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# APM Terminal agrees to review 25 yrs deal

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**-As-NPA boss negotiates several deals at the port including CTN and Marine Services Agreements.**

## U.S. Ambassador tours ArcelorMittal Nimba Operations



**P11**

**-Shares positive impression**

## SRC's Revival Brings Hope, Dignity to Workers



**P5**

Left to right: Construction work is ongoing for a modest two-bedroom concrete home for SRC workers. Renovated and newly constructed homes under Jeety's management are visible in the background, in stark contrast to the decrepit housing units once used under Socfin's management.

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# Continental News

## Exiled South African ambassador calls for U.S. ties reset

The South African ambassador who was expelled from the United States and declared persona non grata by the Trump administration was given a hero's welcome on his return home Sunday, when hundreds of supporters gathered at an airport and sang songs praising him. The crowds at Cape Town International Airport surrounded Ebrahim Rasool and his wife Rosieda as they emerged in the arrivals terminal in their hometown, and they needed a police escort to help them navigate their way through the building. Rasool said it was important for South Africa to fix its relationship

with the U.S. after President Donald Trump punished the country and accused it of taking an anti-American stance even before the decision to expel Rasool.

The U.S. president issued an executive order last month cutting all funding to South Africa, alleging its government is supporting the Palestinian group Hamas and Iran, and pursuing anti-white policies at home. "We don't come here to say we are anti-American," Rasool said to the crowd. "We are not here to call on you to throw away our interests with the United States." They were the ex-ambassador's first public comments since the Trump

administration declared him persona non grata over a week ago, removed his diplomatic immunities and privileges, and gave him until this Friday to leave the U.S. It is highly unusual for the U.S. to expel a foreign ambassador. Rasool was declared persona non grata by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a post on X on March 14. Rubio said Rasool was a "race-baiting politician" who hates the U.S. and Trump.

Rubio's post linked to a story by the conservative Breitbart news site that reported on a talk Rasool gave on a webinar organized by a South African think tank. In his talk, Rasool spoke in academic language of the Trump administration's crackdowns on diversity and equity programs and immigration and mentioned the possibility of a U.S. where white people soon would no longer be in the majority. "The supremacist assault on incumbency, we see it in the domestic politics of the U.S.A., the MAGA movement, the Make America Great Again movement, as a response not simply to a supremacist instinct, but to very clear data that shows great demographic shifts in the U.S.A. in which the voting electorate in the U.S.A. is projected to become 48% white," Rasool said in the talk.



Expelled South Africa Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool speaks to supporters following his arriving, at Cape Town International Airport, South Africa, Sunday, March 23, 2025

## Burkina Faso denounces fake massacre videos

New videos are circulating showing civilians being escorted by armed individuals to an unknown destination. Elderly people and children unable to keep up are threatened with knives. Other footage reveals the lifeless bodies of civilians, allegedly from a massacre in Gayeri, a town in eastern Burkina Faso.

claims falsely portray "ethnic massacres." A statement from the government describes this as part of a broader "political-media campaign" aimed at tarnishing the country's image.

According to the spokesperson, the goal is to stir up "community tensions" and provoke inter-ethnic conflict. He reassured citizens that Burkina Faso remains committed to peace and the rights of all Burkinabè to live freely and

with dignity on their ancestral land. In a related development, Prosecutor Blaise Bazié confirmed the opening of an investigation into messages inciting the "extermination" of people from a particular ethnic group, often targeting the Fulani.

An appeal for witnesses has been launched, urging the public to report anyone spreading hate speech online.



Captain Ibrahim Traoré, head of Burkina Faso

## Electric tricycles empower women in rural Zimbabwe

Anna Bhobho, a 31-year-old housewife from rural Zimbabwe, arrives at market, her electric tricycle laden with tomatoes. Bhobho was once a silent observer in her home, excluded from financial and family decision-making in the deeply patriarchal society. Today, she is a driver of change in her village, thanks to an electric tricycle she now owns and uses to deliver crops for farmers in Wedza district, about 150 kilometers (nearly 100 miles) from Harare. In many parts of rural sub-

up to \$300 a month, comparable to government workers like schoolteachers. Beyond material gains, she has gained self-esteem. "Even my husband and in-laws have more respect for me now. No one used to listen to me, but now I have a seat when important decisions are being made," says the mother of three.

In Zimbabwe, the lives of many women have changed dramatically, even for those who don't own tricycles but use them for daily chores. Gone are the days of carrying firewood, buckets of water or heavy farm produce over long distances. The tricycles, able to



Josephine Nyevehe, a volunteer village health worker, conducts weekly visits on her electric tricycle in Hwedza Zimbabwe, Thursday, March 6 2025

Saharan Africa, women have long been excluded from mainstream economic activities such as operating public transportation. However, three-wheelers powered by green energy are reversing that trend, offering financial opportunities and a newfound sense of importance. "My husband now relies on me to cover most household expenses, from groceries including school fees for our children and buying furniture. Before I could not do it but thanks to this tricycle I can now also chip in and help," says Bhobho.

Called "Hamba," meaning "go" in Ndebele, the tricycles are powered by solar-charged lithium-ion batteries. Mobility for Africa, a local startup, piloted the project in 2019 by leasing the vehicles to groups of women for \$15 a month. Today, individual women like Bhobho can own them through a lease-to-purchase program. Bhobho now owns land, has opened a small grocery store, is paying off a car and has moved her children from an underfunded rural public school to a better-equipped private institution. She earns

navigate narrow paths inaccessible to cars, reach remote homesteads and vegetable gardens. Their affordability makes them accessible to locals.

Hilda Takadini, a tomato farmer, says her business has flourished since she started using Bhobho's transport services. Previously, she had to leave home at 3 a.m., using an ox-drawn cart to travel 18 kilometers (11 miles) to the market. Often, she arrived too late or not at all, and her tomatoes rotted. "In the past transporting our produce to the market was a nightmare we would wake up at 3 am and travel a very long distance using an ox-drawn cart but now it is much easier we can reach the market on time," says the 34-year-old mother of six. In Wedza, only women own and operate the tricycles. They receive training in safe driving skills, and swapping a lithium battery for a fully recharged one after about 100 kilometers (about 70 miles) costs \$1. According to Carlin Thandi Ngandu, the community engagement coordinator for Mobility for Africa, 300 women across Zimbabwe are part of the program, with a goal of ensuring that 70% of the beneficiaries are women. "We are providing rural communities with affordable transport solutions, especially to women.



# 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 Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

## Making Sense of the Tariff Chaos

NEW HAVEN – The chaotic rollout of US import tariffs by President Donald Trump's administration – targeting both allies and adversaries – defies easy explanation. As I argued in a [previous commentary](#), the United States is now pursuing multiple, often contradictory objectives. Given the structural trends driving deindustrialization in advanced economies, the prospect of reshoring manufacturing seems remote. Instead, the more plausible goal is fiscal. The current US administration claims that tariffs can generate revenue so that foreign countries are effectively subsidizing tax cuts for US residents.

Many Americans probably find this rationale compelling. After all, what's wrong with putting national interests first?

In fact, there are many problems with this approach. For starters, the administration's thinking ignores the likelihood, indeed the virtual certainty, of retaliation. Once trade partners respond in kind (which usually happens immediately), the gains from unilateral tariff increases will diminish.

True, the Trump administration is confident that the country's economic leverage is sufficient to preserve its advantages despite countermeasures. Yet a remarkable consequence of recent policy decisions is that all of America's major trading partners have united against it. Negotiating with a small economy like Colombia is one thing; but it is quite another matter to confront retaliatory action from China, the European Union, and America's US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) partners at the same time.

These dynamics underscore the very problem that multilateral trade agreements – first under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and later under the GATT's successor, the World Trade Organization – were designed to address. As economists Kyle Bagwell and Robert W. Staiger demonstrated in a seminal 1999 paper, “[An Economic Theory of GATT](#),” trade agreements exist to solve a classic prisoner's dilemma: large economies have an incentive to impose unilateral tariffs to improve their terms of trade, but if all countries engage in such behavior, the result is a race to the bottom that leaves everyone worse off.

Reciprocity and the most-favored-nation principle (nondiscrimination among one's trading partners) were institutionalized to prevent this scenario. They underpinned a system that functioned effectively for decades, until it came under attack in the mid-2010s. While the backlash against multilateralism had multiple sources, the intensifying US-China rivalry and the resurgence of geopolitical considerations played a decisive role.

The postwar trading system was premised on the assumption that countries naturally seek to maximize their own economic welfare. Yet in recent years, US trade policy has increasingly been driven by a different motive: to impede the economic ascent of competitors, especially China. This goal has taken precedence even over securing prosperity for US citizens. Seen through this lens, Trump's current tariff strategy looks more coherent. It may not benefit the US economy, but that is beside the point. The purpose is to hurt others.

