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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025	L\$198.6964/US\$1.00	L\$200.5528/US\$1.00

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

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French Version Inside

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Continental News

Niger's junta, Abdourahamane Tchiani sworn in as transitional president for a period of five years

Abdourahamane Tchiani, the leader of Niger's junta, was officially sworn in as the country's president on Wednesday, for a five-year transitional period, following a new charter that supersedes the existing constitution. This decision effectively dismissed efforts by the regional organization to expedite a return to democratic governance after the coup in 2023.

According to Mahamane Roufai, the government's secretary-general, the five-year transition period commenced on Wednesday. "The duration of the transition period is set at sixty months from the date of its promulgation. This duration is flexible depending on the country's security situation, the burden of the reform, and the agenda of the Confederation of Sahel States," he said. Tchiani, a seasoned army officer,

was also promoted to the rank of army general, solidifying his authority since he led the military coup that ousted the elected government in June 2023. By the conclusion of the transition period in 2030, Tchiani will have been in power for nearly seven years, mirroring the trend of extended rule seen in other junta-led nations in Africa, such as Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso. Initially, Niger's junta suggested a three-year transition following the coup, but this proposal was rejected by ECOWAS, the regional bloc, which deemed it provocative and threatened military intervention. In response, Niger, along with Mali and Burkina Faso, withdrew from the bloc in protest against the severe sanctions imposed to encourage a return to democracy. Critics argue that Niger's junta has imposed restrictions on civil liberties and has struggled to address the jihadi violence that they claimed motivated their takeover.



Nigeriens participate in a march called by supporters of coup leader Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, pictured, in Niamey, Niger, July 30, 2023.

Zimbabwe mourns the death of veteran journalist Geoffrey Nyarota

Zimbabwe is mourning veteran journalist and human rights activist, Geoffrey Nyarota, who died on Saturday of colon cancer. The 74-year-old was best known for exposing government corruption and launching what became the country's most popular and critical independent newspaper. Nyarota had trained as a teacher, one of the few jobs open to educated Blacks during white minority rule in what was then known as Rhodesia, before branching

into journalism. He rose to prominence in the late 1980s when, as editor The Chronicle, he exposed a vehicle scandal involving cabinet ministers and top government officials. They were jumping the line to buy cars from a local assembly firm and then reselling them for a profit at a time when the country was facing a vehicle shortage. A commission of inquiry was established and five ministers resigned, one of them eventually taking his own life, but Nyarota lost his job and left the country.

In 1999, Nyarota helped launch The Daily News, an independent newspaper that challenged the state hegemony on the media. It gave space to dissenting voices while poking at government corruption and excesses. Soon, the paper was outselling the government-controlled daily Herald newspaper. Nyarota and journalists from the Daily News were arrested multiple times. The paper's printing press was bombed in 2001, before it was closed over licensing issues in 2003. He had resigned from the newspaper earlier in 2002 due to differences with its new management. In 2003, he moved to the United States as a fellow of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, and also ran an online publication, The Zimbabwe Times. He later returned to Zimbabwe and in 2014 chaired a government-supported panel of inquiry into media ethics. Members of the media fraternity have described him as a fearless journalist who dedicated his life to informing and educating the public.



Geoffrey Nyarota, May 2000

Ghana and Morocco move to scrap visa requirements

Ghana and Morocco have agreed to take steps toward waiving visa requirements for all travellers between the two countries, a move aimed at strengthening diplomatic and economic ties.

Ghana's Foreign Affairs Minister, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, announced that the agreement will be submitted to both parliaments for ratification in the coming weeks. The two nations also committed to expanding cooperation in agribusiness, tourism, and security, following discussions between

Addressing recent social media claims about violence against Africans in Morocco, Ablakwa said the ambassador refuted reports that 700 Africans had been killed, clarifying that the widely circulated video was from a June 2022 border incident that resulted in 23 fatalities. He assured that no Ghanaian casualties were recorded.

As part of strengthening ties, Morocco has also doubled its annual scholarships for Ghanaian students, increasing the number from 90 to 180.

Separately, Ablakwa met with Russia's Ambassador to Ghana, Sergei Berdnikov, to discuss bilateral



Protesters hold photos of detainees outside the courthouse in Tunis, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, demanding the release of individuals prosecuted for conspiracy

Ablakwa and Morocco's Ambassador to Ghana, Imane Ouaadil.

cooperation. He reaffirmed Ghana's commitment to neutrality and its role as a voice for global peace.

Egyptian entrepreneur merges luxury sports cars and boats

An Egyptian entrepreneur has designed watercraft that resemble luxury cars, making it feel like driving on water has become possible. The jetcars cater to people looking for adrenaline-fueled aquatic adventure. "We managed to make them in shapes that are very similar to the real (luxury) cars," said Karim Amin, the founder and owner of Jetcar Kromh. What started out as a simple project in 2019 with a \$50,000 capital and a small workshop has turned into a growing business. Almost 1,000 jetcars have been sold to customers in more than 70

countries. The price tag on the floating vehicles ranges from \$17,000 to \$40,000, depending on the type of engine used. The jetcars are customizable and their outer body is designed according to customers' preferences. The floating vehicles can be fitted with an electric motors, giving customers a more eco-friendly option. Amin said he is always open to testing out new ideas and making adjustments to the jetcar. The next step for Amin is to launch a version of the watercraft that can also be used on roads. Most of materials that are used in manufacturing the jetcars are produced locally, except for the engine and some of the accessories.



Jetcar in the water

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 Luca Pellerano,
Florian Juergens-Grant

Future-Proofing Social Protection

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

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

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

Historically, labor was essential for production and the creation of wealth. But today, the most valuable companies increasingly leverage finance and technology more than human work. At the same time, wages have stagnated and no longer grow in line with productivity. Because social-insurance contributions depend on wages, labor-intensive firms now shoulder a larger financing burden, which lets some of the most profitable companies and those contributing less to employment creation off the hook.

Moreover, demographic shifts such as aging populations and declining birth rates increase the contributions required from workers and their employers, raising affordability constraints for employers seeking to expand their workforce. And with the rise of outsourcing and complex, far-flung value chains, combined with persistently high levels of informal and self-employment, firms benefit from the efforts of workers whom they do not directly employ, and thus contribute less to financing social insurance.

According to international labor standards on social security, workers should not pay more than half of social insurance's total cost, with the remainder borne by employers. As the balance of power and profit shifts away from labor and toward capital, this core principle is under threat. To address these challenges, countries could raise additional revenue by increasing taxes on corporate profits. Global efforts to establish a minimum corporate tax and harmonize rates are already underway. But this is unlikely to be sufficient. Social protection programs compete with government outlays for health care, education, sanitation, and other priorities, and financing them requires long-term planning, which is at odds with short-term political spending cycles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

OP-ED

By Şebnem Kalemli-Özcan

Authoritarianism Is Turkey's Biggest Economic Risk

PROVIDENCE – Twelve years ago, I published a commentary that asked: “Why is Turkey Rebelling?” Demonstrators had flooded the streets of Istanbul to protect Gezi Park from being turned into a shopping mall. Today, they are back, not for trees or green spaces, but in response to the culmination of years of lawlessness and creeping authoritarianism. Then, as now, the protests reflect a deep, mounting frustration with the steady dismantling of Turkey's democratic institutions.

Last week, Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu – who has twice defeated the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in local elections – was arrested on the day he was expected to announce his candidacy in the 2028 presidential race. The charges against him, including bribery and abuse of office, have been denounced as politically motivated. İmamoğlu is widely seen as President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's most credible challenger, and opposition leaders argue that his sudden arrest is no coincidence.

The public responded with outrage. Protests erupted across the country, from Istanbul and Ankara to İzmir, Konya, Diyarbakır, and beyond. For many of the millions who have joined the demonstrations, this is no longer about one man or one court decision. It is about a political system that has lost its legitimacy. The question now echoing across Turkey is whether the country's authoritarian slide has finally reached the point of no return.

