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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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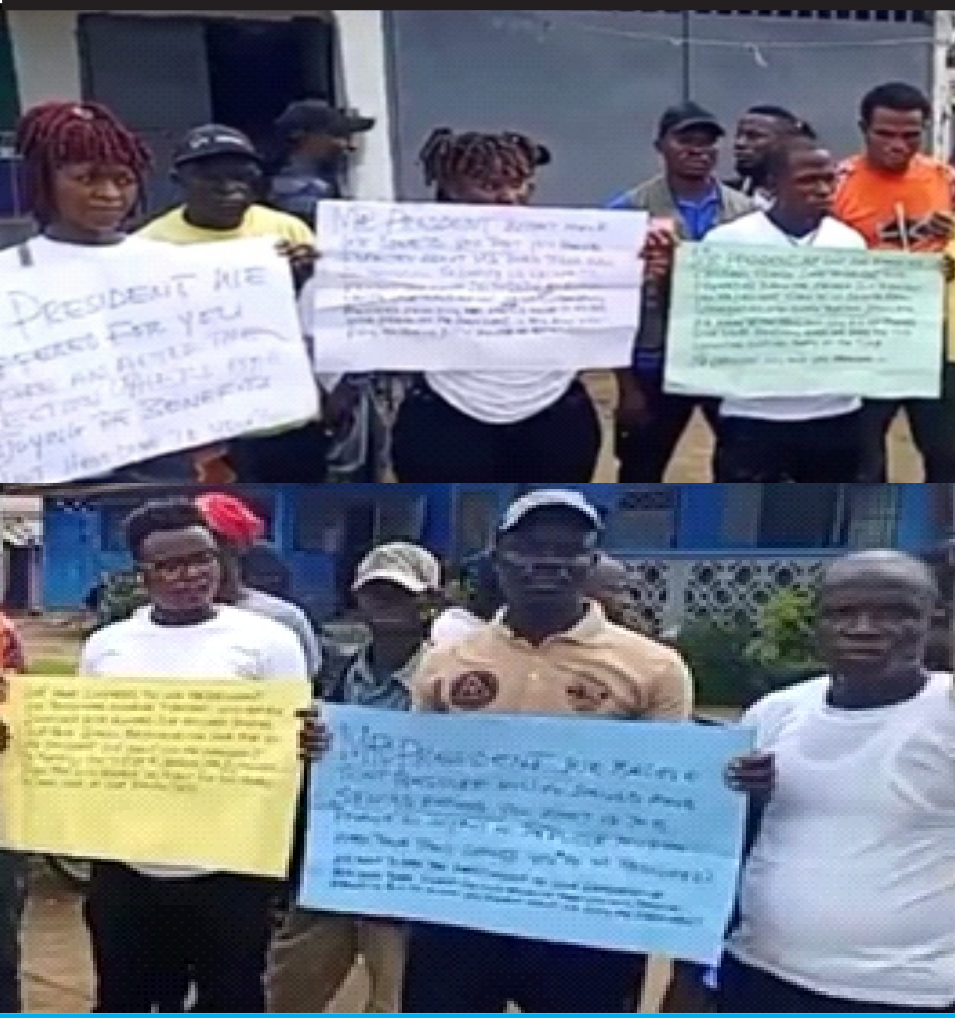
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UP partisans protest at Boakai's residence

Boakai launches CBL Financial Education Program and Pan-African Payment System



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Continental News

Nigerians frustrated by ongoing fuel shortage

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

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

don't have any real information," says Niamey resident Assoumane Hamadou Souley. While SONIDEP blames the situation on a stock shortage, this argument is dismissed by transport operators who are the most impacted. In addition to the scarcity of fuel, they are seeing their number of clients go down. The Taxi and Urban Transport Drivers' Union (SYNCTAXITU), believes the state should increase daily production to meet demand.

"We think that the state must take a step forward in terms of production, because if we are told that there are 25 trucks for the city of Niamey, I don't think that's enough," says its General Secretary Agali Ibrahim. "Today, as soon as they stop oil smuggling, everyone goes to the pumps. And when everyone's at the pumps, what's there can't be enough." Tanker trucks are expected to increase from 24 to 100 a day in the capital alone.

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



Nigerian Fuel Scarcity: Marketers Demand Action from President Tinubu

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

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

Namibia and Kenya face off in special olympics floorball clash

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

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

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

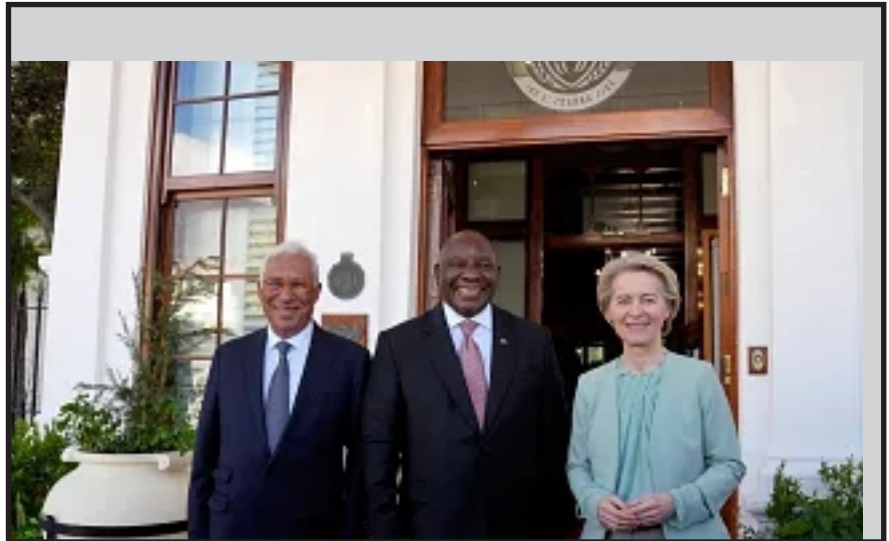


Namibia and Kenya face off in special olympics floorball clash

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

The European Union has announced a €4.7 billion (\$5.1 billion) investment package for South Africa to support green energy and vaccine production, marking a significant step in strengthening economic and political ties. The commitment was made during the first bilateral summit between the EU and South Africa in seven years, held at President Cyril Ramaphosa's office in Cape Town. A Shared History of Reconciliation Speaking at the summit, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen drew parallels between the histories of the EU and South Africa, both of which emerged from conflict and found a path to peace through reconciliation. "South Africa remains an emblem of hope for the world," von der Leyen stated. "Today, we are together announcing an investment package to mobilize €4.7 billion in South Africa." South African President Cyril

transition from coal to greener energy. The EU pledged to continue supporting the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), a multilateral initiative aimed at reducing carbon emissions. This comes in stark contrast to the recent U.S. withdrawal from a similar agreement. "We know that others are withdrawing, so we want to be very clear with our support," von der Leyen affirmed. "We are doubling down, and we are here to stay." Geopolitical Tensions and South Africa's Role on the Global Stage The summit took place amid growing geopolitical tensions, with the EU reaffirming its commitment to South Africa's leadership within the G20. Ramaphosa aims to use South Africa's G20 presidency to advocate for debt relief and climate financing for developing nations—priorities that have been downplayed by the U.S. Tensions between South Africa and the U.S. have been rising, particularly after South Africa launched a case at the United Nations' top court accusing Israel, a U.S. ally, of genocide in Gaza. The U.S. has since imposed sanctions on South Africa and cut funding, citing



Ramaphosa echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in upholding shared values. "This is the time to work together in defense of what we believe in—democracy, the rule of law, including the respect for international law and international humanitarian law," Ramaphosa said. Strengthening Trade and Energy Cooperation The EU and South Africa already share a strong trade relationship, with the bloc being South Africa's largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa. Von der Leyen reiterated Europe's commitment to expanding trade ties. "We want to strengthen and diversify our supply chains, but we want to do it in cooperation with you," she said, calling South Africa a "reliable partner" known for stability and predictability. A major focus of the investment package is South Africa's

human rights concerns and allegations of ties with groups such as Hamas and Iran. Further straining relations, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has skipped key G20 meetings hosted by South Africa and indicated that the U.S. will provide little support for international cooperation efforts through the bloc. EU-U.S. Trade Dispute Looms Over Summit As the EU and South Africa celebrated their growing economic partnership, transatlantic trade tensions escalated. U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans to impose a 200% tariff on European wine, Champagne, and spirits in response to EU proposals to tax American whiskey. Von der Leyen responded firmly, stating, "We will defend our interests. We've said it and we've shown it, but at the same time, I also want to emphasize that we are open for negotiations." The EU-South Africa summit marks a renewed commitment to cooperation in trade, energy, and global governance.