This shift raises a fundamental question. In a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical rivalry, is the existing multilateral trade system obsolete? Perhaps surprisingly, a recent [working paper](#) suggests that it is not. Unless the US (or any other major economy) assigns zero value to its own welfare, there remains a strong incentive to negotiate and cooperate internationally. The specific outcomes of negotiations – such as tariff levels – may change, but the underlying rationale for global economic coordination remains intact.

Even when countries are motivated not only by absolute economic welfare but also by their relative standing (a mindset that often leads to policies designed to disadvantage rivals), there is still a case for negotiations. Countries have an interest in pursuing “Pareto improvements”: outcomes that enhance their own welfare without necessarily worsening their competitor's position. This is precisely what multilateral agreements facilitate. Cooperation would make no sense only if countries pursued Pyrrhic victories that inflicted harm on rivals regardless of the cost to themselves.

While the logic of cooperation persists, the institutional framework underpinning global trade must adapt. The same working paper suggests that we are witnessing an “unraveling” of the liberal trade order, a necessary reset that allows for renegotiation under new geopolitical realities. If so, today's escalating trade tensions could be viewed as a painful but temporary transition toward a revised multilateral framework that better reflects the evolving balance of power.

This interpretation leaves room for cautious optimism. If the transition is managed effectively, it could lead to a new, politically viable global trading system. But there are also significant risks. Protectionism and economic nationalism will inflict long-term damage if they spiral out of control. If trade policy becomes purely an instrument of geopolitical struggle, the space for cooperation could disappear altogether. History is full of unintended consequences. One can only hope that today's leaders recognize the stakes before it is too late.

*Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the [American Economic Review](#), is Professor of Economics at Yale University.*



OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

Why Global Governance Is Failing

CAMBRIDGE – The United Nations was established in 1945, succeeding the failed League of Nations, to pull humanity back from the brink of self-destruction. It was a bold experiment in collective security, designed to prevent another world war and manage conflicts through diplomacy rather than violence.

Yet, 80 years later, we find ourselves back on the precipice of disaster. Global temperatures have [breached](#) the 1.5°Celsius threshold that scientists see as a Rubicon for reining in climate change over the long term. Public trust in institutions – and in democracy – is [critically low](#), and geopolitical tensions are [rising](#). What happened?

The UN has, justifiably, drawn criticism for a variety of reasons. The composition of the Security Council is antiquated. Violent conflict, and even genocide, still occur with alarming frequency. And the organization has proven to be generally ineffectual, overly bureaucratic, and unfair in its treatment of the Global South.

But the inadequately diagnosed problem is that the UN is bringing a twentieth-century logic to bear on the twenty-first century's fundamentally planetary problems. Today's most urgent challenges – climate change, pandemics, AI regulation, financial contagion, supply-chain disruptions – do not respect national borders, yet UN institutions remain stuck in a framework of nation-states jealously guarding their sovereignty. Our international institutions simply were not designed to address essentially systemic issues indifferent to national borders. The UN is not just slow; it is structurally incapable of tackling such problems at scale.

With even conventional governance structures faltering in the face of heightened tribalism and nationalism, any proposed new paradigm of planetary governance runs the risk of sounding utopian. Fortunately, the world already has a serviceable blueprint: the European Union, for all its flaws, has demonstrated that a [supranational federation](#) can work, allowing previously warring countries to pool sovereignty in exchange for economic and political stability. Nor is this such a radical idea. In a 1946 Gallup [poll](#), 54% of Americans believed that “the UN should be strengthened to make it a world government with power to control the armed forces of all nations, including the United States.”

In 2024, by contrast, 58% per cent of Americans [thought](#) that the UN was doing a “poor job.” This description suggests that the UN needs to take a bolder approach. Big, planetary issues like global warming are what philosopher Timothy Morton [calls](#) “hyperobjects.” They are “entities of such vast temporal and spatial dimension” as to require a fundamentally different kind of human reasoning. To change how we think about such problems calls for both an intellectual and a psychological shift – beyond the nation-state, or what Benedict Anderson famously called “[imagined communities](#).”

Intellectually, planetary thinking requires its own theoretical framework. This demand is not new. In the twentieth century, John Maynard Keynes [saw a need for](#) a global currency and proposed the “bancor” to replace the dollar-focused Bretton Woods institutions; Hannah Arendt advanced her own vision of [planetary politics](#); and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin developed his [concept](#) of the “noosphere” (collective human consciousness). In more recent scholarship – from [Johan Rockström's work](#) on “planetary boundaries” to Bruno Latour's description of our [ecological age](#) – the intellectual elements of a new planetary paradigm are beginning to come together.

Psychologically, we need a new narrative. The historian Yuval Noah Harari argues that human civilization is built on [shared myths](#); nationalism, religion, capitalism. If planetary governance is to succeed, it needs to tell a compelling new story, one that moves beyond outdated ideas about sovereign nation-states to acknowledge humanity's interconnectedness.

Again, the impulse is not entirely novel. As the psychologist Ara Norenzayan has shown, many major world religions (the “[Big Gods](#)”) did exactly this. In the same vein, Joshua Greene's work on “[moral tribes](#),” [Peter Singer's](#) views on “[expanding the circle](#),” and Kwame Anthony Appiah's insights into “[how moral revolutions happen](#)” have provided much of the scientific and philosophical arsenal that we need. Equally important, imaginative works – from Octavia Butler's [Parable of the Sower](#) to Kim Stanley Robinson's [The Ministry of the Future](#) – have offered narratives to convey the urgency of the challenge we confront.

To reach people where they are, rigorous planetary thinking must be accompanied by stronger local thinking. Improvements to our governance structures must look both “up” and “down,” as the Berggruen Institute's Jonathan Blake and [Nils Gilman](#) have [put it](#). Global governance cannot succeed without resilient, empowered local structures. The nation-state would remain one element, but cities, regions, and local networks would be given more attention and integrated into planetary decision-making. This kind of nested approach could offer an alternative to the outdated system of nation-states without requiring its wholesale dismantling.

The growing urgency of planetary crises – from the 2008 financial crash to pandemics and climate change – graphically illustrate the inadequacies of the UN in its current form. The UN itself emerged from the shell of the League of Nations, and now it is time to build anew. Governance must pivot from the nation-state-based logic of the Bretton Woods system to the planetary sensibilities of the bancor. Even if the United Nations had succeeded in uniting the world's nations, its current design would be unequal to a moment defined by inherently planetary challenges. It's time to imagine new communities centered on our planetary realities.

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OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato

Resisting Digital Feudalism

LONDON – This month's AI Action Summit in Paris comes at a critical juncture in the development of artificial intelligence. At issue is not whether Europe can compete with China and the United States in an AI arms race; it is whether Europeans can pioneer a different approach that puts public value at the center of technological development and governance. The task is to move away from [digital feudalism](#), the term I coined back in 2019 to describe the dominant digital platforms' model of [rent extraction](#).

AI is not just another sector. It is a general-purpose technology that will shape all sectors of the economy. That means it could either create tremendous value or cause serious harm. Though many commentators talk about AI as if it was a neutral technology, this understates its fundamental economic power. Even if AI was free to build, it would need to be powered and deployed, which requires access to the gatekeeper's cloud computing platforms – such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud.

This dependency makes steering the technology's development toward the common good more urgent than ever. The real question isn't whether to regulate AI, but how to shape markets for AI innovation. Rather than regulating or taxing the sector only after the fact, we must create a decentralized innovation ecosystem that [serves the public good](#).

The history of technological innovation shows what is at stake. As I argued in my book [The Entrepreneurial State](#), many of the technologies that we use every day came about as a result of collective public investment. What would Google be without the DARPA-funded internet? What would Uber be without US Navy-funded GPS? What would Apple be without CIA-funded touchscreen technology and DARPA-funded Siri?

The companies that have profited from these public investments – while often dodging their tax contributions – are now using their excessive rents to drain talent from the very public institutions that made their success possible. This parasitism is best epitomized by Elon Musk's “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE), which advocates cutting the government funding programs that allowed for Tesla to benefit from [\\$4.9 billion](#) in government subsidies.

A lack of state capacity will make regulating new technologies [in the public interest](#) increasingly difficult. The state has already been depleted of expertise, owing to higher private-sector wages and decades of outsourcing to private consultants (what [Rosie Collington](#) and I call [The Big Con](#)). What happens when most technical knowledge becomes concentrated in just five private companies? Instead of waiting to find out, we must step in now to regulate AI in a dynamic and adaptable way, while the AI technology stack and various mechanisms of monetization are still evolving.

In a recent research project at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, my colleagues and I took another look at digital feudalism and the need to differentiate between value creation and value extraction in AI – what we call “[algorithmic rents](#).” We show that platforms like Facebook and Google have evolved in ways that focus on “attention rents.” As users' experience is manipulated to maximize profit, their feeds are crammed with ads and “recommended” addictive content in a process the Canadian journalist [Cory Doctorow](#) colorfully described as “enshittification.” Infinite scroll, nonstop notifications, and algorithms designed to maximize “engagement” by displaying harmful content and borderline-illegal activities have all become the norm.

