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Minister,  
Sara Beysolow Nyanti

# 15 cases of fraud busted

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# Snowe wants audit findings on LTA published

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Edwin M. Snowe

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# Continental News

## Can the Doha meeting end war in Congo's east?

By Laetitia Lago Dregnounou

Tuesday's meeting between the leaders of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in Qatar rekindled hopes for a resolution to the war in Congo's east. The meeting was the first time the two leaders talked directly after several months of trading hostile barbs. The party of Congo's president believes Kinshasa has the momentum after a

successful campaign to internationally isolate Kigali. "First of all, we have to recognise that the M23 has never been in favour of peace, because on several occasions they have been offered the hand of peace, but they have never accepted it, whether at the meetings of the presidents of the SADC, the EAC or the ECCAS. But today this ceasefire has been imposed on them not only by the African

authorities but also, and above all, by Resolution 2773 of the United Nations Security Council, and to that we can add the sanctions that have been imposed on them by the United States and Europe," said Jean Thierry Monsenepwo, a member of the Sacred Union, President Felix Tshisekedi's coalition. On Monday, the EU announced sanctions against Rwanda, a rare occurrence. But whether these incentives can force Kigali into concessions remains to be seen. Already controlling two mineral-rich provinces, the rebels hold significant sway. Last December, a meeting between the two leaders in Angola's capital was aborted after the Rwandan president was a no-show. Kinshasa now appears willing to hold direct dialogue with the rebels, a suggestion it considered a non-starter until two weeks ago.



DR Congo President Felix Tshisekedi

## Ghanaian Journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas wins \$18M in US defamation case against former MP

A U.S. court has ruled in favor of Ghanaian investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas, awarding him \$18 million (£14 million) in damages after finding that former Ghanaian MP Kennedy Agyapong defamed him. The dispute traces back to Agyapong's remarks following Anas's 2018 BBC investigation into football corruption across Ghana and Africa. In a 2021 podcast, Agyapong accused Anas of being a "criminal" and falsely linked him to the murder of journalist Ahmed Hussein Suale, who was killed in 2019. Seeking justice, Anas filed a lawsuit in New Jersey, where Agyapong owns property. On Tuesday, an eight-member jury in Essex County Superior Court upheld an earlier verdict, holding Agyapong liable for defamation. The ruling included \$8 million in punitive damages. Anas hailed the decision as

a victory for press freedom and investigative journalism. "This is not just about me but about truth and accountability. No amount of threats will stop us from exposing corruption," he said. Agyapong's legal team argued that the lawsuit did not belong in the U.S. and that his remarks should be considered opinions rather than defamatory statements. However, the court rejected these claims. Meanwhile, in Ghana, police

have arrested a suspect linked to the killing of Ahmed Hussein Suale. The individual allegedly shared images of the journalist with a well-known politician before his death. Suale had worked with Anas on the football corruption exposé featured by BBC Africa Eye. Despite ongoing challenges, Anas remains committed to his investigative work, emphasizing that intimidation will not deter his pursuit of justice and accountability.



In this photo taken Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, Anas Arimiyaw Anas, investigative journalist, centre,

## Thousands of South Africans express interest in US resettlement plan

Nearly 70,000 South Africans have shown interest in relocating to the United States following Washington's initiative to resettle members of the country's Afrikaner community, according to a business group. The South African Chamber of Commerce in the USA (Saccusa) reported that its website was inundated with registrations from individuals seeking more details about the program. In a February executive order, President Donald Trump stated that

affiliated entity but became involved in the registration process after an influx of inquiries about the resettlement initiative, Diamond told broadcaster Newzroom Afrika. While some white South Africans claim they face discrimination, their concerns have gained traction among right-wing groups in the US. However, more than three decades after apartheid ended, South Africa's white minority continues to control most of the nation's private land and wealth. Tensions between Pretoria and Washington intensified in January when South African President Cyril Ramaphosa enacted legislation permitting land



Migrants from Venezuela line up in the cold weather for hot drinks and food from volunteers at a makeshift camp on the U.S.-Mexico Border in Matamoros, Mexico, Dec. 23, 2022.

Afrikaners—descendants of predominantly Dutch settlers from the 17th Century—qualified for refugee status as they were “victims of unjust racial discrimination.” Diplomatic relations between the US and South Africa have deteriorated since Trump took office in January. Saccusa described the submission of the registration list to the US embassy in Pretoria as a “significant milestone.” An embassy representative confirmed to the BBC that the document had been received. According to Saccusa's president, Neil Diamond, 67,042 individuals registered, with the majority bearing Afrikaner or English surnames. The group noted that most applicants were between the ages of 25 and 45 and had two to three dependents. Saccusa, which represents South African businesspeople residing in the US, is not a government-

expropriation without compensation in cases deemed to serve the “public interest.” This law followed longstanding demands for land redistribution, with activists and political leaders advocating for the transfer of farmland from white landowners to Black South Africans. Trump reacted by issuing an executive order extending refugee status to Afrikaners, arguing that they were facing “state-sanctioned racial discrimination.” By March, Trump broadened the offer to include all South African farmers, describing the country as “a dangerous place for them.” The following month, he cut financial aid to South Africa. Ramaphosa pushed back against Trump's remarks, asserting that no land had been confiscated and that the new legislation aimed to guarantee “fair and just access to land in accordance with the constitution.” Despite this, diplomatic hostilities have escalated. Last week, Washington expelled South Africa's ambassador, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio branding him a “race-baiting politician.”



# 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 Bright Simons

## Trump's War on Foreign Aid and the Rise of Transactional Diplomacy

ACCRA – US President Donald Trump's decision to gut USAID – effectively dismantling 42% of the global humanitarian-aid system and jeopardizing millions of lives – has reignited the debate over the effectiveness of foreign assistance. With many developing countries trapped in a seemingly inescapable cycle of aid dependency, it is increasingly clear that the dominant model is ill-suited to today's economic and geopolitical realities. But many of the alternatives being pondered in the Age of Trump offer no real solution, either.

Foreign funding has long been a key driver of global development, shaping economic trajectories in ways that are often overlooked. The United States itself relied on foreign financing during its War of Independence, and China's industrial boom was partly driven by Japanese soft loans. Japan, too, sought World Bank financing to build the power plants that fueled its rapid growth. Even the United Kingdom turned to the International Monetary Fund 11 times between 1956 and 1977 – more frequently than today's most aid-dependent African economies. And in the late 1940s, Spain turned to Argentine handouts after being excluded from the Marshall Plan. Even the mobile payment platform M-Pesa, long a symbol of African self-reliance on innovation, got its start with the support of an aid grant.

Until the late 1970s, most IMF loans went to what are now considered advanced economies, with nearly 72% of IMF lending directed to these countries in the 1960s alone. But over time, the most dynamic and enterprising economies managed to break free from aid dependency, and development assistance dwindled, eventually becoming a negligible fraction of global financial flows.

Today, the foreign direct investment passing through the Netherlands alone each year is roughly 15 times the global aid budget. With a few exceptions, like the Asian Tigers in the late 1990s or Greece and Portugal in the 2010s, the past few decades have shown that aid dependency is not inevitable.

But accelerating economic development requires a sustained global effort. Regrettably, wealthy countries' commitment to the traditional aid paradigm – as outlined in the Addis Ababa Agenda and championed by the European Union – has always been tenuous at best. This is evident in their failure to meet their 1970 pledge to allocate 0.7% of their gross national income to development assistance. Within just three years of setting that target, OECD countries' average contribution had already fallen to 0.27% of GNI. In 2023, it was 0.37%.

Meanwhile, as emerging economic powers like China and the United Arab Emirates assume a larger role in shaping the rules of the international system, a more transactional approach to aid – explicitly tying development assistance to business interests and geopolitical objectives – is gaining traction. This signals a reversion from today's aid paradigm to the era when aid was primarily driven by explicit self-interest. At gatherings like the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, policymakers call for a new multipolar age in which developing countries in Africa and elsewhere would be able to assert their sovereignty, engage with “development partners” on their own anti-colonial terms, and no longer serve as a “graveyard” for Western aid projects.

Western policymakers seem oblivious to these developments. While they mourn the humanitarian fallout from USAID's demise, such as the escalating famine in Sudan, Russia and other powers are busy cutting strategic deals. For example, even as 60% of Uganda's HIV budget hangs in the balance, its government is forging new energy and infrastructure partnerships with the UAE. But few expect rising economic powers like China and the UAE to assume traditionally Western roles like distributing antiretrovirals and menstrual pads or defending press freedom and judicial independence. Although they may occasionally make such gestures for optics, they have no intention of reshaping recipient countries' institutions or pushing for systemic reforms.

