run deficits to accommodate the world's need for Treasuries?

If excess demand for US financial assets was really such a problem, the US Congress could simply run smaller deficits, have foreigners scramble over one other to buy the smaller issuance of Treasuries, and thus orchestrate lower US interest rates (and higher US production).

Moreover, if creating reserve assets is such an exorbitant burden, why not allow other countries to shoulder it? Far from entertaining this possibility, Trump recently [threatened](#) the BRICS group of major emerging economies for even daring to contemplate separate non-dollar payment arrangements. While admitting that the US does need foreign money to fund its fiscal deficit (perhaps a tacit recognition that the fiscal deficit really is the primary forcing variable), Miran suggests another reason to have foreigners buy US financial assets and use its financial system: Doing so gives the US more ways to punish foreign countries that step out of line including, alarmingly, imposing a selective tax on Treasury interest payments.

If the US does not want to give up its exorbitant burden, could import tariffs help US manufacturers overcome an overvalued dollar? As Miran points out, tariffs will partly be offset by a stronger dollar, as was the case in 2018-19, when the US imposed sweeping tariffs on China. But a stronger dollar will hurt US exports, and if the dollar prices of imported products do not change much, it is hard to see how US manufacturers will become more competitive.

Thus, Miran sets his sights on a concerted dollar depreciation, supported with interventions by non-US central banks who will be “persuaded” under the threat of tariffs or a withdrawal of US defense support. But even if such interventions were effective, foreign central banks would have to sell US Treasuries and buy domestic bonds, which would make the US fiscal deficit harder to finance.

Miran should be commended for trying to explain why the US is turning against the system it built. To be sure, the US fiscal deficit is not the only forcing variable. Chinese underconsumption also contributes to global trade imbalances. Moreover, the US has lower tariffs than some of its trading partners, some of them subsidize business more than the US does, and some have shown scant respect for intellectual property rights. But these issues are best addressed through negotiations (perhaps supported by implicit threats).

It is not clear where the Trump administration's current path of “shock and awe” is supposed to lead. The claim that the dollar's attractiveness is an exorbitant burden rather than an exorbitant privilege is unpersuasive, especially when those making such arguments are so reluctant to give up the burden. Markets are unnerved by the punishment that the administration, convinced that the US is a victim, is willing to inflict on close allies. If such behavior reduces the attractiveness of the dollar, perhaps it really will become an exorbitant burden. But that is not a future that any American should want.

Raghuram G. Rajan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India and chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the co-author (with Rohit Lamba) of 'Breaking the Mold: Indias Untraveled Path to Prosperity (Princeton University Press, May 2024).

OP-ED

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.

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OPINION

by Steffen Hertog,
Faris Al-Sulayman

A New Gulf Growth Model

LONDON – Over the last three years, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has signed agreements with leading multinational companies to build new manufacturing facilities in the Kingdom. Yet, despite sufficient oil wealth to entice global players, past attempts at this type of industrial policy did not bear fruit. Is this time different?

There are signs it might be, owing to multiple factors, such as improvements in state capacity and infrastructure and the declining cost of renewable energy. Perhaps even more important is the Gulf monarchies' growing ability to understand and manipulate the shifting geo-economic landscape to carve out a place for themselves in global value chains, which have become increasingly contested with the rise of major rival blocs.

It is not just Chinese companies that have started to engage with the region. In the United Arab Emirates, Microsoft recently signed a \$1.5 billion agreement to invest in the state-owned tech company G42, and the Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri has formed a joint venture with the Emirati technology and defense conglomerate EDGE Group to export naval vessels to non-NATO partners.

These developments are occurring against a backdrop in which states in the region have become prolific entrepreneurs – a phenomenon that is particularly visible in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Seeking to industrialize and modernize through a distinctly state-capitalist model, domestic sovereign wealth funds have established or acquired dozens of firms in a variety of sectors, and these have become the preferred partners of foreign industrial players looking to set up shop in the Gulf. But while the vast resources and capacity provided by the state have created a host of new opportunities, it remains to be seen whether there is sufficient market discipline to establish a sustainable, export-oriented industrial strategy.

Combined with the expansion of this state capitalist model, today's shifting geopolitical landscape may offer new opportunities. Multipolarity and the rise of alternative blocs such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, plus five other emerging economies) have given relatively autonomous middle powers like Saudi Arabia and the UAE a stronger negotiating position, allowing them to muscle in on global value chains that previously lay beyond their reach. Talk of a BRICS currency and de-dollarization of some of the Gulf's trade with China may be little more than a trial balloon for now, but nonetheless reflect shifting geopolitical winds.

This new dynamic has been on display in trade talks between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and counterparts like the European Union and the United Kingdom, in attempts to attract global finance, technology, and sport to the region, and in the economic relationship with China – the GCC's most important trade partner. Saudi Arabia's recent hosting of preliminary talks between US and Russian diplomats is an early sign of the central role to which Gulf states are aspiring under US President Donald Trump's second administration.

These changes in the international system, combined with a more muscular industrial strategy aimed at attracting multinationals, have fueled a rapid change in fortunes. As recently as 2019, Toyota publicly declined to invest in a manufacturing facility in Saudi Arabia after lengthy talks, citing high labor costs, a small domestic market, and the absence of a local supply chain. Yet since then, as competitively priced green energy, automation, a low cost of capital, and geo-economic fragmentation have become more important, Saudi Arabia's west coast has emerged as a nascent electric-vehicle hub. Foxconn, Hyundai, and Lucid are investing in manufacturing facilities aimed at serving the Gulf, Africa, and European markets.

Similarly, while Microsoft is investing in the UAE, Lenovo recently broke ground on a manufacturing facility in Saudi Arabia. There has also been a substantial increase in investment commitments targeting the region's digital infrastructure, especially green data centers, owing to the cheap cost of solar, abundant land, and low-latency connectivity to a wide range of markets.

Following a slow start, renewables are now being deployed at a rapid pace across most of the region, and this trend is helping Gulf states localize important parts of these value chains. Already, two of the world's largest solar panel manufacturers – China's LONGi and JinkoSolar – are planning assembly lines in Saudi Arabia in partnership with the PIF. Moreover, the proliferation of cheap renewables supports the case for an export-oriented green-hydrogen strategy. The world's largest such facility should open in the Saudi northwest in 2026, and the UAE and Oman have plans to host other, similarly notable projects.

As the AI race has elevated the importance of low-cost green energy, capital, and land, Gulf policymakers have already been able to sharpen their industrial strategies. If an escalating trade war ensues, they could narrow their focus further. Governments in the region will be in a strong bargaining position if China wants to use manufacturing investments in the Gulf to continue selling to markets that are closed off to direct Chinese exports. Trade tensions between great-power rivals – and, apparently, friends – will tend to benefit middle-power markets that have ample capital and infrastructure, even if they are not always the most cost-competitive.

Betting on this kind of industrial strategy is not without risks, though. Globally, it is not yet clear that newly fashionable industrial policies are working out so well. The United States and Europe might take steps to keep Chinese products out of their markets even if they are produced outside of China. And some Gulf countries are trying so many things that their capital and managerial expertise is being stretched thin. Nonetheless, the coming months and years may represent the best chance the region has ever had to develop a viable post-oil growth model.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Citizen Insecurity in Latin American Nations.

