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P11

-As passengers scrambled for luggage in the dark

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Continental News

Eid al-Fitr in Goma: A call for unity and peace

Under the morning sun, hundreds of Muslim worshippers gathered in Goma this Sunday to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. For the Muslims in this city, which is currently under the occupation of the M23 rebel group, the day holds profound significance. Beyond the traditional religious rituals, it serves as a moment of unity, hope, and a heartfelt plea for peace.

Yasin Hamad, a local worshipper, expressed the

collective sentiment, saying, "We want to be united, all of us. We pray that God helps us achieve peace. That there will be no more divisions among Muslims; we ask God to help us with that." As thousands of men, women, and children gathered to pray, their hearts were filled with spirituality and a deep sense of hope for a better future. Their voices rose together in prayer, calling for peace and security to return to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Nadia Moustapha, another worshipper, shared her belief in the power of

their prayers, stating, "We have faith that, given the sacred month we have just completed today, our prayers will be heard before God and we will live in peace. We want to live in peace like before."

Imams, too, used the occasion to remind worshippers of the importance of solidarity and prayer in these turbulent times. Shieh Djaffar Al Katanty, an imam, emphasised the unity demonstrated during the prayer, saying, "Here, we prayed together, side by side, without considering our linguistic, physical, cultural, or ethnic differences. And we want this message to serve as a lesson for the leaders of the DRC, the conflict protagonists, including the DRC government and the AFC/M23."

Despite the hardships, Goma's Muslim community gathered with devotion and joy, reinforcing the importance of unity in the face of adversity. Their collective prayers echoed not just for peace, but for a restoration of harmony across the region, and a return to normality for all.



Worshippers gather in Goma for Eid

Burkina Faso denounces fake massacre videos

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

In response, the government condemned the spread of "misleading" videos, which it claims falsely portray "ethnic massacres." A statement from the government describes this as part of a broader "political-media campaign" aimed at tarnishing the country's image.

According to the spokesperson, the goal is to stir up "community tensions" and provoke inter-

ethnic conflict. He reassured citizens that Burkina Faso remains committed to peace and the rights of all Burkinabè to live freely and with dignity on their ancestral land. In a related development, Prosecutor Blaise Bazié confirmed the opening of

an investigation into messages inciting the "extermination" of people from a particular ethnic group, often targeting the Fulani. An appeal for witnesses has been launched, urging the public to report anyone spreading hate speech online.



President Captain Ibrahim Traore

Sudanese army chief vows to defeat RSF



Gen. Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan, President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of Sudan, addresses the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2

In a video statement on Saturday, Sudanese Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan vowed to crush the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), ruling out any reconciliation. He reaffirmed that the army would neither forgive nor negotiate with the RSF, while also offering amnesty to fighters who lay down their arms and "repent to the truth."

Earlier, the army announced that it had taken control of a major market in Omdurman,

Khartoum's twin city, which the RSF had used to launch attacks during the ongoing war. The army also claimed victory over the RSF in Khartoum, stating they now control most of the capital, including the vital commercial hub of Souq Libya. The conflict between the army and RSF has escalated ethnic violence, created a humanitarian crisis, and led to widespread famine. Millions of Sudanese have been displaced, and the death toll from the war has reached tens of thousands.

Weevils tackle invasive Salvinia in South Africa

This thick green mat extends for as far as the eye can see, it's an unwanted, invasive South American aquatic plant species called *Salvinia minima*. Hidden beneath it is South Africa's Hartbeespoort Dam near Johannesburg, an important source of irrigation for nearby farms and a popular recreation site. This is also the site of the pilot project to tackle the *Salvinia*. The plant is steadily taking over freshwater bodies in the northern region of the country suffocating aquatic life, threatening ecosystems and creeping into neighbouring countries including Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique.

Today the researchers and environment officials are aiming to fight back with little black beetles called weevils. They're being hurled in the dam so the weevils and their larvae can munch their way through the *Salvinia* damaging the tissue of the plant until it becomes waterlogged and sinks. After weevils effectively controlled *Salvinia* in Florida, scientists from South Africa and the United States worked together on a project to gather a starter population in southern Africa. The 1-millimetre-long (0.03 inches) insects were brought over 8,700 miles from Louisiana. Professor Julie Coetzee from the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity is a specialist in tackling invasive species which threaten biodiversity. She explains why the weevils were chosen. "These insects were imported from

water body won't be creating oxygen through photosynthesis. If there's no oxygen, there's no fish, there's no crabs, there's no insects. And so you completely destroy or alter the aquatic ecosystem," says Coetzee. South Africa's already vulnerable freshwater systems face a significant threat from *Salvinia* and according to researchers it's had two major growth spurts in 2021 and 2022, surviving on the high nitrate contents in the water.

The plant initially surfaced on Hartbeespoort Dam in 2012. The site was already battling with a water hyacinth invasion. Max Moller the site's property owner and business operator says the plants have been an ongoing menace. He says: "I would imagine, because the quality of the water is so bad that it's pure fertilizer for these invasive species. And so what really happens is it seems to, yes it seems to have the effect of you know, about it seems to double its mass in about the 2 to 4 days, which is absolutely insane." "The moment there is a flood okay, from here all that *Salvinia* is pushed down the river into Hartebeespoort Dam. So it's just a never ending cycle," says Moller who owns Mogi's Hiking Trail.