The St. Petersburg model of development cooperation is narrower, more explicitly transactional, and far less institutionally intrusive than its Western counterpart. It makes no lofty promises. Instead, it operates as a kind of portmanteau diplomacy – a blend of strategic gifts, investments, and land acquisitions, unburdened by grand ambitions or the risk of losing credibility when such promises fall short.

Trump's transactional mindset aligns seamlessly with this paradigm shift. But while proponents of the portmanteau model present it as a pragmatic approach to development, their claim that it creates a faster escape route from aid dependency veers into utopianism. China's assistance of this type has done little to accelerate Zimbabwe's economic development; if anything, it has deepened the country's reliance on aid.

To be sure, the Western paradigm has failed to live up to its promises. But its likely replacements offer little cause for optimism. Lacking the vast development-consulting industry that has grown around the Western model, emerging powers remain unwilling to engage in the institutional oversight needed to create localized alternatives. There are no drawn-out deliberations or endless hand-wringing, as is often the case with Western aid. When the going gets tough, countries like China simply walk away.

In my home country, Ghana, the transactional aid model has resulted in abandoned Chinese-built dams and failed Indian-backed gold and sugar refineries. While activists like me have long criticized the European aid model for being co-opted by a cabal of local and Western insiders, the new wave of projects financed by emerging powers has been even more damaging. But regardless of the aid model, the fundamental challenge facing low-income countries remains unchanged: unlike Asian and European countries that successfully moved beyond aid dependency, countries like Ghana continue to grapple with a political elite seemingly incapable of effective policy leadership. Consequently, other domestic actors, such as the vibrant civil-society watchdogs in Ghana and Kenya, must rise to the occasion and monitor development spending to ensure better coordination, prioritization, and efficiency.

Activists celebrating the potential emergence of a post-imperial, agency-driven, multipolar aid system would do well to remember that economic progress will remain out of reach as long as civic disempowerment persists. Until we confront this fundamental challenge head-on, no aid paradigm will be able to put developing countries on the path to economic independence.



OP-ED

by Jim O'Neill

Will the Dollar Continue to Fall?

LONDON – Although I no longer live and breathe the markets on a daily basis, I have never forgotten some key lessons I learned early on as an economist working in the financial industry: it is much easier to be wrong than right.

Consider one of the big, early surprises of 2025. Late last year, following Donald Trump's election victory, the US dollar was steadily rising, reflecting widespread expectations of relatively robust US economic growth, additional fiscal stimulus, and new or somewhat higher tariffs that supposedly would strengthen the dollar further. Instead, the dollar has been declining sharply.

Something else I learned early on is that, given the size and depth of the foreign-exchange market – where all known information gets priced in very quickly – it pays to be skeptical of overwhelming consensus views. Often, some element of the consensus outlook proves rather questionable. For example, I found it odd that so many forecasters saw tariffs as pro-dollar and unlikely to be overly disruptive to the US economy, despite being a net negative for US consumers.

Then there is the fact that some of Trump's closest economic advisers have spoken openly about the need for other currencies to be stronger. That is why they have been pushing some new version of the famous 1985 Plaza Accord, whereby Japan and Germany agreed to strengthen their own currencies against the dollar to placate the United States. The so-called Mar-a-Lago Accord is supposed to do the same.

What seems clear to me is that the Trump administration is focused on US manufacturing and its own definition of competitiveness, neither of which offers much basis for expecting a persistently strengthening dollar. True, the usual counter-argument is that tariffs are needed because the dollar's strengthening cannot be stopped, given the “exceptional” US economy's unrivaled merits. America is “exceptional.” It boasts deep, liquid financial markets and cutting-edge technology, and it is preeminent in security matters and superior to its peers in terms of overall growth.

If the dollar's relative weakness in 2025 is merely a price correction, these fashionable arguments will likely re-appear and carry it upward again. And yet, there are cyclical, structural, and even systemic factors that may make continued dollar weakening more likely.

On the cyclical front, recent high-frequency data point to a near-term softening of the US economy, with the closely watched Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's GDPNow tracker forecasting negative growth for the first quarter of this year. Of course, it is too early to know whether this will be borne out. But while it could be just a temporary or technical artifact of the data, it is hardly the only warning sign. The latest business and consumer confidence surveys also give cause for concern.

Moreover, even people outside of the financial industry are becoming more unsettled about future inflation. The latest University of Michigan five-year inflation expectations survey (one of my own favored indicators) shows a rise to 3.9% – the highest in more than 30 years. If this trend persists, watch out.

Some analysts argue that this index is not as reliable as it once was, owing to changes in the survey methodology and the suspicion that Democratic voters are more inclined than Republicans and independents to respond. But professional pollsters know how to account for such discrepancies, and unless the actual calculation is somehow more biased toward Democrats, this argument is unconvincing.

In any case, many more commentators are suddenly talking about US stagflation, and owing to Trump's erratic and aggressive behavior, other countries are not simply standing still. As I noted last month, policymakers in many countries – especially in Europe, but also in China – recognize that they must make changes to reduce their economies' dependence on the US.

All these developments in the US and globally can account for the dollar's recent decline. But there is also a more fundamental issue apart from what might otherwise be a “cyclical” decline. If Trump persists with tariffs and they do raise US inflation and create knock-on effects in the real economy, the longer-term equilibrium value of the dollar is likely to be less than it might have been. This, too, would warrant an adjustment in the price of the greenback – and perhaps a rather large one, if Trump keeps doubling down on his current approach.

That brings us to the systemic dimension. There is a long-running academic debate about why the dollar's strength has persisted for so long, with some arguing that its value goes hand in hand with US power as a security guarantor and the dominant player in the post-World War II multilateral institutions. If the US is now abandoning these roles, others will be forced to stand up for themselves, and the dollar's unquestioned dominance could finally come to an end.

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OPINION

by Olivier De Schutter, Jennifer Clapp

The Biofuel Sham Could Worsen Global Hunger and Inequality

WATERLOO/BRUSSELS – Another major source of greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions is poised to use biofuels to “decarbonize.” The shipping industry has now joined the auto and aviation industries in viewing this “cleaner” alternative to fossil fuels as a means of reducing its emissions, without meaningfully changing its activities. But the benefits of biofuels have often been overstated, and their costs underestimated.

International shipping uses more than 300 million tons of fossil fuels annually – some 5% of global oil production. The industry is responsible for 3% of global GHG emissions – above the level of industrial powerhouses like Germany or Japan.

The United Nations' maritime regulator, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), is seeking to change this. In 2023, the IMO committed to target a 20% reduction in shipping emissions (striving for 30%) by 2030, and a 70% reduction (striving for 80%) by 2040. Since then, it has been working with its 176 member states to negotiate a set of measures that would advance these objectives and bring shipping emissions “close to zero” by 2050.

But the April 2025 deadline for a final framework is looming, and last month's negotiations in London produced limited progress. As Constance Dijkstra, IMO Policy Manager at the advocacy group Transport & Environment, noted, “We still do not know how much ships will be expected to reduce their emissions, and which fuels and technologies will count as green.” The answers to those questions – including whether biofuels are embraced or rejected – will be the difference between important progress and environmental disaster.

As matters stand, the IMO will implement a “global fuel standard,” which would require ships to use lower-emission fuels during the transition to zero-emission alternatives. Some IMO members – notably, Brazil – say that biofuels should be central to this initiative. Brazil, a major producer of crop-based biofuels, would profit handsomely from such an approach. But there is nothing sustainable about it.

One recent study projects that, if included in the IMO's global fuel standard, biofuels could power up to 36% of global shipping activity by 2030, 59% by 2035, and 76% by 2040. Since waste-based biofuels would be able to cover only a small percentage of demand from the shipping sector, production of crop-based biofuels, made from palm oil, soy, and maize, would have to increase substantially.

Cultivating these crops would require vast amounts of land – about 35 million additional hectares, equivalent to the land area of Germany or Zimbabwe, by 2030, according to the same study. That could mean razing forested land and thus removing the stores of carbon located there. It could also mean diverting land from food and feed production, though in practice, this would likely necessitate the expansion of agricultural land to compensate.

The effects of such indirect land-use change would negate any emissions savings from switching away from fossil fuels. Moreover, as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN has warned, using farmland to fuel ships, rather than to feed people, will drive up food prices and make it harder for vulnerable populations to access sufficient nutrition at a time when hunger and malnutrition are already on the rise. According to the World Bank, a mere 1% increase in global food prices can push a whopping ten million people into extreme poverty.