AI systems could follow the same extractive path and supercharge this rent-seeking behavior, such as by requiring payment for access to essential information, data privacy, online safety, freedom from advertising, or basic listings for one's small business in global information searches. Because platforms currently hide their algorithms and attention-allocation mechanisms (the sources of their “[algorithmic attention rents](#)”), the key to regulating the sector, as in addressing climate change, is to force digital gatekeepers to disclose [how their algorithms are being used](#). This information should then be integrated into reporting standards for all digital platforms.

Similarly, AI developers like OpenAI and Anthropic hide, among other things, the sources of their training data; what guardrails they have placed on their models; how they enforce their terms of service; their products' downstream harms (such as addictive use and underage access); and the extent to which their platforms are being used to monetize eyeballs around the world through targeted advertising. Moreover, AI's large and growing [environmental impact](#) adds yet another layer of urgency to the challenge. Major AI companies' emissions have surged, leading the International Energy Agency to [warn](#) that global “electricity consumption from data centers, AI, and the cryptocurrency sector could double by 2026.”

Fortunately, recent developments suggest that alternative pathways are possible. DeepSeek, the Chinese AI company that sent many US tech stocks into a brief tailspin in late January, appears to have demonstrated that comparable performance can be achieved with significantly less computing power and energy consumption. Could more efficient approaches to AI development help break the stranglehold that major cloud computing companies have established through their control of vast computing resources?

While it is too early to tell whether DeepSeek's breakthrough will lead to a market restructuring, it does remind us that innovation at the software level remains both feasible and necessary for addressing AI's environmental impact.

As UNESCO's [Gabriela Ramos](#) and I have argued, AI can enhance our lives in many ways, from improving food production to bolstering resilience against natural disasters. European leaders from [Mario Draghi](#) to [Ursula von der Leyen](#) and [Christine Lagarde regard AI](#) as crucial for [reviving](#) European productivity. But unless they address the nature of digital feudalism, the extractive behavior that underpins AI model development, and the current lack of regulatory capacity in the public sector, any attempt to unleash more robust, sustainable growth will crash on the rocks of new and deeper inequalities. One potential path forward is “EuroStack,” an independent digital infrastructure initiative that includes cloud computing, advanced chips, AI, and data, all governed as public goods rather than through monopolistic enterprises.

This isn't about choosing between innovation and regulation, nor is it about managing technological development from the top down. It is about creating incentives and conditions to steer markets toward delivering the outcomes we want as a society. We must reclaim AI so that it provides public value, rather than becoming another rent-extracting machine. The Paris summit offers an opportunity to showcase this alternative vision.

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# SRC's Revival Brings Hope, Dignity to Workers

*"The pace at which the new management is renovating and constructing new homes gives us hope that all workers' camps will receive an upgrade within the 24-month timeframe," says James Kollie, a rubber tapper for over 10 years.*

When the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) changed ownership in August of last year, many dared to hope for a long-overdue turnaround in the living and working conditions of the company workers. Socfin, a Luxembourg multinational group that owned SRC, had just divested its investment, leaving behind years of unresolved social and infrastructural problems. But barely four months later, echoes of optimism are reverberating among workers as issues of decrepit housing units and a plethora of other problems left behind by Socfinaf are being addressed. "What we are seeing from the new SRC management is a genuine commitment to solving all the legacy issues that existed under the previous regime," says Henry George, a tapper headsman at Camp One. "We applaud them for the work being done as we look forward to seeing all the legacy issues solved."

**A Legacy of Neglect: SRC's Troubled Past**

George's comments come as business tycoon Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jeety), in the course of acquiring the SRC, made it a priority to address the damning Earthworm Foundation report, which documents a myriad of unresolved social challenges under Socfin. Among the most alarming findings of the report were the dire living conditions of workers and poor provision of social services, among others. However, these dilapidated housing units, for which Socfin was criticized for having workers live in, are being renovated, with the construction of new ones taking place as well. Over 120 homes have already been completed as part of a broader 24-month modernization plan for all the housing units in the seven camps.

"While a lot of workers at SRC are still in need of better housing, we appreciate the ongoing works so far," says James Kollie, a rubber tapper with over 10 years of experience. "The pace at which the new management is renovating and constructing new homes gives us hope that all workers' camps will receive an upgrade within the 24-month timeframe."

Echoing Kollie's sentiments, workers see the ongoing work across different segments of the plantation as a fundamental shift in how the company now treats its workforce—reflecting a management philosophy they believe prioritizes employee well-being.

However, the workers say they hope that all camps will benefit from the housing modernization process in a timely manner, so that every worker can have a home that offers better protection

against rain and extreme weather—something that has been lacking for years.

In response to the concerns, Jeety says he understands the workers' call for better homes and promises to resolve "the issues once and for all within 24 months," as the living conditions of workers worried him more than anything else. "My goal is to address all the structural issues—along with others raised in the report, including those related to employment—through a phased and systematic approach," says Jeety in a sit-down interview discussing his vision for SRC and the Earthworm report. "I want every action taken to prioritize the well-being of the workers and, as much as possible, the surrounding communities."

"So far, I have held over three meetings with workers, shared the company reorganization plan with them, and secured their buy-in—finding common ground wherever possible," he added.

Housing at SRC has been the main source of workers' long-standing grievances against the company. In June 2024, tensions peaked, triggering a violent protest, which resulted in the burning and ransacking of the company's properties, forcing Socfin to eventually shut down the company and divest.

According to Jeety, over the course of 24 months, more than 500 homes within SRC will either be renovated or newly constructed, saying the progress made so far clearly demonstrates his commitment to improving the "homes of the company's workforce."

**A vision beyond housing**

As part of his vision for SRC, Jeety has announced a series of historic first-time projects which, when completed, would improve the overall quality of life on the plantations. These projects include the provision of electricity to all camps at no cost to the workers — an amenity that was virtually unimaginable for workers years ago — and the construction of a borehole system to supply running water in every camp once all are completed.

While these projects are earmarked for completion within two years, some are expected to be ready sooner. Projects including a cost-free Starlink internet service and the introduction of an ambulance are expected to be completed by the third quarter of the year.

In planning these projects, Jeety has held countless meetings with SRC workers to discuss the final details and agree on an implementation timeline. However, the proposed two-year

timeline has led to significant disagreement, with workers describing it as "unnecessarily long"—arguing that management has what it takes to complete the projects within one year.

"These projects are truly commendable — but we do not agree with management's two-year timeframe. During our meetings, we negotiated for a one-year or one-and-a-half-year timeline, but management said they could not," says Samuel Morris, one of SRC's longest-serving workers. "We are disappointed, but we appreciate the new management's leadership style — involving us in project planning and holding regular meetings to resolve differences and find common ground. We agreed on the projects but differed on the timeline."

According to Jeety, he understands the workers' desire for fast-tracked projects but economically, it is not feasible, as changes take time and considering the long-term sustainability of the projects, the "two-year timeframe is the best."

"These projects will be provided at no cost to the workers, proper planning requires to ensure the investment long-term sustainability," Jeety added. "I inherited a business with many unresolved legacy issues, including years of losses, and it will take time to fix all the problems. The two-year timeline is more realistic as we can only do construction for 6 or 7 months a year due to heavy rains."

The internet and ambulance projects, when completed, would be a game-changer, as the rising cost of data and inconsistent network coverage across the plantations make internet access expensive for most workers. While the ambulance service will significantly reduce delays during medical emergencies — a situation that has forced workers to rely on makeshift solutions in critical moments.

The SRC school system and the health center, which were among the many poorly run facilities Jeety inherited as part of his acquisition of the company, have been completely renovated after years of neglect. The clinic now boasts a well-qualified doctor and staff, and an array of medical equipment and supplies, including a lab that can perform any diagnosis — just as it can be done at any top-notch hospital in Liberia.

The schools, including the senior high, have been renovated, boasting first-of-its-kind basic necessities like electricity, ceilings, running water, and an upgraded science lab—creating a conducive learning environment—while new school buses ferry children to and from home. Perhaps the most important of the changes has been the introduction of a daily meal program, which parents, students, and administrators say has dramatically boosted attendance and student retention.

"Our enrollment and consistent attendance rates have risen noticeably since we began offering meals," observes Cuthbert Williams, the principal of the SRC school system. "Parents see



A look inside the upgraded and fully renovated science laboratory for SRC Senior High students, part of broader educational improvements led by Jeety's management.



One of several photos showing students from SRC High School being served hot meals at no cost during recess, part of a free lunch initiative under Jeety's management.



An inside view of one of the upgraded libraries across SRC schools, renovated as part of ongoing educational improvements under Jeety's management.