For those who remember the 2013 Gezi protests, the imagery is familiar: tear gas in the streets, chants in city squares, police surrounding courthouses and universities. This time, however, the economy is central to the unrest. In 2013, Turkey was still considered an emerging economic success story. Growth was strong, inflation hovered around 6%, and the lira was stable. The AKP government, still riding the credibility of early-2000s International Monetary Fund-supported reforms, commanded respect from markets and foreign investors.

But that rosy picture has unraveled. In 2025, growth is lower, and inflation remains at double-digit levels, despite the central bank's recent return to orthodox monetary policy. While some of the foreign capital that was lost through many years of economic mismanagement began to trickle back last year, İmamoğlu's arrest has shattered investor confidence again. The lira has plunged, and Turkey's risk premium has spiked.

Like in 2013, the deeper message of the ongoing protests is clear: economic performance is inseparable from institutional health. You can have competent technocrats at the central bank and finance ministry, but if the judiciary is politicized, the media muzzled, and academic institutions under siege, those “adults in the room” are not enough. Foreign and domestic investors alike price the political risk as economic risk, driving up the cost of capital.

Competitive elections and competent technocrats alone do not sustain a democracy. Institutions do. And when the rule of law is eroded, dissent is silenced, and universities and media outlets lose their independence, the economy, too, will falter.

İmamoğlu's imprisonment may be the last straw for Turks who understand this link between institutions and economic stability. More than just a popular mayor, İmamoğlu is a national symbol of political pluralism and democratic possibility. His sweeping victories in Istanbul reflected a broad-based desire for change, and his removal now signals that Erdoğan's regime is unwilling to let that change happen through democratic means.

What makes this moment even more significant than Gezi is the scale and diversity of the resistance. While the 2013 protests were largely driven by secular, urban youth, today's span social, generational, and ideological divides. Students, unionized workers, small-business owners, conservative youth, liberals, the elderly, and Kurds are marching together under the unifying chant: “Hak, hukuk, adalet” (“Rights, law, justice”). Their cause goes far beyond İmamoğlu. They are protesting the deliberate misuse of state institutions to criminalize dissent and entrench economic inequality.

When justice is politicized, dissenters become traitors, and those aligned with the regime thrive while independent voices are punished and marginalized. Structural issues – like femicide, educational disparities, youth disenfranchisement – remain unaddressed, because public resources have been diverted toward rewriting history and rewarding loyalists.

This should concern not only Turkish citizens, but also the country's allies – especially in the United States. In fact, the parallels with President Donald Trump's administration are hard to ignore. Unlike many European democracies, whose leaders swiftly condemned İmamoğlu's imprisonment, the US response to the erosion of democratic institutions in a NATO member state of 85 million people has been muted.

Worse, patterns familiar to those who have lived in Turkey during the last decade are emerging within the US. The Trump administration has repeatedly targeted knowledge institutions, especially universities. Because college-educated voters often lean toward the opposition (Democrats), academia has become a scapegoat. Attacks on academic freedom, rejection of science, and promotion of conspiracy theories are all part of the institutional rot that Turkey has witnessed since 2013.

Whether it's denying the well-documented link between interest rates and inflation (as Erdoğan has done) or dismissing climate science, rewriting the history of January 6, and spreading misinformation about COVID-19 (as Trump has done), assaults on truth are essential to authoritarian rule. Universities are not just centers of learning; they are guardians of public reason, without which democracy breaks down.

Turkey is not yet a failed democracy, but it is dangerously close to becoming one. Whether it returns to the path of institutional reform or continues its descent into authoritarianism will depend on the choices made in the days ahead. The international community – particularly the US – should pay close attention, not only because of Turkey's geopolitical importance, but also because the struggle unfolding in its streets between students and security forces mirrors a global battle between democracy and its enemies.

Democracies rarely die suddenly. Their demise is the culmination of a process featuring political prosecutions, the imprisonment or disqualification of opponents, criminalization of protest, seizure of control over universities, and the silence of those who know better. To paraphrase Dylan Thomas, Turks are showing that they will not go gently into that authoritarian night.

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OPINION

By Diane Coyle

Musk and DOGE Are Doing It Wrong

CAMBRIDGE – Billionaire and Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) czar Elon Musk and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer could not be more different. But they share a stated common goal: cutting red tape and reducing the burden of government on businesses, especially the tech sector.

To be sure, the two are going about this in very different ways. In the United States, President Donald Trump's push to cut public spending and eliminate entire agencies risks gutting essential functions without a clear plan for technological replacements. The United Kingdom under Starmer has adopted a more measured approach, focusing on curbing regulatory overreach rather than dismantling the government.

Still, the overarching theme is similar. “The people voted for major government reform and that's what the people are going to get,” Musk [declared](#). [Starmer, for his part, focused on regulation: “If we don't curb regulator overreach, then we won't unlock the investment needed for a more prosperous future.”](#)

Businesses understandably welcome such statements. Government oversight, by design, imposes costs and constraints, preventing firms from doing whatever they want. But while companies may oppose certain rules out of self-interest, those regulations are not necessarily bad for consumers or society. The real challenge lies in ensuring that regulations do not impose costs that outweigh their benefits. To this end, the US requires that every new regulation undergo a cost-benefit analysis.

Fueled by frustration in their encounters with government bureaucracies, calls for deregulation and privatization are gaining traction with voters around the world. While factors like high inflation certainly play a role, the driving force behind this trend is the stark contrast between the inefficiency of some public services and the streamlined, user-friendly experience offered by private companies.

Dealing with government bureaucracies is often time-consuming and Kafkaesque. Understaffed agencies fail to answer calls, their websites are outdated, and online services are clunky – if they exist at all. One possible solution is greater investment in digitizing public services, a goal championed by both DOGE enthusiasts and the British government. But although there is no shortage of [recommendations for how to modernize public services, implementing them remains a challenge](#).

At the same time, successful efforts to streamline government services rarely attract as much attention as failures, reinforcing the familiar narrative of excessive red tape and wasteful spending. For example, I recently received a thoughtful letter from a retired US naval officer who, though acknowledging the importance of university research, argued that taxpayer dollars were being squandered on ideological and frivolous projects – an all-too-common view among critics of government spending.

Of course, promises to curb excessive regulation and government waste are nothing new. Over the past 50 years, governments around the world have made similar pledges, only to find that doing so is far more complicated than it seems. In his 2018 book [The Fifth Risk, author Michael Lewis highlighted the intricate, often unseen systems that keep modern governments running. DOGE's slash-and-burn approach now threatens to bring these vital systems to a screeching halt, with little regard for the potential consequences](#).

This helps explain why attempts to streamline bureaucracy and curb regulatory overreach often fall short. “Regulation” is a broad term that encompasses three distinct types of government intervention, each requiring a different strategy.

First, there are regulations that have simply outlived their usefulness or were flawed from the start and now impede economic activity. These include rules requiring agencies to submit reports on paper and protections for species that no longer need them. In the UK, for example, housing developments have been stalled due to protections for [jumping spiders, while £100 million \(\\$128 million\) was spent on a tunnel for bats as part of the ill-fated HS2 rail project. Just as no one benefits from traffic bottlenecks, everyone benefits when such regulatory obstacles are identified and removed](#).

Second, just as speed limits prioritize accident prevention over faster travel times, some regulations require tradeoffs, particularly in areas like financial oversight and consumer safety. The way governments approach these tradeoffs often changes in times of crisis. After the 2008 financial crisis, for example, bank bailouts fueled demand for stricter financial regulations. But in recent years, intense lobbying by the financial sector has reopened the debate.

The third category consists of regulations that provide businesses and consumers with clear rules, reducing uncertainty and allowing markets to function efficiently. These rules, such as specified weights and measures, some of which date back to ancient times, can be likened to traffic lights: by regulating when drivers can cross intersections, they ensure smooth traffic and keep drivers and pedestrians safe. Modern examples include food hygiene standards, copyright protections, and competition policies. While their specifics can be debated, the need for them is clear: in their absence, innovation stalls and economic growth falters.