By Al Smith

The concept of security in modern society involves a vast range of challenges and complications, going much beyond conventional ideas of military defense. The most pressing issue in this regard is citizen insecurity, a complex problem that cuts over geographical lines and has an impact on people in their own communities. This paper examines the complex issues surrounding citizen insecurity, seeking to offer an in-depth definition and comprehensive examination of its effects and root causes. This study intends to shed light on the various elements that contribute to this occurrence and investigate its wider ramifications by concentrating on two Latin American countries, Mexico and Venezuela. Furthermore, The analysis also looks into the historical and geopolitical elements that have profoundly shaped the Latin American region, defining security parameters and affecting national policies and approaches to the problems associated with citizen insecurity. The research seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of citizen insecurity and the critical importance of addressing it in the contemporary world.

Citizen insecurity can be aptly described as the prevailing sentiment of fear, vulnerability, and the absence of safety experienced by individuals within a society. The potential risks of economic, political, and social instability are significant factors in shaping citizen insecurity. These risks also include the threat of crime and violence. One notable scholar, Guillermo O'Donnell, has contended that citizen insecurity in Latin America can be attributed to democratic deficits and weak institutions. According to his perspective, the transition to democracy in the region did not necessarily translate into improved security conditions, primarily due to the failure to address underlying social and economic inequalities. Weak governance and ineffective law enforcement have allowed criminal organizations to thrive, thereby exacerbating citizen insecurity.

Shifting the focus to Mexico, a vivid illustration of citizen insecurity emerges. Drug cartels and organized crime primarily contribute to the startling increase in crime rates across the nation. These criminal organizations operate in a wide range of violent actions, including kidnapping and drug trafficking, establishing a widespread sense of insecurity among the Mexican people. Mexico's historical legacy, including its colonial history and a turbulent past marked by wars and political instability, has cast a long shadow. Economic instability is another critical factor contributing to citizen insecurity in Mexico. Issues such as income inequality, poverty, and unemployment persistently plague the nation. Such economic challenges create fertile ground for criminal enterprises to recruit individuals grappling with desperation, perpetuating the cycle of insecurity. Historical factors, including Mexico's colonial history and a tumultuous past marked by wars and political instability, have left a lasting legacy of social inequality and widespread mistrust in government institutions. These historical grievances significantly contribute to a fractured society where citizens harbor deep suspicions

toward authorities, often resorting to self-help mechanisms for protection.

Venezuela serves as another significant case study of citizen insecurity within the Latin American context. In recent years, the country has struggled with serious economic and political turmoil characterized by hyperinflation, tumultuous politics, and severe shortages of basic necessities. Geopolitical reasons have significantly contributed to the rise in citizen insecurity in Venezuela. The nation's strategic significance as an oil-rich country has garnered international attention and intervention. The imposition of sanctions by foreign powers and external interventions has further heightened the economic crisis, ultimately contributing to the prevailing sense of insecurity experienced by the Venezuelan populace. Moreover, social unrest within Venezuela has compounded citizen insecurity. The frequent protests against the government escalate into violent confrontations with security forces. Citizens live in fear of being caught in the crossfire between



demonstrators and authorities as a result of the prolonged turmoil, which creates an environment of insecurity.

The concept of security in Latin America is intricately layered and multifaceted. Historical and geopolitical factors have contributed to significant disparities among Latin American nations, profoundly influencing the region's understanding of security. Across its history, Latin America has borne the indelible marks of colonization, wars, and enduring political instability. These historical experiences have left behind a legacy characterized by social inequality and profound mistrust in governmental institutions across many nations within the region. Consequently, these historical foundations significantly shape the way citizens view security and their willingness to place their trust in state authorities. Additionally, geopolitical factors have played a central role in delineating divisions within Latin America. The region's diverse resources and strategic significance have lured external powers into the fray, leading to interventions and interference. For instance, the United States' historical involvement in Central America and the Caribbean has substantially shaped the political landscape and security dynamics in these regions.

In summary, citizen insecurity is a complex issue in Latin America. The concept of citizen insecurity, characterized by a prevailing sense of fear, vulnerability, and a lack of safety among individuals within a society, represents a significant concern in numerous Latin American nations. It encompasses a broad spectrum of

factors, ranging from crime and violence to economic instability and political turmoil, collectively contributing to an overarching feeling of insecurity among citizens. Through an in-depth examination of two Latin American countries, Mexico and Venezuela, it is clear that citizen insecurity manifests in real-world contexts. Mexico's challenges with high crime rates, driven by drug cartels and economic disparities, highlight the daily risks faced by its population. Geopolitical factors and social instability have contributed to Venezuela's severe political and economic crises, resulting in the altered well-being and security of the citizens.

Furthermore, disparities within Latin America and the perception of security in the region are greatly influenced by historical and geopolitical causes. The historical legacy of colonization, wars, and political instability has left deep-seated inequalities and mistrust in government institutions across many nations.

Geopolitical interests, such as the strategic significance of natural resources, have attracted external powers and interventions, further complicating the security landscape. Addressing citizen insecurity in Latin America necessitates a comprehensive approach that considers both traditional and human security concerns. It must acknowledge the unique historical and geopolitical contexts of individual nations.

Latin American nations must collaborate to combat transnational criminal organizations and mitigate the impact of external interventions. By fostering regional unity and solidarity, the region can better address the intricate security issues that affect its citizens.

In conclusion, the concept of citizen insecurity in Latin America is deeply intertwined with historical legacies and geopolitical factors. By acknowledging these complexities and working collaboratively, Latin American nations can aspire to create safer, more secure environments for their citizens, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for millions across the region.

About the Author

Al Smith is a Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, and Counter-Terrorism Expert. He earned a Master of Arts in International Relations, and Global Security with a concentration in Conflict Resolutions at American Military University holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice with concentration in Homeland Security from Colorado Technical University. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Homeland Security Emergency Management from Strayer University and an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Everest College. He has been certificated by the United States Department of Defense and other Agencies, Al Smith was deployed twice with the Northern Alliance Treaty Organization (NATO) Security Mission, US Department of Defense, He also provided joint protection construction for the 44th United States Presidential Inaugural Grandstand.

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Govt insists on “no-go-zone”

warns motorcyclists against lawlessness amid calls to lift ban

The Government of Liberia maintains that it will enforce restriction imposed on commercial motorcyclists, come what may to ensure public safety.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, March 13, 2025 / The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT), has warned protesting Motorcyclist and Civil Society organizations against engaging in lawlessness while advocating for the lifting of the no-go zone restriction on commercial motorcyclists. The warning follows recent demonstrations by the Liberia Motorcycle Union (LMU) and a

petition from the Solidarity and Trust for New Day (STAND) to the Supreme Court, seeking the removal of the ban that prevents commercial motorcyclists from operating in central Monrovia. On Monday, March 10, 2025, the LMU staged its second protest, urging the government to reconsider its stance on the restriction. Following the demonstration, STAND officially petitioned the Supreme Court, arguing that the ban unfairly punishes commuters who rely on motorcycle transportation. The

organization further asserted that the restriction has negatively impacted the livelihoods of thousands of motorcyclists.

In response, the government reiterated its position, emphasizing that the restriction would remain in effect until further assessments are conducted to evaluate security risks and public safety concerns in the affected areas. Authorities cited a recent incident where motorcyclists engaged in violent acts, prompting the reinforcement of the restrictions.

Despite the government's firm stance, the LMU proceeded with its second protest, which escalated into violence and resulted in the severe injury of a police officer. The injured officer is currently receiving treatment at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Sinkor.

Addressing the protest and STAND's petition at MICAT's regular press briefing on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs, Daniel



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Boakai stresses impartial judiciary for Liberia

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai calls on judicial authorities in the country to ensure fairness without yielding to external pressures or biases.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 13, 2025 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai urges the Liberian judiciary to maintain its integrity and dispense justice impartially.