Sello Seithloho the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation says the aim is to let use natural methods to control the *Salvinia*. "We obviously have to allow the biological process to take its course, because this is largely, you know, a process of attempting really through this particular process to deal and address the issue of the of the alien invasive species. So I'll take Prof. Julie's cue on that and say in about a year's time, we should be able to start seeing some form of difference." The bulk of the growth spurts have been recorded across Gauteng, compounding existing water issues including sporadic supply outages



Flea-sized salvinia weevil on a nickel-sized leaf of giant salvinia

Louisiana and the reason why we imported them from there is they're not indigenous to Louisiana, this is Louisiana in the United States, they've got this plant as a problematic invasive species and they've got a very good biocontrol program on this plant." According to scientists beetles released at an infested site are able to make themselves at home on the *Salvinia* without damaging the local ecosystem. Rearing stations are also being set up near various dams to grow the weevil population. "This plant and other invasives like it block out the sunlight, if they block out the sunlight into the water body, there can be no oxygen in that water body because the plants in that

and limits on home water use. The problems are exacerbated by increasing demand, deteriorating infrastructure, and poor municipal management. The government is considering imposing fines for polluting offenders. Seithloho says: "The hyacinths in Harties (local name for Hartebeespoort) is a very big challenge, and you would have seen in the earlier presentation that depending on the season, you've got more of it as it blooms and then there are certain seasons where you know, it's hardly there. And I think for us, it's going to be very important as a department to secure our water resource. But also what is going to be very important is for us to be able to really get into serious conversations with municipalities in the upper catchment who are largely responsible for the high nutrient load."

EDITORIAL

S/Court ruling should change the “chaotic trend” in Liberia

The Supreme Court of Liberia recently described the ongoing leadership crisis in the House of Representatives as a “chaotic trend” in Liberia that needs to needs to be reversed. We couldn't have agreed with the High Court any better.

Despite the presence of the legitimate Speaker of the House, a group of lawmakers, referring to themselves as Majority Bloc gathered and elected Montserrado County Sistrict#11 Representative, Richard Nagbe Koon, of the ruling Unity Party as Speaker. This action was done outside the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

Though illegal, their action is being backed by the Executive that has interpreted in its favor, an earlier Supreme Court opinion that noted that actions taken at the House were ultra vires, contrarily inducting Representative Koon in office as Speaker in spite of the presence of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Ultra vires is a Latin phrase that is used in law to describe an act that requires legal authority but is done without it.

Speaker Koffa has challenged his illegal removal before the Supreme Court twice, with the recent being a Bill of Information, at which hearing the Court sounded the early warning about “chaotic trend” in the governing system of the country.

The regional bloc, ECOWAS, thru its parliamentary body has tried twice in intervening to salvage the impasse without succeeding largely as a result of non-cooperative posture by members of the so-called majority bloc.

In their obsession with power, they have gone to the extent of writing the ECOWAS Parliament, requesting withdrawal of three Liberian Representatives who were sent to that body under the Koffa leadership. But the Parliament trend the request down because it contravenes its rules.

We are of a very strong conviction that no institution can resolve or address this flagrant violation of the Constitution of Liberia than the Supreme Court that interprets the laws of the land.

Now that the Court itself has observed that the prevailing situation in the country is “chaotic trend”, it has the power to reverse this trend by properly and boldly interpreting the constitution for all parties involved without any ambiguity.

The last time the Court spoke on the issue, it left the public in suspense and doubt, a moment the Executive branch of government took advantage of and provided its own interpretation, justifying its actions.

This time around, we are asking the Highest Court of the land to come clear in this matter by letting the chip fall where it may in line with the law regarding which party is in the wrong. This will enable the Liberian people to understand the law and reflect accordingly.

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COMMENTARY

by Umut Özkırımlı

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. 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.

OP-ED

by Ricardo Hausmann

Trump's \$16 Trillion Trade Blind Spot

CAMBRIDGE – In August 1914, Europeans saw little value in the century of peace that had followed Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. As historian Barbara W. Tuchman recounted in her 1962 book *The Guns of August*, public sentiment in Berlin, Paris, London, and Vienna was swept up by a wave of collective euphoria – a feverish excitement over the expected benefits of a swift and decisive world war. The result was four years of misery and devastation.

A similar sense of misguided bravado seems to pervade US President Donald Trump's administration as it moves ahead with its reckless assault on the global security and trade order of the past 80 years. Convinced of an inevitable and easy victory, Trump has unilaterally declared war on the postwar order, failing to heed the lesson of Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, the military architect behind Prussia's 1870-71 victory over France: No battle plan survives first contact with the enemy.

At first glance, the United States appears well-positioned to win Trump's trade war against China and key trading partners like Canada, Mexico, and the European Union. In his public remarks, Trump often fixates on America's large trade deficit in goods, which reached a record \$1.2 trillion in 2024. According to him, the trade deficit is irrefutable proof that the US is being treated “very, very unfairly, very badly.”

Because it imports more than it exports, the US has more foreign goods to tax than exports vulnerable to retaliation. Trump aims to leverage this strategic advantage by using tariffs – the “most beautiful word in the dictionary,” as he once put it – to pressure firms operating in Canada, Mexico, and China to move production to US soil, thereby eliminating the trade deficit. Given that most of America's trading partners depend on access to the US market, Trump believes it can flex its economic muscle and force rivals into submission.