The differences between the three types of regulation underscore the need for a more strategic approach to cutting red tape. Despite what Musk may think, meaningful and lasting government reform requires more than just [swinging a chainsaw](#).

In today's economic landscape, governments' role in providing the infrastructure and regulatory frameworks that support business growth and job creation is more important than ever. Some of the most vocal advocates of cutting public spending – particularly major US tech firms – have benefited enormously from [government support and favorable policies. Their claims that red tape has stopped them from growing ring hollow; by and large, the regulatory environment has worked in their favor](#).

That said, government bureaucracies must be reformed to keep pace with the economic realities of the twenty-first century. Until governments can offer a seamless service experience like Amazon or Airbnb, many citizens will continue to see the private sector as more efficient. While that may be true in some cases, the risk is that poorly conceived efforts to make government operate like a business will undermine crucial public services, harming both the economy and people's lives.

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author of [Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be \(Princeton University Press, 2021\) and the forthcoming The Measure of Progress: Counting What Really Matters \(Princeton University Press, Spring 2025\)](#).

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FEATURE

ARTICLE

Eminent Wettee Receives 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from Diaspora Liberian Women

Eminent Wettee displays his award after receiving it from Madam Mamunie Dennis, Chairlady, ALDWO

By Seltue Karweaye Sr.

The Eminent Chairman of the All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD), Mr. Emmanuel Sonnyboy Wettee, has again scooped another prestigious award. This time, from Liberian women residing in the diaspora and are under the banner, All-Liberian Diaspora Women Organization (ALDWO).

The award ceremony was held on Saturday, March 22, and took place during ALDWO Leadership Conference, Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania (PA), USA.

Gracing the occasion were the President of the Union of Liberian Associations in the America (ULAA), Mr. Mohammad “MSG1” Keita; Rev. James Barclay, First Vice Chairman, ULAA Board of Directors; Mr. Alfred Sieh, former Chairman ULAA Board of Directors; ULAA's Eminent Person Gaye D. Sleh, Jr.; other diaspora organizations' representatives and leaders.

Before His Eminence was presented with the accolade, Ms. Mamunie Dennis, Board Chairlady, All-Liberian Diaspora Women Organization (ALDWO), said back in 2018, when she and others started, they just had a vision of service to their communities. She further stated that they did not think about themselves but thought about others and what they could do to make the Liberian Community in the US better. “But somewhere along the way, we realized that there are people who have done well, and we needed to recognize those people,” she stated.

Among the various awards that were presented to different recipients, Eminent Wettee was conferred upon the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Liberian women. Ms. Dennis, who worked with Eminent Wettee when he led the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) beginning in 2006, described him as standing for positivity and strong in advocacy. “We all enjoy dual citizenship today; he is one of the forces behind dual citizenship. Even when he left ULAA, he never stopped his advocacy.” Before His Eminence was gowned as part of his honor, he was also praised for his role in making the US Government grant hundreds of Liberians Temporary Protective Status (TPS) and

Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). During Mr. Wettee's inaugural address in December 2005, he promised no Liberian would be deported under his watch, when about 10,000 Liberians on TPS were supposed to be deported. As he said no Liberian on TPS was deported.

In 2007, President George W. Bush directed that DED be provided for 18 months to certain Liberians and others whose Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was expiring on Sept. 30, 2007.

Those on TPS/DED later benefited from the

voting, he is willing to purchase his own ticket at price of 2 to US\$3,000 a trip to go with me. This man has stood with me throughout the advocacy. We have gone to Liberia on many occasions. Mr. Sieh, today, I want to share this honor with you, your wife and with the ULAA Family. I thank you for supporting me,” Eminent Wettee said as he concluded his statement of gratitude by pledging US\$1,000 to ALDWO's initiatives.

Back in December 2024, President Joseph N. Boakai and his wife, Mrs. Kartumu Y. Boakai, also gowned and honored Eminent Wettee for uniting Liberians home and abroad.

The First Lady, specifically, at the end of her remarks, honored Eminent Wettee by gowning him on behalf of the President and nation and applauded his selflessness and patriotism.

“We are so proud of you. The idea that you came here, despite losing your mother, shows that Liberia is above all,” the First Lady said.

She continued: “Your love and passion for our country are evident. Please accept our sympathy on behalf of the President and the people of Liberia. Thank you for all your sacrifices.”

Eminent Wettee is widely recognized as the foremost advocate for dual citizenship in

Liberia. His continuous advocacy and contributions to the dual citizenship movement have earned him national and international accolades.

In 2022, Eminent Wettee was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Liberians in Columbus Incorporated (LICI), where his late mother was also a respected member. In 2023, he was named “The Father of Dual Citizenship” by the European Federation of Liberian Associations (ELFA). He has received countless awards and recognitions for his successful leadership roles in the diaspora and Liberia. Awards from New Kru Town Association in the Americas, The Sinoe County Associations in the Americas, The National Krao Association in the Americas, just to name a few.

His advocacy for dual citizenship made UNHCR to applaud Liberia for removing gender discrimination from its nationality law. Every child born by a Liberian mother is a citizen of Liberia at birth.

Eminent Wettee is now championing the advocacy for out-of-country voting. -Dispatch.



“Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness” thus getting the Permanent Residence (Green Card) and becoming citizens of the United States.

One of the ladies, who gowned the Eminent Chairman, beseeched God's guidance upon him for the many sacrifices he made and continues to make for the Liberian Community in the USA.

The wordings on the plague read: “In recognition of a lifetime of unwavering dedication, exceptional service, and outstanding contributions to advocating [for] community issues; your tireless efforts have a profound and lasting impact, championing causes that have uplifted countless individuals and strengthened communities.

“Through your leadership and commitment, you have inspired positive change, fostering an environment of progress and unity. Your legacy of advocacy continues to guide and motivate others to follow in your footsteps, ensuring a brighter future for all.”

Responding, Eminent Wettee thanked everyone who thought about him. He specifically mentioned Mr. Alfred Sieh, whom he shared the award with.

“This is the man, who if you call me to go to Liberia to advocate for dual citizenship or out-of-country

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Troubling and problematic

-Law Reform Commission critiques S/Court's opinion and Legislative statutes

The need to codify opinions rendered by the Supreme Court of Liberia and statutes of the Legislature has been underscored here.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 27, 2025- The Law Reform Commission reveals here that for over 24 years, opinions of the Supreme Court's and the statutes of the Legislature have not been codified, something, the Commission describes as deeply troubling and problematic. Codification of the legal system helps create clarity and consistency, making it easier to understand and follow. It



Commissioner Barsee Kpangbai

typically involves organizing existing laws into a unified structure, often in the form of a code, which can be systematically applied and interpreted. Cllr. Boakai N. Kanneh, Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, emphasizes that codification is not a routine legal task, but requires specialized legal training. "It is troubling that the Supreme Court's opinions and the Legislature's statutes have not been codified for over 24 years. These are areas where we need support from both the government and international partners, to make progress," Cllr. Kanneh underscores. He made the observation during an interview with reporters at his office in Monrovia. He highlights capacity challenges facing the Commission, particularly lack of human resources. He says to run the Law Reform Commission effectively, it requires competent legal professionals, adding "It's crucial to recruit the right set of lawyers and train them adequately." Speaking on origin of the Commission, he explains that Liberia's civil crisis prompted creation of various institutions aimed at ensuring the country would not fall back into conflict. When peace talks took place in Accra, Ghana, it was agreed that the Governance Commission would be established to improve the country's governance infrastructure. One of the outcomes of this process was the

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Education Minister casts doubt on students' demand

Education Minister Dr. Jarso Maley Jallah, questions the legality of demand by protesting students here, suspecting that their protests may have been influenced by outside motives.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 27, 2025- The ongoing protests by public school students in Monrovia, Liberia, is in response to the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) teachers' strike, demanding salary increases.