Making matters worse, the kind of large-scale monocropping typical of biofuel production uses huge amounts of water and polluting fertilizers. The resulting environmental degradation threatens future food production, meaning that even the “temporary” embrace of biofuels as a transition fuel would lead to greater food insecurity, worse health, and increased poverty in the long term. The embrace of biofuels would also exacerbate poverty in another way: the economic benefits of biofuel production are disproportionately captured by large-scale agribusinesses, to the detriment of small farms.

Given all this, it is imperative that the IMO exclude crop-based biofuels from its final framework, focusing instead on sustainable alternatives like e-fuels and wind power. Early investments are essential to guarantee a sufficient supply of such fuels, so that the shipping industry can meet the IMO's targets. At the same time, strong fuel standards must be matched by an ambitious carbon levy on shipping emissions, which is necessary to generate revenues to facilitate the industry's transition toward new energy solutions in an equitable way.

The April deadline for finalizing these measures is fast approaching. While decarbonizing shipping could not be more important, the use of biofuels would fail to advance that imperative, and it would undermine the health and well-being of people and the planet for years or even decades to come. The shipping industry needs to look beyond biofuels and invest in truly sustainable energy sources – before it sails us into disaster.

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Stop Following Those Headless Snakes: Political Self-Proclaimed Leaders Without Direction or Willpower:

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

In a dimly lit room, faded posters of political leaders line the walls, remnants of a time when hope flickered brightly in the hearts of the young. Colorful images of protests, chants for freedom, and passionate speeches resonate with an echo of nostalgia.

The air is thick with memories of revolution, of those who have fought for political identity, rights, and freedom from oppression for all Liberians.

Yet, today, the vibrant spirit of the Liberian youth/young people appears dulled, overshadowed by the apathy that comes from years of manipulation and disenchantment.

Liberia's urban centers throng with young people. They gather in groups, their chatter rising above the honking vehicles, the sizzle of street food, and the rhythmic beats of music from neighboring shops. Some wear caps emblazoned with political party logos, while others sport t-shirts featuring portraits of leaders.

Yet, as one glance closer, it becomes apparent that many of these young people are merely puppets, strings pulled by figures who promise change but deliver only deception.

These so-called leaders, resembling headless snakes, slither through the political landscape, evacuating their followers of hope and direction, leaving them without a clear path toward genuine progress.

Liberia's youth/young people seem trapped in a cycle of naive loyalty, attending rallies, waving flags, and chanting slogans without understanding the true essence of political engagement.

It starkly contrasts with the fervor observed in the 1970s and 1980s, when young Liberians were at the forefront of political activism, their minds aflame with ideas of nationalism, democracy, and social and economic justice.

Members of that generation marched for the right to speak freely, advocated for the poor, and sought a nation where every citizen, not just the political elites, could thrive.

Fast forward to recent gatherings of today's youth/young people, where excitement and enthusiasm wane.

The once-electric air of potential activism has been siphoned off by the repetitive cycle of disillusionment.

After discussing the upcoming 2029 presidential and general elections at the Handz-On-Barbershop in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, a young man told me, "There are too many empty promises." Another young man echoed his peers' sentiments, "Why should we believe anything will change?"

This resignation is a summation of the repeated betrayals experienced over decades as young people witness leaders turn their backs on the principles they once championed.

For many young Liberians today, this reality is a stark reminder of the downfalls of leadership devoid of integrity and vision.

Present-day leaders, often self-proclaimed champions, navigate a political landscape rife with corruption and mismanagement.

They rise to power through populist rhetoric and promises of change, yet their intentions, shrouded in secrecy, become painfully apparent when they achieve their coveted positions.

Chicken-feed (politics) politicians treat the electorate as mere fodder for personal gain, with no thought for the future they are meant to guide.

The ghost town feels the emotional exhaustion trailing behind these promises.

The papers might be alive with bold headlines proclaiming that the latest political party has launched its campaign, but there's an evident disconnect at the grassroots level.

Young people listlessly clap and shout but lack the spark of genuine belief.

They know well that these rallies have little weight in changing their reality, almost as if they have become spectators in a play devoid of substance.

Alternatives emerge in the following discussions.

Voices call for a different way forward.

Some propose, "What if we could create real change ourselves?"

Ideas flow about returning to grassroots movements, connecting with communities, and focusing on self-empowerment.

It is a craving for a way out, a longing to reclaim the autonomy that generations before them fought for so bravely.



The question arises: how did the change happen?

When did young people transition from active agents of political change to followers of ineffective leaders?

It is a question rooted in Liberia's historical context, which has marked civil wars, economic turmoil, and a deterioration of trust in political institutions.

The catastrophic events shaped a generation haunted by trauma, robbing them of the energy required to stand and fight as their predecessors once did.

Instead, this new generation has inherited a political environment exhausted by corruption, where the concept of a principled leader feels like a distant fantasy.

Delving further into the past, one realizes that the youth movements of the late 20th century were not just movements. They were a clarion call for visionaries who could lead them with clear principles and moral clarity.

The students of the University of Liberia organized protests demanding freedom, social justice, and an equitable distribution of resources. They were fearless advocates who stood firm against prevailing narratives and were never willing to be silenced.

As a youth at that time, now a young man (Austin S. Fallah), I was allowed to serve as a guest speaker at an occasion held by Liberian Women United For Business at the Monrovia City Hall, spoke on the topic "The Importance of the Liberian Woman in the Family." In my discourse, I said, "We must rise and ensure this madness of abuse of women must stop and stop now!" A young woman in the crowd of over 500 jam-packed Monrovia City Hall shouted amidst her peers, "I agree with you," her voice a balm for those seeking direction.

Her voice echoed the power of the youth and the importance of thought leadership, which is essential in creating alternative political landscapes.

I am calling on all of us to educate ourselves. What change do we want, and how can we achieve it without following those headless snakes?

My impassioned plea in this write-up/article must ignite a spark within all of us for a better tomorrow.

Instead of blind allegiance, we, the young people and the youth of our motherland, should be active participants, responsible, and accountable. The shift is palpable.

Young women and men must engage in vigorous discussions, exploring ways to leverage social media to build awareness about issues affecting our motherland, start local initiatives, and influence policy through civic engagement and demonstration that holds no iota of water for the nation.

The poetry of the young people's words frames a vision grounded in creating inclusive spaces, empowering every young person, and amplifying underrepresented voices.

Reflecting on this, one understands that the headless snakes symbolize a more significant threat than political incompetence.

They represent a cycle of dependency that keeps generations shackled without guidance.

These figures bewitch the political landscape. A siren's call lures the young into a perpetual loop of futility.

Liberian youths/young people must understand that they have the agency to break these chains.

They must learn that power lies not in naive loyalty but in discerning leadership evaluation.

As discussions should ripple through the crowd, that change is undeniable.

Some voices will begin to talk about holding leaders accountable, while others will focus on the importance of voter education.

The aim is not to unquestioningly endorse new leaders but to demand a set of principles and policies and the culture of

malaise that has become the status quo.

An awakening begins when they seek to restore integrity and purpose in their political landscape.

The conclusion becomes clear: youth must avoid following the headless snakes of unschooled and ill-fitted political leadership but instead look towards their sages, ancestors, and each other for direction.

Authentic leadership can emerge within the nuances of logic, reason, and shared experiences.

By harnessing their potential, driven by the historical fervor and spirit of activism, they can transcend the repetitious failures of the past.

As the sun rises over Liberia's landscape, illuminating the young people/youth's faces filled with renewed hope, it signals a new beginning. Liberia's landscape illuminates the youth's faces.

The vibrant colors of awakening promise a genuine place where the leaders are not merely self-proclaimed but are genuinely committed to the cause of unity, empowerment, and progress.

The Liberian young people/youth stand poised, ready to reclaim their narrative, not as blind followers but as a collective force for change, armed with the history they must honor and a future they are determined to build.

No longer will they follow the "headless snakes."

They will forge the political paths that lead to true prosperity.