But trade is not a battlefield, and economic leverage in one area does not necessarily translate into easy victories elsewhere. The fundamental flaw in Trump's strategy is that it focuses on the trade deficit in goods while overlooking the much larger role that services, intellectual property, and investment play in the global economy. This myopic perspective makes the US vulnerable to countermeasures that could undermine the very advantages it takes for granted.

The textbook critique of Trump's trade agenda is that, sooner or later, he will recognize that producing goods in the US raises costs, hurts consumers, and erodes the competitiveness of American exports. But this argument overlooks a crucial detail: America's economic ties to the rest of the world go far beyond goods. Services and investments are equally – if not more – important. And if that's where its advantages and potential vulnerabilities lie, there is little reason for other countries to retaliate with tariffs.

Notably, the US runs a sizable surplus in services, totaling \$278 billion in 2023, driven by industries like finance, telecommunications, digital trade, high-value business services, and the licensing of American patents and copyrights. And even that figure reflects only direct sales from the US to foreign consumers. In reality, most large US companies operate abroad through foreign subsidiaries. In 2024, profits from overseas operations amounted to \$632 billion. When these earnings are taken into account, America's invisible trade surplus approaches \$1 trillion.

Moreover, US-based companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Nvidia, Johnson & Johnson, and Tesla leverage their innovation-based market power to extract rents from consumers and businesses around the world. If these firms were hit with the equivalent of a tariff, they would not be able to pass the cost on to their customers abroad. After all, if they could raise prices without losing profits, they would have already done so.

If we multiply American companies' foreign earnings by 26 – the average price-to-earnings ratio of S&P 500 firms – the value of US investments abroad can be estimated at \$16.4 trillion. By contrast, foreign companies operating in the US earned just \$347 billion in 2024. In effect, America's surplus in services and foreign equity income nearly offsets its trade deficit in goods. That makes its \$16.4 trillion in foreign assets a far more attractive target for retaliation than tariffs on US exports.

America's technological and intellectual-property (IP) dominance, which underpins its massive services surplus and equity income, is not coincidental. It is rooted in the postwar international order – particularly the grand bargain the international community struck in 1994 during the so-called Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. Under the resulting Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), developing countries committed to enforcing advanced economies' IP protections in exchange for market access.

As recent research shows, TRIPS has imposed significant costs on most developing countries. Still, they accepted it as the price of gaining greater access to Western markets. But if the US is now seen as reneging on its end of the bargain, why should emerging economies uphold theirs? Many countries would have an incentive to challenge the TRIPS agreement, perhaps even coordinating efforts to weaken or abandon it altogether, putting IP-intensive industries like tech, pharmaceuticals, and entertainment at risk.

While the debate in the US and abroad is focused on tariffs and their impact on prices and exports, other countries will soon begin to wonder whether protecting America's most valuable economic assets – its IP and the global mechanisms that allow it to be monetized – still serves their interests. When those protections begin to be eroded, maybe – just maybe – Trump and his acolytes will come to see that the multilateral order wasn't so unfair after all, and perhaps not worth tearing down.

OPINION

By Daron Acemoglu

Two Models for Agentic AI

BOSTON – AI “agents” are coming, whether we are ready or not. While there is much uncertainty about when AI models will be able to interact autonomously with digital platforms, other AI tools, and even humans, there can be little doubt that this development will be transformative – for better or worse. Yet despite all the commentary (and hype) around agentic AI, many big questions remain unaddressed, the biggest being which type of AI agent the tech industry is seeking to develop?

Different models will have vastly different implications. With an “AI as adviser” approach, AI agents would offer individually calibrated recommendations to human decision-makers, leaving humans always in the driver's seat. But with an “autonomous AI” model, agents will take the wheel on behalf of humans. That is a distinction with profound and far-reaching implications.

Humans make hundreds of decisions every day, some of which have major consequences for their careers, livelihoods, or happiness. Many of these decisions are based on imperfect or incomplete information, determined more by emotions, intuitions, instincts, or impulses. As David Hume famously [put it, “Reason is and ought only to be the slave of the passions.” Humans may make most decisions without systematic reasoning or due attention to the full implications, but as Hume recognized with the “ought” part of his statement, this isn't all bad. It is what makes us human. Passion reflects purpose, and it may also play a key role in how we cope with a complex world.](#)

With AI advisers that provide customized, reliable, context-relevant, useful information, many important decisions can be improved, but human motives will remain dominant. But what's so bad about autonomous AIs making decisions on our behalf? Couldn't they improve decision-making even further, save time, and prevent errors?

There are several problems with this perspective. First, human agency is critical for human learning and flourishing. The very act of making decisions and contemplating outcomes – even if the inputs and advice come from nonhuman agents – affirms our own sense of agency and purpose. Much of what humans do is not about computation or collecting inputs to decide on an optimal course of action; rather, it is about discovery – an experience that will become increasingly rare if all decisions are delegated to an AI agent.

Moreover, if the tech industry mainly pursues autonomous AI agents, the likelihood of automating more human jobs will increase substantially. Yet if AI becomes primarily a means of accelerating automation, any hope of widely shared prosperity will be dashed.