Emphasizing the importance of upholding the rule of law here, President Boakai calls on judicial authorities to ensure fairness without yielding to external pressures or biases. His statement underscores the need for a strong and independent judiciary, as a pillar of democracy and good governance in Liberia.

He reaffirms his administration's commitment to strengthening the rule of law, highlighting it as the third pillar of his ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. He notes the judiciary's critical role in maintaining justice and ensuring an impartial legal system that serves all Liberians fairly.

Boakai at the same time acknowledges contributions of past Chief Justices, particularly

Samuel Benedict and Louis Arthur Grimes, recognizing their lasting impact on Liberia's legal system.

According to the President, legacies of these former legal luminaries continue to influence the judiciary and its role in upholding justice and the rule of law.

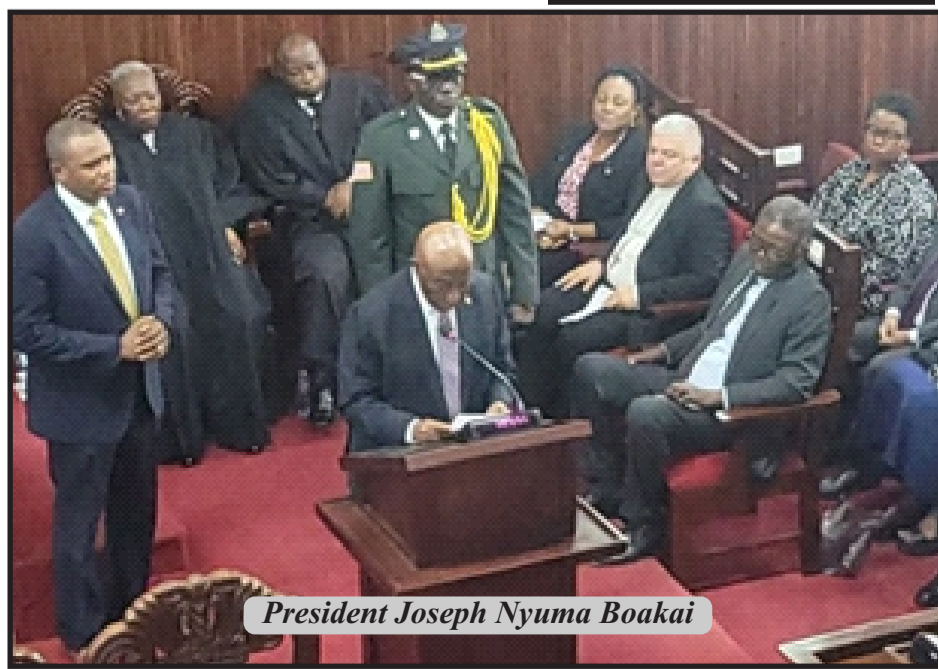
By referencing these historical figures, Boakai underscores the importance of continuity and integrity in the justice system, as his administration seeks to strengthen legal institutions under the ARREST Agenda.

During his address at the

opening of the March 2025 Term of the Supreme Court of Liberia recently, President Boakai also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to a fully functioning and independent judiciary. He pledges government's support to strengthening the judicial system, ensuring it remains impartial and effective in upholding the rule of law.

His remarks align with his ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, which prioritizes the rule of law as a key pillar for national stability and governance. By emphasizing judicial independence, Boakai

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President Joseph Nyuma Boakai

Liberia is in circles of economic stagnation

-World Bank report reveals

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

The World Bank says Liberia's vulnerability to external shocks has influenced its sustainable growth and development negatively.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 13, 2025 - The World Bank (WB) launches the Liberia Country Economic Memorandum here, titled "Escaping the Natural Resource Trap: Pathways to Sustainable Growth and Economic Diversification in Liberia." The report launched Tuesday, March 11, 2025, provides an in-depth analysis of Liberia's economic outlook and examines how the country's vulnerability to external shocks has influenced its sustainable growth and development. Its insight can help to inform strong delivery on Government of Liberia's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID).

Liberia is currently grappling with a "natural resource trap," where a heavy reliance on commodities has led to repeated cycles of stagnation and recovery. This has left the country susceptible to external shocks due to weak drivers of long-term prosperity, such as limited human capital, inadequate wealth accumulation, and low productivity. As a result, Liberia's economic growth potential has been undermined, restricting its progress.

The study reveals that a "business as-usual" scenario would yield modest growth, insufficient for achieving middle-income status by 2030 and substantially reducing poverty. Real per

and job creation; and implementing deep-seated policy and institutional reforms to modernize the public sector.

However, the report highlights Liberia's potential for better performance and outcomes over medium to long-term provided, ambitious and credible reforms are implemented now to begin transforming the economy, modernizing the public sector, while improving governance.

A high-ambition reform program could double annual productivity growth here in the non-mining sector.

These reforms involve improvement in education and health metrics by extending the expected years of schooling from 4 to 10 years, enhancing education quality, reducing stunting, and increasing adult survival rates.

It also entails efficiency of public services. Additionally, reforms that support increases in private and public investments, reaching 18 percent and 12 percent of GDP respectively, could drive real GDP growth up by approximately one percentage point. As a result, Liberia could attain lower middle-income status before 2040, create jobs, and real per capita GDP potentially reaching US\$2,000 by 2050.

Meanwhile, during the launch of the World Bank's Liberia Country Economic Memorandum, Tuesday at Cape Hotel in



President Joseph Nyumah Boakai

capita GDP will grow modestly, and Liberia will not reach the middle-income threshold of US\$1,000 until around 2050. "Institutional and policy reforms are essential to modernize the public sector and provide Liberia with the institutions needed to lead the transformation", said Georgia Wallen, World Bank Liberia Country Manager.

She emphasizes that these reforms, aligned with the ambitions of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), would require a systematic overhaul of the business climate to foster private investment, innovation, and job creation, while also improving the quality and efficiency of public services, particularly in education and health.

The report suggests that Liberia should undergo five transformations to create necessary conditions for long-term development that can foster economic expansion, employment creation, and poverty alleviation for Liberians.

These transformations involve fundamentally reshaping Liberia's macro-economy, shifting away from over-reliance on the mining sector towards activities better aligned with labor demands and employment needs of an expanding urban population; transforming from a state-centric mindset to recognizing the private sector as the primary driver of economic expansion

Monrovia, Deputy Finance Minister for Economic Management, Dephue Zuo, acknowledged existing economic gaps, and assured that the government is working to bridge them by fostering creativity and innovation.

"Efforts are being made to improve the education system to better align with the job market and reduce poverty through skills development", Minister Zuo says.

Additionally, Deputy Governor for Economic Policy at the central Bank of Liberia, Dr. Musa Dukuly, reveals ongoing discussions on leveraging gold to build Liberia's reserves. He emphasizes the potential of adapting best practices from neighboring countries to maximize returns and strengthen Liberia's economy.

"This is an opportunity for us to strategize and benefit from the expertise of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to create more sustainable and inclusive growth," he notes.

World Bank Country Manager, Georgia Wallen, reaffirms the institution's commitment to supporting Liberia's strategic shift through a new country partnership, aimed at ensuring a sustainable and inclusive economic future for the nation.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Govt insists on “no-go-zone”

O. Sanoe, stressed that the government would not tolerate disorderly conduct. “The government will never entertain lawlessness, particularly when individuals attempt to assume authority that is not theirs,” Sanoe stated. He reaffirmed that the ban was implemented for public safety reasons and clarified that commercial motorcyclists are still permitted to operate in designated areas outside central Monrovia. “So, are you saying to us that these bikes were bought only to operate in central Monrovia? There are other areas where you can work and make a living,” he said. Sanoe also criticized STAND for distorting facts and inciting violence under the guise of activism in its petition to the Supreme Court. “You cannot call yourself a civil society organization while misrepresenting facts and inciting unrest,” he asserted. “We appreciate those who are genuinely advocating for civil rights, but if you want to be a politician, we will treat you like one.”