The time has come for young/youthful Liberians to step forward, dispelling shadows of the past, seizing control of their destiny, and illuminating the way for generations to come.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# House extends Cole & Flomo's suspension

*The Majority Bloc at the House of Representatives extends the suspension of two members of the House by additional 30 days.*

*By Bridgett Milton*

Monrovia, Liberia, March 20, 2025 - The House of Representatives extends the suspension of Bong County District #3 Representative J. Marvin Cole and Montserrado County District # 13 Representative Edward P. Flomo, for an additional 30 session days after they defied Plenary's

directive to stay away from the Capitol Building. Their initial suspension, which began on November 19, 2024, ended here Tuesday, March 18, 2025, but lawmakers ruled that their actions amounted to disrespecting the body's decision. Representatives Cole and Flomo were seen on multiple occasions within premises of the Capitol Building, in direct defiance of the terms of their initial suspension

by plenary. Meanwhile, Montserrado County District #15 Representative Abu B. Kamara's suspension has been lifted after he was recognized for serving his suspension. Plenary noted that while Rep. Kamara complied with the terms of his suspension, Reps. Cole and Flomo continuously disregarded Plenary's decision. As a result, their suspension has been extended until May 2025, bringing the total number of lawmakers currently under suspension to 18, all from the Minority Bloc that is in solidarity with embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. Cole and Flomo now join a growing list of suspended lawmakers, including Cllr. Fonati Koffa, Dixon Seboe, Jacob Debee, Frank Saah Foko Jr, Eugene J.M. Kollie, Yekeh Kolubah, Alex Sunnyboy Noah, Musa Bility, Muka Kamara, Luther Collins, Thomas Goshua, and Rev. Samuel Enders. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# LRA, MFDP brainstorm on revenue collection

*A Partial view of the meeting at the LRA headquarters on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, chaired by Minister Ngafuan*

*By Stephen G. Fellajuah*

Paynesville, Liberia, March 20, 2025 - The Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), James Dorbor Jallah, and his senior management team on Wednesday (March 19) hosted a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), led by Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, for a strategic working session at the LRA Headquarters in Paynesville.

According to a press release, the crucial meeting underscored the importance of deepened collaboration between the two government entities in mobilizing and efficiently collecting revenue to support Liberia's development agenda. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to working together more effectively to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities for revenue growth through the full implementation of the country's revenue laws.

"We have come to receive an update on revenue performance and gain deeper insights into the challenges you face. Our goal is to work collaboratively to enhance revenue generation and drive national development," Minister Ngafuan stated during the engagement.

The meeting also delved into the potential implications of evolving circumstances, particularly the USAID situation, which could negatively impact personal income tax revenues. Discussions covered assessments of policy measures adopted during the crafting of the 2025 national budget, as well as recent amendments to the revenue code aimed at optimizing tax collection. Minister Ngafuan commended the LRA for exceeding its 2024 revenue target. The LRA successfully surpassed the projected US\$690 million in domestic revenue, collecting over US\$693 million. The Minister expressed optimism for sustained growth and stronger fiscal management in the years ahead.

For his part, Commissioner General Jallah acknowledged the

Ministry's continued support, which he credited as a key factor in the LRA's success. He outlined a couple of challenges and emphasized the need for increased budgetary allocation to zaddress them and to enable the Authority to meet its ambitious domestic revenue target of US\$804.6 million for 2025.

The three-hour session focused on the rigorous enforcement of revenue laws, particularly the full implementation of key legislative amendments such as the new VAT law which kicks off on April 1, the Road Fund Act, and other critical tax reforms.

The meeting concluded with both institutions reaffirming their shared commitment to revenue mobilization as a fundamental pillar of Liberia's economic stability and development. *Press Release*



# LACRA to distribute over 50,000 coffee seedlings to farmers

*By Stephen G. Fellajuah*

Paynesville, Liberia, March 20, 2025 -The Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) says it is ready to distribute over 50,000 coffee seedlings to farmers across the country, as part of its efforts to boost the economic benefits of the agricultural sector. The seedlings, developed by LACRA, will be distributed to farmers as part of the agency's ongoing commitment to supporting the agricultural community. LACRA promises to continue its efforts until farmers are well-supported. Deputy Director General, Mr. Alpha Kortu Gongolee, revealed that the initiative also aims to increase the availability of high-value products, such as coffee, which he highlighted as a crucial agricultural commodity in the country.

"We have been engaging with farmers and have identified coffee as one of the most significant agricultural products for them," he

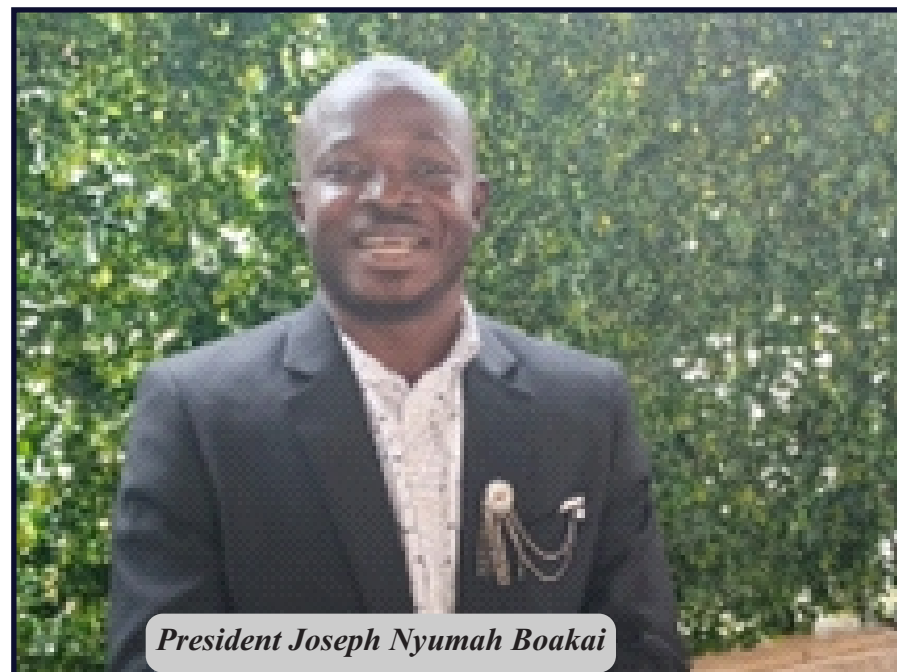
export.

According to Mr. Gongolee, under the new leadership, LACRA has implemented systems, such as export records, that have contributed to the sector gaining regional and international recognition.

LACRA was established to replace the Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC) as outlined in Chapter 57 of the Executive Law of 1973, with the goal of promoting the production, processing, and marketing of high-quality agricultural commodities, particularly cocoa and coffee.

On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, Mr. Alpha Kortu Gongolee was honored by Excellent Media Incorporated at a ceremony held at the Royal Grand Hotel in Monrovia. The event was attended by staff of the Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA) and well-wishers.

He has been instrumental in promoting Liberia's agricultural sector, particularly in regulating



*President Joseph Nyumah Boakai*

said.

Mr. Gongolee also noted a significant increase in cocoa production, stating that since the new administration took over, they have identified key challenges facing farmers. He shared that between April and December 2024, Liberia exported 33,000 tons of cocoa, marking a historical increase in exports.

His emphasized that systems are now in place at various border points to prevent the illegal transport of agricultural products to neighboring countries, which has historically affected Liberia's economy. These systems are also designed to encourage farmers to bring their products, including coffee and cocoa, to Monrovia for

and supporting the production and export of key commodities such as cocoa, coffee, and oil palm.

His role has contributed to enhancing the quality and competitiveness of Liberian agricultural products in international markets.

The recognition by Excellent Media Incorporated underscores Mr. Gongolee's dedication to agricultural development and his efforts to improve the livelihoods of farmers across Liberia.

During remarks at the ceremony, he expressed gratitude for the honor and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the nation's agricultural industry.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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### Over USD \$77K Worth of Drugs Seized in Foya

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) has seized a large shipment of drugs worth USD \$77,200 in Foya District, Lofa County.

By: Kruah Thompson

Foya, Lofa County, March 20, 2025: On March 17, 2025, at around 10:45 PM, the LDEA received a tip-off about a black pickup truck with a Liberian license plate (A533348) traveling from Sierra Leone to Monrovia. Acting on the information, the LDEA and other security teams stopped the truck in Foya and took it to the local police station for inspection.

During the inspection, the driver, 43-year-old Fayiah Lamie and his colleague Mohamed Silla from Monrovia, initially claimed they were only carrying clothes and slippers for sale. However, after searching the vehicle, the LDEA officers found 772 plates of high-grade marijuana worth USD \$77,200 (14,668,000 Liberian dollars) and eight boxes of Tramadol worth

USD \$842 (160,000 Liberian dollars).

Lofa County Superintendent J. Lavelah Massaquoi reacting to the seizure said, in continuation of President Boakai's zero-tolerance policy on drugs, the government is committed to fighting the drug issue and will take the fight everywhere, not just in Montserrado County.

He emphasized that the efforts of the joint security in seizing such a large quantity of drugs demonstrate their vigilance at various border points. He assured that they will do everything possible to eradicate drugs from Liberia.

He further called on the people of Lofa County to join the effort, stating that securing the future of the youth will require a collective effort from all.

Meanwhile Lamie Mohamed was arrested and is now under investigation. They are expected to face charges in court anytime soon.