Most importantly, there is a fundamental difference between AI agents acting on behalf of humans and humans acting for themselves. Many settings in which humans interact have both cooperative and conflictual elements. Consider the case of one company providing an input to another. If this input is sufficiently valuable to the buyer, a trade between the two companies is mutually beneficial (and typically also benefits society).

But for there to be any exchange, the price of the input must be determined through an inherently conflictual process. The higher the price, the more the seller will benefit relative to the buyer. The outcome of such bargaining is often determined by a combination of norms (such as about fairness), institutions (such as contracts that will impose costs if violated), and market forces (such as whether the seller has the option of selling to somebody else). But imagine that the buyer has a reputation for being completely uncompromising – for refusing to accept anything but the lowest feasible price. If there are no other buyers, the seller may be forced to accept the low-ball offer. Fortunately, in our day-to-day transactions, such uncompromising stances are rare, partly because it pays not to have a bad reputation and, more importantly, because most humans have neither the nerve nor the aspiration to act in such aggressive ways. But now imagine that the buyer has an autonomous AI agent that does not care about human niceties and possesses nonhuman steely nerves. The AI can be trained always to adopt this uncompromising stance, and the counterparty will have no hope of coaxing it toward a more mutually beneficial outcome. By contrast, in an AI-as-adviser world, the model might still recommend an uncompromising position, but the human would ultimately decide whether to go down that path.

In the near term, then, autonomous agentic AIs may usher in a more unequal world, where only some companies or individuals have access to highly capable, credibly hard-nosed AI models. But even if everyone eventually acquired the same tools, that would not be any better. Our entire society would be subjected to “war-of-attrition” games in which AI agents push every conflictual situation to the brink of breakdown. Such confrontations are inherently risky. As in a game of “chicken” (when two cars accelerate toward each other to see who will swerve away first), it is always possible that neither party will cave. When that happens, both drivers “win” – and both perish. An AI that has been trained to win at “chicken” will never swerve. While AI could be a good adviser to humans – furnishing us with useful, reliable, and relevant information in real time – a world of autonomous AI agents is likely to usher in many new problems, while eroding many of the gains the technology might have offered.

Daron Acemoglu, a 2024 Nobel laureate in economics and Institute Professor of Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with Simon Johnson) of [Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity \(PublicAffairs, 2023\)](#).

The Imperative of Peaceful Dissent in Liberia: A Call for Unity and Lawfulness

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

Liberia's contemporary landscape, a nation emerging from the shadows of a tumultuous past, offers myriad perspectives regarding the government's policies and performance.

While citizens must express discontent and voice concern about their governance, it is crucial to emphasize that any violence or attempt to disrupt societal harmony must be unequivocally rejected.

The Liberian populace has endured the catastrophic consequences of civil conflict that resulted in the loss of over three hundred thousand lives and the devastation of countless properties over a grueling fourteen-year span.

Hence, the current narrative hinges on a commitment to democratic principles, the rule of law, and a unified national identity transcending individual or factional interests.

To understand the fabric of dissent in Liberia, one must consider the historical context of the nation's governance and civil conflict struggles.

The years of violence left an indelible mark on the collective psyche of the nation, creating a generation well aware of the perils that accompany political upheaval.

The societal scars remain fresh, serving as a reminder that the pursuit of change or improvement does not warrant resorting to violence.

Yet, today's Liberians grapple with the complexity of democratic engagement, where the lines between constructive criticism and incitement to violence are increasingly blurred.

Liberians possess an inherent right to disagree with their government, a fundamental aspect of any democratic society.

Dissent is crucial for a functioning democracy. It holds leaders accountable and promotes policy changes that reflect people's needs and aspirations.

However, a distinct line must be drawn between voicing dissent and inciting violence.

The willingness to use violence to effect change is a dangerous proposition that undermines the very fabric of the painstakingly constructed democracy.

Engaging in violence is a regressive act that relinquishes the hard-won freedoms to which the Liberian people aspire. Liberia does not belong to any one person or group; it belongs to all its citizens.

This idea of collective ownership must permeate the political discourse.

The infrastructure of democracy, built upon the principles of dialogue and mutual understanding, offers a path forward that does not involve the suffering associated with civil strife.

For every tear shed in the face of violence, there exists a collective responsibility to prevent the re-emergence of such crises, which yield endless heartbreak.

Notably, the losses incurred during the Liberian civil wars serve as a pressing reminder of the impacts of violent disputes.

The toll of over three hundred thousand lives lost is not merely a statistic; it symbolizes the heartbreak, loss, and potential unfulfilled embodied in each number.

The numerous families who mourn loved ones lost to senseless violence and the communities torn asunder bear witness to the grievous consequences of civil unrest.

They are the living testimonies urging a commitment to peaceful disagreement and rejecting violence as a means to an end.

Establishing a semblance of democracy paves the way for a future where grievances can be addressed through dialogue rather than bloodshed.

Citizens are empowered to engage in civil discourse with the understanding that their voices matter.

They wield advocacy tools and constructive criticism to promote their views, expectations, and ambitions for a better Liberia.

In this democratic framework, void of violence, the people of Liberia can collectively shape their destiny, nurturing a political environment characterized by respect and mutual understanding.