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Boakai stresses impartial judiciary for Liberia

signals his intent to promote fairness and accountability within Liberia's legal system. “The Rule of Law is the third pillar in our ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. We intend to work with the judiciary to ensure that the requirements and conditions for a fully functioning judiciary are met. We pledge to play our part in ensuring your success,” President Boakai vows. The President while addressing Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh, Associate Justices, legal professionals, and government officials, emphasizes the importance of an impartial and efficient judiciary in upholding democracy, ensuring access to justice, and driving national development. The opening of the Supreme Court's March

The deputy minister further argued that some of those calling themselves activists had previously supported a government that contributed to the deterioration of governance in the country over the past six years. “While we are here trying to rebuild the country, they are inciting violence under the guise of civil society organizations,” he remarked. Sanoe referenced Ghana and other African nations as examples where strict regulations are upheld for public order, noting that individuals who admire such orderliness often criticize similar measures in Liberia. Despite opposition, he maintained that the government's decisions would be enforced and that no amount of criticism would deter authorities from assessing security risks posed by the situation. “These civil society organizations must understand that the government is in charge, and once measures are taken, they will be enforced, no matter what,” he concluded.

Term marks the beginning of a new judicial cycle in Liberia, during which cases of national significance will be reviewed. Boakai's ARREST Agenda, which stands for Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism, serves as his administration's blueprint for national development. By prioritizing these six sectors, the agenda aims to strengthen infrastructure, improve governance, and drive economic growth across Liberia. The Liberian leader says by prioritizing the rule of law, his administration aims to enhance public confidence in the judiciary and strengthen Liberia's democratic institutions. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

House retreats today

The House of Representatives begins a two-day retreat here today.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 13, 2025 - The House of Representatives is expected to begin a Legislative Engagement Retreat today, 13 March under the theme: Unity, Integrity, and Modernization. The retreat is scheduled to take place from Thursday, 13 March to Saturday, 15 March at Farmington Hotel in Margibi County. The exercise will be graced by distinguished guests, including Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, Speaker of the 9th Parliament of the Republic of Ghana, and Hon. Ibrahim Rassin Bundu, Majority leader of the Sierra Leonean Parliament Their presence underscores the importance of regional parliamentary collaboration and experience-sharing. The Liberia Council of Churches will also form part of the retreat as stakeholders. The primary objective of the retreat is to highlight the critical role of unity within the House of Representatives in strengthening democracy and upholding the rule of law. The House's Chairpersons on

Executive and Reconciliation, Sekou S. Kanneh and Ellen Attoh-Wreh, will emphasize the necessity of teamwork in achieving shared goals aimed at enhancing both institutional and national democratic credentials. By fostering legislative unity, the House seeks to ensure that the first branch of government effectively contributes to Liberia's growth and development and building of a prosperous society. During this significant legislative gathering, the esteemed West African Speakers will share their

experiences and insights on parliamentary oversight. Discussions will focus on how their respective parliaments handle accountability, transparency, and good governance issues, particularly in relation to both individual and institutional integrity. The retreat is expected to serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange, ultimately reinforcing the House of Representatives' commitment to national progress through strengthened legislative collaboration and integrity. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



AFL to begin 'Operation True Guardian'

The Armed Forces of Liberia is to shortly launch “Operation True Guardian” to fight illegal activities along Liberia's porous borders

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, March 13, 2025 - The high command of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) announces launch of “Operation True Guardian”, a comprehensive security operation set to commence at the end of March 2025 across counties in western Liberia, including Grand Cape Mount,

He notes that the absence of a consistent military presence in these regions has further exacerbated the problem, creating fertile ground for criminal networks to operate with impunity. He further discloses that the Ministry of National Defense and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia have recognized the urgent need for a coordinated, sustained, and strategic approach



Bomi, and Gbarpolu. Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, Major El-Dorado Nyanti Jebboe, discloses that the Armed Forces of Liberia has observed that there has been a significant uptick in illicit activities, including cross-border smuggling of arms, drugs, and humans. Addressing a press conference in Monrovia, on Monday, March 10, 2025, Major Jebboe stated that these illegal operations, facilitated by Liberia's porous borders and limited enforcement capabilities, have not only compromised national security, but also created an atmosphere of fear and instability within border communities.

to addressing these challenges. According to Major Jebboe, Liberia territorial waters have witnessed a rise in maritime crimes, including illegal fishing and piracy. He explains that local anglers have reported their encounters with illegal fishing vessels which not only threatens their livelihood but also depletes marine resources in Liberia. The high command says that patrols will focus on strengthening border security, enhancing marines' surveillance and deterring illegal activities through productive engagement with local communities and law enforcement agencies. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Français

Liberia : La Présidente de la Cour suprême s'excuse auprès des Libériens lors d'un discours d'adieu émouvant

Dans un moment inédit dans l'histoire judiciaire récente du Liberia, la Présidente de la Cour suprême, Son Honneur Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh, a présenté ses excuses aux Libériens pour ce qu'elle qualifie de décisions « perçues comme erronées et biaisées »



Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh

dans certaines affaires politiques de grande envergure. L'un des cas les plus controversés cités est l'avis de la Cour suprême sur la crise de leadership à la Chambre des

représentants. La plus haute juridiction du pays avait laissé les Libériens dans l'incertitude, permettant à l'Exécutif d'interpréter lui-même la situation, ce qui a conduit à la destitution contestée du président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa, au profit de Richard Nagbe Koon, qualifié par certains d'« homme du régime ».

S'exprimant lors de son dernier discours d'ouverture pour la session de mars de la Cour suprême, le lundi 10 mars 2025, la juge en chef Yuoh a reconnu que les décisions de la Cour avaient souvent suscité des critiques,

notamment lorsqu'elles concernaient des figures politiques. Elle a exprimé sa sympathie à ceux qui ont été affectés par ces décisions. Nous sommes conscients que nos décisions ont été critiquées, souvent perçues comme biaisées, en particulier dans les affaires impliquant des acteurs politiques. Alors que nous poursuivons cette mission essentielle, j'exprime ma plus profonde sympathie à ceux qui se sentent lésés ou insatisfaits par nos jugements. C'est dans la nature de la justice que toutes les décisions ne soient pas unanimement acceptées. Mais pour préserver l'intégrité du système judiciaire, nous devons appliquer la Constitution de manière rigoureuse et impartiale », a-t-elle déclaré. Un moment chargé d'émotion L'ouverture officielle de la session de mars 2025 de la Cour suprême a été marquée par une forte charge émotionnelle, alors que la juge en chef Yuoh prononçait ce qu'elle considère comme son dernier discours en

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Nouvelle attaque incendiaire contre la plantation de caoutchouc de Salala