Students test newly installed running water at one of the SRC schools, an improvement carried out under Jeety's management to enhance hygiene and access to clean water.



A photo of one of several deteriorating apartment units that workers lived in under former SRC management by Socfin.



One of several rundown apartment units occupied by SRC workers during Socfin's tenure..



Left to right: Workers apply finishing touches to one of several newly built, modest apartment units for SRC employees under Jeety's management, with a few completed units visible nearby.



One of several photos of SRC workers renovated housing units under Jeety's management.



A worker carries concrete blocks at the construction site of one of several new housing units being built for SRC employees under Jeety's management.



A photo of the renovated SRC Senior High School building, now managed by Jeety, reflecting significant upgrades under the new leadership.



A photo of one of several renovated classrooms at the SRC school under Jeety's management, now equipped with 24-hour electricity and ceiling fans to improve the learning environment.



A full view of the renovated SRC Senior High School campus, showcasing infrastructure improvements made under Jeety's leadership.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Bility Breaks Ground for a Major Bridge linking Nimba and Bong Counties.

Musa Bility, the political leader of the Citizens Movement for Change CMC and Nimba County District #7 Representative, has made history again by breaking ground for the construction of a large, modern bridge in Nimba County.

By: Edwin N Khakie  
Bong County, March 24, 2025: Once completed, the bridge will connect Nimba and Bong counties, boosting economic development and providing relief to residents. Bility, who is also the former

He has previously spearheaded the construction of schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure in the county. The groundbreaking ceremony, held on March 22, 2025, marked a turning point in the Counties' transportation network.



Musa Bility former president of the Liberia Football Association

president of the Liberia Football Association and a known philanthropist, has been at the forefront of development projects in Nimba County. The 90-meter bridge, which is set to be completed before December of this year, according to Bility will play a vital role in facilitating smoother travel and trade between the two counties.

During the ceremony, Representative Bility emphasized the importance of the bridge in promoting economic development and enhancing the mobility of citizens from both counties. In a heartfelt gesture of respect and recognition, the bridge was named in honor of Cllr. Tiawon Say Gongloe, a prominent figure in Liberian legal and political circles. Bility explained that naming the bridge after Cllr. Gongloe was in recognition to his tireless efforts for justice and development in Liberia and a continue call from Cllr. Gongloe to help construct a bridge on the St. John River. The Citizens Movement for Change political leader also explained that the bridge is not just a physical structure, but a symbol of unity and progress for the people of Nimba and Bong counties. He said Cllr. Gongloe's contributions to the nation are immeasurable. The project has been hailed as a major achievement for the people of both Nimba and Bong

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LLA Chairman Kpakio pledges legal action to resolve decade long land disputes

By: Kruah Thompson  
Monrovia, Liberia: The newly appointed Chairman of the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Hon. Samuel F. Kpakio, has announced plans to establish a dedicated legal team to address land cases that have remained unresolved in court for more than ten years. Hon. Samuel F. Kpakio was officially sworn in as Chairman of the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) on February 18, 2025. Prior to his appointment, he served as Director for the Department of Land Use and Management at the Liberia Land Authority (LLA). Speaking during a press briefing over the weekend, Chairman

Kpakio emphasized the need for a swift judicial action, to address the prolonged delays in resolving land disputes mainly cause by "political and legal maneuvering." He disclosed that the legal team when setup will work closely with the judiciary to explore what judicial powers can be utilized to expedite decisions on these long standing cases. "It is true that many cases appear in court and linger for three to four years, and sometimes as long as ten years, due to political and legal complexities," Chairman Kpakio said. "We are now forming a team of legal minds that will collaborate with the courts to ensure that these cases are expedited to allow room for new

cases." Chairman Kpakio underscored that the objective is to ensure that cases that have dragged on for years are curtailed, thereby reducing the backlog and enabling the judicial system to focus on emerging land disputes. Meanwhile, Hon. Kpakio expressed his commitment to transforming the Liberia Land Authority into a model of transparency and empowerment. He noted that his previous experience, having served the Ministry for four and a half years, has prepared him to drive reforms that will foster accountability and improve land governance across the country.



Hon. Samuel F. Kpakio

STAND reacts to Supreme Court's ruling

Supreme Court of Liberia's opinion comes under stern criticism here.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, March 24, 2025 - A Liberia grassroots advocacy organization, Solidarity and Trust for A New Day (STAND), publicly condemns Supreme Court of Liberia recent ruling pertaining to the writ of injunction against the Liberia National Police's enforcement of a no-go zone for commercial motorcyclists. STAND labels the Court's ruling as biased, unconstitutional, and an overreach influenced by Boakai Administration. In a ruling delivered last Friday by Associate Justice Ceaneh Clinton-Johnson, the Supreme Court denied the injunction petition filed by STAND, paving the way for the Police to continue their enforcement actions. STAND National Chairman, Mulbah Morlu, criticizes the Supreme Court for what he perceives as a misalignment with principles enshrined in the Liberian

upcoming protest, the spotlight will be on both the organization and the government, as both sides navigate through these contentious paths that may lightly lead to a standoff. Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police (LNP) has launched a comprehensive five-year strategic plan that prioritizes soft security measures over traditional hard enforcement, which has often been associated with violence and social unrest. The initiative aims to address root causes of crimes by fostering sustainable livelihoods for youth in local communities. Appearing at the Center for Intellectual Exchange of Opinions in Monrovia over the weekend, Inspector General Coleman emphasized the importance of this strategic shift. He highlighted that the plan will incorporate alternative livelihood programs aimed at young people, thereby reducing their vulnerability to criminal activities.



Constitution. He emphasizes that ultimate power should rest with the people of Liberia. In a press conference held in Monrovia over the weekend, Morlu announced that STAND, in coalition with various motorcyclist organizations, plans to organize a peaceful protest. The intent of the protest is to call upon the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature to intervene in what the group views as a detrimental action by the LNP, which it notes adversely impacts not only motorcyclists but also students, civil servants, and vendors in Monrovia and surrounding areas. STAND articulates that the pending protest seeks to address issues of corruption and alleged executive meddling in the judiciary. But speaking on the Supreme Court's decision, Police Inspector General, Colonel Gregory Coleman, says the ruling effectively endorses the Police's no-go zone directive for motorcyclists, declaring the matter resolved and closed. The controversy surrounding the no-go zone has sparked considerable debate in the Liberian society, raising concerns about public safety, mobility, and broader implications for civil rights and judicial independence in the country. As STAND mobilizes support for its

He said the strategic plan is part of a broader effort to decrease crime rate and enhance community safety. "We are actively seeking interventions that promote peace and security without resorting to violence," he noted, stressing the need for a community-oriented approach. Besides, Colonel Coleman announced that the Police force is set to initiate quarterly training sessions for officers. These trainings will refresh law enforcement personnel on engagement protocols and essential policing skills, which have not been updated for over six years due to budget constraints and competing priorities. The Police IG acknowledged frustration and anger brewing in the society, attributing it largely to high unemployment and lack of opportunities. The LNP is also exploring psychosocial support initiatives for officers and the communities they serve. Coleman defended this approach as crucial for safeguarding foreign investments, which play a vital role in the country's economy. He cited mixed reactions from local populations, explaining that police presence is intended to ensure security of both community members and investors. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Starts from page 6 Bility Breaks Ground for a Major Bridge linking Nimba and Bong Counties.

counties, and it is expected to reduce travel time, improve access to markets, and enhance social and economic integration between the two counties. The construction is set to be completed in the coming months, with a goal to finish before December.

## Man found dead in Benda Creek

A man said to have suffered from epilepsy has been found dead in a creek in Margibi County.

By: Ramsey N Singbeh Jr  
in Margibi

Margibi, Liberia, March 23, 2025 - Residents of Kakaka, Margibi County woke up recently to the dismay of seeing a lifeless body of a man floating over Benda Creek early morning hours in the county. The deceased was seen bent over almost under the bridge, dressed up in a gray color round neck T-shirt and jean trousers. His hands and waist were also buried in the water. Police in Margibi and the Kakaka City Corporation say family members of dead man disclosed the he had suffered from epilepsy. According to the family, he was in his early thirties, but might have fallen from the bridge into the water while enroute somewhere when the sickness suddenly attacked him.