In safeguarding this newfound democratic space, the role of Liberia's security apparatuses, including the Liberia National Police, the Liberia National Security Agency, the Liberia Immigration Service, and the Armed Forces of Liberia, should not be underestimated.

These institutions protect the rule of law and enforce social order, ensuring that any attempts to incite violence are met with vigilance and accountability.

There must be a collective acknowledgment that dissenting views are necessary for progress, and yet no one should be allowed to destabilize the peace for their own interest or gain.

Regardless of their status, all citizens must understand that no one is above the law.

A robust legal framework and enforcement mechanism must be in place to curb the rise of violence, ensuring that every person, regardless of their political affiliation or socio-economic status, faces the consequences of their actions under the law of the land.

Furthermore, the assertion that “no one in Liberia is immune to arrest and prosecution” resonates profoundly as a clarion call for justice.

The rule of law is foundational to the democratic ideals prioritizing accountability and responsible governance.

If any individual or group believes themselves above the law, they must confront the reality that Liberia has the frameworks to address such arrogance.

Courts must operate independently, impartiality must guide their decisions, and justice must prevail without fear or favor.

This principle ensures that citizens are held accountable for their actions, fostering a culture of respect for the rule of law.

Democracy flourishes when all citizens are treated equally, and the law serves as a shield for the vulnerable and a sword against the powerful who may seek to exploit their position.

Liberians' collective stance should reflect a commitment to justice over revenge, dialogue over violence, and unity over division.

Encouraging civil engagement rather than actions that incite unrest must become the cornerstone of political communication in Liberia.

Activists, politicians, and ordinary citizens must embrace this approach, focusing on building bridges rather than walls of hostility.

AS I SEE IT



with By Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr.; PhD.

The Government of Liberia needs to fully decentralise the National County Sports Meet

The National County Sports Meet in Liberia ended on 2 February 2025. Grand Bassa County girls won the first place beating my county, Grand Kru, girls to the second place. My wife's county, Lofa County, for its part, defeated Grand Gedeh County in the football final match.

Lofa County also won the basket basketball finals. Congratulations to all the winning teams. Congratulations also to all those who did not win. In every competition there must be a winner. So, I urge all winners and losers to celebrate their statuses. Congratulations to the Ministry of Youth and Sports for organising the peaceful games and congratulations also to the entire Government of Liberia. I like to equally thank the people of Liberia for the show of support for their counties. The Unity and love displayed for our counties and the good sportsmanship exhibited during the finals is an attestation that unity can take Liberia to higher heights. Congratulations to all.

Now that the games are over, what next? I have always heard that the games are intended to scout players and to unite the people of Liberia. If this is true, I thank God and strongly think that the planners or organizers of the tournaments should do more using the various games to Unite the Liberian people. The tournaments should also be used to scout for new players that could be brought up to the national and international stage to foster their talents. I am aware that there were competitions in basketball, kickball, and football. I do not know about other sporting disciplines being a part of the competition. However, I would like to encourage the planners and organizers to incorporate other sporting disciplines that other Liberians love. This could help to promote those other disciplines.

From my observation football seems to be the most popular game that Liberians love. The Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium was jammed packed when the final match between Lofa County and Grand Gedeh County played. We took many sides due to several reasons. After it all, Lofa County defeated Grand Gedeh County 2 goals to 1 goal. After that game, several Honors and Awards were given to players, teams, referees, and many other partakers in the various disciplines. I personally wish to congratulate all those who won awards. I hope and pray that you will progress in your various careers. I equally urge all those that did not win any award to keep pressing on. Your time will come one day. That you did not get the award this time, you could get it tomorrow. Your time will surely come one day. Congratulations to all of you for your participation in all the different games. Liberia is proud of you all.

I support unity, peace, and reconciliation amongst Liberians because, with these, the country can make irreversible progress towards national economic growth and development. With peace and unity, progress is assured. I also support the ambition that the games should be used to scout new players and support them to advance their careers in the areas they like. Imagine if the enthusiasm for the finals were present and shown for the Liberia Nation Lonestar Teams! I think the games should be used to expose the talents of new players in all the sporting disciplines. Let us support them at the national levels and elevate to international levels. I am not certain about the rules governing participation in the games, but I think those guidelines are done in the best interest of our young players and competitors, and the National Interest of Liberia.

AS I SEE IT, the County Sports Competition should really be genuine and focused on exposing the different talents from the County. As such, there should be competitions at the town, clan, and district levels within the counties. Players should be drawn from those internal county competitions to form the county teams. That means that all county players will be the actual residents from those counties. With that, each county will have fresh and brand-new talents given the opportunity and chance to compete and emerge from within the counties. It is not a good practice to have players from Lofa featuring for Grand Kru or players from Montserrado playing for Nimba and vice versa for instance. It is good that the hidden talents within the counties are brought out. We need to fully decentralise the competition and expose the hidden talents in our counties. We should not recycle players from first, second and third divisions to take the place of those young talents that cannot easily find exposure opportunities in the counties. The Government should allocate monetary support to this process so that we can get the best out of it.