EDITORIAL

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 Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Can COP30 Succeed Where COP29 Failed?

NEW DELHI – Last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku ended with developed countries agreeing to mobilize \$300 billion annually for climate finance in developing countries. But while this figure is three times higher than the previous \$100 billion target, it falls far short of what's needed to close the climate funding gap.

The challenge today is more complex than when the Paris climate agreement was signed in 2015. Back then, the \$100 billion figure was largely arbitrary, not based on a full analysis of actual investment needs. By contrast, COP29 had to estimate real costs and determine how much external financing would be required.

A report by the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance (IHLEG), of which I am a member, finds that developing countries (excluding China) will need \$2.4-3.3 trillion in climate investments by 2035. About 60% of this could be financed domestically through higher savings and reduced public deficits. Even so, after reallocating existing investments toward the green transition, a \$1 trillion shortfall by 2030 – rising to \$1.3 trillion by 2035 – remains. Closing this gap will require external funding.

While COP29 acknowledged the scale of the financing gap, it failed to agree on how to close it. Developing countries pushed for wealthier economies to cover the shortfall with public funds, but developed countries offered only \$300 billion annually – and even that came with a caveat: they would only “take the lead” in mobilizing funds rather than guaranteeing direct provision.

The IHLEG report suggests that \$650 billion of the funding gap by 2035 could be met through private investment, including equity and debt. But this exposed a deep divide. Developed countries favored private capital to ease budget pressures, while developing countries, aware of its volatility, insisted on public funding for accountability and predictability.

Skepticism around private finance is warranted. Many developing countries struggle to attract private investment, relying instead on grants and concessional long-term loans. Shifting these limited public resources to low-income economies means middle-income countries will have to rely even more on private capital – despite investor uncertainty.

Private climate finance will grow from \$40 billion in 2022 to an estimated \$650 billion by 2035, according to the IHLEG. But most investment remains concentrated in a few markets, making access unequal and uncertain. Falling renewable-energy costs could boost green projects over fossil fuels, but the transition's pace remains unclear.

Even when private capital is available, domestic policies often discourage investment. Many governments artificially lower energy prices for political reasons, making electricity providers financially unviable. Foreign investors understandably see this as a fundamental risk and hesitate to invest. If private finance is to play a bigger role, governments must reform energy pricing, strengthen regulations, and cut bureaucratic red tape to attract investment.

Public-sector support remains crucial. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) and bilateral institutions can lower risks for private investors through risk-sharing mechanisms while helping governments create stable, investment-friendly environments.

COP29's failure to secure a stronger funding deal means a renegotiation is unlikely until the next global stocktake in 2028. However, gaps can still be bridged. Expanding MDB lending – which has lagged behind climate needs – could provide much-needed capital while countries work on long-term policy solutions.

COP29's final statement pointed to an opportunity to make real progress ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil. But one key factor will determine success: developed countries' willingness to commit more financial resources.

This has become even more uncertain with Donald Trump's return to the White House. His administration's hostility to global climate efforts, and its push for fossil-fuel expansion, will likely weaken international climate finance. The US is already scaling back existing commitments, further delaying climate negotiations.

Given how slow and bureaucratic these discussions have become, it's worth asking: Are massive annual COP meetings still the right approach? With tens of thousands of government officials, business leaders, and NGOs gathering each year, the urgency of the climate crisis demands more focused, results-driven decision-making.

One alternative is to delegate key financing negotiations to smaller, specialized groups. The G20, for example, lacks universal representation but includes all major economies – developed and developing – accounting for 80% of global GDP and emissions, and two-thirds of the world's population. More importantly, its members control the world's largest multilateral development banks, making it a natural platform for driving climate finance.

Another option is BRICS, which has positioned itself as a counterweight to Western-led financial institutions. With China, India, Brazil, and other key developing countries playing a central role, the BRICS could mobilize alternative sources of green finance, reducing dependence on Western funding and pushing for fairer access to carbon markets.

If either the G20 or the BRICS were to take the lead in climate finance, the focus would need to be on expanding MDB lending capacity, leveraging private capital, and incentivizing large-scale investments in climate adaptation and mitigation.

With COP29 failing to secure an adequate funding framework, developing countries are left with more questions than answers. As the financing gap continues to grow, incremental pledges are no longer enough. The real question now is whether the COP process is still the best place for these negotiations.

If major economies keep delaying real commitments, India, Brazil, and South Africa may have little choice but to push for climate finance talks to shift to platforms like the G20 or BRICS.

For COP30 to succeed where COP29 failed, it must move beyond vague pledges to secure clear, enforceable financial commitments. Otherwise, the world will once again gather, negotiate, and leave with little progress – while the climate crisis continues to escalate.

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Lord, what happening to ley Rescue Train na?

Dear Father:

So, they say whatin happening to ley Rescue Train na. You wan tell us it will reach to our owner junction na? I thought they say, it wor coming with speed?

Oh, my son, you na hear ley news?

What news Father? Da whatin happening?

You na hear they say ley Rescue Train engine get some problem? Tehy say ley Train na start leaking oil.

You say whatin! So soon?

Oh, you jest hearing it. They say ley Rescue Train mon be dragging again-lol. Look all da speed thing you used to be hearing they say da vla.

You joking!

Okay, be there. they say ley Recuse Train engine started smoking before it could even geh on ley main road. You wan see ley Rescue crew fighting for their own survival on le Train?

Da lie...hahaha, are you killing me?

Be there, be talking leh you jest from Uncle Sam's village. You will soon know whether goat can start from G.

Father, what dog care about family planning-ehn da jest to born and leave it with ley owner to take care of it?

Where? Da na in this rescue era oo. You hear ley people say ley oil seal and ley gasket maker on ley Rescue Train fini, they telling everybody to be patient da ley play ley dog mon come lee him children eh.

Father, ley thing you talking ay making me scarry na oo. In fact, next week I will hustle to geh small money to carry my dog dem for family planning, because right now those three women dogs when they try it, it will na be small thing.

Oh, you na wait for ley Resuce Train to come for you again. The play weh ley people fighting to rescue themselves eh da ley play you want com be waiting and expecting-you will balance.

Father, dis one da true oo.

Be there, they will wait for you. The play ley man dem eh their teeth dem sharp, sharp.

Hmm, no wonder my man wor telling me ley other day that him wor going to Pekin man village to get some quick, quick spare parts.

Yes, oo. If ley village people na do something, they will really stay long inside oo.

Hmm, this our village-kpo. So, all ley delay ley train on, not knowing our man dem fighting for themselves inside there instead of helping to make sure ley train pick up very fast.

Hmm, you know Father, I was listening to ley Pekin man dem light ley other day, I wor too shame for ley. Ley man jest looking for all kina means to geh ley kina attention he used to have before bor no way.

Ley thing ley people can say empty drum can make plenty noise da true. How our man will make noise na when him gut full.

You know, when we were growing up, our people used to tell us to stop talking when we eating. They used to tell us ay na civilized, Da na I understand. How you will talk sef, when your mouth full-ley food will be falling from your mouth.

Hmm anyway, me I will na give up I still waiting for ley Rescue Train, even if da 2-hour sef remaining to reach, I will jump on it. Da me na suppose to?

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OP-ED

by Umut Özkırmılı

Inside Turkey's Executive Coup

BARCELONA – It finally happened: Ekrem İmamoğlu, Istanbul's mayor and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's most formidable likely challenger in the 2028 presidential election, was formally arrested on flimsy corruption charges, after four days in custody. The move was a long time coming, and it cannot be dismissed as mere political maneuvering. It might not seem like it, but this is how coups often happen nowadays: with no blood and no noise beyond the whimper of a democracy dying in handcuffs.

After 23 years in power, and with Turkey's economy collapsing, Erdoğan knows that no election – even a rigged one – is safe. This left him with two options: cancel the vote or remove any credible opponent. But timing mattered. Before making his move, he had to make sure that the geopolitical chessboard was arranged in his favor.

This meant brokering a ceasefire with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). It also meant forestalling any pushback from the European Union. To this end, Erdoğan brandished the possibility of unleashing migrant flows to the European Union – a threat that gained force following the collapse of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's regime, which he helped bring about. And he flexed Turkey's military muscles at a time when America's commitment to NATO is dubious, at best, thereby sending a clear message that, without Turkey, Europe's eastern flank is dangerously exposed.

Once he had established himself as indispensable, Erdoğan took his shot, and eliminated İmamoğlu. The move carried short-term costs: Turkey's central bank had to spend a record \$12 billion to support the lira. But the response of the opposition so far has been the political equivalent of tripping over one's own shoelaces at the starting line.