Meanwhile Local leaders, including the Commissioner of Kpaai District, James Kpoquoi, have also expressed their support for the project, viewing it as a critical development for both counties. The family is also reported to have also told investigators the epilepsy had normally attacked and thrown him down, leaving him helpless at any place which was dangerous. The Benda Creek is located almost in World Bank community in Kakaka. The Kakaka City Corporation said that it assisted the family in getting the deceased's remains from the water and had him buried immediately. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## Starts from page 5 SRC's Revival Brings Hope, Dignity to Workers

that their children are guaranteed a proper meal at least once a day, and it encourages them to keep them in class. As a direct result, students are more focused, and we are already seeing improvements in exam performance.” For Daniel Henry, the most exciting of all the developments in SRC is the introduction of a scholarship scheme for graduating students. Under the scholarship scheme, students who score an A+ in the national WASSCE exams will receive scholarships to study in India, while those who earn an A will qualify for local university. The scholarship is historic as it would be the first time SRC sponsored its graduates to seek university educations. “For years, our schools were neglected. Students were hungry, and buildings were falling apart,” says Henry, SRC schools’ Student Council President. “Now, classrooms have fans, bathrooms are clean, running water is available, and reading rooms and labs are up to date. The most exciting of all of these is the scheme of scholarships—both local and international.” The Employment Paradigm Shift Beyond physical infrastructure, Jeety has also had to deal with the massive layoff of workers, which created uncertainty and economic distress among the local communities. There was fear that he would continue with downsizing, leaving hundreds of workers unemployed. Instead, he took a different approach, re-hiring the laid-off workers, saving 900 jobs in the process as a result of Socfin’s closure. The issue of salary advances with

interest was another sticking point. The Jeety management had inherited a structure where senior Liberia staff, along with others, without the company management knowledge, had established a loan scheme in which salary advances were given as loans with a steep 25% interest rate, forcing many workers to find themselves caught in a cycle of debt, struggling to meet monthly expenses. While the policy remains, the interest rate has since been canceled — a move employees described as life-saving. “The management’s decision to cancel the interest rate is one of the most impactful structural changes on the lives of the workers,” says Joseph Sackie, head of Camp Two. “Now, we have access to cash at any point in time, without the worries of running into debt,” Sackie added. “We're thankful that the new management listened to us, and kept the policy but removed the contentious part, which was the interest rate.” At the same time, the employment reforms pursued by Jeety have seen a remarkable turnaround in the lives of rubber cup cleaners—a critical task in daily plantation operations carried out by women. Previously, a cup cleaner used to be hired by a tapper and paid US\$15, which would amount to US\$45 if she worked for three tappers. But now, all of them — 120 in total — have been formally hired by SRC and paid \$120 per month, for five-hour work shifts, which is far above their previous \$45 salary. “I used to worry if the contractor

would pay me on time, or if they would deduct unexplained costs,” says 30-year-old Mary David, who has cleaned rubber cups for more than five years. “Now, I have a consistent wage and I’m recognized as a full SRC employee. My family’s quality of life has improved, and I feel like I’m finally being treated with respect. We now work for a shorter time than before, among other benefits.” Mary’s view has been echoed by her colleagues — as they describe the changes as historic and a sign of growing respect for their labor and contributions. While Jeety’s nearly five months of ownership of SRC has brought about a mix of relief and cautious optimism, one common theme among workers is the issue of bonus systems. Workers say even though their base salaries are in alignment with the Decent Work Act, the existing bonuses do not reflect the rising cost of living. When asked about these concerns, Jeety acknowledged the workers’ desire for a higher bonus system but noted that the current arrangement was agreed upon in consultation with them. “Back in February, we held meetings, and it was actually the workers who proposed that the bonus be given in cash instead of rice—we agreed on that,” he said. “At the same time, our reforms have saved workers about \$25 on average, since they no longer pay interest on salary advances, plus another \$15 because they’re not covering the cost of cup cleaners. That’s \$40 in total savings per worker.” “We inherited a business that had been running at a loss for years. Our main goal is to return the business to profitability while at the same time looking at the welfare of our employees,” Jeety noted. “That said, we take the bonus concerns seriously and will review them in the near future.” As it stands, SRC workers remain cautiously optimistic, saying that they believe the Sachdeva ownership of SRC will bring about genuine and transformational change—one that honors their labor, values their lives, and offers their children a brighter tomorrow.

## BSE validates draft legislative Act to establish SEAL

Stakeholders validate draft legislature to change Bureau of State Enterprises to State-Owned Enterprises Authority of Liberia.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Congo Town, Liberia, March 24, 2025 - The Bureau of State Enterprises (BSE) has convened a significant gathering to validate a draft legislative act aimed at establishing State-Owned Enterprises Authority of Liberia (SEAL). The event took place at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Monrovia. This effort marks a crucial transition from the current Bureau of State Enterprises (BSE), which was established under the Interim National Assembly Decree #8 of 1985, to a fully empowered institution under Liberian law. Cllr. Boakai N. Kanneh, Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission, provided an overview of the workshop,

economic growth. Discussions at the gathering were aimed at advancing the goals of SEAL, considering President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's vision of strengthening corporate governance and improving domestic resource mobilization. Participants, believe that with their valuable contributions, transitioning from the BSE to SEAL would be smooth, ultimately benefiting Liberia's economic development. Exchanges and counterarguments led to a rigorous review of the draft act, with careful scrutiny of its key components. Proposed refinements aim to strengthen governance and compliance mechanisms, ensuring that the act serves its intended purpose effectively.



stating that the BSE has outlived its usefulness and needs to be brought into compliance with the Liberian Constitution through the transition to SEAL. He emphasized the importance of inviting all State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) under the authority's oversight to gain insight into SEAL's functions. In his remarks, Mr. Arthur S. Massaquoi, Director General of the BSE, underscored that the transition from the BSE to SEAL is a critical step toward strengthening the legal framework governing SOEs. This initiative, he stated, aligns with President Boakai's legislative agenda, reaffirmed in the State of the Nation Address, which seeks to enhance SOE efficiency, transparency, and accountability. Mr. Massaquoi encouraged SOE leaders to actively engage with the Bureau, share insights, and propose innovative ideas to enhance the sector's performance, emphasizing that collaboration is crucial in creating a governance system that ensures accountability, transparency, and long-term

With the successful validation of the draft act, the next step is its submission to the Legislature for deliberation and approval. Once enacted, SEAL will replace BSE as the primary regulatory body overseeing Liberia's state-owned enterprises. This transition marks a historic shift in Liberia's economic governance, signaling a new era of accountability and oversight. The legislative act draws its authority from Chapter 10, Article 89 of the Liberian Constitution (1986), which empowers the Legislature to create ministries, agencies, commissions, and autonomous bodies as needed for effective government operations. It also calls for the repeal of the Interim National Assembly (INA) Decree No.8 of 1985, which established the BSE, in alignment with the country's National Development Plan. It highlights the need for better coordination, monitoring, and supervision of SOEs, which have historically made minimal contributions to the national budget due to inefficiencies. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# Français

## Conflit foncier à River Gee : Deux morts et tensions persistantes

Le surintendant Mike T. Swengbe déploie les forces conjointes de sécurité pour apaiser la situation

Par Patrick N. Mensah, comté de Maryland

River Gee, Liberia, 21 mars 2025 – Deux personnes ont perdu la vie dans un conflit foncier opposant les communautés de Kiteabo et Glarro, dans le

notamment des soldats des Forces armées du Liberia, pour restaurer l'ordre et éviter une escalade de la violence. Le différend territorial, qui couvait depuis plusieurs mois, a dégénéré le



comté de River Gee, au sud-est du Liberia. Face à la montée des tensions, le surintendant du comté, Mike T. Swengbe, a mobilisé les forces conjointes de sécurité, comprenant

18 mars 2025 en affrontements meurtriers. Les violences ont entraîné la mort d'Éric Nyenpan, originaire de Kiteabo, et de Sebastian Saylee, de Glarro. Cette tragédie a semé le trouble dans le

district électoral n°3 du comté de River Gee, alimentant des tensions communautaires profondes. En réaction, les autorités ont déployé un important dispositif sécuritaire. La Police nationale du Liberia, les Forces armées du Liberia, l'Unité de soutien de la police et le Service d'immigration du Liberia ont été mobilisés pour calmer la situation et assurer la protection des populations. Lors de sa visite dans la zone touchée par le conflit, le surintendant Swengbe a exhorté les habitants à faire preuve de retenue et à éviter toute nouvelle flambée de violence. Il a rappelé que le gouvernement libérien s'engage pleinement à résoudre cette crise foncière et à apporter des solutions durables aux litiges territoriaux dans le comté. Il a également assuré aux familles des victimes que justice serait rendue et que les responsables de ces actes de violence seront traduits en justice. Les organisations de la société

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## Le gouvernement libérien et la Banque mondiale lancent un projet de 30 millions de dollars pour la gouvernance

Par Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, 21 mars 2025 – Le gouvernement du Liberia, en partenariat avec la Banque mondiale, a lancé le Governance Reform and Accountability Transformation Project (GREAT Project), un programme ambitieux de 30 millions de dollars visant à réformer la gouvernance, renforcer la transparence et améliorer les services publics. Lors de la cérémonie de lancement, qui s'est tenue le jeudi 20 mars 2025 au complexe ministériel EJS à Oldest Congo, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustine K. Ngafuan, a souligné l'importance de cette initiative pour moderniser l'administration publique libérienne.