As I See It, if this actual localisation process is taken into consideration, I think the Government of Liberia will realise its intent of genuine unity and reconciliation in the counties, scout new talents and Take the National County Sports Meet to Another Level.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. is an Assistant Professor at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies. He holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he specialized in International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.' This dissertation was supervised by Prof. Dr. Gorazd Justinek who was also then Dean of the Faculty of Government and European Studies. Dr. Kaydor earned his second master's in public policy (MPP) specialized in Development Policy or Development Economics with Distinction from the Crawford School of Economics and Government (now the Crawford School of Public Policy), Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He obtained his first master's degree as a Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations (Highest Distinction), and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude in Political Science with emphasis in Comparative Government and Politics from the University of Liberia where his Minor was History with Mass Communication his Elective. Tom holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; a Diploma in Contemporary Diplomacy and Negotiations from the Islamabad Foreign Service Academy in Pakistan and he holds other professional diplomas and certificates from Italy, UK, China, and Israel. Prof. Kaydor is also an Adjunct Professor of International Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. He is an evidence-based researcher, a blogger, a columnist, and a published author. He is a Reviewer for 6 peer-reviewed International Journals. Prof Kaydor has published 6 books in English; French; Portuguese; Spanish; Italian; German; Italian; with several peer-reviewed articles indicated in his CV @ <https://tomkaydor.blogspot.com/2024/09/prof-dr-tom-kaydor-cv.html>. Dr. Kaydor served as Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration in Liberia; Assistant Foreign Minister for Afro Asian Affairs in Liberia; UN Coordination Advisor in Ethiopia; UN Coordination Analyst in Liberia; UNICEF-Liberia National Consultant on the Formulation of the Roadmap for Children Living in Street Situations; UNICEF-Liberia Volunteer Engagement Specialist; Chief of Staff-Office of the Chairperson on Executive, House of Representatives; Field Supervisor for LCIP/USAID/DAI Social and Economic Reintegration-Liberia; Psychosocial Officer, World Vision International-Liberia Program. He can be reached via (Email: kaydorth@ul.edu.lr or kaydorth@gmail.com).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Muslim leaders optimistic of end to House crisis

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

The Grand Motif of Liberia is optimistic that the ongoing stalemate in the House of Representatives will end peacefully with the pending ruling of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Sheik Abubakar Sumaworo says lawmakers at the House of Representatives will have to

the right body to resolve constitutional matters.

Sheik Sumaworo's optimism was contained in sermon marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan at Gurley Street Mosques in Monrovia on Sunday.

He cautioned members of the House of Representatives to work in unity to move the country forward, rather than

Chairman of the National Muslim Council of Liberia says the prolongation of the conflict over the speakership is creating a negative image on the country.

Sheik Abdulai Massaley calls on members of the House of Representatives to put aside their selfish desire and put Liberia first by respecting rules governing the House.

He delivered the message after the sermon marking the end of Ramadan at Fatima Mosque in Clara Town on Sunday.

Sheik Massaley cautions members of the House of Representatives that they are losing respect of the Liberian people.

He notes that some members of the House have demonstrated that they are not good role models.

Muslims in Liberia celebrated Ramadan following a month-long fast and prayers, asking for God's peace and blessings upon the nation.



Sheik Abubakar Sumaworo

accept the Supreme Court's decision because the Liberian people look to that institution as

pending precious times on legal dispute.

Meanwhile, the former

Council of Churches denies suspending its president

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

The Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) categorically denies online rumors of a three-month suspension of its president, Reverend Dr. Samuel Reeves.

The LCC says the story, which went viral over the weekend, apparently sprang from the fever swamps of social media, as it was a load of hogwash, according to Reverend Dr. Christopher Toe, the LCC's Secretary General.

Reverend Toe dismisses the reports as the handwork of mischief-makers, people who

week, he explained, a steady stream of fabricated stories about the LCC had been polluting the digital ether.

He urges those spreading these falsehoods to own up to their actions, to step into the sunlight and take responsibility, noting that it's time for some truth-telling.

He also cautions the media against amplifying these unsubstantiated claims, stressing their potential to mislead the public and distort the LCC's stance on crucial national matters.

He instead, wants the press to be discerning, to act as gatekeepers



GSA Road YMCA School closes

-Community Chairman Discloses

By Judoemue M. Kollie

Monrovia, Liberia, March 31, 2025 - Several students couldn't attend the GSA YMCA School in Paynesville this semester due to the illegal occupation of people whom the chairman of the community, Dave N. Fokonyulu has perceived as criminals.

Chairman Fokonyulu speaking to this reporter recently in his community said that the activities of the criminals is posing serious insecurity situation for the residents and there is a need for the government to step in.

He said that the residents are living in constant fear in certain areas of the community.

"The GSA YMCA Community School closed this year due to the presence of criminals who have illegally occupied the building. It is tough for residents to travel around 9-10 pm in the YMCA community and other areas," he narrated.

"We want the government to come to our aid. We brought this issue to the attention of the government before, but no action was taken," the chairman added.

He said that if nothing is done to address the situation the residents will one day take the street to protest.

On the other hand, the chairman frowned on residents who are in the habit of hosting criminals.

"I don't understand the reason why some residents continue to host those gangsters who are pretending to be peaceful residents. They are all drug addicts and harassing people during the day and the night," he

added.

He said that his leadership has tried before to get rid of the criminals around the area but they did not succeed.

"The YMCA community area is government land that those guys have occupied unlawfully. We tried breaking down the getos, where the criminals are smoking the drugs and selling them," he said.