Protests by public school students over teachers' pay has sparked controversy here, particularly due to government's involvement, with Minister of Education, Dr. Jarso Maley Jallah, casting doubt on the legitimacy of the students' demands. Dr. Jallah terms the protests held in the last two days, as unfortunate, with suspicion that they were being manipulated by certain individuals with ulterior motives.

The Minister reveals that the Monrovia Consolidated School System that administers scores of public schools in Montserrado County, has an "annual budget of US\$4.2 million, with US\$3.9 million being used for teachers' salaries". She emphasizes that teachers' salaries have been paid, making the protests concerning.

Dr. Jallah also reveals that the ministry is collaborating with the Liberia National Police (LNP) to investigate individuals behind the protests.

The teachers' strike for lack of salary has caused significant disruptions in schools, leaving many classrooms inactive, especially at MCSS, which

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

were merely trying to voice their concerns about the state of their education.

The protest turned out to be a tense situation where students, affected by the strike of their teachers, are protesting for them to return to class and teach to have them prepare for examinations administered by the West African Examination Council or WAEC.

Meanwhile, government officials and security forces are caught in the middle, with Minister Jallah accusing certain individuals of manipulating the situation for political gain.

The response from the police has drawn criticism, raising important questions about the government's handling of peaceful demonstrations and the welfare of students. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Education Minister

ECOWAS calls for youths mainstreaming to development

The regional bloc, ECOWAS, underscores a need to mainstream youth activities in development for inclusiveness.

By Lewis S. The

Monrovia, Liberia, March 27, 2025- The ECOWAS Ambassador to Liberia, Madam Josephine Nkrumah, urges member states to introduce programs aimed at transforming youths across Africa.

"And therefore, my strong advocacy these days, when I speak with relevant stakeholders to youth empowerment, is about beginning a trend of youth-mainstreaming in all our policies, in all our agenda for development. That, I think, would begin to bridge the gap where your voices will be heard and where we can tap into the vast potentials that you have", Amb. Nkrumah tells youths of Liberia.

She made the urge Wednesday, March 26, 2025, while addressing ECOWAS volunteer programs university debate championship for several university students.

She reiterates her commitment to youth empowerment, saying "The youths, for me, are a potent force for good. In today's world, oftentimes when we talk about youth peace and



security, people look at it in terms of conflict, but also they look at it in terms of how we can begin to plug the youths into a grand developmental agenda for an ECOWAS that we want."

According to her, theme for the occasion, "Shaping ECOWAS at 50; shaping the future of what we do in 2050", youth empowerment and tackling regional challenges couldn't have come at a better time, because the youth of ECOWAS form the largest demographic of all the region's population. "And so your voice must be heard. Your voice must be listened to, and you should have a seat at the table."

"Every time we talk about women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming, women empowerment, or gender mainstreaming in all sectors of our national development, but I also believe in youth mainstreaming in all our sectors of development", she says and adds,

"But if you don't mainstream the youth to tap into their potential, to understand their aspirations, but also more importantly, to build an

interconnected society where you don't have the youth on one side, the rulers or leaders on another side, we cannot shape the kind of ECOWAS that we want."

Ambassador Nkrumah reminds the students that if ECOWAS member states are looking to having grand agenda for a youth, then it means that right from now, their voices must be heard in very clear terms, but at the same time warns young people that if they do not know what you want, and begin to make informed decisions, it means that they're not meeting halfway what is expected of them.

The volunteers' program, according to her, provides an opportunity for youths to speak out and make their voices hear.

"Youth focus is important. I know there are some of you here who have a certain perception about ECOWAS, something that, for instance, with the breakaway of some of our member states, ECOWAS is not doing well enough."

She explains that there are three arms of ECOWAS: the ECOWAS Commission, the ECOWAS

Parliament, and the ECOWAS Court. "Now these three arms of government are governed by decisions that are taken by our political leaders, who sit as the Head, the authority of ECOWAS."

"And year by year, we choose a chairman from amongst the various member states. Sometimes when people criticize ECOWAS, I say it's a criticism of all of us. Because the decisions and the actions that ECOWAS Commission takes is based on the decisions that our leaders make.

And so if our leaders make decisions that does not sit well with the society, then we have a challenge. And that is what transitioned ECOWAS from an ECOWAS of the people, sorry, from an ECOWAS of states to an ECOWAS of the people", she adds.

The ECOWAS Youth Volunteer program is a regional initiative by ECOWAS which is aimed at promoting volunteerism and regional integration within West Africa. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Troubling and problematic

establishment of the Law Reform Commission, which recognized that Liberia's laws were outdated.

"The laws we are working with today were drafted between 1972 and 1978. Given the time that has passed, it's clear they have been overtaken by events," argues Kanneh. He also points out that the Liberian Constitution, drafted in 1986, has not kept pace with contemporary realities. As a result, there have been ongoing calls for a constitutional review.

"The Law Reform Commission is at the heart of this process. We constantly review the laws, advising the Legislature and the government on necessary changes, amendments, or updates," he continues. "When the Legislature reviews laws, we provide counsel. Additionally, we work

closely with the Ministry of Justice in the codification process."

Kanneh acknowledges that resource constraints are widespread within the government, but commends the current administration for prioritizing the rule of law in its Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), noting that a civilized country is not defined solely by its infrastructure, but by how it is governed according to the rule of law.

"We are committed to ensuring that the laws of Liberia are respected and enforced. As public servants, we bear the responsibility of making sure our work impacts the lives of the Liberian people", he underscores. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

"Bong County unveils a bold new development plan, -But residents question its effectiveness and transparency."

The Bong County Administration on March 25, 2025, submitted a new development agenda to the County Council.

By Edwin N Khakie

The focus of this agenda is to increase infrastructure development and improve the standard of living for residents of the county.

One of the major projects highlighted in the new development plan is the renovation of the Presidential Palace, which will cost an estimated three hundred and fifteen thousand US dollars (US\$315,000) according to Superintendent Norris.

The Presidential Palace serves as the official residence and office of the county's highest authorities.

According to Sup Norris, the renovation project will involve repairing and upgrading the existing structure to bring it up to modern standards. This will include new furniture, fixtures, and equipment, as well as improving the security and safety systems of the building.

The construction of an elementary school in Kolli-ta Wolah - town which estimated cost is seventy-five thousand US dollars (US\$75,000) and will be built in partnership with the local community.

The project aims to provide access to quality education for children in the area, as well as improve the overall educational infrastructure in the county.

Sup Norris stated that the school will be equipped with modern facilities, including classrooms, a library, a computer lab, and a playground. It will also have a well-trained teaching staff to ensure that students receive a quality education.

The renovation of the Presidential Palace and other developmental projects seem as a crucial step in showcasing the development and progress of the county. It will not only provide a modern and functional workspace for the Superintendent but also serve as a symbol of the county's growth and prosperity.

These initiatives aim to improve the quality of life for the residents, attract investment and create employment opportunities in the county.

The agenda also includes plans to promote tourism in Bong County by developing its natural resources, such as waterfalls, and other historical sites in the County.

Meanwhile the Council headed by Mr. Aaron S. Fenlah has sent the instrument to the committee room for consultation and further deliberation.

The Council also approved the administrative district projects, previously submitted by the County Administration on November 1, 2024, in the tune of US\$470,000, and the Bong County Administration is

committed to implementing these projects to bring about positive change and development in the county.

In addition, the council members also endorsed the proposed reactivation of the Madam Suakoko Scholarship program.

This scholarship initiative was designed to provide financial support to deserving students from the county who intend to pursue higher education.

Speaking to the New Dawn newspaper, Bong County correspondent, Mr. Fenlah, said the leadership is prepared to engage all mining companies within the county to help support the Madam Suakoko Scholarship.

