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"Please grant her justice"

P11

-Boakai's schoolmate pleads for Nancy Doe

Us200m allegedly squandered

P7

McGill wants MoA to account



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Continental News

Nigerians frustrated by ongoing fuel shortage

For almost a week, Niger's service stations have been short of enough premium fuel to meet local demand. As a result, long queues of cars and motorbikes have been forming at those that do have a

to tell me to come to Wadata. Someone with a litre of petrol. For two or three litres you have to waste a litre and a half, it's a nightmare," he says. Experiencing a fuel shortage is unusual for Nigeriens. An oil-rich country, its first refinery

don't have any real information," says Niamey resident Assoumane Hamadou Souley.

While SONIDEP blames the situation on a stock shortage, this argument is dismissed by transport operators who are the most impacted.

In addition to the scarcity of fuel, they are seeing their number of clients go down.

The Taxi and Urban Transport Drivers' Union (SYNCTAXITU), believes the state should increase daily production to meet demand.

"We think that the state must take a step forward in terms of production, because if we are told that there are 25 trucks for the city of Niamey, I don't think that's enough," says its General Secretary Agali Ibrahim.

"Today, as soon as they stop oil smuggling, everyone goes to the pumps. And when everyone's at the pumps, what's there can't be enough." Tanker trucks are expected to increase from 24 to 100 a day in the capital alone.

Organisations are also calling on the government to open the borders with Benin and Nigeria to access temporary supplies.



Nigerian Fuel Scarcity: Marketers Demand Action from President Tinubu

supply. Fuel is rationed by the Niger Petroleum Company, SONIDEP, and some people say this does not make their day-to-day activities any easier. Moussa Kassou says he drove all the way to the Boukoki quarter of the capital, Niamey, only to be told that there was no petrol. "Now someone has just called

was built in 2011. Today, due to a number of factors, it is unable to meet the national demand, estimated at over two million litres a day. Some people worry about the lack of transparency in fuel management. 'We don't have much information on this because the authorities, who are obliged to give us full explanations, are not doing so. We're at a loss. We

Namibia and Kenya face off in special olympics floorball clash

The Special Olympics World Games in Turin saw an action-packed day of competition, with athletes showcasing their determination and skill across multiple sports. The event's busiest day so far featured medal ceremonies in eight different disciplines, including alpine skiing and cross-country skiing. One of the standout moments of the day was an intense floorball match between Namibia and Kenya at the Inalpi Arena. The all-African clash saw both teams—relatively new to the sport—competing fiercely in the group stages. In the end, Kenya triumphed with a 3-0 victory, demonstrating their rapid adaptation to the game. Despite the loss, Namibian player Quinton Gaeb remained upbeat about his team's performance and took pride in representing his country. "We thought we would finish

them, but they finished us. It was a tough game, but we enjoyed it. I'm feeling proud. Namibia is my home. I live there and I will make Namibia proud. When I go back there, they will just say, 'Yes, you make Namibia proud,'" Gaeb said. Meanwhile, in alpine skiing, Mexico's Alexia Ampudia Ramirez De Arrellano clinched a silver medal, supported by her family, who have played an integral role in her training and

success. On the same slopes, Great Britain's Alice Willans made a remarkable comeback, winning gold just a day after being disqualified from her previous race. In the cross-country event, Denmark's Nuka-Martin Lynge, who resides in Greenland, delivered a personal-best performance, finishing fourth in his race with enthusiastic support from spectators.



Namibia and Kenya face off in special olympics floorball clash

EU Pledges €4.7 Billion Investment in South Africa at Landmark Summit

The European Union has announced a €4.7 billion (\$5.1 billion) investment package for South Africa to support green energy and vaccine production, marking a significant step in strengthening economic and political ties. The commitment was made during the first bilateral summit between the EU and South Africa in seven years, held at President Cyril Ramaphosa's office in Cape Town.

A Shared History of Reconciliation

Speaking at the summit, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen drew parallels between the histories of the EU and South Africa, both of which emerged from conflict and found a path to peace through reconciliation.

"South Africa remains an emblem of hope for the world," von der Leyen stated. "Today, we are together announcing an investment package to mobilize €4.7 billion in South Africa."

South African President Cyril

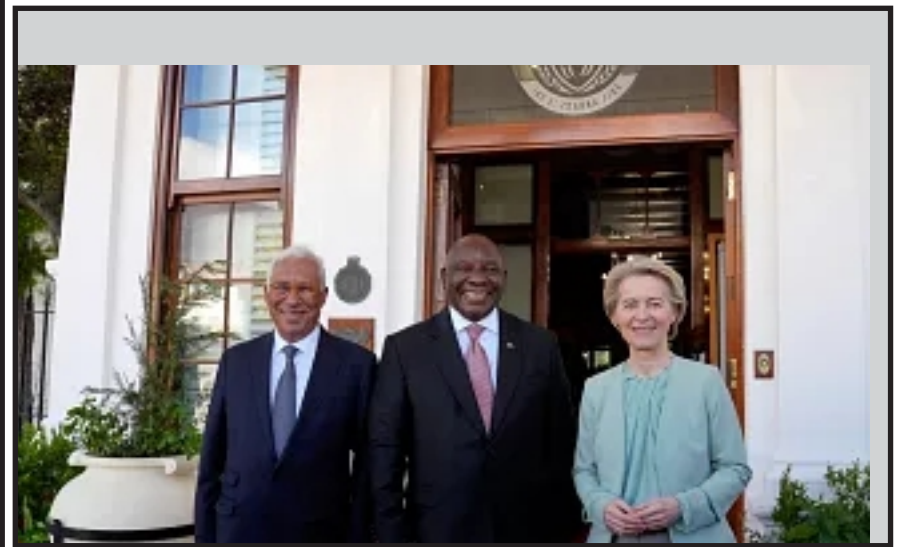
transition from coal to greener energy. The EU pledged to continue supporting the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), a multilateral initiative aimed at reducing carbon emissions. This comes in stark contrast to the recent U.S. withdrawal from a similar agreement.

"We know that others are withdrawing, so we want to be very clear with our support," von der Leyen affirmed. "We are doubling down, and we are here to stay."

Geopolitical Tensions and South Africa's Role on the Global Stage

The summit took place amid growing geopolitical tensions, with the EU reaffirming its commitment to South Africa's leadership within the G20. Ramaphosa aims to use South Africa's G20 presidency to advocate for debt relief and climate financing for developing nations—priorities that have been downplayed by the U.S.

Tensions between South Africa and the U.S. have been rising, particularly after South Africa launched a case at the United Nations' top court accusing Israel, a U.S. ally, of genocide in Gaza. The U.S. has since imposed sanctions on South Africa and cut funding, citing



Ramaphosa echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in upholding shared values.

"This is the time to work together in defense of what we believe in—democracy, the rule of law, including the respect for international law and international humanitarian law," Ramaphosa said.

Strengthening Trade and Energy Cooperation

The EU and South Africa already share a strong trade relationship, with the bloc being South Africa's largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa. Von der Leyen reiterated Europe's commitment to expanding trade ties.

"We want to strengthen and diversify our supply chains, but we want to do it in cooperation with you," she said, calling South Africa a "reliable partner" known for stability and predictability.

A major focus of the investment package is South Africa's

human rights concerns and allegations of ties with groups such as Hamas and Iran.

Further straining relations, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has skipped key G20 meetings hosted by South Africa and indicated that the U.S. will provide little support for international cooperation efforts through the bloc.

EU-U.S. Trade Dispute Looms Over Summit

As the EU and South Africa celebrated their growing economic partnership, transatlantic trade tensions escalated. U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans to impose a 200% tariff on European wine, Champagne, and spirits in response to EU proposals to tax American whiskey. Von der Leyen responded firmly, stating, "We will defend our interests. We've said it and we've shown it, but at the same time, I also want to emphasize that we are open for negotiations."

The EU-South Africa summit marks a renewed commitment to cooperation in trade, energy, and global governance.

EDITORIAL

How the Majority Bloc disgraced Liberia

In their selfish and myopic quest for power, members of the Majority Bloc at the House of Representatives under the leadership of “Regime Speaker” Richard Nagbe Koon, took the entire country's image to international ridicule by adamantly writing the ECOWAS Parliament, seeking withdrawal of three Liberian Legislators to that regional body.

The request was made despite an earlier advice by Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe of Liberia, who chairs the Parliament's Committee on Regional Security that this is not possible.

But in their ignorance, and being obsessed with power, the Koon-led Majority Bloc went ahead and wrote the ECOWAS Parliament, recalling Liberian Representatives Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah, and Taa Z. Wongbe. However, they received a damning slap in the face from ECOWAS, as the regional parliamentary body flatly rejected the request.

In an official response to the 55th Liberian Legislature, especially the House of Representatives, the Parliament states that following a thorough review of the communication from Liberia and in accordance with Article 18.1, 2 of the supplementary Act on the Enhancement of the Powers of the ECOWAS Parliament, the mandate of Community Parliamentarians is set for a fixed term of four years.

The regional Parliament unequivocally explains that once designees from Member States are sworn in there, they cannot be removed or replaced before expiration of their term, except in cases of non-re-election of the member at the national level, death, or resignation through written notification to the President of the ECOWAS Parliament.