The Turkish public, however, is incensed. Since İmamoğlu's arrest, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets to demand his release and, more broadly, justice and human rights. The protests quickly spread from Istanbul and Ankara to Adana, Antalya, Çanakkale, Çorum, Edirne, Eskişehir, Kayseri, and even the religiously conservative Konya, where at least 200 farmers, some with their tractors, joined the movement.

The upsurge of popular opposition has undoubtedly rattled Erdoğan. Gatherings and protests have been banned nationwide, and those who have defied them have been met with the familiar tools of state repression: batons, water cannon, and tear gas. More than 1,400 protesters have so far been detained.

The government has also limited travel to and from Istanbul, restricted access to several social-media platforms, including Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube; prohibited live broadcasts of rallies and protests; and arrested several journalists, including Yasin Akgül of Agence France-Presse and the award-winning photojournalist Bülent Kılıç. “Turkey is not a country that will be on the street – it will not surrender to street terrorism,” Erdoğan recently warned.

The ground for Turkey's main opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP), to unify the opposition and offer a credible alternative to Erdoğan's leadership could not be more fertile. Yet all the CHP has offered so far are tired populist and nationalist platitudes, more suited to Turkey's tutelary past than its existential present. No mention of Turkey's last mass protest movement, the 2013 Gezi Park demonstrations, which were fueled by similarly powerful grassroots energy. No outreach to the Kurds, who have repeatedly proved decisive in elections, and who continue to face severe oppression. And no recognition that this moment is bigger than party politics.

This isn't just a glitch or misstep; it is a symptom of a deeper problem. The CHP is clinging to an outdated political mindset, more focused on contesting elections than defending democracy. This explains why the protesters are not rallying behind the party, but rather asking it, politely but firmly, to get out of the way.

If the CHP learns anything from İmamoğlu's arrest, it should be that old tactics, based on the belief that change happens through polite negotiations and staged confrontations, are no longer fit for purpose. This does not mean merely that the party must adjust its methods. Rather, the CHP must recognize that it is no longer a protagonist in Turkish politics. That role now belongs to the Turkish people – the discontented, the frustrated, and the defiant, who see İmamoğlu's arrest as an attack not on one man, but on their collective future.

İmamoğlu's arrest should also serve as a wake-up call for the observers and academics who remain convinced that Turkey is a hybrid regime, in which electoral competition is “real but unfair,” rather than a full-blown autocracy. Even the political scientists who proposed the idea of “competitive authoritarianism,” Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, revised their theory in 2020, observing that a new breed of strongmen has been using “polarizing populist and ethnonationalist strategies” to cement power. If the CHP is wise, it will look beyond outdated academic scripts, poll numbers, and Kemalist bedtime stories to devise a strategy that resonates with protesters, rather than undermining or destroying their momentum.

One thing is clear: the old Turkey is gone. The question now is whether the Turkish people will get to shape what comes next. It is too soon to tell whether the current wave of popular anger and disillusionment will evolve into a coherent movement capable of outmaneuvering, let alone overcoming, Erdoğan and his cronies. But it should be obvious that when the game is rigged, trying to play it better – more thoughtfully, more shrewdly, more boldly – is futile. The only way to have any chance of winning is to flip the board.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

EPA and partners support validation Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is partnering with UNDP and FAO to validate a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan here.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 28, 2025 – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will validate a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The initiative is supported by UNDP and FAO through the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) project funded by Sweden. This event will take place on April 1-2, 2025, in Ganta City, Nimba County, bringing together key stakeholders from



government, civil society, academia, and international organizations. According to UNDP, the workshop aims to review and validate the NBSAP, ensuring it aligns with Liberia's commitment to conserving its rich biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. Over 40 participants will engage in constructive and comprehensive discussions on strategies and actions needed to protect Liberia's unique ecosystems and biodiversity. This event is a critical platform for reviewing, refining, and finalizing the draft NBSAP Communication Strategy, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation plans in consultation with key stakeholders. It will ensure the NBSAP is inclusive and aligns with Liberia's biodiversity conservation needs and the Government of Liberia's National Development Plan. The three NBSAP documents will be presented to stakeholders for input, ensuring the content is relevant and aligns with national biodiversity priorities, including those related to sustainable development, climate change, poverty reduction, and natural resource management. By the end of the workshop, stakeholders' feedback will be incorporated to ensure relevance and adoption by strategic sectors and constituencies. After stakeholders agree on the next steps, the government will formally adopt and implement the NBSAP. The Community-Based Forestry Management

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Ex-candidate wants Todee granted electoral district status

The Government of Liberia is being urged to legislate Todee Statutory District as an electoral district for speedy development.

By: Ramsey N Singbeh Jr in Margibi

Montserrado, Liberia, March 28, 2025 - A former representative candidate of Montserrado County Electoral District One, Momo F. Dannah, is calling on government to grant electoral district status to Todee Statutory District.

Todee district consists of several clans with a huge population and also accounts for a big part of Montserrado District. It covers Careysburg, Todee and other major places.

In an interview with reporters in Compound Town, along Bong Mines Road in Margibi County Electoral District#4 where he had gone to grace the first district report of Representative Emmanuel O. Yarh on March 26, 2025, Mr. Dannah emphasized the need for Todee to get an electoral district status for the purpose of advancing development for residents of the area.

He explained that this will assist the district to benefit from national government with some of its leaders taking up jobs in government from the region.

The man who is also domiciled in Kakaka, contested and secured the forth place during the 2023 elections in Montserrado County District One, where he got overwhelmingly supported by residents of Todee.

Momo, who told reporters that he built roads, churches, schools and bridges and turned them over to the government, further said if Todee cannot stand alone as an electoral district before 2029, he would not contest the next elections even though he will fulfill all of his promises made to the people.

"That's the only way Todee people will benefit! But if this district is not divided, and Todee stands on its own, nothing we will benefit and that is why you always see the rural areas, no development because the district is big. The district is more than a county."

Mr. Dannah, who is also heavily involved with agriculture,

creating employment opportunities for some residents of the district, said no matter the amount of money someone has, one's hands' marks cannot possibly show in all parts of the district because of its geographical size.

He said the district recorded approximately 67,000 registered voters.

The former representative candidate admonished residents of Todee to stop allowing themselves being trucked during election, noting that it undermines the well-being of the district, while calling on people of Margibi, who were trucked from Todee to desist from the act. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Mr. Momo F Dannah

MOH move to tackle Sick cell, Hypertension, and Asthma diseases

The Government of Liberia intensifies fight against Sick Cell, Hypertension and Asthma, among others diseases.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 28, 2025 - The Ministry of Health (MOH) working with Partners In Health (PIH), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and World Diabetes Foundation, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), has moved to tackle

Sickle cell, Hypertension, Asthma, diseases in Liberia.

According to the Ministry, the exercise aims to strengthen and manage hypertension, sickle cell disease, asthma, and other forms of non-communicable diseases and injuries in the country.

Dr. Callean J Howe, Assistant Minister for Preventative Services at the Ministry of Health, highlighted the impacts of Sickle cell Disease, Hypertension and Asthma here.

She encouraged participants to take

regardless of our geographical location," Dr. Howe added.

She stressed importance of the protocol development and encouraged participants to remain focus "so that we can have a successful end result that will be shared with other health care professionals."

Upon its completion, the protocol is expected to be disseminated through training of healthcare workers across the country to ensure that they are accessible and utilized appropriately.

Meanwhile, the workshop objectives is to develop a standardized, evidence-based national treatment protocol to ensure effective management and improve patient outcomes across various healthcare facilities—ensuring equitable access to care for individuals suffering from these chronic



Health ministry & partners in health workers

ownership of the working session and make all necessary inputs that will bring positive changes in managing these conditions in Liberia.

"At the Ministry of Health, we are doing everything possible in all areas to bring a change. However, to make our efforts more holistic, we need a protocol that guides us

conditions, and enhancing overall healthcare service delivery.