He believes education is a priority for the county as such, he is craving the support of local mining companies to aid in such direction.

The Bong County Council's decision to approve funding for administrative projects and to advance educational initiatives like the Madam Suakoko Scholarship reflects ongoing commitment to the development of the region, aiming to improve the county and the future prospects of the county's youth.



Bong County: Youths Criticize Pastors for Endorsing Senator Moye as "Political Godfather"

By: Edwin N. Khakie

In a radio interview on Super Bongese Radio in Gbarnga on March 25, 2025, Emmanuel Tamata and Victor Voor voiced their concerns over a controversial decision by some pastors in Bong County to name Senator Prince K. Moye as the "Godfather" of the region. Seven pastors from different churches in Gbarnga, Saturday honored and certified Moye as

for promoting division. They emphasized that this action violated the principle of separation of church and state in the county.

Tamata and Voor also raised alarms about the potential conflict of interest that could arise from the senator's new title, warning that it could grant him undue influence over the pastors and their congregations, potentially



Emmanuel Tamata and Victor Voor

the county's "political Godfather" for what they say is due to the development he has undertaken in the county since his entry into politics in 2011.

The two men expressed their dismay, arguing that such a title, which holds religious significance, should not be given to a political figure known

undermining the independence and integrity of spiritual leaders.

In their appeal, the men urged the pastors to reconsider their decision, urging them to keep politics out of the church. They stressed that intertwining religion and politics could have harmful effects on both faith and Liberia's democratic processes.

Women demand war crimes court

A Liberian women group protest here, demanding formation of War and Economic Crimes Court with appropriate funding for its operation.

By Lewis S. The

Monrovia, Liberia, March 27, 2025- Liberian women under the banner Women in Peace building Network or WIPNET, have staged a peaceful assembly at the Office for War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC), demanding more actions from the government in the formation of the proposed court.

"We acknowledge the efforts of the government by setting up the offices of the WECC, but that is not enough and there are still more actions that need to be done."

WIPNET National Coordinator, Madam Bernice Freeman made those statements when she spoke on behalf of the women, who gathered at the Office in a peaceful protest on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, in Monrovia.

According to the women, their gathering is to call attention of government through the office of President Joseph N. Boakai, regarding prolonged delay in formation of the court to prosecute alleged war criminals as a means of addressing the culture of impunity in Liberia.

Madam Freeman disclosed that their assembling was intended to

draw government's attention on the need to provide financial and logistical support to formation and effective functioning of the court.

"Students protesting in the streets mixed with all sorts of things and absolutely nothing is being done to calm those situations; I'm afraid these are early warning signs that the President must not overlook", she said.

Last week, WIPNET held a meeting with some officials of government, complaining about failure to begin full implementation of the WECC, something, she said prompted them to have staged a peaceful protest to get all stakeholders' attention.

"This discussion has been lingering for a long period; on several occasions we the women have raised concern about delay in the implementation of the W

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Français

Des gaz lacrymogènes perturbent la pétition des élèves

Ce qui devait être une manifestation pacifique des élèves des écoles publiques de Monrovia s'est transformé en chaos, mardi, lorsque des policiers antiémeute de la Police nationale du Libéria ont lancé des gaz lacrymogènes, perturbant une cérémonie de pétition au bâtiment du

protestaient contre l'absence prolongée des enseignants en classe. Des centaines d'élèves du MCSS ont défilé dans les rues de Monrovia, portant des pancartes et demandant l'attention du gouvernement concernant le boycott des classes par les enseignants. La manifestation a commencé au

camarades des lycées G. W. Gibson et William V. S. Tubman, ainsi que d'autres écoles publiques avoisinantes, toutes sous l'administration du MCSS. Les manifestants se sont rendus au bâtiment du Capitole pour soumettre une pétition aux législateurs afin qu'ils s'intéressent à leur situation. Les élèves ont été dirigés par des agents de la Police nationale du Libéria, qui les ont accompagnés jusqu'à l'entrée principale de l'Université du Libéria et du bâtiment du Capitole, où les agents de la police anti-émeutes ont pris le relais. Les élèves ont passé environ dix minutes à l'entrée du Capitole, attendant que les législateurs viennent recevoir leur pétition, mais personne ne s'est présenté au début. Par la suite, la police a demandé aux élèves de se placer d'un côté de la rue pour permettre la libre circulation des véhicules et des piétons, une consigne que les élèves ont suivie. Cependant, après plusieurs heures, des membres de la



Capitole. Le 25 mars 2025, des agents de la Police anti-émeute ont dispersé les élèves du Système scolaire consolidé de Monrovia (MCSS) qui

lycée D. Twe Memorial et à l'école Marvin Sonnie, tous deux situés dans le quartier commercial de Bushrod Island, avant de se diriger vers le centre-ville de Monrovia. Les élèves ont ensuite rejoint leurs

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Nimba en quête du successeur de Prince Yormie Johnson : Huit candidats en lice

Alors que le comté de Nimba se prépare pour une élection sénatoriale partielle cruciale le 22 avril 2025, le débat s'intensifie sur le choix du successeur du défunt sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, figure emblématique de la politique locale. Prince Yormie Johnson, fondateur du Mouvement pour la Démocratie et la Reconstruction (MDR) et influent faiseur de rois, est décédé l'année dernière après s'être effondré soudainement à son domicile à Paynesville, en périphérie de Monrovia. Il s'apprêtait à entamer un troisième mandat de neuf ans, après avoir servi au Sénat depuis 2005. Un sondage réalisé par A NEW DAWN révèle que, sur les neuf représentants du comté, six, ainsi que l'unique sénateur actuel, Nya D. Twayen Jr., soutiennent la candidature du représentant Samuel Kogar. Parmi les 11 membres du caucus de Nimba, deux seulement ont choisi d'appuyer d'autres candidats : le représentant Taa Wongbay du district n°9 soutient la seule femme en lice, l'ancienne

superintendante Edith Gongloe-Wehyee, tandis que le représentant Musa Hassan Bility apporte son soutien à l'ancien inspecteur du comté, Mack Gbliwon, candidat du mouvement récemment fondé Citizens Movement for Change (CMC). Une course serrée L'élection partielle s'annonce hautement compétitive, avec quatre des huit candidats bénéficiant de soutiens importants. Le représentant Samuel Kogar, issu du MDR du défunt sénateur Johnson, bénéficie d'un soutien croissant de la population, notamment après avoir reçu l'aval du vice-président Jeremiah Koung.

L'ancienne superintendante Edith Gongloe-Wehyee est quant à elle soutenue par de nombreuses associations rurales de femmes et d'hommes à travers le comté. Parmi les autres candidats en vue figurent l'ancien représentant du district n°4, Me Garrison Yealu, et l'ex-inspecteur du comté, B. Mack Gbliwon. Le récent soutien du vice-président Koung à Samuel Kogar semble renforcer sa position comme favori, de nombreux électeurs estimant qu'il est le candidat le plus apte à poursuivre l'héritage politique de Johnson.



Éditorial

Comment le Bloc Majoritaire a couvert le Liberia de honte

Par Raghuram Rajan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Français

Starts from page 8 Des gaz lacrymogènes perturbent la pétition des élèves

Chambre des représentants, en particulier du bloc majoritaire, ont été vus s'engageant avec les élèves, sous la direction de l'agent de police 102 Nelson Freeman.

Les parlementaires du bloc majoritaire comprenaient le représentant Alex Williams du comté de Maryland, président de la Commission de l'éducation, le représentant Sekou Kanneh, président de la Commission exécutive, et le représentant Price Tole, président de la Commission des réclamations et des pétitions, qui sont venus recevoir la pétition des élèves.

Sekou V. Saryon, président du Syndicat des élèves du Système scolaire consolidé de Monrovia, alors qu'il était en train de présenter la pétition aux parties prenantes, a entendu une forte détonation suivie de fumée qui s'élevait dans l'air.