It furthers that unless in cases of certified mental or physical incapacity to perform duties, resignation due to incompatibility or dismissal by the Parliament for misconduct as provided in the Rules of Procedure of the ECOWAS Parliament, no legislature and parliament of a member state has right to withdraw nominees forwarded.

"The Honorable Members Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah, and Taa Z. Wongbe do not fall under any of the aforementioned circumstances, therefore, their replacement cannot be affected; consequently, the Honorable Members of the ECOWAS Parliament will continue to serve their mandate until its expiration, in line with the international commitments of the Republic of Liberia", the regional parliamentary body maintains.

Here is the embarrassment and international ridicule: The regional parliamentary body reminds that its decision is in line with the Republic of Liberia's international commitments to that body, which “Regime Speaker” Koon-led Majority Bloc is ignorant of, as demonstrated by their action that has no doubt, questioned the leadership and knowledge capacity of the Liberian Legislature.

But then we are not surprised at all. Members of the Majority Bloc-led House flagrantly violated the Constitution of Liberia and their own rules regarding removal of the Speaker, and illegally elected Representative Richard Nagbe Koon, who calls himself “Regime Speaker” despite presence of constitutionally-elected Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. They even went further and illegally and forcefully burst opened the office of embattled Speaker Koffa for “Regime Speaker” Koon to occupy.

This is the same level of viciousness they took to the ECOWAS Parliament by requesting withdrawal of Liberia's nominees to that august body in spite of a clear advice from their colleague in the Liberian Senate, Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe, that this is not feasible. But they received the backlash they deserve without any pity for their ignorance and obsession to exercise power that does not belong to them, bringing shame to the Motherland.

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COMMENTARY

by Peter Singer

Are We Responsible for Our Choices?

MELBOURNE – Since ancient times, thinkers have asked whether we freely choose what we do or if our actions are determined by forces beyond our control. That debate has been given new impetus by scientific discoveries that have advanced our understanding of the causes of our behavior. Robert Sapolsky, a Stanford University neuroscientist and recent guest on the podcast “Lives Well Lived,” which I co-host with the Polish philosopher Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, is one of these science-based determinists.

In his book Determined: A Science of Life Without Free Will, Sapolsky argues that free will is an illusion. Consider Joe, who decides that he should eat a healthy diet. He meets a friend at a café, and the friend orders a particularly tempting slice of cake, and urges Joe to order one, too. But Joe resists. He may think he exercised his free will and deserves some credit. No, Sapolsky would say: he was able to choose not to order the cake because of his genes, or perhaps because of the way he was brought up – in any case, because of factors over which he had no control.

Because our actions are determined, Sapolsky says, we are not morally responsible for them, and do not deserve praise or blame for what we do. He deplores the fact that that all over the world, in everyday life, from courtrooms to classrooms, at award ceremonies and in eulogies, we cling, with “ferocious tenacity” to our belief in free will.

What's wrong with this argument is not the claim that everything has a cause, nor the belief that everything in the universe, including our behavior, is determined. We can grant that if someone knew everything there is to know about our genes and our environment, they could predict our behavior. The flaw in Sapolsky's argument, and that of many others before him, is that he fails to recognize the distinction between behavior that results from a choice we make, and behavior that does not.

Consider George and Mary. George develops a grudge against his neighbor, who often ignores him when they pass each other on the street. George knows that every morning the unfriendly neighbor goes to a nearby station to catch a train to work, and George decides that this creates an opportunity to get rid of him.

George follows his neighbor to the platform, waiting for an opportunity to push him in front of the train as it arrives. For several days, the neighbor stands too far back from the edge, and George cannot carry out his plan. But he persists, until one day the neighbor stands close enough to the edge for George to give him a hard push. The neighbor falls in front of the train and is killed.

Mary takes the same train to work. One morning she is rushing to catch it as it pulls in, and doesn't notice that someone has left a bag on the platform. She trips over it, falling into the back of her neighbor, who is standing near the edge of the platform. He falls in front of the train and is killed.

It is reasonable to say that George freely chose to kill his neighbor and is morally responsible for that person's death. It is not reasonable to say that about Mary.

Would it be better if we did not think that George should be held responsible, blamed, and punished, for the death of his neighbor? Or if we somehow thought that George and Mary were equally responsible for the deaths of their neighbors?

Surely not. People everywhere make such distinctions. Sapolsky himself even notes that some animals do it. He describes a study showing that monkeys and chimpanzees respond differently to a person who is unable to give them food, as compared with someone who could give them food, but doesn't. They prefer to be close to the former.

Sapolsky's response to this is: “Heck, even chimps believe in free will.” But the study doesn't show that chimps believe in the kind of free will that is incompatible with the truth of determinism. If they believe in free will at all, it is a kind that is compatible with our actions being determined, just as the difference in our responses to George and Mary are compatible with their behavior being determined.

When it comes to crime, Sapolsky rejects retributive theories of punishment, and believes that we should seek to reduce the social iniquities that make it more likely that some people will engage in anti-social behavior. I share those attitudes. Punishment, in my view, should aim at preventing crime, rather than punishing people for their wickedness. Determinism may be true, but that does not alter the fact that people make choices, and need to be held responsible for the choices they make.

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Lord, Da experience we will eat?

Dear Father,

My people yor wait oo. I thought yor say ley Oldman here was experienced? Ehn, almost 15 months gone na, ay look like he na even know wah him doing. Everywhere jus dry, as if ley entire village mourning. You turn so, people crying, you look so, people jus begging.

Hmm, my son your jus hold your heart, ley man geh experience something will soon happen.

Wait oo Father, da experience we will eat? You na hear ley people saying “whatin we will be eating before ley dog geh dry?” Whole day people couldn't hear in their ears here-with ley Oldman geh experience.

Father, jus 15 months, people na able to put food on ley table for their family, before I mention school fees. Unemployment paa, ay wabloh.

Da small thin my son. Da small hungry people hungry in ley village here. Bor nothin spoil, yor jus hold your heart.

Aah bor Father, how long we will be holding our heart for na? This experience here, I thought da ley one suppose to make things happen.

Look, people sitting down in ley village crying no money, bor our experience Oldman allowed those greedy Chief at ley Traditional Council to take over two million Uncle Sam money in ley name of retreat.

You mean whole Uncle Sam's money two million?
Bor Father, da benny seed popping in my mouth? Jus yesterday, ley people on Borad Street who can divide our village money gave them 1.2 million to go sit down somewhere and talk trash jus to eat our village money.

Why do you say da my son?
Bor Father, those hustlers look leh they want to learn anything? Ehn da jus to find means to chop our village money. See ehn, if those hustlers' called chiefs at our Traditional Council had meant well for our village thing would have happened by now, bor what they care for is about their stomach.

Na, na, ay lee with my one, we should geh rid of ley Traditional Council people they don't mean well for our village.

Now, you see da plenty money, da jus ley chief them from ley lower end of our Traditional Council oo. Ley orlor people from ley upper end of ley Traditional Council jus waiting as soon as their from them fini, then ley will go and collect their own.

Hmm, my son!
Yes, oo Father, da how ley people jus chopping our village money. Now they want to balme one Yellow Hair man who say him country money moh na come here again as if ley village people use to see it first-nonsense!

Father, ley people too wicked mehn. Ley only thin they know is how to steal our village money and ley poor people leh Town Criers, teachers and security people they jus sit their crying for their small, small money them.

With all dis one da going on, then somebody come preach to me about experience-experience my foot. All ley thin them they wor condemning jus yesterday-they doing it pass mark. Then ley expect orlor people to bring their village money to build our village-la la.

When they say, ley person experienced, ay mean ley person geh plenty idea about ley thing him geh experience in bor ley way, i see it Father, i think somebody wor jus counting years oo, they worn a learning on ley job at all. Da me talky! Yes mehn people jus tire with their lies and stealing.

OP-ED

by Luca Pellerano,
Florian Juergens-Grant

Future-Proofing Social Protection

BEIRUT/LONDON – Since their inception in late-nineteenth-century Europe, social protection programs have been financed primarily through payroll contributions by workers and employers. These schemes maintain people's standard of living when old age, illness, child-rearing, or unemployment affect their capacity to earn an income.

The recent confluence of global crises – from the COVID-19 pandemic and the skyrocketing cost of living to the climate emergency and wars in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa – has highlighted the catastrophic risks of inadequate social protection. To address these vulnerabilities and curb rampant inequality, governments must work to bring everyone under the umbrella of comprehensive social protection systems.

But just when such systems are needed more than ever, global trends that could erode their very foundation are emerging. The move from productive to financialized capitalism, the rise of digital technologies, automation, and artificial intelligence, together with demographic change, will alter how social protection is funded, who can access it, and under what terms. Ensuring its long-term resilience requires innovative solutions.

Historically, labor was essential for production and the creation of wealth. But today, the most valuable companies increasingly leverage finance and technology more than human work. At the same time, wages have stagnated and no longer grow in line with productivity. Because social-insurance contributions depend on wages, labor-intensive firms now shoulder a larger financing burden, which lets some of the most profitable companies and those contributing less to employment creation off the hook. Moreover, demographic shifts such as aging populations and declining birth rates increase the contributions required from workers and their employers, raising affordability constraints for employers seeking to expand their workforce. And with the rise of outsourcing and complex, far-flung value chains, combined with persistently high levels of informal and self-employment, firms benefit from the efforts of workers whom they do not directly employ, and thus contribute less to financing social insurance.