### House reviews bill on salary standardization

-In public universities

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives is reviewing a draft bill, seeking to harmonize salaries in public universities and colleges across the country.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 19, 2025 - The House of Representatives instructs its committees on Education, Judiciary, Internal Affairs and Ways, Means and Finance to review a proposed bill titled "An Act to Establish Education Standardization of Salaries and Benefits in Public Universities and Colleges in Liberia."

The House took the decision here on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, following bill's presentation to Plenary by Lofa County District #

3 Representative Momo Siafa Kpoto.

The seeks to bring uniformity and fairness to compensation of educators and staff across Liberia's public higher education institutions.

Rep. Kpoto is hopeful of cooperation and support of his colleagues, emphasizing that the proposed legislation, when passed, will bring total relief to the school system across Liberia by ensuring equitable treatment of academic personnel and improving overall quality of education.

He notes that Article 29 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, empowers the Legislature to enact laws in the interest of citizens, adding that after consultations with some academicians, he deems it most expedient to introduce the bill for consideration.

The Lofa County lawmaker reiterates that the legislative instrument will bring total relief to the school system, considering the confidence reposed in them as the people's deputies.

Meanwhile, Plenary has forwarded the bill to the relevant Committees to thoroughly review it and provide expert advice upon their return from legislative break. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



### Snowe wants audit findings on LTA published

Senator Edwin Snowe of Bomi County is calling for release of audit findings from the Liberia Telecommunications Authority for the sake of transparency and accountability.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, March 20, 2025 - Bomi County Senator Edwin M. Snowe petitions the Liberian Senate to immediately demand from the General Auditing Commission full disclosure of findings of audits conducted at the Liberia

date, this Plenary has not received any findings or report from the GAC's investigation. Therefore, I call on this Honorable Body to immediately demand that the Executive Branch account for its actions and that the GAC presents the findings of its audit without any further delay. The Senate cannot and must not remain silent



Edwin M. Snowe

Telecommunications Authority (LTA) and to review President Joseph N. Boakai's suspension of ex-officials of the LTA.

Senator Snowe notes that prolonged inaction and disregard for due process are a direct affront to the rule of law and the integrity of Liberia's governance system.

He says the continued failure to present findings of the GAC's audit raises serious concerns about transparency, accountability, and respect for tenure positions as enshrined in Liberia's legal framework.

Snowe in a communication to Senate President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence on March 18, 2025, writes that he likes to bring the attention of Plenary to the prolonged suspension of the entire Board of Commissioners of the LTA by President Boakai since April 26, 2024.

Accordingly, he explains that the aspersion was prompted by concerns involving alleged questionable nature of certain financial transactions as detailed in the Status Report on operations of the LTA.

As the results of the allegation, the General Auditing Commission (GAC) was mandated to spearhead an investigation as well as to conduct a comprehensive audit, covering activities of the tenure of the suspended Commissioners.

"However, it has been 11 months or nearly a year since this directive was issued, and to

in the face of this blatant disregard for the controlling laws of Liberia", he underscores.

Senator Snowe suggests that should the audit establish financial improprieties; the appropriate legal and administrative measures must be taken.

Conversely, if no wrongdoing is found, then the suspended Commissioners must be immediately reinstated and granted their full benefits as required by law and best practices.

He calls on the Liberian Senate to rise to its constitutional duty to protect due process, uphold the rule of law, and prevent the continued abuse of power, adding that the time for action is now!

Meanwhile, he argues that the suspended Commissioners remain in a state of indefinite suspension without due process, and despite the fact that their suspension did not include the withholding of salaries and benefits, they continue to be denied their just entitlements.

"Even more concerning, is the fact that individuals continue to serve in these positions in an acting capacity, tenure-protected positions under our controlling laws without the Senate's Confirmation or oversight. These acting commissioners are making major decisions and implementing policies that affect the Telecommunications Sector without the proper legal authority, undermining the role of this legislative body" he warns.

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**



# Français

## Le gouvernement libérien prévoit de mobiliser 2,36 milliards de dollars pour le développement du capital humain

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, Augustine Ngafuan, a annoncé que le gouvernement libérien prévoit de mobiliser 2,36 milliards de dollars américains de ressources internes et externes pour le développement du capital humain.

Ce financement, prévu sur une période de cinq ans, s'inscrit dans le cadre du pilier « Développement du capital humain » du plan national de développement, l'Arrest

Agenda.

« Le coût total de l'AAID s'élève à 8,4 milliards de dollars, et le pilier du développement du capital humain sera le deuxième plus grand bénéficiaire des ressources mobilisées, après celui du développement des infrastructures », a déclaré le ministre Ngafuan dans son discours principal lors de la commémoration du 216<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de naissance du premier président du Liberia, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, à la First United Methodist Church de Monrovia.

Un engagement pour l'éducation et

la formation technique

M. Ngafuan a précisé que, dans le cadre de ce programme, le gouvernement prévoit notamment :

La construction, la rénovation et l'extension d'infrastructures éducatives adaptées aux défis climatiques ;

L'équipement des écoles en matériel scientifique et technologique (STEM) ;

Une augmentation de 10 % du taux de scolarisation des enfants en situation de handicap ;

L'introduction de filières d'enseignement technique et professionnel (TVET) au niveau secondaire et la modernisation des centres de formation existants dans plusieurs régions du pays.

« Pour atteindre ces objectifs, nous nouerons des partenariats solides avec tous les acteurs, y compris le secteur privé et des organisations philanthropiques comme la Fondation J.J. Roberts », a souligné le ministre.

93 millions de dollars déjà mobilisés pour l'apprentissage fondamental



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Les citoyens soutiennent l'extension du contrat d'ArcelorMittal Liberia

L'accord minier en cours de négociation entre ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) et le gouvernement libérien reçoit un soutien croissant de la part des communautés hôtes.

Les chefs, anciens et citoyens de Yarmein et Seh Zor, dans le comté de Nimba, ont exprimé leur appui ferme à la prolongation de l'investissement d'ArcelorMittal Liberia ainsi qu'à la ratification de son troisième Accord de Développement Minier (MDA).

Dans une déclaration publiée le 18 mars 2025, les habitants ont affirmé leur volonté de voir AML poursuivre et étendre ses opérations sur leur territoire à travers l'amendement et l'adoption du nouvel accord.

Un partenariat bénéfique pour les communautés locales

Les citoyens ont souligné que leur position repose sur les nombreuses contributions de l'entreprise, notamment la création d'emplois, le soutien aux infrastructures sociales, l'amélioration des secteurs de la santé et de l'éducation, ainsi que la promotion des entreprises locales et l'augmentation des recettes nationales.

« Des entreprises sont venues et reparties, mais AML est restée à nos côtés en période de crise, notamment pendant l'épidémie d'Ebola et la pandémie de COVID-19 », ont-ils rappelé. Reconnaissant les défis

rencontrés par l'entreprise, ils ont admis que certaines dispositions du MDA actuel n'avaient pas encore été pleinement mises en œuvre, tout en soulignant que toutes les obligations financières avaient été respectées.

Engagement pour une collaboration constructive

Les représentants communautaires ont assuré leur engagement à poursuivre un dialogue constructif avec AML, le gouvernement et les autorités locales afin de garantir l'application complète des engagements contractuels, présents et futurs.

Ils ont également insisté sur leur volonté d'inciter l'entreprise à améliorer ses engagements envers les communautés hôtes et se sont félicités de la reconnaissance, par AML, des défis existants et de sa volonté affichée

de les résoudre.

« Nous sommes des personnes attachées à nos traditions et nous n'utilisons pas la politique pour influencer nos décisions. Il serait injuste d'ignorer les bienfaits qu'ArcelorMittal a apportés à notre pays et à nos communautés », ont-ils affirmé.

Avec plus de 3 000 employés libériens et 5 000 autres travaillant pour des sous-traitants d'AML, l'entreprise demeure le plus grand employeur privé du Liberia. Son soutien aux entreprises locales et ses contributions fiscales, notamment par le biais des taxes et redevances, jouent un rôle clé dans le financement des salaires des fonctionnaires et le développement socio-économique



# 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<sup>e</sup> 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 gouvernement libérien prévoit de mobiliser 2,36 milliards**

Mettant en avant des succès récents, M. Ngafuan a révélé que le gouvernement libérien a obtenu une subvention de 93 millions de dollars de la part du Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation (GPE) et de la Banque mondiale en 2024 pour soutenir l'apprentissage fondamental dans le cadre du programme EXCEL (Excellence in Learning Project).