Les agents de la police anti-émeutes avaient tiré des gaz lacrymogènes sur les élèves manifestants, perturbant ainsi la cérémonie de pétition et obligeant les législateurs à fuir la scène pour leur sécurité.

Suite au lancement des gaz lacrymogènes, les élèves ont été vus sautant par-dessus les grilles de

l'Université du Liberia pour chercher un abri, moment où des élèves de l'Université du Libéria, affiliés au Parti unifié des élèves (SUP), ont rejoint la protestation.

À ce moment-là, des pierres et d'autres projectiles ont été lancés depuis les grilles de l'Université du Libéria en direction des policiers, qui ont réagi en tirant à nouveau des gaz lacrymogènes pour tenter de calmer la situation.

Par ailleurs, certains élèves manifestants affirment que la police a arrêté certains de leurs camarades, mais la Police nationale du Libéria n'a pas encore confirmé ni infirmé cette allégation.

Les enseignants du Système scolaire consolidé de Monrovia attendent toujours une augmentation salariale annoncée par le gouvernement en janvier dernier. Cependant, les autorités expliquent que la liste de paie du MCSS est gonflée par des noms de personnes récemment intégrées dans le système sans respecter la procédure adéquate, d'où la nécessité de nettoyer la liste de paie avant de mettre en place l'augmentation salariale.

Édition par Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 8 Nimba en quête du successeur de Prince

Dans sa déclaration, le vice-président Koung a exhorté les Nimbaiens, en particulier ses partisans, à soutenir Kogar. Toutefois, des critiques s'élèvent, affirmant que son élection au Sénat entraînerait une nouvelle élection législative pour pourvoir son siège, ce qui exercerait une pression supplémentaire sur un budget national déjà fragile.

La question ethnique et la représentation politique Le vice-président Koung a également mis en avant un argument ethnique, soulignant que feu le sénateur Johnson appartenait au groupe ethnique Gio et que pour honorer sa mémoire, Samuel Kogar, également Gio, devrait être élu.

Cependant, l'ancien candidat présidentiel Me Tiawan Saye Gongloe, lui aussi originaire de Nimba et frère d'Edith Gongloe-Wehyee, conteste cette logique. Il affirme que l'Unity Party, parti au pouvoir, et son allié, le MDR, ont déjà un représentant au Sénat en provenance de Nimba. Il plaide donc pour un équilibre politique en appelant à voter pour l'opposition.

"Nimba est un comté où chacun, quel que soit son genre, son district ou son affiliation politique, doit avoir une chance de servir," souligne Me

Gongloe.

Il insiste sur l'importance d'une représentation inclusive, appelant à tenir compte des populations marginalisées politiquement, notamment les femmes et les minorités ethniques telles que les Krahn, Mandingo, Kpelleh et Bassa (Gbi et Doru).

"Vous avez sept candidats issus de l'opposition, mais l'un d'entre eux se démarque : une femme qui a déjà fait ses preuves en tant que superintendante du comté et qui a terminé deuxième lors de trois élections sénatoriales précédentes. Il est également à noter qu'aucune femme ne siège actuellement dans le caucus législatif de Nimba. Edith Gongloe-Wehyee est originaire du district statutaire de Yarwin-Mehnnsonnoh, un district qui n'a encore jamais produit de sénateur. Elle est la seule femme en lice, et je vous encourage à voter pour elle. Elle représente la meilleure voie vers un leadership inclusif, équilibré et tourné vers l'avenir au Sénat," a-t-il déclaré.

Samuel Kogar se présente ainsi pour la deuxième fois à une élection sénatoriale, tandis qu'Edith Gongloe-Wehyee en est à sa quatrième tentative.

Édition par Jonathan Browne

La Première Dame Kattumu Boakai appelle à une lutte collective contre la tuberculose

La Première Dame du Liberia, Kattumu Boakai, a lancé un appel à une mobilisation générale dans la lutte contre la tuberculose (TB) dans le pays. Insistant sur la nécessité d'une action concertée, elle a souligné que l'éradication de cette maladie exige une collaboration étroite entre les agences gouvernementales, les professionnels de la santé, les partenaires internationaux et la population.

Un engagement national renforcé S'exprimant à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la tuberculose, Mme Boakai a rappelé que, grâce à une stratégie efficace et à des investissements ciblés, des progrès significatifs peuvent être réalisés. Dans cette optique, elle a officiellement remis 50 microscopes Olympus offerts par le Fonds mondial pour renforcer les services de diagnostic en laboratoire.

Elle a également exhorté l'ensemble des Libériens à adopter des mesures préventives telles que le dépistage précoce, le respect strict des traitements et l'amélioration des conditions de vie.

En sa qualité d'Ambassadrice nationale de la lutte contre la tuberculose, la Première Dame a réaffirmé son engagement à promouvoir la santé et le bien-être de tous les citoyens. Elle a exprimé sa gratitude envers le ministère de la



Santé et ses partenaires, qui continuent d'appuyer cette cause, soulignant que la tuberculose demeure un enjeu majeur de santé publique, tant au Liberia qu'à l'échelle mondiale.

« Nous avons accompli des progrès considérables dans la lutte contre cette maladie, mais beaucoup reste à faire. Éradiquer la tuberculose est possible, mais cela nécessite un

LISGIS présente une mise à jour sur le rapport du recensement

Le Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) a comparu devant les commissions parlementaires chargées des Élections et de l'Inauguration ainsi que de la Bonne Gouvernance pour fournir une mise à jour sur le processus post-recensement.

Cette audience fait suite à une invitation des commissions parlementaires, désireuses d'obtenir des précisions sur les développements liés au Recensement National de la Population et de l'Habitat de 2022.

Lors de la réunion tenue ce mardi 25 mars au Capitol Building, le président de la Commission de la Bonne Gouvernance, le représentant Doworh Gleekia, a souligné l'importance de cette rencontre. Selon lui, il est essentiel que l'institution statistique nationale fournisse un compte rendu détaillé, permettant ainsi des débats éclairés en plénière.

Un outil essentiel pour le développement national Prenant la parole, le Directeur général du LISGIS, Richard Fatorma Ngafuan, a précisé que le recensement de 2022 offre une analyse détaillée de la répartition de la population à travers les quinze comtés du pays, tout en mettant en évidence les taux de croissance annuels enregistrés entre 2008 et 2022.

Selon lui, ces informations sont cruciales pour suivre l'évolution démographique, identifier les tendances migratoires et évaluer la précision des données collectées.

"En croisant les chiffres de la population avec les taux de croissance, nous pouvons identifier les comtés n'ont pas connu une croissance rapide, une croissance lente ou une stagnation des données essentielles pour l'élaboration de politiques publiques, la planification et l'allocation des ressources," a expliqué M. Ngafuan.

D'après le Recensement de 2022, la population du Liberia s'élève désormais à 5 250 187 habitants, reflétant des changements démographiques notables au cours de la dernière décennie.

Un engagement parlementaire pour une meilleure gouvernance Les commissions parlementaires ont réaffirmé leur engagement à faire en sorte que ces données soient exploitées efficacement pour la planification nationale et la gouvernance.

La mise à jour fournie par le LISGIS ouvre la voie à des discussions approfondies et à d'éventuelles actions législatives visant à tirer pleinement parti des résultats du recensement pour le développement du pays.

Édition par Jonathan Browne



engagement collectif, des investissements stratégiques et une détermination sans faille pour tenir nos promesses», a-t-elle déclaré.

Un défi sanitaire mondial Selon les dernières données de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), une personne meurt de la tuberculose toutes les 78 secondes dans le monde. Face à cette réalité alarmante, l'OMS exhorte les États membres, les décideurs politiques, les prestataires de soins de santé et la société civile à intensifier leurs efforts et à mobiliser davantage de ressources aux niveaux national et international pour combler le déficit de financement de la lutte contre la maladie.