Un nouvel incendie criminel a ravagé une partie de la plantation de la Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC), marquant la troisième attaque en seulement deux mois. L'Incident, survenu dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi, a causé d'importants dégâts matériels et financiers, affectant de vastes étendues d'hévéas et suscitant de vives inquiétudes économiques pour l'entreprise. Grâce à l'intervention rapide des habitants des communautés voisines et de l'équipe de lutte contre les incendies de la SRC, le sinistre a pu être maîtrisé avant d'atteindre des proportions encore plus désastreuses. Un climat de tension et d'insécurité Des témoins rapportent que, parallèlement aux incendies déclenchés à plusieurs endroits de la plantation, des coups de feu ont été entendus, alimentant les craintes d'un acte de sabotage organisé. Dans un communiqué, la direction de la SRC a exprimé son inquiétude face à cette recrudescence des attaques :

Ce schéma devient alarmant. Ces attaques répétées ne nuisent pas seulement à notre entreprise, mais mettent également en péril les moyens de subsistance de nombreuses familles de la communauté. Nous appelons les habitants à collaborer avec nous pour endiguer ces agressions et renforcer la sécurité. » Bien que l'ampleur exacte des dégâts n'ait pas encore été évaluée, les premiers rapports indiquent que de nombreux hévéas et infrastructures ont été détruits. Une menace économique majeure Ce nouvel acte criminel intervient après deux attaques similaires survenues ces dernières semaines,

faisant craindre une volonté délibérée de nuire à l'entreprise. Avec plus de 900 employés et une contribution économique majeure à la région, la SRC est la troisième plus grande plantation de caoutchouc du Liberia. Toute détérioration supplémentaire pourrait entraîner des pertes d'emplois massives et un ralentissement économique local. Alors que les auteurs de ces attaques demeurent inconnus et qu'aucune arrestation n'a encore été effectuée, la direction de la SRC exhorte les autorités locales à mener une enquête approfondie afin que



« Mon cœur saigne », a déclaré Jeety.

Éditorial

Le fardeau exorbitant des Trumponomics

Par Raghuram Rajan

NEW YORK – Un grand économiste m'a un jour expliqué que dans les débats sur les politiques macroéconomiques, tout était une question de facteur initial contraignant, auquel réagissaient d'autres variables. Ainsi, « Vous pouvez inverser les recommandations politiques simplement en évoquant un autre facteur déterminant », poursuivait-il. C'est précisément la démarche adoptée dans les [travaux](#) de [Stephen Miran](#) publiés juste avant sa nomination à la présidence du Comité des conseillers économiques du président américain Donald Trump. La vision de Miran s'inscrivant en phase avec celle de l'administration Trump, elle mérite une attention particulière. Il est traditionnellement considéré que si les États-Unis enregistrent des déficits commerciaux chroniques, c'est parce qu'ils dépensent trop, en grande partie à cause de leurs déficits budgétaires (la variable contraignante). Or, selon Miran, le facteur véritablement déterminant réside dans l'appétit du reste du monde pour les actifs financiers américains, en particulier pour les bons du Trésor. Les pays étrangers veulent toujours plus de bons du Trésor américain pour leurs réserves de change, pour leurs transactions financières, et les États-Unis doivent creuser d'importants déficits budgétaires pour répondre à cette demande considérable. Les flux entrants de capitaux qui en résultent maintiennent le dollar à un niveau trop élevé pour que les exportateurs américains puissent être compétitifs, ce qui entraîne des déficits commerciaux persistants. Cet argument n'est pas convaincant, et cela pour plusieurs raisons. Commençons par nous pencher sur la temporalité. Les États-Unis ont commencé à afficher un [déficit commercial régulier](#) au milieu des années 1970, et un déficit budgétaire régulier à peu près à la même période, avec pour exception la fin des années 1990, lorsque les [impôts sur les plus-values](#) et la [consommation privée](#) ont grimpé en flèche en raison de l'essor d'Internet, déplaçant temporairement de l'État vers les ménages l'origine des dépenses excessives du pays. Les pays étrangers achetant depuis longtemps des actifs financiers américains, et les entités américaines leur retournant le compliment, l'effet « contraignant » de l'accumulation de dollars par les banques centrales étrangères n'est réellement apparu qu'après la crise financière asiatique de 1997, lorsque les économies d'Asie de l'Est, très éprouvées par les conditions sévères que leur imposait le Fonds monétaire international, ont constitué des réserves pour se protéger contre d'éventuels arrêts soudains des financements. La temporalité pose donc à nouveau problème. Par ailleurs, les États-Unis n'affichent pas un déficit commercial uniforme, mais plutôt un déficit commercial en matière de biens, et un excédent net en matière de services (près de [300milliards\\$ en 2024](#)). Lorsque les économistes rencontrent ce type de schéma, ils considèrent qu'un avantage comparatif traditionnel est à l'œuvre, bénéfique pour les États-Unis. Apple tire d'importantes marges bénéficiaires de la vente au monde entier de son iPhone superbement conçu (et de ses contenus logiciels), tandis que Foxconn tire des marges infimes de la fabrication d'iPhones en Chine et en Inde. Même si les chiffres du commerce dans leur globalité indiquent un important déficit, les États-Unis sont loin d'être victimes en l'occurrence. Autre problème, toute demande excédentaire de bons du Trésor américain de la part du reste du monde se traduirait nécessairement par une prime excédentaire considérable sur les obligations américaines. Or, Miran déplore que les taux d'intérêt des obligations américaines ne reflètent pas une telle prime, ce qui confère aux États-Unis peu d'avantages à produire des actifs financiers très demandés. Cela semble étrange. Pourquoi une telle demande maintiendrait-elle le dollar à la hausse, mais ne conduirait-elle pas à une baisse des taux d'intérêt des obligations américaines ? Explication plus évidente, le Congrès américain dépense tout simplement à sa guise, comptant sur le reste du monde pour acheter des bons du Trésor qui financeront ce que les recettes nationales ne permettront pas de couvrir. Un membre du Congrès a-t-il jamais fait valoir la nécessité pour les États-Unis d'enregistrer des déficits afin de répondre à la demande mondiale en bons du Trésor ? Si l'excès de demande autour des actifs financiers américains posait réellement problème, il suffirait au Congrès américain d'enregistrer des déficits moins élevés, de conduire les pays étrangers à s'affronter pour l'obtention de la moindre émission de bons du Trésor, et d'orchestrer ainsi la baisse des taux d'intérêt américains (et la hausse de la production des États-Unis). Par ailleurs, si la création d'actifs de réserve constituait un fardeau si exorbitant, pourquoi ne pas permettre à d'autres pays d'en assumer la charge ? Loin d'envisager cette possibilité, Trump a récemment [menacé](#) le groupe des BRICS, qui rassemble les principales économies émergentes, pour avoir osé étudier la possibilité d'accords de paiement distincts non libellés en dollars.

Raghuram G. Rajan, ancien gouverneur de la Banque de réserve de l'Inde, et ancien économiste en chef du Fonds monétaire international, est professeur de finance à la Booth School of Business de l'Université de Chicago, et coauteur (avec Rohit Lamba) de l'ouvrage intitulé '[Breaking the Mold : Indias Untraveled Path to Prosperity](#) (Princeton University Press, mai 2024).

Français

Starts from page 8 Liberia : La Présidente de la Cour suprême s'excuse

tant que cheffe de la magistrature libérienne. Nommée à ce poste le 27 septembre 2022, après la retraite du juge Francis Korkpor, elle prendra officiellement sa retraite le 26 juin 2025, conformément à l'article 72(b) de la Constitution de 1986, qui fixe l'âge de la retraite à 70 ans. À la suite de son départ, le président Joseph N. Boakai proposera un successeur, don't la nomination devra être confirmée par le Sénat libérien. Une fois validé par le Sénat, le nouveau chef de la Cour suprême prêtera serment et prendra ses fonctions le 10 octobre 2025.