Medical experts, healthcare professionals, and international health organizations were in attendance to ensure the protocols are both context-specific and evidence-based.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Gov't suspects hidden hands behind MCSS students' protest

Details emerging from recent public-school students protest here suggest that the protests was more than just a demand for an increment in public school teachers' salaries.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, March 27, 2025 – The Civil Service Agency (CSA) has launched a forensic investigation into the recent student protest at the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) to determine the underlying causes of the unrest. Earlier this week, a group of students from the MCSS in Monrovia blocked the streets in protest over their teachers' absence from classrooms. The demonstration followed a



MCSS Students

press statement from the teachers' association, in which educators announced a "go-slow" strike until their salary demands and other concerns were addressed. However, speaking at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) on Thursday, the Director General of the Civil Service Agency (CSA), Josiah Joekai, suggested that the protest was not solely about salary increments and working conditions, but instead, there were other factors that might have influenced the demonstration. During the press briefing, Joekai displayed a WhatsApp message that allegedly contained threats from some of the instructors against any attempt to halt the Faculty Representative Council's activities. He argued that this message suggested the protest was not a spontaneous reaction to the teachers' strike but was fuelled by external influences. To address the concerns, the CSA has committed to conducting a forensic investigation into MCSS, using its Employment Status Regularization Project System. According to Joekai, the system is designed to detect irregularities, such as payroll duplication, and to enhance the integrity of the centralized payroll. He revealed that the CSA, in collaboration with Dr. Jallah and Hon. Gaphwan, will conduct a comprehensive audit of the MCSS workforce and this will include a Forensic payroll verification to establish an accurate and verifiable database of all employees. He added that educational

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Bong County: Sister Cities International Hosts African Mayors Leadership and Development Conference

Sister Cities International has kicked off the African Mayors Leadership and Development Conference in Gbarnga, Liberia, bringing together mayors from across the country to discuss strategies for improving urban development.

By: Edwin N Khakie

Gbarnga, Bong County, March 28, 2025: The three-day event, which started on March 27, 2025, is set to run through March 29, 2025, and is focused on building bridges between cities, fostering leadership effectiveness, and promoting collaboration. According to Ms. Effua McGowan, the Country Representative for Sister Cities International, the conference aims to develop strategies and provide networking opportunities to enhance city management and development across Liberia. The conference according to Ms. Effua will center on leadership effectiveness, team building, community engagement, trust-building, and the sharing of best practices. McGowan further explained that Sister Cities International was founded to assist American mayors by offering support and facilitating partnerships with cities around the world.

The conference seeks to strengthen these ties and create a platform for mutual growth and exchange of ideas. During the opening ceremony, the mayors of Gbarnga and Paynesville, Mayor Bestman and Mayor Gallah Varplaih, expressed their gratitude to Sister Cities for organizing this important conference. They emphasized that the event would provide valuable insights into urban development, and however,

spoke on the importance of decentralizing government to empower municipal governments with full authority. They believe the conference will be a crucial platform for mayors and city leaders to brainstorm and strategize for the betterment of cities across Liberia, highlighting the importance of collaboration and community-driven solutions in addressing urban challenges.



We did not receive funding from government

-Margibi District#4 Lawmaker clarifies

By Lewis S. The

Margibi, Liberia, March 28, 2025 - Despite government's pronouncement of making available US\$100,000 to each of representatives for district development purposes, Margibi County District#4 Lawmaker, Emmanuel O. Yarh, has clarified that he did not receive a dime from government in the first one year of his leadership for legislative development.

Reporting to residents of his district in Compound Two along Bong Mines Road in Margibi

developmental initiatives that he achieved for the year 2024 in Margibi County District#4. The focus of the report was youth and women empowerment, adequate representation and accountability, road constructions, rehabilitation and infrastructure development, honesty and transparency as well as health and sanitation.

Major amongst his programs is purchase of a yellow machine and a truck for the district to do road works, 660,000 Liberian



Rep Yarh and others at his first district report

County District#4, Rep. Yarh said all projects initiated r were funded by his office and the cooperation of people of his district.

According to him, though government announced US\$100,000 to be given to each representative for district development purposes, he did not receive any funding for the year under review.

He made the statement on March 26, 2025, at the program with chiefs, elders, youths, women, police, local officials, representations of the Margibi County Legislative Caucus, his political team and many other people in attendance.

He outlined several key

Dollars for women empowerment, Sherman Farm to Yeamen Road, graduation of about 402 young people from vocational training and remittance of portion of his salary for support to most vulnerable citizens in the district. Others are Lango Town-Hero Store Market, Bong Mines Road Motorcyclists' Terminal, Varyamah Bus Stop, Bensonville Latrine, cleaning of Kakaka streets and scholarships for hundreds of students across the district, among other personal initiatives meant for his people. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Ramsey N Singbeh Jr in Margibi

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Gov't suspects hidden hands behind MCSS

credential verification will be carried out to confirm the qualifications of teachers at MCSS. Additionally, he says a physical verification test will be consulted to ensure that only legitimate and active teachers are on the MCSS payroll. Joekai emphasized that any volunteer teachers who are not verified will be removed from the system. He stated that the CSA would use data analytics and field verification to identify and eliminate "ghost employees" from the payroll, thereby reducing wasteful expenditures. The CSA chief further noted that the agency's efforts would inform policy decisions on recruitment, deployment, and classroom resource allocation. This, he said, is part of a broader initiative to create an equitable and effective learning environment within MCSS schools. Meanwhile, Joekai confirmed that the CSA would launch a full investigation into the events surrounding the protest and share the findings with the public. He assured that the agency would collaborate with MCSS management, the Ministry of Education, and other relevant stakeholders to get to the bottom of the situation. Speaking on the salary top-up exercise, CSA Director General Gosefor Gocard stated that under the initiative, the government has hired 73 agricultural station officers and increased the salaries of teachers under the Ministry of Education, while further noting that the process is still ongoing in some parts of the country. "So far, we have increased the salaries of 5,613 employees within the Ministry of Health," he announced. Joekai emphasized that the government is taking necessary steps to improve governance and salary structures, but these changes will be implemented progressively over time. Additionally, he revealed that more than 120 doctors have been reclassified, with salary adjustments ranging from \$2,300 to \$3,500 per month, amounting to a total annual increase of \$3.9 million USD, noting that the minimum

salary in the health sector is now \$180 USD. Furthermore, he says the CSA is currently processing 139 personnel action plan notices for 39 newly licensed doctors and 21 pharmacists, totalling \$300,000 USD. According to him, the agency is also working with the Ministry of Health and county officials from all 15 counties to address the status of volunteer health workers who have been serving for over six years. He claimed that the county health officers across the 15 counties have compiled lists of legitimate volunteers working in different health centers and the lists are currently under review and verification by the Ministry of Health. He added that once completed, the CSA will conduct its own verification to ensure that only qualified individuals are placed on the government payroll. He also assured that funding for this initiative has already been made available by the Ministry of Finance, and that some volunteer health workers will be directly recruited to replace retirees within the sector. "Our projection of the health sector this year is 369 new hires, including 81 specialists in various fields. And we know that We are to be mindful of these specialists because their expertise may be needed in the future," Joekai stated, further revealing that The Ministry of Health is carefully planning replacements for these professionals to prevent a personnel gap within the health sector. Joekai also revealed that 479 employees will be retired from the health sector, with 81 of them being specialists. He emphasized that these retirements will only proceed once suitable replacements are identified to ensure a smooth transition without disruptions to healthcare services. Meanwhile, he says CSA remains committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of government payroll management, ensuring that only legitimate employees receive salaries while working to enhance salary structures across key sectors.

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EPA and partners support validation

Project addresses biodiversity conservation and community resilience, paving the way for a sustainable future for Liberia's biodiversity. Broadly, it plays a key role in supporting the EPA and the government of Liberia in implementing its commitments for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Biodiversity Framework. By empowering forest-dependent communities and local NGOs, the CBFM project promotes sustainable forest management practices. This empowerment helps communities to protect biodiversity while also improving their livelihoods. The CBFM project also encourages the

sustainable use of forest resources, which aligns with the goals of the NBSAP to reduce biodiversity loss and promote sustainable development. By focusing on the conservation of protected areas and community forests, the project directly contributes to the objectives of the NBSAP. This includes protecting endangered species and preserving critical habitats. With an enormous biodiversity, Liberia has an estimated forest area of 6.6 million hectares. However, it faces several threats and challenges, including deforestation, where residents heavily rely on the forests for their livelihoods. Press Release

PUL Advances Specialization in Agriculture and Environmental Reporting

(March 26, 2025): The President of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL), Julius Kanubah, has made a compelling case for Liberian journalists and media professionals to focus their efforts on agriculture and environmental reporting. This call to action was made during the opening of a one-day Agricultural Journalism Seminar in Paynesville. In his remarks, Kanubah emphasized that such specialization is crucial for institutionalizing reporting practices and fostering informed discussions on key issues, including food production, food security, food sovereignty, and livestock management.

He emphasized the importance of acknowledging the diverse range of actors and organizations involved in agricultural supply chains, including farmers, government agencies, and both local and international entities. Kanubah stated that the production of high-quality, fact-based, and ethical journalistic



contents regarding the production, distribution, and consumption of agricultural and environmental products is essential for ensuring food security, driving economic growth, and enhancing prosperity in Liberia. He urged journalists to remember their vital role in holding those in power accountable, advocating for critical and impartial reporting on agriculture and the environment. Furthermore, the Pul President called for sustained technical and financial support for agricultural and environmental journalism, emphasizing that these vital areas cannot thrive in isolation.