Une transformation numérique et fiscale Dans son allocution, le ministre Ngafuan a insisté sur les avancées que permettra ce projet, notamment la modernisation du centre national de données, qui hébergera les serveurs de toutes les administrations publiques. Il a également annoncé la mise en place d'une interopérabilité des données

entre les plateformes gouvernementales, permettant une gestion plus efficace des services publics. Le projet prévoit également le renforcement des centres de services aux citoyens sous la tutelle du ministère des Affaires internes, ainsi que la généralisation de l'identification numérique. "Nous allons financer l'enregistrement massif et l'émission d'identifications numériques pour deux millions de Libériens", a déclaré le ministre, saluant la présence du directeur du Registre national d'identification, Andrew Peters, qui, selon lui, a accueilli cette initiative avec enthousiasme. Une réforme fiscale ambitieuse Le programme apportera également un soutien à l'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (Liberia Revenue

Authority) pour améliorer l'intégration de ses systèmes avec d'autres plateformes gouvernementales et renforcer la collecte des impôts fonciers. "Nous allons élargir le registre de l'impôt foncier, un domaine encore sous-exploité", a expliqué le ministre Ngafuan, ajoutant que le projet facilitera également la transition de la taxe sur les biens et services (GST) vers la taxe sur la valeur ajoutée (TVA). Renforcement de la transparence et des audits publics Le ministre a également révélé que le projet financera des outils numériques pour la Commission générale d'audit (GAC), afin de faciliter le suivi et la mise en œuvre des



## 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 Conflit foncier à River Gee : Deux

civile et de nombreux citoyens ont fermement condamné ces affrontements et réclament une enquête approfondie et rapide pour établir les responsabilités. En attendant, la présence renforcée des forces de sécurité dans la région a permis de rétablir un certain calme, même si les habitants continuent d'exiger une médiation efficace et un dialogue entre les parties impliquées afin d'éviter de nouveaux affrontements.

## Starts from page 8 Le gouvernement libérien et la Banque

recommandations issues des rapports d'audit. Un système de suivi numérique des recommandations d'audit sera également instauré au sein du Comité des comptes publics (PAC) du Parlement libérien, composé des deux chambres législatives. "Améliorer la transparence dans les marchés publics permet d'assurer une gestion plus efficace des finances de l'État. Chaque dollar économisé pourra être réinvesti dans des priorités nationales comme les écoles, les routes et le soutien aux enfants et aux femmes", a souligné Ngafuan. Soutien de la Banque mondiale et engagement international Le directeur par intérim de la Banque mondiale pour le Liberia et l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Oyewole Afuye, a salué le lancement du projet, mettant en avant la forte implication du gouvernement libérien dans son élaboration. Il a rappelé que cette initiative s'inscrit dans le cadre du programme gouvernemental "Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development", visant à améliorer la transparence, l'efficacité et la redevabilité des institutions publiques. "Un État ne peut assurer des services de qualité sans ressources suffisantes, et la mobilisation des recettes fiscales reste un défi majeur dans un environnement où la redevabilité est faible", a-t-il déclaré, insistant sur l'impact du projet dans les zones reculées du pays. Un projet aux multiples bénéficiaires S'exprimant au nom de toutes les institutions bénéficiaires, le ministre des Postes et Télécommunications, Sekou Kromah, a affirmé que le projet permettra de réduire significativement les inefficacités dans les processus administratifs et de renforcer la transparence gouvernementale. "Nous allons moderniser le centre de données de l'aéroport avec une capacité accrue pour héberger les systèmes des ministères et agences concernés", a-t-il précisé. Selon les responsables du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, le GREAT Project vise à faciliter l'accès aux services publics numériques, à améliorer la collecte des impôts et à renforcer la transparence dans les institutions gouvernementales. La cérémonie de lancement a réuni de nombreux hauts responsables gouvernementaux ainsi que des partenaires au développement, dont des représentants de la Banque mondiale, des Nations unies et de l'Union européenne.

## La Chambre des représentants envisage d'interdire le Shisha et le Kush

La Chambre des représentants examine une pétition visant à interdire l'importation, la vente et la consommation de shisha et de kush au Liberia.

Par Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, Liberia, 21 mars 2025 – La Chambre des représentants a chargé ses Commissions de la Jeunesse et des Sports ainsi que de la Santé d'examiner une pétition soumise par l'organisation *Restoring Hope Foundation International*. Cette pétition appelle à l'interdiction de l'importation, de la vente et de la consommation du shisha et d'une substance connue sous le nom de kush sur l'ensemble du territoire libérien. La décision a été prise par la Chambre des représentants le jeudi 20 mars 2025, lors de sa session ordinaire. La pétition a été présentée par le président de la commission des réclamations et des pétitions, le député Prince A. Toles du district n°8 du comté de Montserrado. Selon les pétitionnaires, ils ont mis en avant les effets néfastes du shisha sur la santé, en particulier sur le système cardiovasculaire. Le groupe souligne que, bien que le shisha soit souvent perçu à tort comme moins nocif que la cigarette, il expose les consommateurs aux mêmes substances toxiques, mais à des

sa consommation, en particulier chez les jeunes et dans les zones urbaines du Liberia. La pétition met également en garde contre l'émergence alarmante du kush, le qualifiant de menace grave pour la santé publique nécessitant une intervention législative urgente. Les députés ont reconnu les préoccupations croissantes concernant les risques pour la santé publique liés à la consommation du shisha et du kush, une drogue dangereuse de plus en plus répandue dans la région. **Suspension de la session législative** Par ailleurs, la Chambre des représentants a levé sa session ordinaire du premier trimestre de la deuxième législature. Chambre à traiter les questions nationales et à faire avancer son programme législatif.



## Le MFDP et la CBL interrogés sur l'allocation budgétaire du secteur de la santé

Des responsables de la Banque centrale du Liberia et du ministère des Finances ont été interrogés par le Sénat sur les écarts de financement dans le secteur de la santé.

Par Lincoln G. Peters

Capitol Hill, Monrovia, 21 mars 2025 – Des responsables du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement (MFDP) et de la Banque centrale du Liberia (CBL) ont été entendus par la commission mixte du Sénat jeudi dernier au sujet du manque de financement dans le secteur de la santé. Cette audition intervient alors qu'un avertissement a été adressé aux responsables de la santé des comtés, les informant qu'ils risquent de perdre leurs allocations budgétaires du premier trimestre s'ils ne les utilisent pas avant la période du 21 au 31 mars, malgré l'absence de décaissement des fonds. Le jeudi 20 mars 2025, le Sénat libérien a tenu une audience publique conjointe réunissant la CBL, le MFDP, le ministère de la Santé, l'Agence de la fonction publique, ainsi que les ministères de l'Éducation et du Travail. La convocation des responsables du ministère des Finances, de la CBL et de la Santé visait à leur permettre d'expliquer et de justifier le retard dans le décaissement des fonds destinés aux hôpitaux du pays. L'audience avait également pour but d'obtenir des clarifications supplémentaires du MFDP et de la CBL concernant un mémo du ministère des Finances, transmis par le bureau du contrôleur général, informant les responsables de la santé des comtés d'une réaffectation des fonds. Explications de la Banque centrale Lors de l'audience, le gouverneur exécutif de la CBL, Henry F. Saamoi, a déclaré que la banque n'avait pas le pouvoir, selon sa politique, d'annuler des fonds déjà déposés sur les comptes des institutions. Il a précisé que les comptes sont toujours ouverts et accessibles dès qu'ils sont crédités, réfutant ainsi toute implication de la CBL dans une éventuelle réaffectation des fonds destinés aux services de santé des comtés. « La CBL n'a aucun contrôle sur ces comptes. Une fois qu'un compte est crédité, les fonds restent disponibles en permanence pour le propriétaire du compte. Par conséquent, la CBL n'impose aucune restriction sur la durée de conservation des fonds avant leur utilisation. Ce n'est pas la politique de la CBL, mais une restriction imposée par le ministère des Finances. Je pense donc