L'événement a été marqué par la présence du président Boakai, mais a été boycotté par la présidente du Sénat, Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence, ainsi que par la direction de la Chambre des représentants. Des membres du corps diplomatique, des avocats du Barreau de la Cour suprême et de l'Association nationale du Barreau libérien étaient néanmoins présents.

Un engagement en faveur de l'État de droit

La juge en chef Yuoh a insisté sur le fait que la Cour suprême ne cherche pas à satisfaire une partie ou une autre, mais à rendre des décisions fondées uniquement sur le droit et la Constitution.

Notre rôle n'est pas de plaire aux justiciables, mais d'appliquer la loi et la Constitution avec

impartialité. Nos jugements sont basés sur les faits et les circonstances des affaires qui nous sont soumises. Nous restons résolus à défendre l'État de droit, malgré les pressions extérieures », a-t-elle affirmé.

Elle a également souligné les efforts déployés par la Cour suprême pour réduire l'arriéré judiciaire. Depuis mon accession à la présidence de la Cour suprême, mes collègues et moi avons intensifié nos efforts pour traiter les affaires en attente. Nous avons réussi à réduire considérablement le stock de dossiers », a-t-elle ajouté.

D'après les statistiques qu'elle a présentées, la Cour a examiné 41 affaires en mars 2022, 40 en octobre 2022, 50 en mars 2023 et 51 en octobre 2023. En 2024, elle a traité 47 affaires en mars et 76 en octobre. De plus, elle a pris des mesures pour limiter l'encombrement du rôle de la Cour par des recours abusifs, réduisant ainsi le nombre de demandes d'informations supplémentaires de 30 par session à seulement 4.

Ce discours d'adieu, empreint de sincérité et de gravité, marque la fin d'une ère pour la Cour suprême du Liberia, laissant place à un avenir judiciaire qui dépendra du choix de son successeur et de l'orientation que prendra la magistrature sous une nouvelle présidence.

STAND saisit la Cour suprême pour lever l'interdiction des « No-Go-Zones »

L'interdiction imposée aux motos-taxis et tricycles Kehkeh de circuler dans certaines zones de Monrovia fait l'objet d'une contestation devant la Cour suprême du Liberia.

L'organisation de défense des droits des citoyens Solidarity & Trust for a New Day (STAND) a officiellement déposé une pétition auprès de la Cour suprême, demandant la levée de ces restrictions, qui, selon elle, constituent une sanction injuste pour les usagers qui dépendent de ces moyens de transport.

Une interdiction en réponse à des violences urbaines

La mesure restrictive, instaurée par la Police nationale libérienne (LNP), fait suite à un tragique accident survenu le 19 février dernier. Ce jour-là, un véhicule en panne mécanique, en pleine descente sur Crown Hill, est entré en collision avec une moto, causant la mort du conducteur, Emmanuel Trokon Pajibo.

En réaction, des dizaines de conducteurs de motos-taxis se sont livrés à des émeutes, attaquant des postes de police et saccageant plusieurs infrastructures.

Le 3 mars 2025, le syndicat des motocyclistes du Liberia a organisé une manifestation pour exiger la levée de l'interdiction. Toutefois, la police a maintenu sa position, arguant qu'une évaluation complète des risques sécuritaires devait être réalisée avant toute modification de

la mesure.

Les zones concernées par l'interdiction comprennent l'axe allant du carrefour ELWA jusqu'au Boulevard en direction de Monrovia, ainsi que le corridor du Freeport traversant Logan Town, Clara Town et le centre-ville de Monrovia.

STAND invoque la Constitution

Dans sa pétition, portée par Me Sayma Cyrenius Cephus et le directeur exécutif de STAND, Mulbah K. Morlu, l'organisation souligne l'urgence nationale face à la crise croissante du transport urbain et aux difficultés majeures rencontrées par les usagers.

Les pétitionnaires estiment que cette interdiction viole l'article 13 de la Constitution libérienne de 1986, qui garantit à toute personne légalement présente sur le territoire le droit de

circuler librement, sauf en cas de menace pour la sécurité publique, l'ordre public, la santé ou la moralité.

Ils dénoncent également une mesure disproportionnée qui pénalise injustement l'ensemble des conducteurs de motos et de tricycles pour des actes isolés commis par une minorité.

La politique des 'No-Go-Zones' de la LNP revient à criminaliser une communauté entière sans procédure régulière, en violation de l'article 13 de la Constitution », ont soutenu les pétitionnaires.

Le gouvernement n'a pas encore réagi

Jusqu'à présent, la Police nationale libérienne et le ministère de la Justice n'ont pas encore répondu à la pétition déposée devant la Cour suprême.



Starts from page 8 Nouvelle attaque incendiaire contre

justice soit rendue.

Par ailleurs, l'entreprise appelle les habitants et les leaders communautaires à redoubler de vigilance et à signaler tout comportement suspect susceptible de prévenir de nouvelles destructions. Chaque attaque aggrave la pression financière sur notre entreprise. Si cette situation persiste, elle

pourrait avoir des répercussions durables sur nos opérations », a averti la direction de la SRC.

Enfin, des discussions avec les communautés locales devraient être organisées dans les prochains jours afin d'évaluer les meilleures stratégies pour améliorer la sécurité et prévenir de nouvelles attaques.

La CEDEAO rejette les nouveaux représentants proposés par le Parlement libérien

Le Parlement de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) a rejeté la demande de la Chambre des représentants du Liberia visant à remplacer deux de ses membres au sein de l'organe législatif régional.

Un refus fondé sur le mandat des parlementaires régionaux

Dans une correspondance adressée à la Chambre des représentants, K. Bertin Somé, secrétaire général par intérim du Parlement de la CEDEAO, a confirmé avoir reçu la lettre datée du 25 février 2025 relative au rappel de trois membres désignés par la Chambre des représentants du Liberia pour siéger au Parlement régional.

Toutefois, après un examen approfondi, le Parlement de la CEDEAO a invoqué les dispositions de l'Article 18.1 et 18.2 de l'Acte supplémentaire relatif au renforcement des pouvoirs du Parlement, stipulant que le mandat des parlementaires communautaires est fixé pour une durée de quatre ans.

L'institution régionale précise qu'une fois assermentés, les parlementaires ne peuvent être révoqués ni remplacés avant l'expiration de leur mandat, sauf dans les cas suivants : Non-réélection au niveau national Décès Démission par notification écrite au président du Parlement de la CEDEAO Incapacité mentale ou physique certifiée empêchant l'exercice des fonctions Incompatibilité déclarée ou révocation pour faute grave, conformément au règlement intérieur du Parlement de la CEDEAO

Les Honorables Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah et Taa Z. Wongbe ne remplissent aucune des conditions susmentionnées. Par conséquent, leur remplacement ne peut être effectif. Ils continueront à exercer leur mandat jusqu'à son



expiration, conformément aux engagements internationaux de la République du Liberia », a précisé le Parlement de la CEDEAO.

Une tentative de recomposition politique avortée

Cette décision intervient après que la Chambre des représentants ait récemment élu trois nouveaux législateurs pour représenter le Liberia au Parlement de la CEDEAO. Cette initiative visait à remplacer des proches de l'ancien président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa, actuellement en difficulté politique.

Les nouveaux représentants désignés étaient Moima Briggs-Mensah (Bong County, district n°6), Augustine Chiewolo (Lofa County, district n°5) du parti au pouvoir Unity Party, et Samson Q. Wiah (Sinoe County, district n°2) du parti d'opposition Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Les élus avaient pour mission de représenter le Liberia dans les discussions régionales sur le commerce, la sécurité, la gouvernance et l'intégration régionale. Leur nomination faisait suite à une décision du Majority Bloc sous la direction du président par intérim de la Chambre, Richard Nagbe Koon, qui avait ordonné le retrait des anciens représentants.