According to international labor standards on social security, workers should not pay more than half of social insurance's total cost, with the remainder borne by employers. As the balance of power and profit shifts away from labor and toward capital, this core principle is under threat.

To address these challenges, countries could raise additional revenue by increasing taxes on corporate profits. Global efforts to establish a minimum corporate tax and harmonize rates are already underway. But this is unlikely to be sufficient. Social protection programs compete with government outlays for health care, education, sanitation, and other priorities, and financing them requires long-term planning, which is at odds with short-term political spending cycles.

Moreover, flat-rate, tax-funded benefits alone can hardly curb downward social mobility or prevent the impoverishment of the middle class during crises. Nor are they sufficient to sustain aggregate demand and serve as a macroeconomic stabilizer during economic downturns. Both objectives of social protection are arguably as important as poverty reduction.

In addition to expanding tax financing to ensure a universal minimum of protection, it may be time to rethink the composition and structure of contributions to social insurance systems. Instead of being determined solely by wages (and thus labor stock), employers' contributions to these systems could be determined partly by their capital intensity. This could be calculated as a portion of a firm's profits, sales, or investment in labor-replacing technologies – for example, a levy on robotization, automation, or artificial intelligence could be earmarked for social insurance.

Such an approach would create a complementary source of financing, one more concentrated in sectors where employment is low or in decline. These additional funds could help mitigate the mounting economic pressures on working people and small businesses. They could be used to subsidize participation in social insurance for those who cannot afford it – particularly the self-employed and informal workers, as well as those in micro- and small enterprises. Increasing the contributions of capital-intensive firms would also be a step toward leveling the playing field between them and more labor-intensive companies.

It would not be the first time that policymakers have devised innovative mechanisms to fund social-insurance programs through levies on capital. In Portugal, contractors pay social contributions for the self-employed workers whose services they benefit from. Workers in India's and Indonesia's construction sectors, regardless of their contractual status, are insured for workplace-related injury, illness, and death through a charge paid by the main contractor based on the project's total value. Several countries are ensuring social-insurance coverage for platform work through levies on the digital platforms' turnover or digital transactions. In Brazil, the national unemployment-insurance system is financed by taxes paid on a firm's total revenue, rather than the size of its payroll.

Social protection has long adapted to the changing nature of work and economic activity. The changes we are starting to see in labor markets require a commensurate rethinking of how social-insurance systems are funded. Only by adapting can social protection realize its core principles – solidarity, collective financing by capital and labor, redistribution, and risk sharing – for years to come.

The views expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of their respective organizations.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Police chase leaves bike rider with broken bone

-For violating "No-go-Zone" restriction Authorities at the Liberian National Police imposed no-go-zone restrictions on commercial motorbike riders here after they ran amok weeks ago.

By: Kruah Thompson

A motorbike rider suffered a broken bone after crashing while being chased by officers of the Liberian

rider lying on the ground, crying in pain as his foot swelled rapidly. Emergency responders later transported him to Joanna

mother called one of the emergency responders and insisted that there was no need for hospital treatment. Instead, she decided to take him to a traditional healer for care.

Speaking to our reporter after the crash, the victim, identified as Amara M. Kromah, 18, said he had been unable to return home due to the "no-go" zone restriction.

He explained that he lives in Paynesville but has not been able to go home for nearly three weeks due to the restriction, which has forced him to sleep at friends' places.

"Just this morning, I decided to take my bike outside to look for food to eat, but as soon as I reached UN Drive, the police ran straight at me with their pickup, hit me, took my bike, put it in the pickup, and drove away," Kromah narrated.

He further explained that he was on his way from Mamba Point, a diplomatic enclave, and was about to drop off a passenger at the Orange office when he saw the police vehicle speeding toward him.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



National Police for violating a "no-go" zone restriction.

According to eyewitnesses, the incident occurred yesterday evening between Clay and UN Drive when officers attempted to stop the rider for entering a restricted area.

Instead of complying, the rider sped off, prompting a police chase that ended in a crash.

After the incident, bystanders rushed to the scene and found the

Maternity Clinic around South Beach UN Drive for treatment, but after being checked by medical practitioners, it was advised that he be taken to the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Sinkor instead.

However, upon arrival at JFK, the rider and those with him were informed that there were no available beds for patients and were asked to wait until a doctor could check him.

While waiting, the victim's

Ministry of Health trains oxygen plant operators

The Government of Liberia trains healthcare professionals to operate and maintain medical oxygen plants constructed across the country.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 13, 2025 - The Ministry of Health, through the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Plan International, with funding from the Global Fund, has completed a two-day capacity-building training for healthcare professionals on the operation and maintenance of medical oxygen plants constructed across the country.

The training was conducted by the Build Health International (BHI) Biomedical Oxygen Team led by Andrew Johnson.

In remarks, Dr. Adophus T. Yeiah, Director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), highlights the importance of the technical working session, saying, "Medical oxygen is not just an essential medication; it's one of the very few essential medications that I can recall that do not have replacements, so it's either you have oxygen, or you don't have it."

Director Yeiah emphasizes the key role oxygen plays in the country's medical landscape and urges all participants to take advantage of the technical learning session.

The training was held from March 10 to 11, 2025, at the Golden Gate Hotel in Paynesville. It brought together 11 county health officers,

biomedical engineers, technicians, and hospital administrators from across Liberia.

It aims to equip senior healthcare managers and policy makers with the skills needed to safely, sustainably, and cost-effectively operate Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants within their respective facilities.

Mr. Mark Luke, Technical Assistant on Medical Oxygen, proxy on behalf of Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Catherine T. Cooper, explains the essential role of medical oxygen in patient care, particularly in emergencies and intensive care units. He discloses that ensuring a reliable and sufficient oxygen supply remains a top priority for the healthcare system.

Participants received training in key aspects of medical oxygen management, including plant operations, troubleshooting, safety protocols, and distribution strategies.

"This training aligns with the government's broader strategy to improve healthcare delivery and ensure hospitals and clinics have adequate oxygen supplies to meet patient needs efficiently." Industrial experts led interactive sessions to enhance technical knowledge and problem-solving skills.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reaffirms its commitment to strengthening Liberia's oxygen supply chain, particularly in preparation for public health emergencies.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Participant at oxygen plant operators

Koon meets with deceased auditors' families

"Regime Speaker" Koon visits families of dead auditors here.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 14, 2025 - "Regime Speaker" Richard Nagbe Koon, has met with families of four Liberian auditors, who died under suspicious circumstances in October 2020, and relatives of three boys who went missing that same month.

During the meeting early Thursday, 13 March 2025, Speaker Koon reaffirmed the government's firm commitment to ensuring that justice is served impartially. He emphasized that concerns of the affected families remain a priority and assured them that efforts are being made to ensure accountability in these tragic cases.

The deaths of the four auditors: Emmanuel Barten Nyeswua, Director General of the Internal Audit Agency (IAA), along with Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) auditors Albert Peters, Gifty Lamah, and George F. Fanbutu, sparked widespread calls for an independent investigation.

Similarly, the disappearance of Siafa Boimah, Robert Blamo, Jr., and Bobby Gbeanquoi, who were part of a group of six whose canoe reportedly capsized in St. Paul River on October 17, 2020, continues to raise concerns

among the Liberian public.

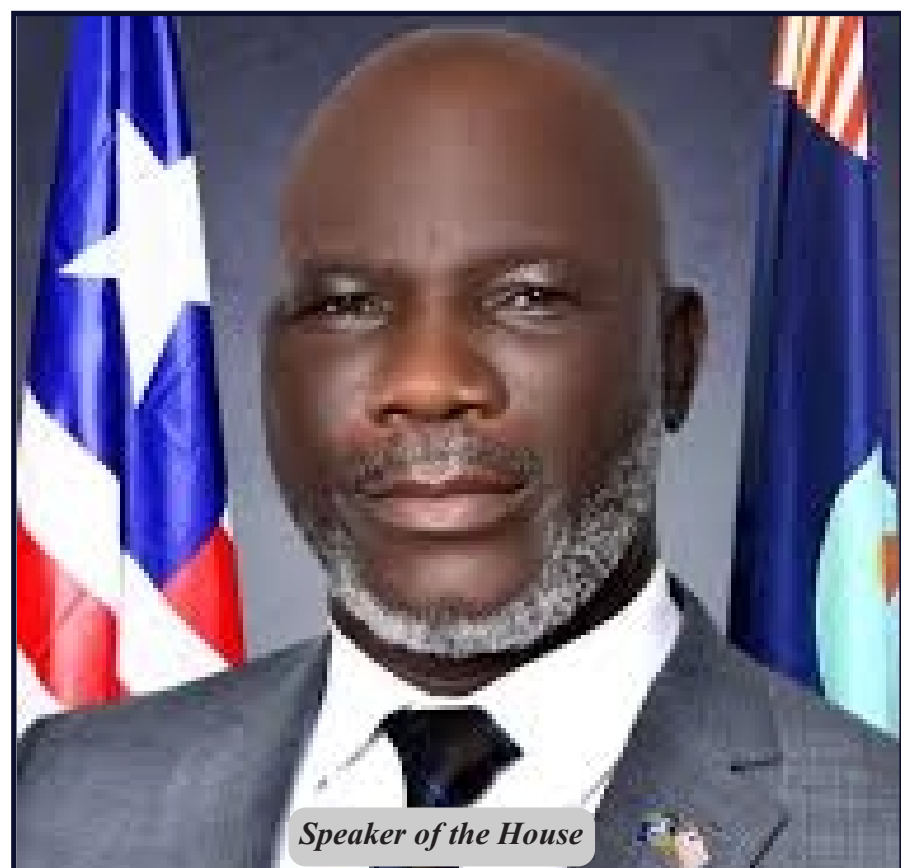
Expressing appreciation for Koon's initiative, families of the deceased auditors described the meeting as unprecedented, noting that the Regime Speaker is the first senior government official to personally invite them for discussions, since the tragic incidents occurred five years ago.