The seminar, organized by the Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN), welcomed the visiting President of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ), Steve Werblow, alongside national and international stakeholders from the agricultural and environmental sectors. Among the attendees were representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Volunteers for Sustainable Development in Africa (VOSIEDA), Liberia Agricultural Commodity and Regulatory Authority (LACRA), and the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA).

NCHP ends retreat on community health

Health authorities here have concluded a two-day retreat for Community Health Services Supervisors (CHSS) and District Health Officers (DHOS) in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Grand Bassa, Liberia, March 28, 2025 - The National Community Health Program of the Ministry of Health with support from Last Mile Health has ended a two-day retreat for Community Health Services Supervisors (CHSS)

in Bassa shared insights from the discussions, stating that the retreat was an opportunity to reflect on past efforts and address weaknesses. "We have come to look at challenges, gains, and ways forward regarding what we have been doing throughout the years," she noted.



and District Health Officers (DHOS) in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The retreat held from March 25-26, 2025, brought together community health workers with focus on evaluating the program's achievements, identifying challenges, and exploring strategies to improving community health services across Liberia. During the gathering, Dr. Jude Whesseh, Grand Bassa County Health Officer (CHO), raised issues such as maternal mortality, referral processes, holistic supervision, sanitation, rebuilding confidence in community health workers, and the significance of clinical practice and service delivery. Doctor Whesseh underscored the importance of effective communication and professional discipline in enhancing healthcare outcomes in rural and underserved communities. Ms. Nyonblee R. Topayoun, a CHSS from Bokay Town Clinic

Participants engaged in discussions on strengthening supervisory methods and improving healthcare delivery at grassroots level. Another participant, a CHSS from Orange Grove District and Michigan Clinic, highlighted key takeaways from the retreat. She noted that the program provided valuable lessons on roles and responsibilities of community health workers. "We've learned a whole lot concerning our work, our responsibilities, and the impact of our services in the community. We also addressed past mistakes and discussed strategies to improve supervision and engagement," she added. Participants pledged to implement lessons learned by enhancing community collaboration and strengthening healthcare systems. Many expressed commitment to ensuring that the knowledge gained translates into practical solutions that improve service delivery. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

Crise à la Chambre des Représentants : La Cour suprême met en garde contre une « dérive chaotique »

La Cour suprême du Libéria a exprimé de vives inquiétudes face à ce qu'elle qualifie de « tendance chaotique » observée au sein de la Chambre des représentants, en raison de l'impasse actuelle liée à sa direction. Cette mise en garde a été

Haute Cour a entendu les arguments des deux camps : celui dirigé par le « Président de régime » Richard N. Koon, chef du bloc majoritaire, et celui du président déchu Koffa, qui conteste juridiquement sa destitution. Au cours de l'audience, les juges, notamment la présidente de la Cour suprême, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay

d'information démontrait clairement que le bloc majoritaire avait violé son mandat. Elle a rappelé que le vice-président de la Chambre, Thomas Fallah, n'a aucun droit de présider une session en présence et disponibilité du président élu, J. Fonati Koffa. Elle a également précisé qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une pratique parlementaire acceptable que le président constitutionnel siège dans l'hémicycle tandis que son adjoint dirige une session parallèle, d'autant plus en l'absence de quorum.

En ce qui concerne la résolution de défiance évoquée par le bloc majoritaire, la Haute Cour a indiqué qu'elle ne pouvait en tenir compte en l'état, rappelant que la Constitution prévoit des procédures claires pour la destitution d'un président ou de tout autre responsable élu. La Cour a insisté sur la nécessité de respecter le droit à une procédure régulière, notamment la convocation d'une session officielle, la formulation des griefs, ainsi que l'octroi d'un droit de réponse au



formulée mercredi 26 mars 2025, lors de l'audience portant sur une requête d'information introduite par le président contesté de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa. La

Yuoh, ont manifesté leur désaccord avec les arguments avancés par le bloc majoritaire, adressant plusieurs questions restées sans réponse. La Cour a souligné que la requête

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La CEDEAO plaide pour l'intégration des jeunes dans le développement

Le bloc régional appelle à faire de l'autonomisation des jeunes une priorité dans les politiques de développement. L'Ambassadrice de la CEDEAO au Liberia, Madame Josephine Nkrumah, a exhorté les États membres à mettre en place des programmes concrets visant à autonomiser les jeunes et à intégrer pleinement leurs aspirations dans les politiques de développement du continent. « Mon plaidoyer aujourd'hui, lorsque je m'adresse aux parties prenantes concernées par l'autonomisation des jeunes, est d'encourager une véritable intégration des jeunes dans toutes nos politiques, dans tous nos agendas de développement. Je suis convaincue que c'est ainsi que nous commencerons à combler le fossé, pour que vos voix soient entendues et que nous puissions exploiter le potentiel immense que vous représentez », a déclaré l'Ambassadrice Nkrumah devant des étudiants universitaires, lors du championnat de débat du programme des volontaires de la CEDEAO, tenu mercredi 26

mars 2025 à Monrovia. Réaffirmant son engagement en faveur des jeunes, elle a souligné que ces derniers constituent une force puissante pour le bien. « Trop souvent, lorsque l'on évoque les jeunes, la paix et la sécurité, on les associe aux conflits. Mais il est impératif de les considérer aussi comme des acteurs clés de notre agenda de développement, pour construire la CEDEAO que nous voulons », a-t-elle insisté. S'appuyant sur le thème de la rencontre : « Façonner la CEDEAO à 50 ans ; préparer l'avenir d'ici 2050 », Madame Nkrumah a estimé que la promotion des jeunes et la lutte contre les défis régionaux sont

plus pertinentes que jamais, rappelant que la jeunesse représente la majorité démographique de l'espace CEDEAO. « Vos voix doivent être entendues et prises en compte. Vous devez avoir une place autour de la table », a-t-elle martelé, ajoutant qu'il est temps de passer du simple discours sur l'autonomisation des femmes et l'intégration du genre à une politique globale d'inclusion des jeunes dans tous les secteurs du développement. Pour elle, il est essentiel de créer une société interconnectée où les jeunes ne



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

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président visé. Les juges ont également mis en garde contre les dérives institutionnelles que pourrait entraîner cette situation. Ils se sont interrogés sur les conséquences qu'aurait, par exemple, un vote de défiance prononcé contre le bloc majoritaire, suivi de la tenue de sessions séparées par un autre groupe de députés.

« Pourquoi ne pas suivre la procédure légale en déposant une motion contre le président, étant donné qu'ils disposent de la majorité ? Pourquoi ouvrir une session parallèle alors qu'il est toujours en fonction ? Ce n'est pas conforme à la loi. Comment garantir la stabilité de la Chambre et du système de gouvernance dans de telles conditions ? Ce climat alimente le chaos », a déclaré la présidente de la Cour suprême.

La Cour a conclu l'audience en annonçant qu'elle réservait son jugement sur cette affaire, en attendant l'examen des arguments juridiques et des pièces soumises.

Au cours de l'audience, les deux parties ont confirmé leurs représentations respectives et ont présenté leurs arguments.

Me Arthur Tamba Johnson, principal avocat du président déchu Koffa, a sollicité de la Cour une clarification et une mise en application de son arrêt du 6 décembre 2024 relatif à cette crise parlementaire. Il a fait valoir que le rôle de la Cour ne se limite pas à l'interprétation de la loi, mais inclut également l'obligation de faire respecter ses propres décisions, comme le prévoit la Loi révisée de la Cour suprême.

Les juges lui ont demandé de préciser les fondements légaux de sa requête. Me Johnson a

cité la Partie I, article 12(a) de ladite Loi, qui interdit toute entrave à l'exécution des arrêts de la Cour suprême. Selon lui, le bloc majoritaire s'est rendu coupable d'une telle obstruction.

Il a en outre expliqué que la requête d'information vise à signaler et corriger toute action inappropriée qui empêcherait l'application de l'arrêt du 6 décembre 2024. « Je prie respectueusement cette Cour d'accueillir favorablement notre requête telle que formulée dans notre requête modifiée d'information », a-t-il plaidé.

De son côté, la défense représentée par l'ancien sénateur du Grand Cap-Mount, Me Varney Sherman, a demandé à la Cour de rejeter la requête, qu'elle a qualifiée d'irresponsable et sans fondement.