Ce programme vise à renforcer l'éducation de la petite enfance et l'enseignement primaire (du CP au CM2) à travers :

La rénovation, l'extension et la construction de nouvelles écoles dans les 15 comtés du Liberia ;

L'amélioration des programmes scolaires et la production de nouveaux supports pédagogiques, y compris numériques ;

Le renforcement du système éducatif grâce à des normes améliorées, une meilleure collecte des données et des mécanismes de suivi plus efficaces.

Un engagement gouvernemental en faveur du développement

« En tant que ministre des Finances, je suis optimiste quant à l'avenir du Liberia. Malgré les défis actuels, le gouvernement du président Joseph Boakai œuvre sans relâche pour faire du pays une économie à revenu intermédiaire d'ici cinq ans », a affirmé M. Ngafuan.

La cérémonie, placée sous le thème « Renforcer

les partenariats pour le développement et l'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation des enfants libériens », a rassemblé de nombreuses personnalités, parmi lesquelles l'ancien gouverneur de la Banque centrale, le Dr Mills Jones, l'ex-représentante du Liberia auprès de l'Union du fleuve Mano, Mardina Wesseh, ainsi que plusieurs membres du gouvernement, des jeunes, des étudiants et des bénéficiaires de la bourse J.J. Roberts.

Joseph Jenkins Roberts : Premier président du Liberia

Joseph Jenkins Roberts, premier président du Liberia, est né le 15 mars 1809 dans l'État de Virginie, aux États-Unis. Séduit par le projet de la Société américaine de colonisation, qui visait à établir une colonie au Liberia, il décide d'y émigrer avec sa famille.

Le 9 février 1829, Roberts embarque à bord du navire Harriet en compagnie de son épouse, de son enfant, de sa mère et de ses frères et sœurs. En juillet 1847, onze délégués proclament l'indépendance du Liberia, et Joseph Jenkins Roberts est élu premier président du pays le 5 octobre 1847, avant d'être investi dans ses fonctions le 3 janvier 1848.

Starts from page 8 **Les citoyens soutiennent l'extension**

du pays. Un impact économique et social renforcé par le nouvel accord

Le nouvel accord de développement minier devrait permettre la création de plus de 5 000 emplois directs et indirects, réduisant ainsi le chômage dans les communautés hôtes.

« Nous avons demandé à la direction d'AML que nos communautés bénéficient davantage de leurs opérations. Nous avons appris que le fonds de développement social des comtés augmentera, que le gouvernement percevra 200 millions de dollars par an grâce à AML, et que de nombreux autres avantages seront apportés. Nous nous réjouissons de ces avancées », ont-ils déclaré.

Ils ont également exprimé leur gratitude envers AML pour les travaux de modernisation des routes communautaires, notamment la réhabilitation et le pavage de la route reliant Ganta à Sanniquellie, et ont plaidé pour l'extension de ces efforts jusqu'à Yekepa.

Recommandations pour une négociation équilibrée Tout en soutenant l'extension du contrat, les citoyens ont soumis plusieurs recommandations au gouvernement libérien afin qu'elles soient prises en compte lors des négociations avec AML :

Augmenter le fonds de développement social en fonction de l'accroissement de l'exploitation minière. Créer un compte spécifique pour les fonds destinés au

développement local.

Garantir un usage préférentiel du chemin de fer pour ArcelorMittal Liberia.

Mettre en service la clinique de Gbapa et déployer des cliniques mobiles dans les communautés impactées.

Encourager les projets agricoles et le soutien à l'entrepreneuriat.

Étendre les formations professionnelles et techniques pour les résidents.

Assurer un suivi rigoureux du respect du MDA avec la participation des représentants communautaires.

Mettre en place des mesures de protection de l'environnement.

Garantir des pratiques d'emploi équitables avec une priorité accordée aux habitants des communautés hôtes.

Soutenir les programmes de santé et d'éducation, notamment l'appui aux enseignants, aux agents de santé et aux étudiants.

Améliorer les infrastructures locales, y compris les systèmes d'approvisionnement en eau, la réhabilitation des écoles publiques et le développement urbain.

L'appel à l'extension de l'investissement d'ArcelorMittal Liberia et à la ratification du nouvel accord traduit une approche collaborative entre les communautés locales, l'entreprise et le gouvernement, visant à garantir un développement durable et mutuellement bénéfique à long terme.

## Boakai Appelle à un Système d'Examen Inclusif

Le Président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a appelé le Conseil des Examens de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WAEC) à adopter des politiques d'examen inclusives afin de garantir des opportunités égales à tous les élèves, notamment ceux en situation de handicap.

S'exprimant lors de la 73e réunion annuelle du WAEC au complexe ministériel EJS de Congo Town, le président Boakai a souligné l'urgence d'« aménager des environnements d'examen qui répondent aux besoins des élèves handicapés. Briser les Barrières dans l'Éducation

"Il est essentiel que le WAEC-Libéria mette en place des conditions d'examen accessibles à tous les apprenants, avec des aménagements tels qu'un temps supplémentaire, des formats alternatifs, un encadrement spécifique et des centres d'examen

adaptés", a déclaré Boakai.

Il a insisté sur le fait que l'élimination de ces obstacles donnerait aux élèves handicapés la possibilité de réussir et de contribuer pleinement à la société. "Chaque apprenant doit avoir la chance de briller, parfois même au-delà des attentes", a-t-il ajouté.

Partageant son expérience personnelle, le président a rappelé que sa propre mère était en situation de handicap et a mis en avant l'impact positif de l'inclusivité dans l'éducation. "Imaginez le changement profond qu'une telle réforme pourrait apporter, non seulement pour ces élèves et leurs familles, mais aussi pour la société dans son ensemble", a-t-il affirmé.

Un système éducatif inclusif, selon lui, enverrait un message fort : le Libéria valorise la diversité et s'engage à offrir à chaque citoyen la possibilité de

## Les États-Unis brisent le silence sur les restrictions de visa

Le département d'État des États-Unis a clarifié qu'aucune liste de restrictions de visa n'existe à ce jour. Toutefois, il mène une révision de plusieurs mesures en accord avec le décret exécutif du président Donald Trump visant à renforcer la sécurité aux États-Unis et à contrôler l'attribution des visas.

Réagissant aux inquiétudes soulevées par une vidéo circulant sur les réseaux sociaux, la porte-parole du département d'État, Tammy Bruce, a réfuté l'existence d'une prétendue liste de restrictions de voyage visant le Liberia et d'autres pays.

"Tout d'abord, il n'existe aucune liste. Ce que les gens voient ces derniers jours ne correspond à aucun document officiel en notre possession. Il s'agit bien d'une révision, conformément au décret du président Trump, afin d'examiner les mesures qui permettront d'assurer la sécurité des États-Unis dans le cadre de l'attribution des visas. Cependant, ce qui est présenté comme une initiative officielle du département d'État ne l'est tout simplement pas", a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle a ajouté que, tant que cette révision ne sera pas achevée, il ne sera pas possible de commenter davantage la question.

Réaction du gouvernement libérien

De son côté, le gouvernement libérien, par le biais du ministère des Affaires étrangères, a déclaré qu'il ne prend pas à la légère les informations faisant état d'éventuelles restrictions de voyage imposées par Washington. Le ministère a qualifié ces spéculations de "surprise totale".

Tout en appelant les Libériens au calme, la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, a assuré que le gouvernement engageait des discussions diplomatiques afin d'obtenir des précisions sur la situation.



"Les informations relayées par la presse et les réseaux sociaux nous ont pris de court. Dès leur publication, nous avons immédiatement contacté l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia, qui nous a confirmé n'avoir aucune information à ce sujet. Ce sujet a également été évoqué dans le journal *New York Times*. Nous ne prenons pas cela à la légère, qu'il s'agisse d'une information véridique ou trompeuse", a-t-elle affirmé.

Mme Nyanti a par ailleurs indiqué que depuis son entrée en fonction, elle a collaboré étroitement avec le gouvernement américain pour répondre aux exigences nécessaires en matière de visas, notamment par l'envoi de courriers officiels et la tenue de réunions à Washington.

contribuer au développement national. Un Appel à la Collaboration

Le Président Boakai a exhorté le WAEC à travailler en étroite collaboration avec le gouvernement libérien afin d'assurer que les besoins des élèves marginalisés soient pris en compte. Il a plaidé pour un système éducatif véritablement équitable, non seulement pour le Libéria, mais pour toute la région ouest-africaine.

"La force d'une nation repose sur sa capacité à élever et à autonomiser chaque citoyen, en veillant à ce que personne ne soit laissé pour compte", a-t-il déclaré. "Que ce 73e anniversaire du WAEC ravive notre passion commune pour l'éducation."