Mr. Sylvester Lamah, widower of the late Gifty Lamah, Cassandra Peters, daughter of the late Albert Peters, and S a m u k a i K r o m a h , spokesperson for the families of the three missing boys, were present at the meeting.

They conveyed their gratitude to Speaker Koon, for acknowledging their plight and taking interest in the wellbeing of the deceased auditors' children.

The families reiterated their call for justice, emphasizing that they seek closure and accountability for their loved ones.

Koon assured them that their concerns would be communicated to relevant authorities, while pledging to remain engaged in their pursuit of justice. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



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Boakai pays tribute to victims of Liberian Civil War

President Boakia has paid tribute to victims of the 14-year civil wars in the country.

Monrovia, Liberia, The President paid the tribute at March 14, 2025 - Du-port Memorial Site, a mass President Joseph grave of hundreds of Liberians Nyuma Boakai underscores here killed in a massacre during the



that life of every Liberian has civil conflict. value and importance “I think we are doing this to show irrespective of family Liberians it is about time we background, tribe, religion or reconcile; it is about time we political dimension. consider the values that God Speaking on Wednesday, March place in the lives of each and 12, a day celebrated here as every Liberian, irrespective of Decoration Day, when he paid their family backgrounds, tribes tributes to hundreds of Liberians and anything else, President who died during the 14 years civil Boakai stressed. wars, President Boakai said it is He also underscores the about time the country reconciles importance of reconciliation and and consider the value of every togetherness in building a citizen's life. stronger nation.

Mr. Boakai says it's time for unity

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

as Liberians observe Decoration Day, eulogizing the country's past leaders and victims of conflict.

He urged Liberians to embrace reconciliation as a means of fostering national development. “This is an era of reconciliation. We are here to build the lives of our people and prepare this country for a better future for the younger generation. We need unity to hold this nation together," President Boakai stated.

The supervisor and caretaker of the Du-port Road Memorial Site, Duannah B. Paygar expressed joy for the President's visit, which he describes as being in the cause of justice and happiness.

The Du-port Memorial Site was constructed in 2017, by former President Ellen Jonson Sirleaf as a mark of respect for those citizens who died in the Liberian Civil War from December 24th, 1989, to August 11th, 2003.

Bodies were collected from different parts of Monrovia and buried in a mass grave at the Du-port Road Waterside Community in Paynesville. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Grieving mother longs to unite with grandchildren

-23 years after son's death

A grandmother in her 70s, yearns to connect with her grandchildren in the United States, 23 years after her son came to Liberia and died.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 14, 2025 - Commemoration of annual Decoration Day (Second Wednesday of March) comes with touching stories involving families fighting over graves or encountering difficulty in identifying graves of dead relatives, many other unexpected ordeals that characterized the day.

But for Elizabeth Ferguson, believed to be her 70s, her quest is to reconnect with her grandchildren, 23 years after the sudden death of her son Jamail Ferguson.

The late Ferguson reportedly died at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville in 2002, shortly after he returned from the United States of America to see his mother Elizabeth Ferguson, and other siblings.

He reportedly travelled to the United States in the 90s as a teenager and returned home 30 years later, to identify with his mother and other relatives when he met his sudden death.

“If I do not see my grandchildren, if I die, it will hurt me ooo. I want to see my grandchildren ooo, I want to see my children them; please help me find my grandchildren”, she wept

Despite Ferguson's demise, some 20 years ago, his mother and siblings are trying to remain hopeful despite difficulties.

“It is safe since our brother came to visit and died; there is no way to connect with his family in America. We have tried and tried to trace his fiancée, but there is no way out,” a brother of the deceased laments.

“We feel devastated; I feel heartbroken, because it has been years now”, another relative, Amos, adds.

Speaking to The NEW DAWN at JCM Howard Cemetery in Paynesville on Decoration Day, Ma Elizabeth Ferguson was still reeling from shock of losing her son, Jamail Ferguson.

“My son just came down to see me and he said his head was hurting; the next day, they called me and said he was dead”, she explains in tears.

She is pleading with the

Government of Liberia and philanthropists to help her reconnect with her late son's wife and children in the U.S.

She recalls how her son told her that he had born three children, two boys and a girl, by a lady in Massachusetts, and that upon his return, he was going to bring them to Liberia.

“My son came, and he told me, he born three children by one girl in America, and he was going to come back with them. The next day, he called me and said his head was hurting, and he died at ELWA Hospital”, she recalls.

Meanwhile, Decoration Day, observed as a public holiday, is also a stark reminder for families who lost loved ones. They gather on this day for sober reflection and to clean their graves. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Senator Duncan wants NPA boss summoned

-Over deplorable condition of Greenville Port

The Management of the National Port Authority faces a summons from the Liberian Senate for poor condition at Port of Greenville, Sinoe County.

Sinoe, Liberia, March 14, 2025 -

Sinoe County Senator, Clayton O. Duncan, has written the Liberian Senate to summon the Managing Director of the National Port Authority, Sekou Dukuly to speak on deplorable condition of the Samuel Alfred Ross Port of Greenville City, commonly known as the Port of Greenville, Sinoe County.

The Senate Committee Co-chair on Ways, Means and Finance, in his communication addressed to Senate President Pro-Tempore, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, on Thursday, March 13, 2025, read in open plenary, highlights the deplorable state of the Port of Greenville.

Senator Duncan notes that given the enormous contributions the Port of Greenville is making to the

national economy annually, it does not deserve to be in such an appalling condition.

"Madam President Pro-Tempore and Distinguished Colleagues, under the circumstances and given the improvement needs of the Port of Greenville, I respectfully request this Honorable Plenary to summon the Managing Director of the National Port Authority to provide justification for the deplorable condition of the Port, to unfold his plans for its improvement, if any, and to discuss the possibility of Sea Port Infrastructures Investment at the Sea Port of Greenville through the PPP or JV Operations for the Rehabilitation and Management of the Port of Greenville", he requests. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Senator Duncan

LDEA conducts awareness on drugs abuse in Margibi

The Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency in Margibi County ends two-day sensitization against substance abuse.

By Ramsey N Singbeh Jr in Margibi

Margibi, Liberia, March 14, 2025: The Margibi County Detachment of the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) has conducted a one-day interactive forum aimed at discouraging Liberians, especially young people from drugs abuse.

The forum, held at the Kakata Administrative Building, brought together folks from national headquarters and the LDEA Margibi County Detachment,

Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), students in Kakaka, community dwellers and other law enforcement officers in the county.

It was hosted on March 13, 2025, with officials of the LDEA's National Offices making special presentations on various topics, detailing types of drugs, their impacts, preventions, measures taken to deter people from

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Starts from page 5 **Police chase leaves bike rider with broken bone**

Fearing arrest, he escape not knowing the police was still after him, and when he got to UN Drive and told his passenger to jump down, he saw the police again running toward, while attempting to escape for the second time, the police pickup ran straight into his bike and broke his leg, leaving him in severe pain.

Kromah recounted that after he fell, he pleaded with the police to take him to the nearest station, but they ignored him and drove away with his motorcycle.

"I was crying, 'Prof, my foot is broken! Prof, my foot is broken!' But the men didn't care. They just took my motorbike and left there," he said.

Despite being unable to identify the police vehicle, Kromah said he could recognize the officers if he saw them again.