Fokonyulu said that the GSA Road community is divided into 16 blocks that have come together to find an alliance in order to address the challenges facing the residents.

The chairman also mentioned that the Zina Hill junction also has a lot of criminals.

In a related development, Chairman Fokonyulu has lauded the government for the electrification of the GSA Road Community main street.

He said the lighting of the main street is a development that the residents highly welcome.

"The electrification of the community's main street is something that impressed the

residents. We are very much thankful as this is going to help reduce the criminal activities at night," he said.

The chairman also disclosed that the government has embarked on the pavement of the road starting from the GSA Motor Pool junction to the SKD Sports Complex.

"The government has embarked on the pavement of the road starting from the GSA Motor Pool junction to the SKD Sports Complex. This is a great initiative to be undertaken by the government," he said.

However, the Chairman said, he was not satisfied with the category of pavement that is to be carried out.

"We laud the government for the initiative. But, I think this is an important road because it leads to the Sports Complex. The engineer said they are doing gravel pavement. But I think we would appreciate asphalt pavement," the chairman stated.

Meanwhile, Fokonyulu has outlined a number of developments undertaken by his administration since becoming the leader of the community.



Chairman Dave N. Fokonyulu, of GSA Road Community

clearly had an axe to grind.

He says the LCC leadership, with Reverend Reeves himself at the helm, hadn't even considered suspending anyone, let alone their own president. No meetings, no discussions zip, zero, nada.

Reverend Toe expresses frustration, noting that this wasn't an isolated incident. For the past

against the deluge of disinformation flooding the internet. "It's a tough job, but somebody's gotta do it, right? And in this case, that somebody is the media."

The LCC, he clarifies is not suspending its president, adding that the whole thing was a tempest in a teapot, a complete fabrication.

Prof. Whapoe urges Social workers to achieve their potential

Liberian Social workers urged to realize their full potential in the workplace.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 31, 2025 - Former Presidential Candidate, Prof. Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, Sr., cautions social workers here, not to underestimate their value, but rather to fly high and meet their true potentials.

Delivering keynote address at Social work- Day, organized by the Social Work Student

Association (SOWA) on AME University campus, Prof. Whapoe charged Social workers to step up and demonstrate resilience as an "Eagle", that he references in a short tale, that was stock on a branch of a tree, unable to fly, but was compared to flies, after a poor farmer cut its branch on a test of a kin

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Prof. Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, Sr

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Prof. Whapoe urges Social workers

The Vision for Liberia Transformation (VOLT) Political leader reminds social workers about conditions of life, such as poverty, bad governance, nepotism, sectionalism, and tribalism, among others that hindrance their progress.

“In Life, we become habituated of doing certain things and we keep doing what we are doing and forget about our high-flying capacity”, Prof. Whapoe notes.

“We are all made to fly high in life. We are made for the sky to be our limit. But like the eagle, we also sometimes prefer to remain on the branch of our comfort zones that we must move from and take steps to realize our true potential.”

He urges Social workers to be more drastic and flap their wings in order to achieve their true potential, like the eagle.

“We must be drastic in our approach - cut off the branches, like poverty, bad governance, sectionalism, nepotism, in order to achieve our goals”, underscores.

The President of SOWSA, Edwin A. Snorton, Jr., emphasizes the pivotal role of social workers to society, saying “We, as social workers, are in an ideal position to educate, and help in every aspect of the society.”

He details that Social works started prior to the 14-year Liberian Civil War that took place from 1989-2003.

Eminent sons return to LPDP

-Vow to enhance political participation

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

The Liberia People's Democratic Party (LPDP) receives several of its prominent partisans who were once suspended.

Monrovia, Liberia, March 31, 2025 - Several eminent sons of the Liberia People's Democratic Party (LPDP) return to the party here, after they were suspended and disaffiliated.

Those returning are LPDP political godfather Senator Alex Tyler, Dr. Togar Gayewea McIntosh, Transport Minister Sirleaf Taylor, former Bomi County Senator Richard Devine, and former Labor Inspector- D. Eric Kpayea.

Their return marks a rebranding of the party and official launch of its homecoming fund drive.

Dr. Togar G. Micntosh, an eminent partisan of the LPDP says their return is to enhance political participation of the party.

“As a political institution, we have to enhance our participation because the party was disrespected and disregarded by the Congress for Democratic Change during the coalition marriage,” he explains.

He reaffirms that the LPDP will remain a

strong, vibrant political institution that will compete for the Presidency.

“We're back home. The Liberia People's Democratic Party is our home,” and our focus is rebuilding our political base”, Dr. Micntosh declares, while signaling a renewed sense of direction and independence.

For his part, Senator Alex Tyler, reawakens the spirit of partisans, while rallying them to come together in unity for forward march of the party.

Meanwhile, the LPDP, which was part of the tripartite coalition that helped elect former President George Weah during the 2017 Presidential election, now appears to be reevaluating its political alliances and strategizing for future engagements.

Maryland County Senator James Biney, hails partisans of the LPDP for holding together in unity.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Bong residents endorse ArcelorMittal's new MDA

The residents of rail-impacted communities in Bong County have officially endorsed the expansion of ArcelorMittal Liberia's (AML) operations and the ratification of its new Mineral Development Agreement (MDA).