La tentative de remplacement s'appuyait sur une plainte formelle des députés Johnson S.N. Williams et James Kolleh, qui reprochaient à Fonati Koffa d'avoir désigné les parlementaires sans l'approbation de la plénière et sans garantir une représentation politique équilibrée.

Avec le refus du Parlement de la CEDEAO, les membres actuellement en poste conserveront leur siège jusqu'à la fin de leur mandat, en dépit des tensions internes au sein de la Chambre des représentants libérienne.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Re-opening files of dead auditors

By Naneka Hoffman

President Boakai has called for re-investigation of the death of auditors and three missing boys under the former administration. But citizens' reactions to the President's call are mixed. Read their comments below, as compiled by The NEW DAWN.



Sandee Tweh, Jr.

“President Boakai re-opening files of dead auditors concerning the past regime will not be fair enough,

“Yes, it's very much important because we must give account. People must give account for lives that went mysteriously. When lives go mysteriously, we must know what caused that death. Somebody will not just get missing then we leave it just like that; no! Something must be done about it. Somebody died in car, the citizens and government must be in the know. The reason we voted President Boakai is because we want for the right things to be done for the Liberian people. We trust President Boakai. We don't want for somebody to just take knife from the blind side and just kill somebody without accountability. It's necessary, for instance, the three missing boys'

because since Boakai took over, there has been lots of mysterious deaths under his government that we are expecting him to look into it. If you look at the past government, during former President Weah's time, the various reports that went to Geogory Coleman as police director, he said this case was closed, and there were no evidence that people were found guilty. Why now President Boakai is telling Gregory Coleman, to reopen these files, for it's not in the right direction; it's a witch hunt.”



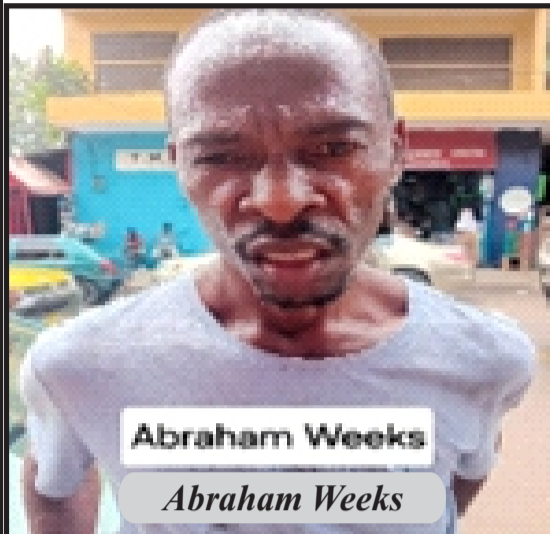
John B. Mulbah

case that liked St. Moses Funeral Home. We raise alarm behind President George Weah. But at the time, President Weah ignored us. What we're expecting from these files is we want to know the perpetrators that did the act and justice must be done.”



Rudolph Gborkeh
Rudolp Gborkeh

“I support President Boakai 100%, for re-opening files of dead auditors'. I do hope that he will re-open files of the people that were killed in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County. The boy that was killed in Lofa; the one the Police killed in Banjor, I hope he re-opens these files too, so 100% I standby him on that.”

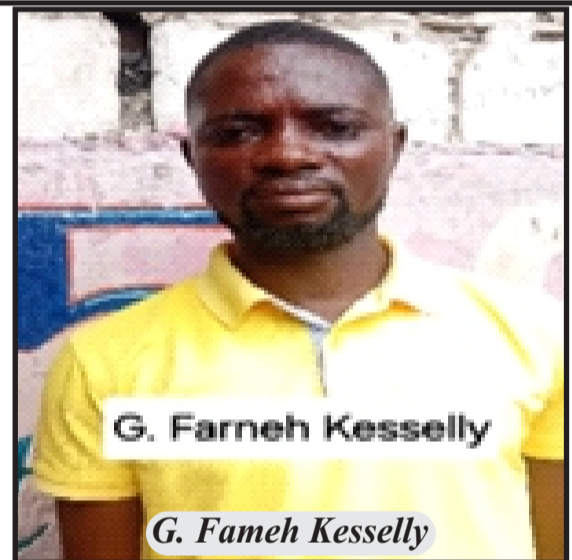


Abraham Weeks
Abraham Weeks

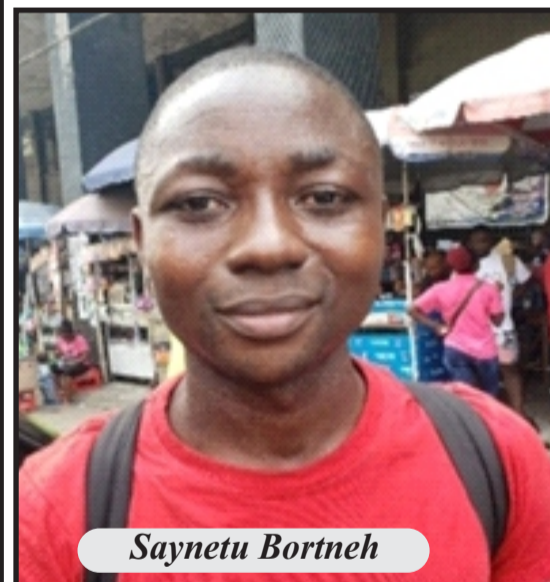
“If President Boakai wanted to open death files, he is right but, let's go back to his regime right now! Some of the people

that died whether he investigated. And we look at the former Chief Justice that killed her daughter case, whether it was right for him to carry on investigation, because President Boakai came back and said no case against the woman, and he went and free the woman. So why is he coming back to say he wants to reopen files now; no! It's not necessary, because if he wanted to do that, he must start from his regime before reaching to the other man.”

“That's good because those people who have died need accountability for their lives. The government needs to see how best to create avenues for justice to be served to all because if justice is not served, killings will continue in this country.”



G. Fameh Kesselly
G. Fameh Kesselly



Saynetu Bortneh

“President Boakai re-opening files of dead auditors is a good idea; I support him in this struggle, but I hope he can start with his

regime before going to the past regime. I will not have problem with it; I will give him my support. But if he only opens it for the past regime then he is up to different thing, and I will not support him, because let's remember that justice to one, justice to all. So, if he re-opened files, it should start from his regime then we will know that he is serious about it, but for now, he is not ready, if he only wants to open dead authors' files from the past regime then he is not ready to serve the Liberian people well.”

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ULAA President endorses VP Koung for 2029

Philadelphia, USA, March 13, 2025/ The President of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), Mr. Mohamed 'MSG1' Keita has openly endorsed Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Sr. for the 2029 Presidential Election. Keita's open endorsement of Vice President comes in contrast with the traditional practice of the diaspora organization. Keita made the endorsement after he had presented a petition to the Vice President on behalf of diaspora Liberians, who have immigration issues in the US. Concluding his remarks during the Vice President's Town Hall Meeting on March 8, 2025, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, Keita told his audience and the Vice President, “Remember 2029 is coming, if you are ready, we are ready!” It is not yet clear whether the Vice President, who is in his late 40s, has decided to contest for the Presidency in 2029. In October 2029, Liberians are going to head to the polls to elect new lawmakers, President and Vice President. The ULAA President's endorsement of the Vice President runs contrary to a traditional practice of ULAA where it doesn't endorse any candidate or would-be candidate in the Presidential Election in Liberia.