Meanwhile, his family has taken him from JFK Hospital for traditional treatment at home. - *Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

Starts from page 6 **LDEA conducts awareness on drugs abuse in Margibi**

consuming narcotics. They also spoke about the drugs law and punishments for violators. LDEA Head for Margibi, Alex Flomo, who has also been involved with combating drugs, said they organized the awareness to have the community outreach team of the LDEA conduct awareness for the first time under his leadership. He stated that their job is not just limited to arresting and sending suspects to court, but to also create awareness and prevention, which is better than cure. Commander Flomo noted that key message is informing Margibians that drugs is dangerous, as it is destroying the fabric of the youthful

population of the country. He encouraged residents and participants to serve as ambassadors of change to their colleagues going astray. The head of the community outreach services and prevention, Grace G. Mulbah from the LDEA, said Margibi is one of the most populated counties but has most of the people involved with drugs, so the awareness is very necessary. She noted that the exercise was also focused on telling participants the harm drugs cause to people. She narrated the focus was based on three pillars of the LDEA, including Demand Reduction, Harm Reduction and Supply Reduction. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Senator worried over road projects abandonment

Senator Numene T. H. Bartekwa of Grand Kru County wants the Ministries of Finance, Public Works, and Foreign Affairs cited to explain the delays in implementing road projects financed by foreign partners.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Capitol Building, Liberia, March 13, 2025—Grand Kru County Senator Numene T. H. Bartekwa expresses serious concern over the delay and stalling of several international donor projects, especially road infrastructure across the country. Senator Bartekwa is seeking the appearance of three key government institutions to provide explanation about those projects. In a communication to Senator President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence dated Tuesday, March 10, 2025, Bartekwa writes that he has the honor of bringing to the attention of the Senate Plenary the protracted delay of some donor-funded road projects in the country. According to him, Liberia's international partners made these commitments to accelerate Liberia's national road development programs. "Unfortunately, since those commitments were made and people of the affected areas got excited, they are yet to be fulfilled. It is, therefore, important to know who is responsible for the delay. Is it the Government of Liberia or the donor countries? Therefore, I write to request the appearance of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Public Works and Finance and

Development Planning before the Senate plenary," said, while listing several delayed projects in the Southeast that he says are of serious concern. "On December 10, 2018, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Bank for Development and Investment (EBID) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Liberian Government to provide \$100 million under the sponsorship of the Indian Government for Phase I of the Coastal Highway Project. According to the agreement, Phase 1 will include 96.6 kilometers of highway from Barclayville, Grand Kru County, passing through Sasstown and ending in the town of Klowne, Sinoe County. From 2018 to present, the road project is yet to start", the

Senator observes. He further indicated that in 2021, the African Development Bank (ACDB) made an additional commitment to the Government of Liberia to provide financial support for paving 60 kilometers of road from Kelipo Kanweakan, River Gee County, to Putuken in Grand Gedeh County, but nothing has been done on that corridor since then. He also named a 40-kilometer road corridor from Karloken, Maryland County, to Fish Town, River Gee County, which started under the sponsorship of the African Development Bank (ACDB) but was abandoned in 2020. The senator wonders what the reason for the abandonment is, adding that indeed, the above named donor partners road projects and many others around



Us200m allegedly squandered

Margibi County Senator McGill wants the Ministry of Agriculture to account for donors' project, totaling US\$200 Million.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia, March 14, 2025 - Margibi County Senator Nathaniel F. McGill, expresses serious concern here about US\$200 million donors' project allegedly squandered by the Ministry of Agriculture. Senator McGill in a communication to Senate Plenary on Thursday, March 13, 2025, named Star-P and RETRAP Programs, launched under the Ministry of Agriculture with funding from the World Bank and other international partners. McGill is demanding an update on the Star-P and RETRAP Programs, something, he describes as necessary and important. "I write to bring to your attention an important matter regarding the Star-P and RETRAP Programs, lunched under the Ministry of Agriculture with funding from the World Bank. These two projects amount to approximately Two hundred

invite the Minister of Agriculture to provide a comprehensive update on status of these programs. "Specifically, we seek detailed information on the following: a full breakdown of the program, including how funds have been allocated and distributed. The total number of farmers or beneficiaries, who have received loans under these initiatives", he states. Senator McGill continues that he seeks to know locations of beneficiaries to ensure nationwide inclusivity and equitable access to support, including current implementation and management processes of both programs. He indicates that given that the program involves loan disbursement, it is important that the Senate tracks it progress and ensure funds are being utilized effectively to benefit farmers and strengthen Liberia's agricultural sector. "For reference, a worksheet obtained from the World Bank website detailing aspects of this program is attached. Finally, we request the Plenary to summon the



million (US\$ 200, 000,000) aimed at supporting local communities and farmers in expanding agribusiness in Liberia. Notably, under the Star-P program, over forty million (US\$ 40, 000,000) was allocated in the past administration for granting micro loans to small farmers across the country", he discloses. He says in line with the Senate's commitment to transparency and accountability, Plenary should

Minister of Agriculture to appear before the full plenary to address issues relating to both programs. Finally, I respectfully urge the Senate to take swift actions in inviting the Minister of Agriculture to provide these necessary updates, reinforcing our commitment to transparency, accountability, and continued support for our small farmers", he underscores in the communication. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

the country that were promised to the Government of Liberia are yet to either start or be fully completed, saying that they therefore need to know what is responsible for their delay. "In view of the above, I humbly request the Senate Plenary to invite the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Public Works and Finance and Development Planning to explain to this August Body what is

responsible for the delay of the implementation of these critical road projects. Madam Pro-Temp and Distinguished Colleagues, while I look forward to your timely action in this vein, please accept the sentiments of my highest esteem and best wishes", Bartekwa concludes in his communication. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Le président de l'ULAA apporte son soutien au vice-président Koung pour 2029

Le président de l'Union des Associations Libériennes des Amériques (ULAA), M. Mohamed "MSG1" Keita, a publiquement exprimé son soutien au vice-président Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Sr. en vue de l'élection présidentielle de 2029 au Liberia.

l'élection présidentielle libérienne. M. Keita a formulé cette déclaration après avoir remis une pétition au vice-président au nom des Libériens de la diaspora confrontés à des problèmes d'immigration aux États-Unis. Clôture son discours lors de l'Assemblée publique organisée en l'honneur du vice-président le 8 mars 2025 à

vice-président Koung, âgé d'une quarantaine d'années, envisage effectivement de briguer la présidence en 2029. Les Libériens se rendront aux urnes en octobre 2029 pour élire un nouveau président, un vice-président et des parlementaires. Une prise de position en contradiction avec la neutralité historique de l'ULAA

Le soutien affiché par M. Keita au vice-président Koung s'éloigne de la ligne directrice suivie jusqu'ici par l'ULAA. Organisation faitière regroupant les associations libériennes aux États-Unis, au Canada, en Amérique centrale et en Amérique du Sud, l'ULAA a traditionnellement entretenu des relations équilibrées avec chaque administration libérienne, œuvrant dans l'intérêt de ses membres de la diaspora et du peuple libérien en général.

Avant de formuler son soutien à M. Koung, le président de l'ULAA avait abordé plusieurs sujets sensibles, notamment la



Cette annonce marque un tournant inédit dans l'histoire de l'ULAA, une organisation qui, selon la tradition, s'abstient de soutenir tout candidat ou futur candidat à

Philadelphie (Pennsylvanie), il a lancé à son auditoire et à M. Koung : « N'oubliez pas que 2029 arrive. Si vous êtes prêt, nous sommes prêts ! » À ce jour, il n'est pas confirmé si le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le Liberia instaure le visa à l'arrivée

Le gouvernement libérien a officiellement lancé un programme de Visa à l'Arrivée (VOA) afin de simplifier les formalités de voyage et d'attirer davantage d'investisseurs et de touristes.

L'annonce a été faite par Elijah F. Rufus, Commissaire général par intérim du Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), lors d'une conférence de presse tenue au Ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT), le mardi 11 mars 2025.

Une solution à un problème de longue date

M. Rufus a expliqué que bien que le programme ait été introduit le mois dernier, des problèmes techniques ont retardé sa mise en œuvre complète. Ceux-ci ayant été résolus, le système est désormais opérationnel.

"Pendant des années, de nombreux voyageurs, y compris des investisseurs, des touristes et des Libériens de la diaspora, ont rencontré des difficultés pour obtenir un visa en raison du nombre limité d'ambassades du Liberia. Ce nouveau système leur permet désormais d'obtenir un visa dès leur arrivée, facilitant ainsi leurs déplacements", a-t-

il déclaré.

Le Visa à l'Arrivée sera d'abord disponible à l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA), avant d'être progressivement étendu aux ports maritimes et aux postes-frontières terrestres.

Un système modernisé pour une meilleure efficacité

Le commissaire général a souligné les nombreux avantages de ce programme, notamment une sécurité renforcée, une augmentation des recettes publiques et une simplification des démarches administratives.

Concernant la sécurité, il a précisé que ce système permettra un suivi en temps réel des voyageurs,

améliorant ainsi le contrôle aux frontières et limitant les risques d'entrée illégale sur le territoire.

Sur le plan économique, il a insisté sur l'impact positif de cette réforme, qui devrait générer des revenus supplémentaires pour l'État et stimuler l'économie locale. De plus, la transition vers un traitement numérique des visas permettra de fluidifier et d'accélérer le processus d'obtention des documents de voyage.

Le responsable de l'immigration a encouragé le grand public, les médias et les milieux d'affaires à faire

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Éditorial

Comment le Bloc Majoritaire a couvert le Liberia de honte

Par Raghuram Rajan

Dans leur quête égoïste et à courte vue du pouvoir, les membres du Bloc Majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants, sous la direction du « Président du Régime » Richard Nagbe Koon, ont exposé l'image du Liberia à l'opprobre international en adressant une demande à l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO visant au retrait de trois parlementaires libériens de cette institution régionale.

Cette requête a été formulée malgré l'avis préalable du sénateur Edwin Melvin Snowe, président de la Commission sur la sécurité régionale de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO, qui avait clairement indiqué que cette démarche était impossible.