Il a appelé les acteurs du secteur éducatif – responsables gouvernementaux, administrateurs scolaires et parents – à s'engager à résoudre les problèmes entravant l'accès à une éducation de qualité, en

particulier pour les enfants issus de milieux défavorisés.

Prioriser l'Éducation pour l'Avenir Boakai a mis l'accent sur la nécessité d'augmenter les investissements dans l'éducation, notamment en renforçant la formation des enseignants, en améliorant les infrastructures scolaires et en certifiant les éducateurs pour optimiser les résultats d'apprentissage.

Il a aussi insisté sur l'importance de la littératie numérique, appelant les établissements scolaires à s'adapter aux avancées technologiques et à équiper les élèves d'outils d'apprentissage modernes.

"Chaque enfant, quels que soient ses antécédents, doit avoir accès aux ressources nécessaires pour réussir", a-t-il affirmé, tout en notant que les élèves handicapés sont encore confrontés à d'importants obstacles limitant leur plein potentiel académique.





# LIBERIANS DEBATE

**Topic: The Dismissal of Madam Emma Glassco**

**By Naneka Hoffman**

Following her recent suspension by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, the President has dismissed the Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Emma Glassco for alleged managerial and financial inefficiencies. But public reactions to the President's decision are mixed, as you may read below.



Leroy Archie Ponpon

"We want to appreciate the level of governance provided by the Joseph Boakai administration. We believe that it proceeded as though it was witch-hunting, but I don't want to agree about witch-hunting, because investigation concluded said managerial and financial inefficiencies in terms LACC and audit of donor funding. Administratively, the President has the right to suspend people based on cause. And the cause having been established by institutional

framework setup in terms of the LACC that saw managerial and financial inefficiencies and recommended audit. I believe that the President is acting from recommendation, so let's remove political witch-hunt, which I don't want to agree that it's political witch-hunt. Madam Emma Glassco must continue to use the rule of law and if she can do that, we believe that we will have the best of all governing system that we want. People must test the system; people must believe in the system; people must be able to say my right is taken from me or if it was a political witch-hunt, let use the proper channel. Her replacement doesn't cost for her not to do the right thing under the rule of law. If she was wrongly dismissed, she can equally be compensated for wrongful dismissal under the law. I think President Boakai is a President of rule of law, and I believe he trusts what he's doing."

"You see, when we were running campaign, the President told us that it will not be business as usual, and I believe there are things that Madam Glassco used to do in the past regime, and she thought it was good and at that time. There was nobody to fight for the right thing. So, they believe that they will continue to do the same. If you were doing something wrong before that you felt it was good, under this government it will not be repeated. So I think she was



Alex Tamba

replaced based on the bad attitude she was doing before."



Junior Gbehkugbeeh

"Replacing Madam Glassco with Mr. J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr., as

Acting Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) started ever since. They wanted to do it but, they were embarrassed. They couldn't do it broadly. They were wrong for replacing her. Madam Glassco raised a lot revenue for the government more than any other entity. The regime took her from there because she is a member of CDC. Boakai told us that he was going to divide the country ever since, and he did it, so it isn't strange to us."



Teddy Sariah

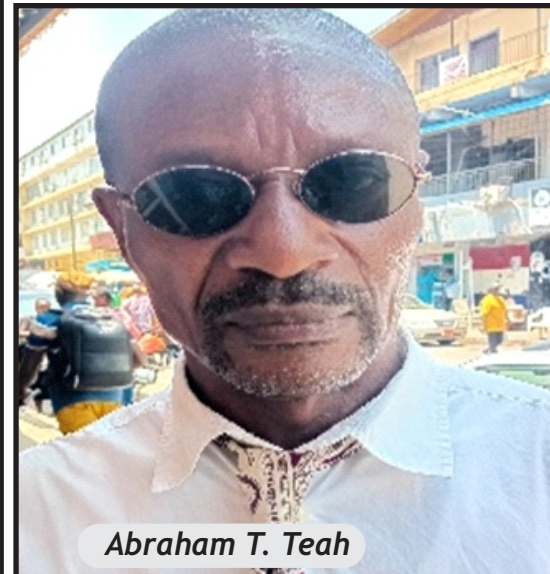
"Firstly, the government is putting us into situation that we cannot understand as citizens. How can you suspend somebody without a due process and replaced the person without

"You know this government always do things as usual. This government is in a constant behavior of disrespecting the rule of law. This government isn't sincere, for the fact that Madam Glassco was transforming that area. You know this government, anything that represents CDC, the government doesn't want to see it. Madam Glassco is a professional woman, who has transformed that sector. Boakai came to destroy the country. I see her replacement as an injustice."

telling us the citizens the reason you suspended Madam Glassco. Managerial and financial inefficiencies they have not gone into detail, managerial and financial inefficiencies is just a general word they used. Where did she corrupt from? By what process did she corrupt from? And they say insulting behavior. How did it happen? They should be telling us. We will tell this government, not because we the citizens are tolerant, it means that we are stupid. Joseph Boakai said George Weah danced Buka for six years, and he that is serious to govern, is giving us hard time."



Robert Political Zlatan Ibrahimovic



Abraham T. Teah

"The suspension and replacement of Madam Glassco

is not timely. You can't suspend and then you can't investigate why you suspended the person for, and later on you dismissed the person and have her replace. It is very illegal. It is not timey, because Madam Glassco work for long and she improved that sector. If Madam Glassco is found in managerial and financial inefficiencies, then that person should be brought to justice. So what is the stick they are using now to dismiss her? So it is illegal."

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15 cases of fraud bustedLiberia's education deficit threatens

Foreign Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti discusses success stories and hurdles in moving the nation's Foreign Service forward.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 20, 2025 - Liberian Foreign Minister, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, reveals here that an investigative panel constituted at the Ministry to look into cases of passport fraud uncovered 15 cases of fraud and impersonation that have been handed over to the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) within the Ministry for further probe.

Minister Nyanti details that the investigative panel, composed of members of the Immigration, the Liberia National Police, the National Security Agency and the Diplomatic Security Service was constituted last November, purposely to dig deeper into the passport fraud issue.

“We are happy to say that the work done by Pearson and the team has led to 15 cases of fraud and impersonation being identified and handed over to the DSS within our Ministry. Also, we have conducted a full security audit of the passport issuance procedures. The gaps we have identified led to us restructuring, adding more personnel and changing the processes for visa issuance,” she tells the Senate Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees here.

She says in March 2024, the Government of Liberia established the Department of Passports, Visas and Diplomatic Intelligence, and appointed a seasoned intelligence expert to head the department, but quickly adds, “And I want to use this opportunity to clarify to the public that Pearson is not the director of passport. He set up the entire department that covers the passports, visas, and diplomatic intelligence. The Director of Passport is under that department and that director's role was headed by Joe Mendin up until his retirement.

That demarche has been issued. We look forward to hearing from the US in relation to that.”

However, she stresses the need to exercise caution, because there have been other lists circulating around about deportation.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs under my leadership went to Washington D.C. with Assistant Minister Konneh. We engaged with the key people in the administration, we engaged with the State Department, we engaged with ICE, and today, that declaration cannot be validated. So, I just want to caution us not to take that news report as a fact to run with. However, we are not taking it lightly because there could be truth to it, there could be discussions happening where we are part of the yellow list, and because of that we issued the demarche and gave all the information to the US Embassy.”

The Dean of the Cabinet also updates the Senate on developments in the foreign service, reiterating the need to strengthening the Liberian Missions abroad, as a matter of priority, revealing “We have been approached by the US Government directly on several occasions to say that our capacity in the US is very weak; that there was a need for overhauling the entire foreign service in the US. We used that as an entry point across the foreign service to look at all of the needs.”

According to her, government has been working to ensure rotation within the Foreign Service to be able to meet the needs for the country's representation and also provide the human face so that people cannot be in a country for over 10 to 20 years.

She unveils plans that she says have been successful in strategically appointing ambassadors that will be relevant to different

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"This graduate convocation marks a significant milestone, not only for Sinoe Community College but for the entire country, as we strive to elevate our higher education landscape to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world," Dr. Nyenswah said. "The launch of these doctoral programs is a bold step forward, aiming to foster critical thinking, advance research capabilities, and build the necessary human capital to address the most pressing health and educational challenges in the country."

He called for urgent investment in the educational sector to foster sustainable national development. Tackling this deficit must be a top priority," he said. It requires government action, private sector collaboration, and international support."

Dr. Nyenswah further emphasized the need for strategic investments in teacher training, curriculum modernization, and access to quality education, particularly in rural areas. "It is necessary to build a workforce that can drive the ARREST agenda forward," he stated.