ULAA which is the umbrella organization for all Liberian organizations in the United States, Canada, Central and South America has endeavored to amicably work with every Liberian Administration for the benefits of its members in the diaspora and the entire Liberian populace at home, also. However, before his endorsement of Vice President Koung, the ULAA President had earlier spoken about corruption in the Liberian government and other immigration issues facing diaspora Liberians. In his formal remarks and during the questions-and-answers period, the Vice President didn't acknowledge the ULAA President's closing remark endorsing him for 2029. He, however, acknowledge that corruption was something that the Liberian government is battling. The Vice President didn't probably acknowledge the ULAA President's endorsement because his boss, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai had warned his Executive Branch members, including Vice-President Koung, that anyone having an eye on 2029 should respectfully resign from his administration. “If your focus is on 2029, you may respectfully resign. My priority is serving the Liberian people right now,” the Liberian Leader made the remark as part of his opening statement during his first Cabinet Meeting of the year, on March 3rd, 2025.



Mr. Mohamed “MSG1” Keita President, ULAA – Speaking at the Town Hall Meeting

Liberia introduces Visa on Arrival

The Government of Liberia introduces Visa on Arrival (visaonarrival.lis.gov.lr) and Re-entry Permit (reentryvisa.lis.gov.lr) issuing system to make travel in and out of the country easier.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, March 13, 2025 – The Liberian government has officially launched a Visa on Arrival (VOA) program to make travel easier and attract more investors and tourists. The Acting Commissioner General of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Elijah F. Rufus made the announcement at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) press briefing on Tuesday march 11, 2025. Commissioner General Rufus explains that though the program was introduced last month, technical issues delayed its full rollout. However, he says for now, those problems have been resolved, and the government is ready to implement the system. "For years, many travelers, including business investors, tourists, and Liberians living abroad have struggled to get visas due to Liberia's limited number of embassies. The

new system allows them to get visas upon arrival, making travel easier and more convenient", he says. He adds that the Government of Liberia has decided to launch this project so that people can easily access visas upon arrival, rather than facing difficulties at embassies abroad. The Visa on Arrival service will first be available at Roberts International Airport (RIA) here, with plans to expand to seaports and land borders soon. Commissioner Rufus highlights that the new system will provide several advantages, including better security, more revenue, and a faster processing. On the question of security, he reveals that authorities can track travelers in real time, improving border control and preventing illegal entry. Additionally, he says the program will generate income for the government and help boost the economy, while shifting from paper-based to digital visa processing will make travel clearance quicker and more efficient. The Acting Immigration boss urges the public, media, and business community to

Starts from Back page Ellen frowns on prevailing situations

and see the enemy today. If you read my statement, you will know that I'm not against any branch of government", she notes. The former President points out that silence is wrong, and people shouldn't speak against wrong and practice it too. Meanwhile, responding to Nimba County senatorial candidate Samuel Kogar's statement against women candidate, the former President says it is shameful, noting that he should be placed in history. Recently, Kogar, who is currently a lawmaker in the House of Representatives, discouraged citizens from voting for women candidates in the April 22, 2025, Senatorial by-election,

citing outdated traditional norms. He suggested that women should only be seen when a man speaks, saying that no woman can replace the late Senator Prince Johnson, except himself. But Madam Sirleaf wonders what does Rep. Kogar think about his daughter and his wife, whether he wants them not to succeed based on their own energy, urging him to rethink his decision and be remembered in history. "Anyone who makes that kind of statement against women now belongs in history. They belong in the archive of history because they are not in tune with the world today”, Madam Sirleaf reacts. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

spread awareness about the program. He assures travelers that the Liberia Immigration Service would provide support to ensure a smooth transition. “This project is designed to benefit the Liberian people, our business partners, and visitors. We urge everyone to support and cooperate in this new era of immigration reform,” he pleads. Meanwhile, in an official press release, the Government of Liberia says the new Visa on Arrival (visaonarrival.lis.gov.lr) and Re-entry Permit (reentryvisa.lis.gov.lr) issuing system is a collaboration involving the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) and the project contractor - consortium CETIS, one of Europe's leading companies in security printing and identity management, and ZIP SOLUTIONS, launched on 11 March 2025. It followed the successful launch of the modern digitalized Work Permit Issuing System in 2022. T The new system marks another significant step forward in Liberia's efforts to modernize and digitalize public administration. This new system is designed to simplify the process for foreigners entering Liberia and enhance the effectiveness of border controls at Monrovia-Roberts International Airport - whether as tourists, business visitors, or investors. These initiatives are expected to result in increased tourism and business travel, which are crucial to the country's economic growth. “We firmly believe this initiative will play a significant role in Liberia's ongoing modernization and digital transformation. To ensure the successful implementation of this ambitious project, led by the Liberian Immigration Service and project contractor - the consortium CETIS and ZIP SOLUTIONS - we have combined the expertise of our local professionals with the global experience”, Acting Commissioner General Rufus says. He notes that CETIS Group, one of Europe's leading companies in security printing and identity management solutions, has been a trusted partner to governments worldwide, bringing valuable international expertise to this crucial initiative, saying “This project is

a testament to what can be achieved when we work together with a shared vision. It also marks the next major step toward Liberia's final goal – a complete Liberian central register. Beyond improving efficiency, this project also boosts government revenues that can be reinvested into Liberia's development, while creating new job opportunities.” The Executive Director of CETIS, Roman Žnidarič, expresses gratitude to the Acting Commissioner-General for the opportunity and trust to contribute to Liberia's digitization efforts. “With over 200 years of experience and a reputation for meeting the most demanding international security and quality standards, CETIS has been a trusted partner to governments worldwide”, Mr. Žnidarič says. He notes that for over a decade, CETIS has closely followed Liberia's development to gain a deep understanding of challenges the country faces, adding “Today, we are proud to launch this important long-term project, made possible by the trust of the Liberian government, strong cooperation with LIS, and valuable partnership with our local partners.” Mr. Žnidarič continues that they are proud to contribute by providing secure, efficient and transparent issuance of the new Visa on Arrival and Re-entry Permit. “We have invested significantly in this project, employed local experts, and shared our know-how with the local team. Moving forward, we remain committed to continuously improving and updating the system.” The new Visa on Arrival and Re-entry Permit Issuing System provides many benefits for travelers to Liberia, Liberians abroad, companies and the government, including faster and simplified application process, increased effectiveness of border controls, cost reduction for Visa on Arrival, support for diaspora return initiative, boosting foreign investment and tourism, enhanced security and transparency, while promoting regional cooperation and strengthening economic growth. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Monrovia, Liberia, March 13, 2025 - Former Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, frowns on what she describes as triggers of poorer

The Founder of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development reminds that Liberia is seen as an example of a nation that has had two successful political transitions, with its two former heads of state residing in the country while current President Boakai moves the agenda of the state.

"I don't know why all this is happening. Liberia is a poor country; we don't need to make ourselves poorer by our own actions. Liberians don't like to work and take responsibility. Look at what we have and what we can do. I hope people can read the statement I delivered recently



Speaking on Tuesday, March 11, 2024, on a special edition of the program "Changing Minds, Changing Attitudes" at her resident in Monrovia, Madam Sirleaf said disturbances and confusion

Madam Sirleaf argues that if everybody was doing their share of responsibility orderly and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR' with a grid of dates, a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE' with a yellow and blue design, and a magazine titled 'New Dawn' with a headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections'. The publications are arranged in an overlapping, artistic manner.