Ignorant cet avertissement et aveuglés par leur obsession du pouvoir, les membres du Bloc Majoritaire dirigé par Koon ont tout de même écrit à l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO pour rappeler les représentants libériens Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah et Taa Z. Wongbe. Leur initiative s'est soldée par un rejet catégorique de la part de l'institution régionale, infligeant ainsi un camouflet retentissant à la majorité parlementaire libérienne.

Dans sa réponse officielle adressée à la 55^e législature libérienne, et plus particulièrement à la Chambre des représentants, l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO a rappelé que, conformément à l'article 18.1 et 18.2 de l'Acte additionnel relatif au renforcement des pouvoirs du Parlement de la CEDEAO, le mandat des parlementaires communautaires est fixé pour une durée de quatre ans.

L'Assemblée a précisé sans équivoque qu'une fois les représentants des États membres investis, ils ne peuvent être révoqués ni remplacés avant l'expiration de leur mandat, sauf dans les cas suivants : non-réélection au niveau national, décès ou démission notifiée par écrit au président du Parlement de la CEDEAO.

Elle a en outre souligné que, sauf en cas d'incapacité mentale ou physique certifiée, de démission pour incompatibilité ou de révocation par l'Assemblée parlementaire pour faute grave, aucun Parlement national ne peut exiger le retrait de ses représentants une fois ceux-ci nommés.

Ainsi, l'institution régionale a affirmé que les députés Samuel R. Enders, Sr., Moima Briggs-Mensah et Taa Z. Wongbe ne se trouvent dans aucune de ces situations et ne peuvent donc être remplacés. Par conséquent, ils poursuivront leur mandat jusqu'à son terme, conformément aux engagements internationaux du Liberia.

C'est là que réside l'embarras et l'humiliation internationale : l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO rappelle que sa décision s'aligne sur les obligations internationales du Liberia, obligations dont le « Président du Régime » Koon et son Bloc Majoritaire semblent ignorer l'existence. Leur action imprudente met en cause non seulement leur leadership, mais aussi leur compréhension des responsabilités parlementaires du pays.

Cependant, cette situation n'étonne guère. Les membres du Bloc Majoritaire ont déjà violé la Constitution du Liberia ainsi que leurs propres règlements internes en destituant illégalement le président de la Chambre et en élisant de manière contestée le représentant Richard Nagbe Koon, qui s'auto-proclame « Président du Régime », en dépit de la présence d'un président élu constitutionnellement, J. Fonati Koffa. Ils sont même allés jusqu'à forcer l'accès au bureau du président Koffa pour le faire occuper par Koon.

Ce même mépris des règles et cette brutalité institutionnelle ont été projetés sur la scène régionale lorsque le Bloc Majoritaire a tenté de retirer les représentants libériens de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CEDEAO, en dépit de l'avertissement clair du sénateur Edwin Melvin Snowe sur l'impossibilité d'une telle action. Le rejet catégorique de leur demande constitue une réponse cinglante à leur ignorance et à leur ambition démesurée, plongeant une fois de plus le Liberia dans l'embarras sur la scène internationale.

Français

Starts from page 8 Le président de l'ULAA apporte son soutien

corruption au sein du gouvernement libérien et les défis migratoires auxquels sont confrontés les Libériens vivant à l'étranger.

Une réaction prudente du vice-président Koung

Durant son allocution officielle et la séance de questions-réponses qui a suivi, le vice-président Koung n'a pas réagi à la déclaration finale du président de l'ULAA en sa faveur. Il a toutefois reconnu que la corruption représentait un défi majeur pour le gouvernement libérien. Cette réserve pourrait être liée à une mise en garde

préalable du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à l'égard des membres de son administration, y compris le vice-président. Le chef de l'État avait en effet déclaré lors de la première réunion de son cabinet, le 3 mars 2025 :

« Si votre priorité est 2029, vous pouvez démissionner respectueusement. Mon engagement est de servir le peuple libérien maintenant. »

Cette prise de position ferme pourrait expliquer pourquoi le vice-président a choisi de ne pas commenter publiquement l'annonce du président de l'ULAA.

Starts from page 8 Le Liberia instaure le visa à l'arrivée

connaître cette initiative et a assuré que le Liberia Immigration Service mettra tout en œuvre pour garantir une transition en douceur.

"Ce projet vise à servir les intérêts du peuple libérien, de nos partenaires commerciaux et des visiteurs. Nous appelons donc chacun à soutenir cette réforme et à y collaborer activement", a-t-il plaidé.

Un partenariat stratégique pour la modernisation

Dans un communiqué officiel, le gouvernement libérien a précisé que le Visa à l'Arrivée ([visaonarrival.lis.gov.lr](#)) et le Permis de Réentrée ([reentryvisa.lis.gov.lr](#)) ont été mis en place en partenariat avec le consortium CETIS, l'une des principales entreprises européennes spécialisées dans l'impression sécurisée et la gestion de l'identité, ainsi que ZIP SOLUTIONS.

Ce projet s'inscrit dans la continuité du système de délivrance des permis de travail numériques, mis en place avec succès en 2022. Il constitue une étape clé dans la modernisation et la digitalisation de l'administration publique libérienne.

"Nous sommes convaincus que cette initiative jouera un rôle crucial dans la transformation numérique du Liberia. Pour assurer son succès,

nous avons allié l'expertise de nos professionnels locaux à l'expérience internationale de nos partenaires", a affirmé Elijah F. Rufus.

Un soutien international pour un projet d'envergure

Le directeur exécutif de CETIS, Roman Žnidarič, a exprimé sa gratitude aux autorités libériennes pour leur confiance et leur vision tournée vers l'innovation.

"Avec plus de 200 ans d'expérience et une réputation fondée sur des standards internationaux de sécurité et de qualité, CETIS est fier d'être un partenaire stratégique dans ce projet d'envergure", a-t-il déclaré.

Il a ajouté que CETIS suit l'évolution du Liberia depuis plus d'une décennie afin de mieux comprendre les défis du pays. Selon lui, le lancement du Visa à l'Arrivée et du Permis de Réentrée illustre la volonté du Liberia de renforcer la transparence et l'efficacité de son administration.

"Nous avons investi de manière significative dans ce projet, recruté des experts locaux et partagé notre savoir-faire avec les équipes libériennes. Nous restons engagés à améliorer et mettre à jour continuellement ce système", a-t-il assuré.

Le Liberia évalue la performance de ses institutions publiques

Le PMCS, lancé le 30 octobre 2024, constitue un pilier essentiel du programme gouvernemental ARREST. Il établit des normes de performance pour les ministères, agences et commissions, tout en permettant un suivi et une évaluation en temps réel.

Lors de son lancement, le Président Boakai a souligné que cette initiative ne représentait pas seulement un nouvel outil, mais une véritable volonté de garantir un gouvernement efficace et responsable au service des Libériens.

S'exprimant lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information (MICAT), ce mardi 11 mars 2025, M. Kwabo a confirmé le déploiement officiel de l'évaluation des performances.

"Aujourd'hui marque une étape historique dans la gouvernance et l'administration publique de notre pays. Pour la première fois dans l'histoire du Liberia, nous évaluons les performances des institutions publiques en fonction des priorités nationales", a-t-il déclaré.

Depuis la mise en place du PMCS, 19 institutions publiques ont fixé des objectifs clairs et signé des contrats de performance, avec des actions déjà entreprises pour honorer ces engagements.

"Ces institutions ont travaillé sans relâche pour mettre en œuvre des programmes prioritaires visant à améliorer la prestation des services, accroître l'efficacité et renforcer la responsabilité publique", a ajouté M. Kwabo.

Un processus structuré et des délais clairs

L'évaluation annuelle permet non seulement de mesurer les réalisations, mais aussi d'identifier

les défis et d'élaborer des stratégies d'amélioration.

Selon le calendrier défini :

- 7 mars 2025 : Distribution des formulaires d'auto-évaluation aux institutions publiques.
- 13 mars 2025 : Date limite pour la soumission des rapports de performance.
- 17-26 mars 2025 : Évaluation indépendante des auto-évaluations par l'équipe du PMCS.
- 28 mars 2025 : Présentation du rapport final au Président Boakai.
- 31 mars 2025 : Annonce publique des résultats et reconnaissance des institutions les plus performantes.

M. Kwabo a précisé que ce processus repose sur les leçons tirées des expériences passées et vise à renforcer la gouvernance ainsi que la redevabilité dans le secteur public.

Un appui technique international

Le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), à travers le Programme d'appui à la décentralisation du Liberia (LDSP), accompagne techniquement cette initiative. Cette collaboration vise à instaurer une culture de performance et de responsabilité au sein de l'administration publique libérienne.

Selon M. Kwabo, le PMCS jouera un rôle clé dans le suivi des contributions institutionnelles au programme ARREST, garantissant ainsi des résultats concrets pour la population libérienne.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf critique la situation actuelle au Liberia

L'ancienne présidente du Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a exprimé son inquiétude face aux troubles et à la confusion qui règnent dans le pays, qu'elle considère comme des facteurs aggravants de la pauvreté nationale.