Me Sherman a soutenu que J. Fonati Koffa avait refusé de rejoindre ses collègues après avoir été informé du vote de défiance prononcé contre lui. Il a rappelé que, conformément à la Constitution, en cas d'absence du président, le vice-président est habilité à présider les sessions et que la majorité avait respecté cette procédure en élisant une nouvelle direction.

« Nous prions respectueusement cette Cour de rejeter la requête telle que formulée dans la requête modifiée d'information », a conclu Me Sherman.

À l'issue de l'audience, la Haute Cour a suspendu l'affaire et annoncé qu'elle rendra son arrêt à une date ultérieure, décision très attendue dans une crise institutionnelle qui ébranle la crédibilité de la Chambre des représentants, première branche du gouvernement libérien.

Starts from page 8 La CEDEAO plaide pour l'intégration

sont pas en marge des décideurs. « Si nous ne les intégrons pas, si nous ne comprenons pas leurs aspirations et ne leur donnons pas l'opportunité de contribuer, nous ne pourrions façonner la CEDEAO que nous souhaitons », a-t-elle prévenu.

L'Ambassadrice Nkrumah a également appelé les jeunes à prendre conscience de leur responsabilité. « Si vous ne savez pas ce que vous voulez, si vous ne commencez pas à prendre des décisions éclairées, vous risquez de manquer les opportunités qui vous sont offertes », a-t-elle averti.

Elle a salué l'initiative du programme des volontaires de la CEDEAO qui, selon elle, constitue une plateforme essentielle pour permettre aux jeunes de s'exprimer et de faire entendre leurs voix.

Abordant les critiques don't fait l'objet la

CEDEAO, notamment après le retrait de certains États membres, elle a clarifié les responsabilités : « La CEDEAO repose sur trois institutions : la Commission, le Parlement et la Cour de justice. Ces organes fonctionnent selon les décisions prises par nos dirigeants politiques, qui constituent l'Autorité suprême de la CEDEAO. »

Elle a poursuivi : « Lorsque les citoyens critiquent la CEDEAO, il est important de rappeler que ces décisions émanent de nos chefs d'État. Si ces décisions ne répondent pas aux attentes des populations, nous sommes collectivement interpellés. C'est ainsi que la CEDEAO a évolué, passant d'une organisation des États à une CEDEAO des peuples. »

Le Programme des Volontaires de la CEDEAO est une initiative régionale visant à promouvoir le volontariat et à renforcer l'intégration régionale en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Des femmes libériennes exigent la mise en place d'un tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques

Un groupe de femmes libériennes manifeste pacifiquement pour réclamer la création effective d'un tribunal chargé de juger les crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques.

Des femmes libériennes réunies au sein du réseau Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) ont organisé, mercredi 26 mars 2025, un sit-in pacifique devant les bureaux du Tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques (WECC) à Monrovia. Elles réclament des actions concrètes de la part du gouvernement pour accélérer la mise en place effective de cette cour tant attendue.

« Nous saluons les efforts du gouvernement pour avoir établi les bureaux du WECC, mais cela ne suffit pas. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire », a déclaré Madame Bernice Freeman, coordinatrice nationale de WIPNET, prenant la parole au nom des manifestantes.

Selon elles, cette mobilisation vise à attirer l'attention des autorités, notamment celle du Président Joseph N. Boakai, sur les retards prolongés dans la création du tribunal, qui devrait permettre de juger les présumés criminels de guerre et de mettre fin à l'impunité persistante au Liberia.

Madame Freeman a souligné que leur rassemblement avait également pour but d'exiger que le gouvernement alloue les ressources financières et logistiques nécessaires au bon fonctionnement du tribunal. « Quand des étudiants descendent dans les rues pour manifester, mêlés à toutes sortes de revendications, et que rien n'est fait pour apaiser ces tensions, il s'agit de signaux d'alerte que le Président ne doit pas ignorer », a-t-elle averti.

La semaine dernière, WIPNET avait déjà rencontré certains responsables gouvernementaux pour exprimer son inquiétude face à l'absence de progrès dans la mise en œuvre du WECC. Face au manque de réponses concrètes, les femmes ont décidé d'organiser ce sit-in afin d'attirer l'attention de toutes les parties prenantes.

« Cela fait trop longtemps que ce dossier traîne. À plusieurs reprises, nous avons exprimé nos préoccupations concernant les retards, mais le gouvernement est resté sourd à nos appels. Nous ne voulons plus entendre



parler de “futur proche”. Nous exigeons des actions immédiates », a martelé Madame Freeman.

En réponse à leurs doléances, le directeur exécutif du Bureau du tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques, le Conseiller Jallah A. Barbu, a assuré les manifestantes que le gouvernement travaille activement à faire avancer le processus.

« Il est clair que le Liberia s'est engagé à devenir un pays meilleur, porté par son peuple. Ce n'est pas sans défis, mais c'est prometteur », a-t-il affirmé.

Il a révélé qu'une première série d'auditions devrait débuter en 2027 : « Aujourd'hui, nous avons rencontré nos mères venues nous demander des actions concrètes. Nous leur avons promis qu'en 2027, les premiers entretiens auront lieu », a-t-il annoncé.

Interrogé sur les garanties de cet engagement, Cllr. Barbu a expliqué que cette échéance repose sur une feuille de route claire : « Nous avons tenu plusieurs réunions, effectué des calculs et nous savons que, compte tenu de la volonté politique affichée et du travail accompli, cet objectif est atteignable. »

Il a toutefois précisé que si la volonté politique est présente, les ressources financières nécessaires restent limitées.

Les observateurs avertis estiment en effet que le principal obstacle demeure le financement du tribunal, notamment après la suspension de certaines aides internationales par les États-Unis et l'essoufflement des bailleurs de fonds. À cela s'ajoute la disparition progressive des principaux acteurs de la guerre civile libérienne, don't récemment le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, ancien chef des rebelles de l'INPFL, farouchement opposé à la création dudit tribunal.

Le sénateur Johnson avait soutenu que les anciens chefs de guerre bénéficiaient d'une forme d'immunité, bien que le droit international stipule que les crimes de guerre et les crimes contre l'humanité sont imprescriptibles.

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FEATURE

ARTICLE

Will the Supreme Court of Liberia's Decision Be Respected by All Parties in the Current House of Representatives Impasse?

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

The crisis within Liberia's House of Representatives highlights a troubling struggle over power, governance, and constitutional integrity. As critical legislative decisions linger, one must confront a pivotal question. Will the Supreme Court of Liberia's decision, once rendered, be respected by all implicated parties? In examining this issue, it is essential to analyze the historical context surrounding Liberia's political landscape, draw parallels with similar judicial cases in other jurisdictions, such as the 2025 Minnesota Supreme Court ruling regarding legislative quorum, and ultimately assess the potential consequences if the judiciary's authority is once again disregarded. The specter of governing bodies rejecting constitutional decisions could usher in a cycle of chaos and instability, threatening democracy and the rule of law in Liberia.

Historical Context: The Legislative Dynamics in Liberia: Liberia's political trajectory has often been marred by constitutional crises and power struggles, which have had profound ramifications for its democratic institutions. The 2008 ruling by the Liberian Supreme Court (SCOL), which mandated the reinstatement of President Pro-Tempore Isaac Nyanebo after his unconstitutional removal, serves as an illuminating reference point. Although the SCOL's authority derived from the Constitution, its decision was undermined by members of the Senate at the time, who effectively disregarded the ruling and the rule of law. This instance represents a concerning precedent where legislative power overstepped judicial authority, resulting in a long-lasting impact on governance and trust in Liberia's institutions.

Fast forward to the current impasse within the House of Representatives, it is undeniable that the specter of legislative disregard for judicial decisions looms large. Historically, when lawmakers prioritize political allegiances over constitutional mandates, they undermine the foundation of democracy itself. This precedent begs the question of whether the consensus to respect judicial rulings, articulated by Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie in her call to "respect the process," can be achieved among the competing factions within the Libyan political sphere.

Judicial Authority: The Constitutional Framework: One must first delve into Liberia's constitutional framework to explore the answer. The Constitution delineates a clear requirement for quorum in legislative proceedings of the Liberian House of Representatives. Forty-nine membership votes are needed to validate decisions of removal. Hence, in the House of Representatives, any decision, including removing a Speaker, necessitates sanctioning 49 members. The implications are staggering: Eliminating such constitutional stipulations would set a dangerous precedent for manipulating legislative authority. The current stalemate encapsulates a critical test of political will and respect for legal processes. Respecting the Supreme Court's ruling must transcend political factionalism and resonate as a

broadier commitment to uphold democratic integrity. Noncompliance risks constitutional erosion and invites disruption within the entire governance structure. Without a commitment to the rule of law, Liberia faces the potential of further destabilization—self-inflicted wounds arising from a reluctance to adhere to judicial accountability.