Le Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, Directeur régional de l'OMS pour l'Afrique, a reconnu les avancées du Programme national de lutte contre la tuberculose du Liberia mais a insisté sur la nécessité de poursuivre les efforts.

Un soutien accru des partenaires L'organisation Plan International

Liberia a réitéré son engagement à collaborer avec le gouvernement libérien pour lutter efficacement contre la tuberculose, le VIH et le paludisme.

Miriam Murray, Directrice pays de Plan International Liberia, a souligné que la lutte contre la tuberculose doit rester une priorité absolue, en particulier pour protéger les jeunes, les femmes et les communautés vulnérables.

« La tuberculose représente un défi sanitaire mondial. Sa prévalence au Liberia est élevée et doit être prise au sérieux. Il est impératif que tout le monde se mobilise pour l'éliminer », a-t-elle déclaré.

Célébration de la Journée mondiale de la tuberculose Le 24 mars 2025, le Ministère de la Santé, en collaboration avec ses partenaires, a célébré la Journée mondiale de la tuberculose sous le thème : « Oui ! Nous pouvons mettre fin à la tuberculose – S'engager, Investir, Agir ».

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: VP Koung's divisive politics in Nimba By: Naneka A. Hoffman

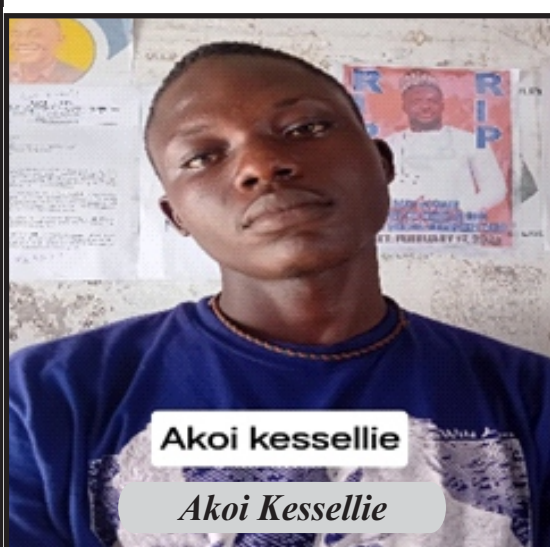
Vice President Jeremiah Koung's recent call for the Nimba people to elect a Gio-speaking candidate in the upcoming Senatorial By-election receives widespread criticism here, as you may read in a NEW DAWN's random sampling below.



John B. Mulbah
John B. Mulbah

“The statement from VP Jeremiah Koung is wrong. In my opinion, election should

be based on the most suitable candidate for the position. It shouldn't be based on tribal level, because tribalism brought war. It brings bad feelings, so we shouldn't be discussing tribalism; it should be based on qualification, and when you have passion to serve the people of Nimba. If you are serving Nimba, you are serving Liberia, because you will be making laws in the interest of Liberia and Liberians at large.”



Akoi kessellie
Akoi Kessellie

“In my mind and wisdom, it is a harmful statement, because the second man in command will come up

with such a statement. It is also a dangerous statement that could cause chaos because the past regime when Madam Taylor served as VP, she never made such a statement in her county; she united the people as one. Unity Party is the ruling party now; we're expecting something of standard from them, not something that will bring chaos in the country and to the body politics of Liberia.”

“VP Jeremiah Koung wants to divide Nimba County; this is the slogan he is preaching to divide the Mano and Gio people. In their dialect, Kudo means ONE. So, if he will be saying the Gio people should vote for the Gio people and the Mano people should vote the Mano people, it means he is contradicting himself because Nimba County will never be divided. See this thing the late Prince Johnson put us into; see the statement from VP Jeremiah Koung. Jeremiah Koung wants to become president for us. When



Abraham B. C. Jones
Abraham B.C Jones

Jeremiah Koung becomes president of this country, it will be only Gio people that will get job in the country.”

“VP Jeremiah Koung's statement is right. I agreed with his statement, for the development of Nimba.”



Archie Williams



Abraham T. Teah

“You see that statement alone from VP Jeremiah Koung is divisive and the VP should

know that he is the second person in command of the entire nation, so that statement is in appropriate from a leader of a nation. Jeremiah Koung divided himself by saying Mano people should vote for Mano and Gio people should vote for Gio. He divides himself in his county that voted for him. When they were voting for him, there was no tribe business; all of them came and voted for him. So, when it comes to this level when he has nothing to say, he should play low and leave it with other Nimbainas, because what he said has propensity to cripple his political ambition.”



Varney Prosperous Fahnbulleh
Varney Prosperous Fahnbulleh

“I see VP Jeremiah Koung's statement as a threat in the nation. A government is like a home; when you are a mother in the home, you must play the motherly role and see how best to restrict and give opportunity to all the

children in the home. You being a VP to make such a statement, knowing that Nimba County doesn't only belong to Mano and Gio alone, and you say only Gio people should have a say in politics, especially when it comes to the senatorial by-election or process in Nimba County. I think he shot himself in the leg, because Nimba isn't only two tribes; there are so many tribes in Nimba. His statement wasn't right; it will not be right today or tomorrow. In my mind, I don't think Koung has a political consultant that he should consult before making statement. And I see Koung falling comes 2029.”

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“Chaotic trend”

The Supreme Court of Liberia says ongoing leadership fight in the House of Representative presents a chaotic trend for the country.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, March 27, 2025- The Supreme Court of Liberia expresses serious concern here over what it terms “chaotic trend” at the House of Representatives in the ongoing leadership impasse. The Court raised the concern while entertaining legal arguments in a Bill of Information filed by embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

On Wednesday, March 26, 2025, the Supreme Court entertained arguments from the majority bloc led by Regime Speaker” Richard N. Koon and the minority bloc of embattled Speaker Koffa, who has legally challenged his removal.

However, the various Justices, especially Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh disagreed with the majority bloc arguments and asked several questions that went unanswered by the Koon-led majority. The Supreme Court notes that the bill of information is a fact that shows that the majority bloc violated its mandate, because Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah has no right to preside over session when the constitutional Speaker Koffa is around and available.

Also, it's not a practice that the constitutional speaker sits in the regular chamber of the House, while his Deputy presides over another session, despite not having a quorum. Responding to issue that has to do with signing of a resolution of vote of no confidence, the Court says they will not give such information attention because there is a law and procedures in the Constitution of Liberia that provides for functional operation of the House and how an elected Speaker or officials can or should be removed.

The High Court explains that firstly, the Body should meet in a session, request that the Speaker step aside, and give him due process to whatsoever allegation brought against him before signing a resolution.

In the instance case, it wonders whether due

During the hearing and after the case, both parties noted their representations and were later given minutes to present their arguments and legal reliance.

One of the lead lawyers for the minority bloc, Cllr. Arthur Tamba Johnson urges the Supreme Court to provide enforcement and clear interpretation regarding its December 6, 2024, ruling into the House's impasse.

Cllr. Johnson notes that they have come for the court to enforce its ruling of December 6, 2024, but the Court argues its role is to provide the law, while enforcement of the law is done by the Executive Branch of government.

However, Cllr. Johnson counters, citing examples where the Court had reviewed and enforced its action or ruling in some cases, as mandated in the Supreme Court Revised Law of Court.

Following his argument, the full bench ordered that the petitioner provides his legal reliance or justifications to his petition. Cllr. Johnson references the Revised Law of the Court.

According to him, Part (1) 12(a) of the Revised Law of the Supreme Court prevents decision in the execution of the mandate of the court.

" Part (1) 12"a" of the Revised Law of the Court particularly prevents whosoever from interfering with the judgment and mandate of the Supreme Court. In this case, the whosoever and anyone that is interfering with the Court mandate is the majority bloc, for which we are here", he says.

But the Bench also requests that he clearly points out the functions of the bill of information, to which the counselor explains that the bill of information is there to provide review and action regarding improper and obstructive action that impeded the December 6 ruling of the Supreme Court.