S'exprimant lors d'une édition spéciale du programme "Changing Minds, Changing Attitudes", tenue le mardi 11 mars 2025 à sa résidence de Monrovia, Madame Sirleaf a souligné que l'instabilité et le manque de coordination dans la gouvernance du pays risquent de ralentir le développement national.

Un appel à l'ordre et à la responsabilité

L'ancienne cheffe de l'État a particulièrement critiqué les affrontements entre la Police nationale libérienne et les conducteurs de motos-taxis, estimant qu'ils doivent cesser immédiatement pour éviter une détérioration de la situation nationale.

Elle a rappelé qu'au moment de l'accession du Président Joseph N. Boakai au pouvoir, la population était d'accord pour lui accorder du temps afin de mettre en œuvre son programme. Dans cette optique, elle invite chacun à ne pas compliquer la tâche du président avec des conflits inutiles.

"Si chacun assumait ses responsabilités de manière ordonnée et pacifique – que ce soit les fonctionnaires, les branches du gouvernement, la société civile ou les citoyens – cela faciliterait la gouvernance et favoriserait la stabilité du pays", a-t-elle déclaré.

Madame Sirleaf met en garde contre le fait que chaque individu agit selon son propre intérêt, ce qui freine le progrès collectif du pays.

"Le Liberia a fait tellement d'efforts pour avancer. À chaque fois que le pays s'améliore, il progresse et échappe à la pauvreté. Mais nous devons arrêter de nous tirer nous-mêmes vers le bas", a-t-elle averti.

Un modèle démocratique en péril ?

La fondatrice du Centre présidentiel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pour les femmes et le développement a rappelé que le Liberia est perçu comme



un exemple démocratique en Afrique, après avoir réussi deux transitions politiques pacifiques. Avec ses deux anciens chefs d'État toujours présents dans le pays et un président en exercice engagé dans son agenda politique, elle souligne l'importance de préserver cette stabilité.

"Je ne comprends pas pourquoi tout cela arrive. Le Liberia est un pays pauvre, nous n'avons pas besoin d'aggraver notre situation par nos propres actions. Les Libériens ne veulent pas travailler et assumer leurs responsabilités. Regardons ce que nous avons et ce que nous pouvons accomplir", a-t-elle insisté.

Elle appelle les citoyens à relire son dernier discours afin d'identifier les véritables défis du pays, tout en précisant qu'elle ne critique aucun pouvoir en particulier.

Une réaction ferme contre les propos misogynes

Par ailleurs, Madame Sirleaf a réagi aux déclarations polémiques du candidat sénatorial Samuel Kogar, qui a dissuadé les citoyens de voter pour des femmes lors de l'élection sénatoriale partielle du 22 avril 2025.

Le député Kogar, qui brigue un siège au Sénat, a récemment déclaré que les femmes ne devraient être visibles que lorsque les hommes parlent, affirmant qu'aucune femme ne pouvait remplacer l'ancien sénateur Prince Johnson, à part lui-même.

Indignée par ces propos, Madame Sirleaf a estimé que de telles idées appartiennent à une époque révolue et qu'elles n'ont pas leur place dans un monde moderne.

"Je me demande ce que le représentant Kogar pense de sa fille et de son épouse. Veut-il réellement les empêcher de réussir par elles-mêmes ? Il devrait reconsidérer sa position s'il veut être bien jugé par l'histoire", a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle a conclu en affirmant que ceux qui tiennent de tels discours appartiennent désormais aux archives de l'histoire et sont déconnectés des réalités du monde actuel.

FEATURE

ARTICLE

Trust Defenders or Trust Betrayers? Analyzing the Mismanagement of Interest Funds at Lofa University

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

In the heart of any nation, institutions of higher learning are often heralded as safe havens of knowledge, integrity, and the cultivation of future leaders. They are depicted as microcosms of societal values, embodying the principles of trust, accountability, and ethical conduct. However, when universities become embroiled in corruption scandals, they highlight a profound paradox: how can institutions that preach prudence and integrity become embroiled in malpractice? The recent allegations surrounding Lofa University in Liberia, where three senior officials faced scrutiny for payroll malpractice involving \$75,000, raises critical questions about the governance of academic institutions and the implications of their mismanagement of funds. Over the past few decades, there has been a growing global emphasis on accountability and transparency in educational institutions. Universities must adhere to stringent ethical standards, especially concerning financial governance. Yet, the case of Lofa University suggests a troubling departure from these expectations. The alleged mismanagement of funds highlights deficiencies in oversight and accountability and exposes a troubling dissonance between principles espoused by educational leaders and their actual conduct. The first point of contention is the perceived role of universities as defenders of public trust. When a university becomes a microcosm of the people's trust, its leaders are assumed to be paragons of virtue, promoting ethical behavior among students and faculty. This notion of 'trust defenders' implies a responsibility to uphold the highest standards of integrity, especially in managing financial resources, often dependent on public funds or student tuition. However, the allegations at Lofa University expose a stark hypocrisy: those tasked with safeguarding these resources are implicated in malpractice, effectively betraying the trust placed in them by the community. This misalignment sets a poor example for students, who look to university officials for guidance on ethical behavior. When individuals in positions of power engage in corrupt practices, it sends a conflicting message about the values the institution seeks to instill. Ironically, universities are often portrayed as bastions of integrity, education, and moral fortitude. The actions of the senior officials at Lofa University contradict this portrayal, as they engage in behavior that undermines public trust and confidence in the institution. Such actions may catalyze a broader acceptance of unethical behavior among the younger generation, perpetuating a cycle of corruption and a disregard for accountability. The situation at Lofa University raises another pressing issue: the potential impacts on student morale and institutional reputation. For a university to thrive, it is essential to impart knowledge and foster an environment of trust and ethical standards.

On campuses shadowed by corruption, students are less likely to fully engage with their educational experience. In an environment where fear prevails, academic integrity becomes compromised, and students might feel disillusioned about their educational pursuits and future aspirations. Furthermore, reportorial coverage of scandals, such as the one involving Lofa University, can tarnish the reputation of educational institutions, leading to decreased enrollment and a loss of public support. Another critical angle to consider is the question of governance structures within universities, notably Lofa University. The mismanagement of funds at Lofa University suggests a potential breakdown in the governance

Moreover, the involvement of external bodies, such as the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission in the Lofa University case, can play an essential role in promoting accountability. While Lofa University must develop internal oversight mechanisms, collaboration with governmental agencies can help reinforce this oversight. The investigation's findings may serve to hold individuals accountable, promote institutional reforms, and prevent future corruption. Internal and external governance are crucial for an effective educational environment where trust can be reestablished and upheld. Additionally, Lofa University must engage the community in dialogues about ethical standards and financial accountability. Transparency in operations can help rebuild public confidence and trust, which incidents like those at Lofa University have critically undermined. Hosting community engagement forums and inviting feedback from stakeholders, including students, faculty, and the public, can create a more sustainable model for governance and accountability within educational institutions. These suggestions are geared towards helping Liberia catch up to other nations in socio-economics, justice, human rights, and educational developments in the remaining first part of the 21st century as the world gears up for the second half of the 21st century. Such efforts can foster a collaborative culture where individuals take ownership of the institution's integrity, ultimately promoting shared responsibility for ethical behavior. The disappointment surrounding the allegations at Lofa University ultimately represents a broader crisis of trust in the higher education sector, particularly in a nation where resources are scarce and students' opportunities hinge on their institutions' integrity. Alarming, the case is not isolated; other universities worldwide have faced similar scrutiny. The need for institutional integrity is critical, especially in a landscape where public confidence is already fragile. Universities, notably Lofa University, must strive to embody their ethical principles; otherwise, they risk leading the future generation astray and undermining democracy. The allegations of payroll malpractice at Lofa University signal a troubling disconnect between the ideals universities are supposed to represent and the reality of their operations. Educational institutions are entrusted with the critical task of shaping future leaders; thus, they must be held to the highest standards of integrity. The evidence of senior officials' mismanagement raises questions about governance, transparency, and ethical behavior within higher education. For universities to serve effectively as microcosms of trust, they must prioritize accountability, engage in reform, and cultivate a culture of integrity. Only then can they regain the public's trust and fulfill their mission of education and enlightenment for future generations.

In the battle against corruption, universities must preach prudence and embody it, ensuring they do not become enablers of misconduct rather than defenders of trust.



framework meant to oversee financial operations. Effective governance relies on established policies and procedures and leaders' commitment to upholding ethical standards and prioritizing transparency. When individuals in positions of authority abuse their power, examining the broader governance structure becomes imperative. Was there adequate oversight? Were there mechanisms for accountability? If the answer to these questions is no, it underscores the need for serious reform in how Lofa University manages its interests and operates financially. Change must be multifaceted in order to address the issues at Lofa University.

First, an emphasis must be placed on cultivating a culture of accountability within educational institutions like Lofa University. This shift can begin with rigorous training and development programs for university officials focused on ethical decision-making and financial management. Furthermore, Lofa University should establish stronger internal controls over finances and implement external audits to ensure transparency in its operations. By tackling governance issues from the inside, the institution can mitigate the risk of misconduct and instill a renewed sense of integrity in its operations.