"The future of Liberia depends on today's students, and closing the educational gap is the most critical step toward national resilience and progress."

Reflecting on Liberia's past challenges, Dr. Nyenswah drew attention to the tragic Ebola epidemic of 2014-2016, which he says underscored the need for robust research and education to build national resilience. "The lessons learned from those harrowing days led to a paradigm shift in how we approach public health," he said. "The establishment of the

Department of Public Health Emergencies within the Ministry of Health and the creation of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) in 2017 were pivotal in building a resilient system. Today, NPHIL continues strengthening our country's health security through capacity building, disease surveillance, and emergency response."

Dr. Nyenswah also highlighted the role of higher education in national development, drawing on his educational journey. "If a guy from Panama, Sinoe County, and a tiny village who was once a refugee can aspire to greatness, you too can do so with your fresh AA degrees today," he said. "My own experience of earning an MPH and DrPH from Johns Hopkins University in the United States underscores the transformative power of a strong academic foundation."

He further encouraged the graduates, citing Liberia's successes in research partnerships during the Ebola outbreak, which led to the development of the first licensed Ebola vaccines. "Research is the cornerstone of innovation, and higher education institutions play a crucial role in generating new knowledge that can drive development," Dr. Nyenswah said.

The Sinoe Community College was established in 2015, and July academy work began in 2017 August with Assoc. Professor Geebae A. Geebae, as Chairman of the Board.

The convocation ceremony marked the 2nd, graduating over 32 students. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**



Minister, Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Minister Nyanti discloses that an acting director, Paul Nyafuah, was appointed, and he has put in significant reforms in relation to passports.

She says the Diplomatic Intelligence Unit has been doing a lot of work on privileged passports, recalling that in March 2024, the Ministry requested the return of all privileged passports. “If you can recall, a lot of work was done in relation to that. For those who didn't comply, all those passport numbers were shared with Interpol, and we asked Interpol to please help us to address the situation.”

On information saturating the social media about US visa, Madam Nyanti explains that when the Ministry received news, which she notes, came as a surprise, they immediately contacted the US Government through its Ambassador here, to ascertain as to the validity.

“As of the weekend, the Ambassador indicated to me that he has no information in relation to this and would seek more clarification. Subsequently, we issued a demarche to the US Government that indicates that, officially we had heard this from the report of the New York Times that is being put as draft. We don't know if this is true or not, but should this be true, should it be valid, and then stipulate all the reasons why Liberia should not be on that list. We outlined all of the steps that had been taken by Liberia over the last one year. Succinctly, we asked the US Government to please look into it.

contexts based on priorities, saying “We have been able to do that; we have been able to appoint ambassadors to strategic locations and we've been able to start to deploy.”

But the Minister points to resource constraints, underscoring that in trying to strengthen the foreign service, it requires significant resources to move people around, to have people sent out to the foreign service, to have people come back home.

“As you can recall, we have had significant pushes for us to strengthen the Foreign Service, but with the budget that we inherited, and the budget lines that we have, it is very difficult to do so. However, we have done thorough planning for the Foreign Service movement; we have had a list of people poised to be sent out to Foreign Service, people to be moved around. We are actively involved in dialogue with many of them. Some of them have been issued letters already, some have not. It's an ongoing process, but it will take time. We cannot deploy at once because we do not have the resources to do so.”

In some of the embassies, we have people but who were not on the particular function that existed. We have had some anomalies; we are addressing those. But I can also share with you some of the challenges that they face that we have not had the resources to address. One of it was just the living environment, the tools they needed to work, the conditions of the embassies needed painting, refurbishment, furniture,

vehicles. It will require significant resources for us to be able to really meet the needs of the Foreign Service personnel.

She suggests a need to establish representation in new areas for economic reasons, notably in Rwanda, where there are more than 3,000 students pursuing studies in various academic and professional disciplines, while mentioning Canada, Australia, Turkey and India.

Meanwhile, turning to plight of Liberian students in Morocco, she says the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is engaged with the Ministry of Education on students on scholarships in Morocco and their stipends.

“The Ministry of Education is on that. Up until Friday, the Minister of Education had a call with the students in Morocco. She has been able to take some steps and I believe that she will be able to make some further clarification, but I can say the categories of students in Morocco, some have overstayed since 2013 and were not in school, some completed but are stuck there. She made efforts to disaggregate the different categories and is going outside of the norm to make sure that we repatriate our students who have completed to be brought back home, and to address some of the issues”, explains.

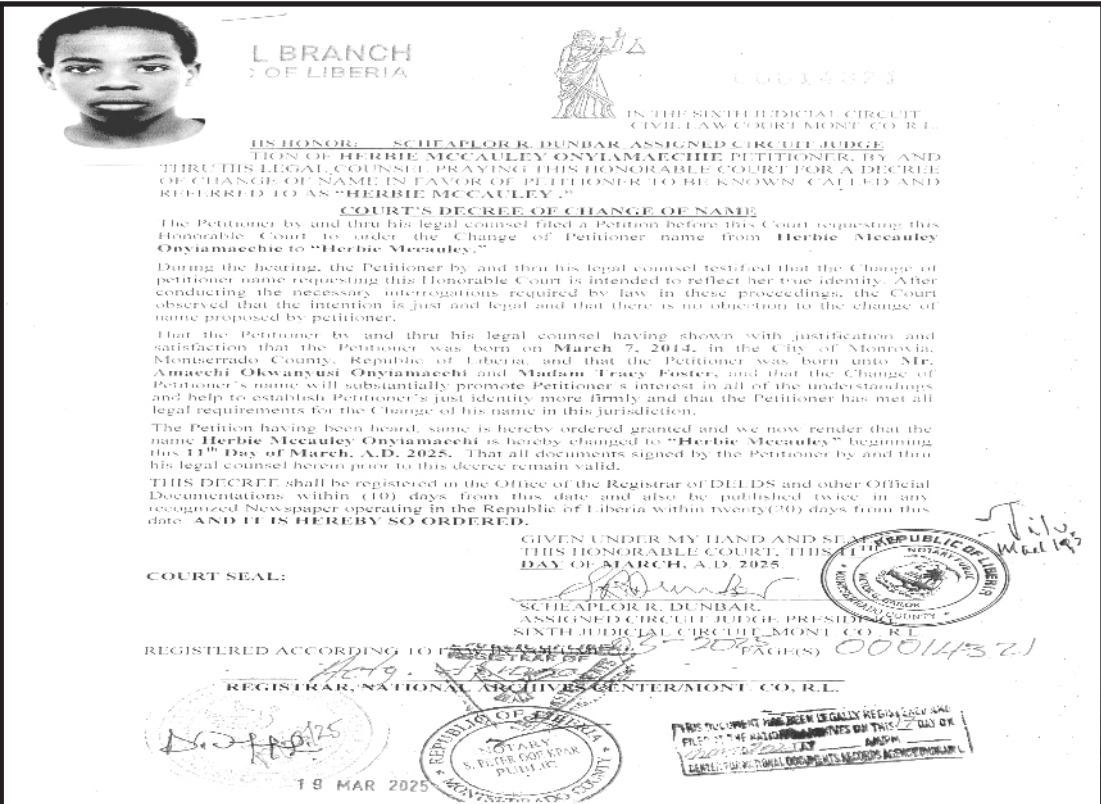
In the region, Liberia is opting for an ECOWAS training agency, and the Minister says at the last ECOWAS sitting, the Government of

Liberia approached ECOWAS through the Chair Oumar Toure, indicating Liberia's interest in hosting one of the ECOWAS institutions.

“Subsequently, I had a call with ECOWAS to say that we wanted to document this officially to request. He asked us to wait until he had put in place a mechanism for member states to express their interests. A few weeks ago, he reached out with the expression of interest for countries to indicate. We want to thank Senator Snowe for his engagement with us in this regard. He has been actively discussing with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on how to go about this. We recently had a conversation about this.”

The two institutions she says are the West Africa Health Organization and the Entity for Youth, adding “we were looking at which countries are even paying for those, and we discussed that we still register Liberia's interest in the health organization, but we will push for the youth entity.”

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai is the chief architect of Liberia's foreign policy, driving to vision to restore the nation to its rightful place among the comity of nations. **Report by Jonathan Browne**





*Dr. Nyenswah has warned of Liberia facing a severe educational deficit if much is not done to invest more in the sector here.*

He pointed out that the lack of adequate investment in the

However, he noted that the government's inability to fill these critical roles will stall national development and perpetuate cycles of poverty and dependency.

He warned that if the issues are left

Speaking as the Guest Speaker at the recent convocation ceremony of the Sinoe Community College



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