"Finally, I pray that this Court grants our petition, as prayed in our amended bill of information before this court", Cllr. Johnson prays.

Meanwhile, the Respondent, represented by former Grand Cape Mount County Senator, Varney Sherman and others pray that the Court dismisses the bill of information, which they

Starts from Back page MICAT Deputy boss Tarkpah discusses

months.

The French have been working with French speaking countries up to this point, but they now see a need to extend to Liberia.

Meanwhile, the session highlighted the lessons learned while implementing technologies namely OCDS, E-Government Procurement systems, Beneficial ownership, and the emerging Artificial Intelligence in generating data and evidence to tackle and track anti-corruption efforts.

The session also showcased different OC and BO data use cases from Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, and Uganda at National and subnational levels.

Panellists in this session emphasized the role of local ownership and awareness of initiatives among CSOs in effective and inclusive OGP implementation.

Liberia joined the OGP in 2011 as a founding member and has since remained a member

The main aim of the OGP among other things, is to curb public sector corruption, enhance good governance and allow civil society to have a voice in National decision-making process

The Liberian delegation comprises representatives from the Government of Liberia headed by Deputy Minister Tarkpah) and civil society groups- Accountability LAB and Fly.

Starts from page 7 Women demand war crimes court

CC, but government has given us death ears. It's against this backdrop that we have staged this protest, and today we are not interested in 'your not too distance future' talk; we want actions"

Responding to the women, the executive director for the Office of War and Economic Crimes Court, Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu, assured the protesters that government is closely working on taking more actions against individuals who have committed heinous crimes.

"It's being clear that Liberia has resolved to make this country a better place through its people, and it has been very challenging since we took office but very promising.

Today we met our mothers who visited our office in demand of action for the implementation of the WECC and we had a conversation with them and we made a promise that in 2027, we will be doing the first interview”, Cllr. Barbu revealed.

Asked what the guarantee is, he said the commitment to have the court operationalized in 2027 doesn't fall from the sky, saying, “We have had several meetings. We've done some calculations. And we're very clear that by the government's political will, by all that we've done so far, especially that we've developed, as I said to the women, you know, a roadmap quite definitive

of where we're going.”

Barbu said the fact that the work is doable, and achievable, he is optimistic, because government has pledged to ensure that this process remains on course.

“It doesn't mean that the government is providing everything we need right now, but that political will is there”, he assured.

The Government of Liberia seems to have the political will, but keen observers say funding remained a problem, particularly in the wake of the United States Government halting international aid, coupled with donor fatigue, including gradual demise of key actors from the Liberian Civil War with the recent being the leader of the defunct INPFL rebels, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, who was vehemently opposed to formation of said court.

Senator Johnson had argued that former warlords in Liberia enjoy immunity, but international crimes, including war crimes don't have statutes of limitation. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Speaker Koffa & Speaker Koon

process was accorded the embattled Speaker, adding that any action that breaches the Constitution is subject to judicial review.

The court further wonders why if Speaker Koffa were removed and another team comes out and passed a vote of no confidence in the majority bloc and began holding separate sessions, will it be a good example for the country's system.

"Now, why can't they go under the Speaker since they are fifty and raise the motion for his removal? With that, the law can make him step aside, in that when you come here, while he is still sitting and opening another session is not the law. Now, how do we solve the stability in the House and the governance system because this is causing chaos? We saw the fire incident and several others. However, now that this bill of information is before the Supreme Court, we will see how the Minister of Justice will interpret this one. Matter suspended and ruling reserved, pending notice of assignments." The Supreme Court concludes.


describe as reckless and unfounded.

Cllr. Sherman in his argument discloses that embattled Speaker Koffa refused to honor the request from the majority bloc to join his colleagues in session after he (Koffa) was aware that they have passed a vote of no confidence against him.


Therefore, he notes that the law and Constitution provide that when the Speaker is absent, the Deputy Speaker may preside and conduct session, something, Cllr. Sherman notes, the majority bloc followed and elected leadership.



"Now, we pray that this court grants us our prayer as mentioned in our response to this amended bill of information", he also prays before the High Court.

Both parties are returning to wait on the final opinion of the Supreme Court in this matter that has brought the First Branch of the Liberian government, specifically the House to disrepute and disdain. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Republic of Liberia
National Investment Commission (NIC)
M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive
Monrovia , Liberia





Procurement Packages for Publication

The National Investment Commission (NIC) has received Funding from the African Development (AfDB) to Finance the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project, and intends to apply part of the funding towards the Procurement of Contract Packages listed in the Chart below for the project implementation through a National Competitive Bidding(NCB) method of the Public Procurement and Concession Act of 2010(PPCA) of Liberia.

No	Code	Contract Package	Quantity	Bid Opening Deadlines
1	IFB No: NIC/AfDB/NCB/002/25	Stationery	Details capture in Bidding Document	April 25, 2025
2	IFB No: NIC/AfDB/NCB/003/25	Internet Connectivity & Subscription	Details capture in Bidding Document	April 28, 2025
3	IFB No: NIC/AfDB/NCB/004/25	Office Furniture Equipment	Details capture in Bidding Document	April 30, 2025
4	IFB No: NIC/AfDB/NCB/005/25	Laptop Computers	Details capture in Bidding Document	May 1, 2025
5	IFB No: NIC/AfDB/NCB/006/25	Printing & Media Services for SAPZ Investment Promotion	Details capture in Bidding Document	May 5, 2025

The National Investment Commission hereby invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders to submit their bids for various procurement packages in this IFB as indicated above.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in Section 48(P. 52) of the 2010 amended PPCA.

All interested eligible bidders may obtain copy of the bidding document for a Non-refundable fee of USD 100.00 and any further information can be obtained from the Procurement Unit of the National Investment Commission (NIC) beginning Monday, March 31, 2025 from 9:00am to 3:00pm daily (Monday-Friday).

Qualification Criteria are captured in the bidding Document in English Sealed Bid (One Original and Three Copies) must be delivered to the address below. Absolutely Electronic bid will not be permitted.

Late Bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

All Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of Bid submission.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration.

The Procurement Unit
National Investment Commission (NIC)
1st Floor Room – 1
M&E Professional Building
UN Drive, Monrovia, Liberia

Cell: 0777551753/0888409197
Email: boimahgibson@gmail.com

Liberia's Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism, Mr. Johnny S. Tarkpah joined dozens of African leaders at this year's Open Government Partnership (OGP) Africa and Middle East Region conference in Kenya.

Mr. Tarkpah used the opportunity to recommend that the integrated financial management information system or IFMIS be used to synchronise procurement processes as a way of minimising corruption.

In his remark, Mr. Tarkpah mentioned that before attending the OGP 2025 Regional Conference, Liberia became compliant and launched its 5th national action plan on Feb 26, 2025.

“We are now on the implementation stage with 8 government ministries and agencies making commitments to the Plan that runs for two years, from 2025 to 2027,” he said.

On the sidelines, Mr. Tarkpah was invited by AFD, the French Development Association and they expressed their willingness to work with Liberia on a number of reforms on good governance and accountability. The discussions are expected to take some high-level dimension in the coming

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



African country is listed as one of the panellists and speakers at the conference which is being hosted by Kenyan President William Ruto.

The conference brings together speakers from around the African continent to share ideas on various thematic issues and is being

Tackling Corruption through Data: Lessons from Open Contracting, EGP, and Beneficial Ownership as one of the panellists for the session.

He stressed the need for Inter-agency collaboration among government actors on how to manage beneficial owner and public contracting by the Liberia registry and the PPCA.

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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper front page with the headline 'New Dawn' and 'JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections', a calendar with the 'New Dawn' logo and 'CALENDAR' text, a magazine titled 'New Dawn' with 'Sports' and 'Women are bold' headlines, and a brochure with the 'New Dawn' logo and 'BROCHURE' text. The publications are arranged in an overlapping fashion on a blue background.