“Please grant her justice”

Dagbayonoh Kiah As known, she and others planned Nyanfore II, a Liberian and executed the civil war, which and international writer caused Doe's death and the and former schoolmate of removal of his government from President Boakai, has appealed to power. the president to grant justice to In 2016, Mrs. Doe took the case to Mrs. Nancy B. Doe, widow of ECOWAS Court. In 2019, the former President Samuel K. Doe. court agreed with her complaint In Nyanfore's letter delivered to of human rights violation and the Executive Mansion in awarded her \$18M. Since the February 2025, he wrote that Mrs. decision, the George Weah Doe has been denied her human administration failed to settle and constitutional rights. Mrs. Doe or negotiate with her. He indicated that “past Nyanfore sees Mrs. Doe's plight administrations have failed to as a human rights issue, arguing




enforce judgments rendered in her that besides being the former first favor by the Liberian Supreme lady, she is a Liberian citizen Court and the ECOWA Court.” whose rights must be protected The letter gives the background of and enforced by the constitution. the matter, stating that the case She committed no crime and started during former President rightfully is entitled to her money, Ellen Johnson's administration yet she and her children have when in 2011, Mrs. Doe suffered immensely. Further, complained to the Liberian court since her husband's death, the that the administration failed to government has neglected to give her \$4,947,830 legally enforce court rulings favoring her owned by her late husband, regarding her properties. Samuel Doe. Nyanfore is appealing to Accordingly, “while president, President Boakai's principles to Mr. Doe was a silent investor in consider Mrs. Doe's plight. He several businesses, including a argues that “Liberians may differ diamond and gold enterprise in regarding the April 12 coup that Liberia. That company earned brought Doe and the PRC into over \$2M annually in net revenue. power. But should Mrs. Doe and Doe deposited his money in the her family suffer for the Bank of Credit and Commerce overthrow? Should the rights of International (BCCI) in Liberia. those who benefitted from and During the civil war, BCCI worked in the Doe regime be collapsed. The National Bank of denied? Should their children's Liberia liquidated BCCI deposits rights also be violated? Should the and became the bank agent. The rights of future first ladies be National Bank later became the breached once their husbands are Central Bank of Liberia (CBL). no longer in office? We must, by Neither the bank nor the our conscience, answer as a government claimed the money nation.” when they received it. While the He further stated that Liberian Sirleaf administration used part of “history has shown that the the money to pay one of its violation and denial of human and officials, it stopped Mrs. Doe constitutional rights have led to from accessing the fund. Mrs. prolonged injustices. Thus, the Doe took the matter to the victims took drastic action against Supreme Court, which ruled in the violators, resulting in an ugly her favor in 2019, awarding her wound. We must prevent a repeat \$5,209,382 in addition to 6% of that event. Hence, as our interest. national head, President Boakai However, the Sirleaf government must take leadership for justice, failed to comply, dragging its feet peace, reconciliation, and unity. while Mrs. Doe and her children Nyanfore complimented the suffered. Some analysts president for establishing the suggested that Sirleaf did not Office of the War and Economic honor the court ruling for fear that Crime Court in Liberia. He told the Doe family would use the the president. “I applaud and money to oppose her government. congratulate you for this effort. It

signifies your commitment to the will of the Liberian people for justice to those perished and affected by the civil crisis and for redress regarding economic crime.” In an interview with New Dawn, Nyanfore told the paper that Mrs. Doe's issue is beyond legal appeal. It calls for human conscience, the inner feeling for rights, justice, fairness, and compassion. Nyanfore added that President Doe was not a saint. However, Doe helped many people. For instance, he saved Ellen Sirleaf from execution after the coup and made her advisor to the new government. He made Joseph Boakai minister of Agriculture in his government. He freed him from arrest after being accused of embezzlement of government funds. He financially helped George Weah in Weah's football career in Liberia. In fact, a New York Times article states below Doe's effort in Weah's soccer profession. "Weah might have remained in Liberia, a talented but unschooled local player, were it not for the personal intervention of President Doe. Doe made Weah the national team captain and invited him to the presidential palace to talk soccer strategy. After victories, he would distribute a briefcase full of cash to Weah and his teammates. At a time when Liberia's economy was collapsing, Doe sent the national team, including Weah, to Brazil for advanced training. For Weah, at least, Doe's investment paid off. In 1988, the French club A.S. Monaco signed him [Weah] to a contract", the Times wrote. Nyanfore told the New Dawn that his appeal is not for the president to give justice to Mrs. Doe because of her husband's benevolence but because it is the right and just thing to do. Nyanfore also applauded President Boakai for stating in his recent State of the Nation Annual Address to the legislature, expressing the establishment of a committee for the honorable burial of late presidents Tolbert and Doe. But he said the pronouncement would have been much better if politics were removed from the effort. One good way would have been to address settling Mrs. Doe so that she could fund the proper memorialization of her husband.

Starts from Back page **Senate upset over non-payment to health sector** received their full payment for fiscal year 2024. This is affecting quality delivery of basic health services. Therefore, I'm asking plenary to take the appropriate action by calling the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health to appear before the Committee of Whole to provide justifications to this issue. Our people are dying. No drugs", Sen. Konneh laments. Grand Kru County Senator, Numene T. H. Bartekwa, in a frustrating tone, describes the health sector of Grand Kru as deplorable, worst and urgent. According to him, of an appropriation of US\$100,000 to Grand Kru hospital, the county only received twenty thousand (US\$20,000) from the government in 2024 with not account for the balance. "I want to thank my brother for bringing this out. Grand Kru case is worst everywhere. Our health system is in serious mess. We don't have any ambulances and bikes to go in far-to-reach areas to help our people, who are sick. We have three hundred ten (310) health officers, 50% are volunteering and they are yet to get on payroll despite efforts. But Nimba County lone Senator Nyan D. Tweyan, Jr., refutes claims of special treatment, while stating that Nimba County health sector is still facing challenges over placement of volunteers on government payroll besides lack of drugs. "Let me say this; there is nothing like special treatment here. I was in my county recently and there is nothing like drugs. We are having problem because we don't have volunteer health workers on payroll and so most of them are leaving the county. Now, it's my request that the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service appear and tell us what is happening. We put money in the budget and so, they need to tell us what is happening", he insists. Similarly, several lawmakers from the other affected counties are concern about not receiving full payment, which they say is undermining health services, especially in areas of logistics, including drugs, vehicle, ambulance and volunteer health workers. Following the debate, the Liberian Senate decided to summon the Ministers of Health and Finance, including the Civil Service Agency (CSA) to appear and provide clarity on the reported delay in disbursement and or payments to various health centers across Liberia. The Senate took the decision on Thursday, March 13, 2025, during its 16th day sitting with a strict mandate that the three government entities cited be represented by their heads and principal deputies. The Senate in its fight for accountability, will also demand the Minister of Health to present a copy of its budget and performance report for fiscal 2024, including list of drugs imported and distributed to health centers since taking over as Minister. The Liberian Senate has also requested the Minister of Health to appear along with other relevant health institutions, including the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and the National Drugs Service (NDS) to state why health centers are not receiving drugs as per budgetary allotment for fiscal year 2024. During the 2024 budget year, the Senate approved over seventy million United States Dollars (US\$70 Million) in the 2024 fiscal budget. However, disbursement for this amount has been delayed since allotments were made under the period. The above entities cited are expected to appear next Thursday, March 20, 2025. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.
SITTING IN ITS DEC. TERM 2024

BEFORE HIS HONOR: SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR.....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

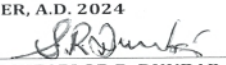
THE PETITION OF JERRY SAAH FAHNBULLEH, OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, ATTY. NAOMI CRUSOE THOMPSON PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF HIS MINOR SON B. JERRY J. FAHNBULLEH, JR., TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "JERRY JOSHUA FAHNBULLEH".

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

THE PETITIONER BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL FILED A PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT REQUESTING THIS HONORABLE COURT TO ORDER THE CHANGE OF NAME OF HIS MINOR SON FROM B. JERRY J. FAHNBULLEH, JR., TO JERRY JOSHUA FAHNBULLEH. During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his son's name requesting from this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his truthful name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him. That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that his son was born on November 3, 2023, in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, and that he was born unto the union of Mrs. Tetee Nelson Fahnbulleh and Mr. Jerry Saah Fahnbulleh, all of the Republic of Liberia; and that the Change of his son's name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his just identity more firmly and that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his son's name in this jurisdiction. The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name B. Jerry J. Fahnbulleh, JR., be changed to "Jerry Joshua Fahnbulleh" beginning this 28th Day of October, A.D. 2024. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid. THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

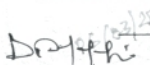
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER, A.D. 2024

COURT SEAL:



SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, PRESIDING
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 2025 PAGE(S) 00044276



REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.

By Lincoln G. Peters

regarding gradual full payment of funds to Grand Bassa, Nimba and Bong counties, while other counties are yet unable to even get 25% of funds to their

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



According to him, he has

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0886978282 / 0775407211 | **Email:** info@thenewdawnliberia.com

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline "JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections", a calendar with the title "New Dawn CALENDAR", a brochure with the title "BROCHURE", and a magazine with the title "New Dawn Sports". The publications are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion against a blue background.