qu'ils devraient répondre à cette question », a déclaré M. Saamoi. Réponse du ministère des Finances En réponse à cette question, la vice-ministre du Budget au MFDP, Mme Tenneh G. Brunson, n'a ni confirmé ni infirmé l'existence du mémo en question envoyé aux responsables de la santé des comtés. Toutefois, selon elle, conformément à la Loi sur la gestion des finances publiques (PFM-Law), les responsables de la santé des comtés disposent d'un délai de trois mois après la fin de l'année pour dépenser les fonds alloués. Passé ce délai, ils ne peuvent plus utiliser le budget de l'année précédente. Bien qu'elle n'ait pas cité la section précise de la PFM-Law à laquelle elle faisait référence, Mme Brunson a précisé que cette loi stipule que les fonds déposés sur les comptes des équipes sanitaires des comtés doivent être utilisés entre le 21 et le 31 mars, faute de quoi ils seront reversés au gouvernement. « Mon hypothèse est que la raison pour laquelle le contrôleur général (CAG) a envoyé cette communication aux responsables de la santé des comtés est qu'ils doivent utiliser les fonds avant cette date, faute de quoi l'argent sera réaffecté. Il y a des engagements financiers à respecter, et une fois les paiements effectués, ils pourront régler ces services. Je n'ai pas de réponse à la question de savoir pourquoi les fonds seraient versés deux jours avant la date limite, car nous ne les avons pas encore versés. Je ne peux pas répondre à cette question car je ne connais pas les détails », a-t-elle conclu. Indignation des sénateurs Cependant, la réponse de la vice-ministre a suscité davantage d'inquiétudes et de questions parmi les sénateurs, qui ont exprimé leur déception face à l'incapacité du ministère à verser les fonds aux responsables de la santé des comtés pour assurer le bon fonctionnement du secteur sanitaire. Les sénateurs se sont demandé comment le ministère des Finances pouvait appliquer une telle réglementation alors qu'il n'avait pas encore procédé au paiement intégral du budget de 2024, dont la période de grâce prend fin ce mois-ci conformément à ses propres règles. De plus, ils ont jugé la réponse de Mme Brunson peu convaincante, soulignant qu'elle avait occupé son poste trop longtemps pour être incapable de citer les articles pertinents de la PFM-Law.



# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

## Will Liberian young generation/youths/young people ever learn?

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

The question, "Will Liberian young generation/youths/young people ever learn?" reverberates through the consciousness of many who observe the political landscape of Liberia.

This question is not merely rhetorical; it embodies a deep-seated concern regarding the trajectory of the nation's youth/young people and their choices, especially regarding the support of leaders with dubious records.

Young people/youths in Liberia have the potential to reshape their society.

Yet, they opt to champion those who have repeatedly proven to be suppressors, abusers of their dreams and aspirations.

Understanding the Context:

Liberian society has historically been fraught with turmoil, including upheavals, political instability, and economic despair.

Young people constitute a substantial part of the population and are expected to spearhead change, grasp opportunities, and build a brighter future.

However, the reality is grim. Many young people find themselves aligning with leaders who have tainted histories, men and women who have been complicit in violence, abuse, corruption, and the impeding of their progress as the future leaders of the Land of Liberty.

The support of these figures raises urgent questions about what it means to be a young person in Liberia today.

The term "money-eating hyenas-crocodiles" encapsulates the essence of the portrayal of these leaders.

They are viewed as predatory, but instead of fostering growth and development, they devour resources, leaving the populace in a perpetual state.

By standing behind such figures who openly abused their parents, the youths/young people of Liberia are not merely enabling destructive behavior; they are, in essence, sabotaging their futures and the prospects of their intellectual peers.

This dynamic warrants a closer examination of the reasons behind such support and whether Liberia's youths/young people can learn from history and the current socio-political climate.

The Cycle of Disillusionment:

One fundamental issue is the disillusionment of the younger generation. Having grown up in an environment where trust in governance has been eroded, many youths/young people appear to lack a framework of values that champions integrity and accountability.

The trauma of past no-sense conflicts leaves a political void quickly filled by charismatic leaders, regardless of their past transgressions.

The allure of a strong leader who promises quick solutions sometimes outweighs the call for ethical governance.

Moreover, there exists a pervasive culture of opportunism within the political sphere.

Leaders, aware of the vulnerabilities of youths/young people, often employ strategies to appeal to them, leveraging economic hardships and offering short-term incentives(beg of rice, cooked food, \$25.00, big lies, t-shirts, etc.).

These strategies may include handouts (see above), job promises, or cash distributions during electoral

campaigns.

While the immediate gains may seem enticing, they usually come with the caveat of supporting individuals whose actions are unlikely to result in sustained societal impairment.

This is exacerbated by the youths/young people's lack of political education.

Many do not possess a comprehensive understanding of their rights, the implications of supporting confident leaders, or the power dynamics at play.

Without this knowledge, they quickly become pawns in a game where their futures are negotiated without them.

They cling to the hope that aligning with the powerful will lead to personal gain, often overlooking the broader systemic issues.

The Role of Education and Scholarship:

If youths and young people are to break free from this cycle, education must play a pivotal role in their development.

The painful truth is that many outstanding, talented young people/youths have been denied opportunities, such as



scholarships to study abroad, that could empower them as contributors to society.

These scholarships are gateways to knowledge, innovation, and skills essential for societal advancement.

When successful individuals return with new experiences, they become catalysts for change and positively influence their communities.

The failure of government(past and maybe current(since they have just been in power for one year and a few months, we are watching))and societal structures to provide these opportunities raise critical moral questions about the obligations of those in power toward the younger generation.

Its leaders often seem interested in maintaining their grip on power rather than fostering a new generation of thinkers and doers.

This defeatist cycle leads the young generation to interpret their lack of opportunities as a sign that their needs and aspirations are unimportant.

Consequently, when the youths/young turn to support figures with criminal backgrounds, it often stems from a desperate attempt to reclaim agency, albeit misguidedly.

Misguided Loyalty and Its Consequences:

The consequences of supporting leaders with criminal records cannot be understated.

By aligning themselves with individuals who have a history of perpetrating harm, including political corruption and violence, the youth inadvertently reinforce a systemic issue that has caused untold suffering.

This naive loyalty can create an environment where

ethical governance is continually undermined, hampering progress and innovation.

There is an inherent paradox; by clinging to these flawed leaders, the youth may believe they are protecting their futures, yet they undermine any potential for genuine change.

Instead of rising to leadership, they perpetuate a cycle in which subpar governance standards become normalized.

The idea that success comes from association with power, even if that power is tainted, leads them down an unproductive path.

The stark reality is that supporting "money-eating hyenas-crocodiles" entrenches a political culture antithetical to the values of development, accountability, and integrity.

A society thrives when its leaders are held to high ethical standards, and the youths/young people are empowered to demand more than mere transactional relationships based on handouts or short-term gains.

The Path to Empowerment:

To truly advance as a society, the Liberian young generation must cultivate a political consciousness that transcends the allure of power tied to corruption.

They must advocate for real change, support individuals committed to building sustainable futures, and root out the practices that have led to their disillusionment.

Civic engagement, community organization, and grassroots movement involvement must become integral to the youth culture.

Investing in education, particularly political literacy, will equip youths/young people with the tools to dissect political narratives and voter manipulation strategies.

It should be imperative for the young generation to participate in workshops, seminars, and active participation to learn how governance works and to understand legislation, rights, and responsibilities.

By empowering themselves with knowledge, they will be better positioned to demand ethical behavior from their leaders and ultimately transform Liberia's political landscape.

In conclusion, "Will Liberian young generation/youths/young people ever learn?" is a question worth pondering deeply.

It encapsulates a moment of frustration and a plea for self-awareness and change. The challenge for Liberia's youth lies in navigating the tightrope of political disillusionment and forging a new pathway rooted in integrity, accountability, and empowerment.

The need to move forward in their pursuit of a better life is critical, and it hinges on their ability to challenge the status quo and reject leaders who have consistently failed them.

The journey will not be easy, but the youth needs to break free from the grips of the "money-eating hyenas" and push for change that prioritizes their future.

The young Liberian generation must learn that true power comes not from aligning with corrupt figures but from being the architects of their destinies and fostering a society that honors the integrity and aspirations of all.

Only then can they hope to build a nation that nurtures its young generation and propels them toward a prosperous future.



# APM Terminal agrees to review 25 yrs deal

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia – For the first time, APM Terminals has agreed to review its 25-year concession agreement with Liberia, marking a major shift after years of failed attempts by previous administrations. The agreement, signed in October 2010 and set to expire in 2035, contains no formal review



clause—an omission inconsistent with international best practices and other concession agreements in Liberia. Efforts to renegotiate the deal, including a push in 2021 under former President George Weah, were unsuccessful. The breakthrough this month, comes after months of discussions between the management of the National Port Authority (NPA), led by Managing Director Sekou H. Dukuly, and APM Terminals Liberia, headed by Clay Crain. Their negotiations culminated in a meeting with President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, where President Boakai pushed for and APM Terminals agreed to the review. Experts describe the development as a significant achievement, as the country seeks to realign long-term concessions signed under different economic conditions with Liberia's present and future needs. “Politically, the review of APM Terminals is good for President Boakai because it was a key campaign promise, but economically, it is even more important as it will align the concession with current trade and socio-economic realities,” said Ambulah Mamey, a Practitioner in International Development. Following APM Terminals' commitment to the review, President Boakai constituted the APMT Joint Review committee chaired by the Managing Director of the NPA and Co-chair by the Managing Director of the APMT (Liberia). Members of the committee include the Ministry of Justice, National Investment Commission of Liberia, Morley P. Kamara, Economic Advisor to President Boakai, and representative from APMT Headquarters, Morley P. Kamara, Economic Advisor to President Boakai, Last week the committee met to finalize the Terms of Reference for the renegotiation process and to jumpstart the review process.