Comparative Analysis: The Minnesota Supreme Court Ruling: Minnesota Constitution is being cited because of its proximity to Liberia and the home to an estimated more than 40 thousand Liberians. Drawing parallels with the 2025 ruling from the Minnesota Supreme Court regarding quorum-related legislative activities, we can glean significant insights about the respect for judicial authority in challenging political situations. The court mandated that all actions taken without a proper quorum, while legislatively significant, were null and void because they failed to comply with established



constitutional standards. In the case involving the Minnesota Democrats and Republican lawmakers, the reverberations of the Supreme Court's affirmation of legislative processes served as both a potent reminder and a necessary enforcement mechanism. When a judicial body stands resolute in defending constitutional norms and legislative adherence, it fosters an environment where politicians understand the repercussions of defying the law. Comparing Liberia's current situation with Minnesota's reinforces the importance of adherence to judicial authority, which provides legal backing for governance and crucial public trust in democratic processes. The likelihood of repeat violations in Liberia raises the potential for an ongoing cycle of constitutional infractions. The House of Representatives: Lawmakers inclined to sidestep judicial oversight might dismiss or trivialize decisions threatening their political relevance. This behavior perpetuates a disengagement from accountability pathways. As observed in Minnesota, judicial rulings can often serve as uncompromising reminders of obligations that transcend political opportunism, fostering a culture of lawfulness that Liberia desperately needs.

Potential Consequences of Noncompliance: Noncompliance with judicial decisions jeopardizes the very fabric of democracy and threatens to plunge the country into recurring disputes that could destabilize its governance. A failure to respect the ruling from Liberia's Supreme Court by the parties engaged in the House of Representatives impasse could engender several grave consequences:

1. **Political Instability:** The rejection of adjudicated

decisions can foment an atmosphere of ongoing political turbulence. Given Liberia's precarious governance, each instance of noncompliance diminishes faith and exacerbates legislature members divisions, fueling legitimacy and authority crises.

2. **Erosion of Institutional Trust:** Repeated defiance of judicial authority may ultimately erode public trust in institutions meant to uphold the rule of law. If citizens witness their representatives disregarding Constitutionally derived decisions, faith in democracy, both as a concept and practice, may become increasingly tenuous, potentially leading to calls for radical reform or even revolution. I am not suggesting a revolution, but injustices brought about the 1980 Revolution. It could have been prevented if justice was the order of the day. Respecting the rule of law, the Constitution, and the Supreme Court's decision could end the current impasse in the House of Representatives.
3. **Destruction of Legislative Functionality:** An uncooperative political environment can hinder the House of Representatives from performing its critical functions. A legislative body incapable of reaching consensus undermines its own purpose, leaving vital issues unresolved and frustrating the public that relies on effective governance for societal needs. Charting a Path Forward: The Need for Respect: Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie's assertion to "respect the process" underscores the necessity of reaffirming judicial processes as the cornerstone of governance. To navigate the precarious political climate, leaders within the House of Representatives and beyond must embrace a principled approach characterized by adherence to the Supreme Court's decisions. This commitment to enriching democratic principles allows for setting a tone of respect, accountability, and cooperation that all parties must uphold. Mediation, negotiation, and dialogue should be prioritized to engender a collaborative spirit amid dissent. Engaging stakeholders across the political spectrum—including civil society and the electorate can foster an environment where judicial decisions are respected, political actors collaborate to resolve disputes, and the desire for the country's well-being supersedes individual or factional interests. In summation, the pressing question of whether the Supreme Court of Liberia's decision will be respected by all parties carries weighty implications for Liberia's future. As the Republic grapples with a recent history characterized by constitutional disregard, it is paramount that all stakeholders realign their actions toward honoring judicial judgments to fortify the pillars of Liberia's semblance of democracy, which is still in its infancy. Neglecting judicial authority may have insidious consequences, including further chaos, civic distrust, and dysfunction. Thus, urging political players to embrace their constitutional obligations is critical not merely for the House of Representatives but for the integrity and advancement of Liberia itself. As the nation navigates its governance crises, it must heed Justice Wolokolie's call to respect the process, an imperative for lasting progress, reconciliation, and stability.

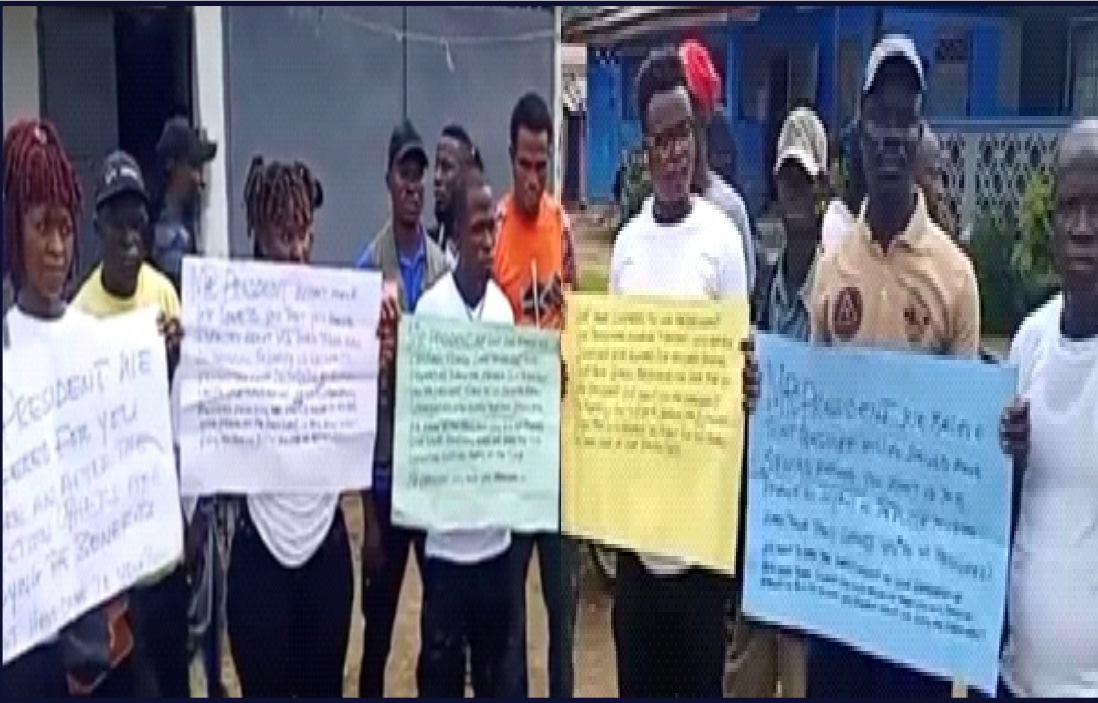
UP partisans protest at Boakai's residence

A group of aggrieved partisans and supporters of the governing Unity Party protest at the residence of President Boakai here, demanding jobs.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Paynesville, Liberia, March 28, 2025 - Dozens of Unity Party (UP) supporters staged a protest early Thursday at President Joseph Boakai's residence in Rehab community, Paynesville City, demanding jobs they were promised during his campaign. The protesters, who according to them, had been strong campaigners for Boakai, expressed frustration at being left without employment opportunities despite their efforts. "We are deeply disappointed and we are a laughingstock in our communities," they lament in in separate comments, highlighting the emotional toll the situation has taken on them. The demonstration, which took place on March 27, 2025, saw protesters being dispersed by security personnel, leaving them scattered in the surrounding neighborhood. This protest adds to the

executive committee and the standard bearer of prioritizing issues that do not align with the needs of grassroots supporters. Their frustrations have culminated in multiple protests, including one during a National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting at Golden Key Hotel in Paynesville, and at the party's national headquarters in Monrovia. The aggrieved partisans, who are vital to the party's success in future political endeavors, feel betrayed by a leadership that they believe has forgotten the efforts that helped bring President Boakai to power. Their cry may signal a turning point for the Unity Party, with leaders facing an urgent need to acknowledge and address growing discontent among their supporters, or risk alienating the very base that helped propel them to taking state power. Key executive members of the ruling UP have been absorbed in government, with National Chairman, Rev. Dr. Luther J. Tarpeh appointed on the Board of the National Port Authority,



growing tension within the ruling establishment, as the leadership faces mounting pressure from grassroots members to address their concerns. These discontented partisans have long felt overlooked, with many of them accusing the

while National Secretary General Amos Tweh sits at the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company as Managing Director, and Campaign Spokesman Mo Ali, heads the Liberia Water and Sewar Corporation as Managing Director. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Red Cross ends training for local staff