APM Terminals' Role in Liberia: APM Terminals, a subsidiary of Danish shipping giant Maersk, operates the container terminal at the Freeport of Monrovia. Under its concession, the company manages cargo handling, terminal operations, and port logistics, playing a critical role in Liberia's trade infrastructure. Since 2010, APM Terminals has invested in port modernization, including container handling equipment, terminal expansion, and digital automation, improving efficiency and government revenue collection. While these investments have enhanced port operations and trade facilitation, concerns have been raised over high service costs, revenue-sharing terms, and employment opportunities for Liberians. One of the most vocal critics of the concession is Vice President Jeremiah Koung, who, while serving as a senator, criticized the agreement for granting extensive rights to APM Terminals. “The law gives too much leverage to APM Terminals. It allows them to change tariffs at any time, and worst of all, this concession cannot be amended until after 25 years. If there is a way to amend that law, let's do it now,” Koung said at the time. In December 2020, the National Customs Brokers Association of Liberia (NCBAL) also raised concerns about operational inefficiencies, calling for government intervention to address “perpetual delays in clearing and processing containers at the port.” These issues are expected to be central to the upcoming review, according to NPA's Managing Director. “President Boakai's mandate to the NPA is clear: review concessions at the port to ensure Liberia gets its fair share. So far, we are successfully delivering on this mandate, driven by our unwavering commitment, the technical support of other government ministries and agencies, and the cooperation of the private-sector partners.” Renegotiating GMTS/CTN and Marine Service Agreement at the Port: Beyond APM Terminals, the NPA—under President Boakai's directive and with technical support from the Ministry of Finance, Liberia Revenue Authority, and Ministry of Justice—has renegotiated the Marine Services Agreement and

the Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions (GTMS) contract. These revisions have led to increased government revenue, reduced costs for port users, and a structured plan for Liberians to eventually take over the provision of these services. The revised GTMS contract increased the government's share of revenue from 3% to 40% in the first five years and 45% thereafter. It also mandates that GTMS pay all applicable taxes, including an estimated 20% corporate tax. Meanwhile, costs for port users have decreased, with the GTMS service fee for importing a 45ft container dropping from \$236.25 to \$213.75 and a 20ft container from \$130.00 to \$95.00. GTMS provides real-time cargo tracking and security verification services for shipments entering and exiting the Freeport of Monrovia. These services help enforce international trade regulations and minimize risks related to smuggling and fraud, ensuring more transparency and efficiency in port operations. Similarly, the Marine Services Agreement was renegotiated to include an indigenization clause that mandates the training and integration of Liberians into operations, with the goal of achieving full local control within five years. The government's royalty in the agreement was also increased to 20% from 15%, and as part of the agreement NPA will benefit from logistical and technical support for the full operationalization of a navigational aid system that ensures safe passage for vessels coming to and leaving the port of Monrovia. ArcelorMittal Liberia Concession Under Review: The Boakai administration's focus on reviewing concession agreements extends beyond the Freeport of Monrovia. Currently, the concession agreement for ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), the country's largest iron ore mining operator, is under review. AML operates mines in Nimba and transports iron ore via rail and port infrastructures that are critical to its operations. While AML pays some fees for its use of port infrastructure, NPA Managing Director Dukuly argues that Liberia has not received its fair share. “We will work with other stakeholders to ensure the new agreement between Liberia and AML explicitly outlines AML's obligations to the Port Authority for the use of port infrastructure and marine service,” he said. While these renegotiations are largely technical and policy-driven, they reflect a broader effort by the Boakai administration to reexamine long-term agreements that have shaped Liberia's economic landscape. The recent successes at the NPA set a precedent for future concession reviews, as the government seeks to ensure a fairer distribution of economic benefits from national assets.

## From Back Page VP Koung on divisive, tribal politics

being headed by Vice President Koung. The National Elections Commission has scheduled April 22, 2025 as date for the Nimba County Senatorial by-election, featuring nineteen candidates. The by-election is at the result of the death of deceased Nimba County Senator, self-proclaimed political godfather, and founder of the MDR, Prince Y. Johnson. Senatorial Candidate, Samuel Kogar, is currently the sitting Representative of Nimba County district#5. If Representative Kogar is elected Senator of Nimba County, there will be another by-election in the county, particular district #5 due to his political elevation that will automatically create another vacancy the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, specifically the House of Representatives. Meanwhile, officially endorsing the senatorial bid of Rep. Kogar, Vice President Koung declares “I endorse the senatorial bid of Samuel Kogar and I am calling on everyone to

choose and vote Samuel Kongar. The late Senator Johnson was a shot shooter. Kogar is the guy to push and a voice in the middle at the Capital now. When he speaks, the people know that Nimba has spoken while Senator Nyan will do the diplomatic touching” he says. He warns that if anyone voted other senatorial candidates than Kogar, they will be wasting their votes, while describing Representative Kogar as a fearless and bold person. "Now, the Dan people I am not wasting my time with you. If you don't want the sheep, you spoil the vote. Any vote other than Kogar, you are wasting your vote. Give your vote to Kogar in buck. The Mah people, I am appealing to you. Please come to this coop. when I call the Dan people, they came to your coop. Please support the Dan candidate so we can have balance in the county”, The Vice President appeals to his kinsmen. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## U.S. Ambassador tours ArcelorMittal Nimba Operations

YEKEPA, Liberia (March 23, 2025) – U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Mrs. Charlesetta Peters, Head of Human Resources and Organizational Development, and Mark Toner visited ArcelorMittal Liberia operations, leaving with a positive impression about the significant investment the company has made in the county, which he believes will help Liberia with its long-term human and economic development. During the visit and tour of the concentrator, Ambassador Toner noted ArcelorMittal Liberia's (AML), investment as “significant to the Liberian economy.” As the biggest investment so far, the investment would help the country to address the problems of education and unemployment. The ambassador also stressed the need for the Liberian government to attract new sources of substantial foreign investment given the potential Liberia has to offer in sectors such as mining and tourism. The Ambassador and his team were received on site by ArcelorMittal Mining Head of Finance, R.C. Saraf, and General Manager, Joseph Mathews, ArcelorMittal Liberia's Chief Executive Officer Michiel Van Der Merwe, Chief Operating Officer Anthony Kocken, and heads of departments including Marcus Wleh of Sustainability and External Relations, Rebecca Kwabo-Buegar, Human Resources and Social Services amongst others. Mr. Kocken highlighted AML's contributions and positive impact in Liberia in areas such as employment and capacity building. The group toured the ArcelorMittal Liberia Training Academy, where local Liberians are trained to become artisans, and their subsequent employment is one example of a major investment that will lead to long-term economic and social benefits for Liberians. The AML COO also mentioned the strong relationship between the company and nearby communities through which unskilled residents are prioritized for general work that does not involve much technical skills to do. He further detailed the company's support to community projects such as agriculture, which allows farmers in local communities to receive grants under AML's Biodiversity and Conservation Program. At the ArcelorMittal Liberia Training Academy (AMTLA), Victor Loubser, Acting Manager of the academy also briefed the U.S. Ambassador about the quality of training the institution provides and the employment opportunities that follow upon graduation.





## ***As Nimba Senatorial By-election comes closer***

*By Lincoln G. Peters*

occupy the two seats. And so, because of the faction, I thought that when I left the seat, I believe that it was not fair for one tribe to occupy the seat. I am appealing to the Mah people of Nimba County and all others to allow the Dan people to take part in this election. I am begging the

The late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, self-proclaimed godfather of Nimba Politics and kingmaker, came from the Gio tribe.

Nimba County lone Senator, Nya D. Twayen, Jr., is a Manor native, the second largest tribal-speaking group in Nimba, while deceased Senator Johnson was a Gio native.

Now, the Gio tribe, from which VP Koung also hails, believe strongly that the senatorial vacancy is their entitlement to replace the late PYJ.

Incumbent Representative Samuel Kogar is the senatorial aspirant for the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR), the party of the late Senator Johnson that is now



tribe to leave the county's senatorial seat exclusively for the Gio-speaking (Dan) people in order to have what he describes a “peaceful and balance” leadership in Nimba. “It was not fair for one tribe to

Mah people. I think the Mah people should leave this election for the Dan people since we already have a Mah senator. Let's keep the balance to make the county stable. Let's keep our

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**WE DO PHOTOCOPY**

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline "New Dawn", a calendar titled "New Dawn CALENDAR" with a grid of dates, a magazine titled "New Dawn" with a large headline "J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections", and a brochure titled "New Dawn BROCHURE" with a large yellow circle. The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern against a blue background.