Zwedru, Liberia, March 28, 2025 – The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) has successfully concluded a two-day induction training for its newly elected local and regional leadership under the theme: Strengthening Leadership and Collaboration for Effective Governance and Management. The training, held recently in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, brought together 36 participants from Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Gedeh counties. They included local governance members, staff, the LNRCS Southeastern Regional Vice President, and chairpersons on policy and governance as well as resource mobilization and fundraising. According to a press release, the induction training was designed to address a critical knowledge gap following recent local elections conducted by the Red Cross across Liberia's 15 counties. Those elections resulted in 92 individuals assuming various leadership positions, with 93% of them (elected officials) being new to their positions and unfamiliar with their roles and responsibilities. "The success of the Red Cross in responding to humanitarian needs at the community level depends on strong, knowledgeable, and committed leadership," said Gregory T. Blamoh, Secretary-General of the LNRCS. "This induction training is a vital step in ensuring that our newly elected leaders understand the governance structure, policies, and principles of the Red Cross so that they

can lead with excellence and integrity", Mr. Blamoh emphasized. With growing humanitarian challenges, the training emphasized the importance of strong leadership and coordination to sustain Red Cross humanitarian actions and ensure its visibility and relevance among key community actors. Participants gained insights into governance principles, policies, and guidelines, equipping them to enhance institutional integrity and promote adherence to humanitarian standards. "The future of humanitarian action in Liberia depends on the strength of our local leadership," Blamoh added. "By investing in their training and development, we are reinforcing our commitment to accountability, transparency, and impactful service to the most vulnerable communities." In addition to strengthening governance, the training provided a platform for fostering collaboration and coordination among Red Cross local offices in the southeastern region. This initiative aims to improve delivery of humanitarian services, advocate for local needs, and drive impactful action on the ground. The Red Cross remains committed to empowering its leadership and volunteers to deliver timely and effective humanitarian services nationwide. With a reinforced governance structure, the LNRCS is confident in its ability to maintain high standards of service and uphold its humanitarian mission. **Press Release**

Jeety Rubber LLC and SRC host Muslim workers

Starts from Back page

and joy to the evening. Several workers expressed gratitude for the gesture, describing it as uplifting and memorable. "This is the first time we've seen SRC go to this length to honor our faith during Ramadan," says the workers. "It makes

us feel like part of a family, not just employees." The event concluded with a short speech by company executives reaffirming their commitment to employees' welfare, cultural diversity, and community engagement.

Boakai launches CBL Financial Education Program and Pan-African Payment System

President Boakai underscores that financial education is a fundamental driver of financial inclusion, which is vital for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, as he launches a financial education program and payment system initiated by the Central Bank of Liberia.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 28, 2025 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., has launched the Central Bank of Liberia's (CBL) Financial Education and Literacy Program and rollout of the Pan-African Payment & Settlement System (PAPSS) at the Monrovia City Hall here.

These initiatives, spearheaded by the Central Bank of Liberia, are crucial for advancing the Government's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), promoting financial inclusion, and strengthening Liberia's economic standing. In his address, President Boakai commended the Board of Governors and Management of the CBL for their continued commitment to supporting the Government's development goals through policies that foster financial empowerment. He emphasized that financial education is a fundamental driver of financial inclusion, which is vital for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

"The ARREST Agenda is about the people and for the people," the President declared, noting that "Financial education will empower individuals, particularly women and low-income communities, with the tools to effectively manage their finances, start businesses, and contribute to Liberia's economic development."

The President cited the 2022 World Bank Findex

foreign exchange reserves, strengthen our national currency, and foster economic resilience," the President assured.

He encouraged stakeholders, financial institutions, and businesses to embrace the Financial Education Program and PAPSS as tools for economic empowerment, greater financial inclusion, and national development.

"I commend the Central Bank of Liberia for its continued efforts in promoting macroeconomic stability and ensuring that our financial system works for every Liberian. I encourage all citizens to take advantage of these opportunities to contribute to Liberia's economic growth," he concluded.

Earlier, Finance and Development Planning Minister, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, spoke of inefficiencies and delays in financial transactions, which he said, act as hidden forms of taxation and hinder business growth. He noted that PAPSS, in alignment with the AfCFTA framework, would promote regional economic integration and financial independence.

CBL Executive Governor Henry F. Saamoi, reaffirmed the Central Bank's commitment to ensuring financial inclusion and driving digital transformation. He described financial education and digital payment systems as twin pillars of economic empowerment, providing citizens with both the knowledge



Report, which indicated that Liberia's financial inclusion rate had increased to 52%, up from 36% in 2017. Despite this progress, the report revealed a gender gap of 15.4%, with women lagging behind in financial access. President Boakai stressed that targeted financial education programs could help bridge this gap and ensure greater financial participation for all Liberians.

Moreover, he highlighted the importance of PAPSS, a transformative payment system designed to facilitate cross-border trade across Africa by allowing instant transactions in local currencies. PAPSS, which aligns with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), is expected to alleviate foreign exchange constraints, improve economic stability, and support Liberia's de-dollarization efforts.

"With PAPSS, Liberian businesses will no longer need to convert our currency into US dollars to trade across Africa. This will help preserve our

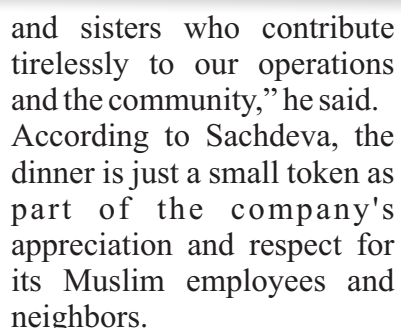
and tools to transact efficiently within Liberia, across Africa, and globally.

Governor Saamoi highlighted Liberia's growing digital financial sector, noting a surge in mobile money transactions, which reached L\$471 billion in 2024, up from L\$421 billion in 2023. USD transactions via mobile money amounted to \$3.47 billion in the same period. Cross-border transactions, a key feature of PAPSS, grew by 17.7% to \$494.5 million, and Liberia now has over 3 million active mobile money subscribers, making digital payments the dominant method of electronic transactions in the country.

The launch event was attended by government officials, financial sector stakeholders, development partners, and representatives from the business community, all of whom pledged support for the successful implementation of these initiatives. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Indian businessman Upjit Singh Sachdeva, hosts Muslims employees of his companies to a sumptuous Ramadan Iftar dinner here.

reflection, gratitude, and togetherness. The Iftar dinner, an essential part of Ramadan when Muslims break their daily fast, was marked by prayers, cultural expressions, and



He says both institutions value everyone regardless of tribe, religion, or race not only during religious months but throughout the year.

In response to the company's gesture, the workers praised the initiative as a model for corporate-community relations.

“This is more than a meal. It is a sign of love and understanding between faiths and communities. We are thankful to Jeety Rubber and Salala Rubber Corporation for recognizing the importance of Ramadan and sharing this moment with us,” the workers said, one after another.

During the Iftar dinner, attendees were treated to traditional Liberian and Middle Eastern dishes, creating a blend of culinary cultures that added warmth

dinner in honor of the companies' Muslim employees and the wider Islamic community in Weala, Margibi County.

The event, which took place at the Jeety Rubber factory premises in Weala, brought together scores of workers, local leaders, and community members in a spirit of

communal bonding.

Speaking during the event, business tycoon, Upjit Singh Sachdeva, CEO of both companies, spoke about the importance of respect and inclusion in the workplace.

“Ramadan is a sacred time for reflection, compassion, and gratitude. It is only fitting that we honor our Muslim brothers

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The logo for 'The New Dawn' newspaper. It features the title 'The New Dawn' in a large, stylized blue font. The word 'The' is smaller and in a script font, positioned above 'New'. A map of Liberia is integrated into the letter 'D' of 'Dawn'. Below the title, the words 'TRULY INDEPENDENT' are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a collage of various newspaper clippings and a small globe, suggesting international news coverage.

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Dawn Sports
GAWAS raises red-flag
 GAWAS: No more drugs & alcohol for footballers

New Dawn
Uncertainty hangs over schools
 As authorities weigh options over group of
Nephew butchered uncle

A hand holding a pen, about to press a button labeled 'PRESS' on a colorful, abstract background. The background features vibrant, splashing colors like pink, yellow, and blue, suggesting a creative or dynamic environment.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a magazine cover with the headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections', a calendar with a grid of dates, and a brochure with the word 'BROCHURE' at the bottom. The publications are overlapping and set against a background of colorful, abstract brushstrokes in shades of blue, yellow, and orange. The New Dawn logo is visible on several of the items.