By Lincoln G. Peters

Bong County, March 31, 2025: The endorsement was made on Saturday in Botota Town, Tokpalee Administrative District in Kokoyah Statutory, Bong County, during a gathering attended by local leaders, community representatives, and citizens. Bong County is one of three host counties of AML concession.

During the event, the Superintendent of Bong County, Madam Hawa Loleyah Norris, emphasized the importance of community consensus in such decisions.

"All that we agree on here today, I want to ensure it is the decision of all the people in all the affected communities through their representatives here present," Superintendent Norris stated. She assured the citizens that their concerns and recommendations would be forwarded to the Bong County Legislative Caucus and the national government for consideration.

After reading the petition submitted by

growth, job creation, infrastructure development, education, and healthcare. However, community leaders also highlighted various challenges, including insufficient employment for local residents, environmental hazards, damage to roads and infrastructure, and delays in compensation for property damage.

As part of their recommendations for the new MDA, the communities proposed an increase in social development funds to match AML's expanded production, the prioritization of local employment and skills training, the establishment of a legally binding rail corridor development fund and improved environmental protection measures. Additionally, they called for AML to expand its social infrastructure commitments, repair roads and bridges, provide adequate compensation for affected residents, and enhance safety measures along the rail corridor.

The endorsement of AML's expansion is a significant development in the



the community representatives, Superintendent Norris led an in-depth discussion on each point raised to ensure that the document accurately reflected the views and aspirations of all citizen groups.

She acknowledged the importance of making demands for community development but also stressed that communities affected by ArcelorMittal Liberia's operations must recognize the value of the concession's presence and work to protect its investments.

"While it is good to make demands, communities impacted by ArcelorMittal Liberia's operations need to embrace the operation of the concession and protect its investments," she noted.

Superintendent Norris highlighted the mounting economic challenges faced by the government and pointed out that concession agreements such as ArcelorMittal's are crucial in supporting social development initiatives, particularly in light of the USAID drawdown, which has impacted funding for various programs.

"Development cannot come if we continue to fight among ourselves and tear each other down," she cautioned.

"We need to come together, to move the county and district forward so that we change the way our communities look."

The petition from the impacted communities acknowledged AML's contributions to Liberia's economic

ongoing discussions around the company's operations in Liberia.

ArcelorMittal Liberia's expansion, under its Third Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), promises increased economic benefits for Liberia, including job creation, infrastructure development, and enhanced social programs. The expansion will boost iron ore production, generating more revenue for the government while supporting education, healthcare, and local business growth in affected communities. Additionally, AML has committed to improved environmental protection measures and improved working conditions, ensuring that its operations contribute to sustainable development in Liberia.

The next step will be for the Bong County Legislative Caucus and the national government to review the recommendations and negotiate with AML to ensure that the concerns of affected communities are addressed in the final MDA.

Community members expressed optimism that their voices would be heard and that their proposed measures would lead to meaningful improvements in their livelihoods and local development.

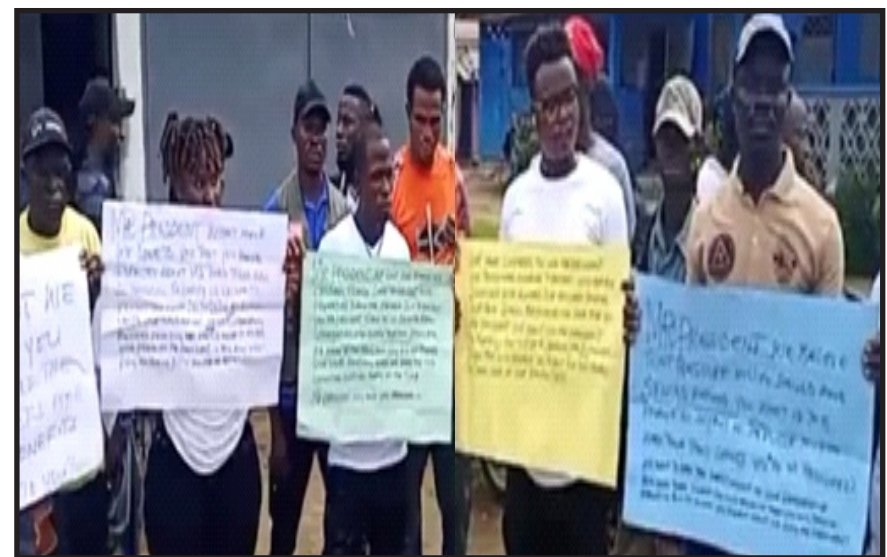
"We appreciate your leadership and look forward to your support in ensuring that this agreement delivers tangible benefits to our communities," the petition stated.

Français

Les partisans de l'UP manifestent devant la résidence du président Boakai

Une cinquantaine de partisans du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party (UP), ont organisé une manifestation jeudi matin devant la résidence du président Joseph Boakai, située dans la communauté de Rehab, à Paynesville. Les

exprimé leur frustration face à l'absence d'opportunités professionnelles. “Nous sommes profondément déçus et nous sommes devenus la risée de nos communautés”, ont-ils déclaré dans des entretiens séparés, soulignant l'impact émotionnel de cette situation.



protestataires réclamaient des emplois qui leur auraient été promis lors de la campagne électorale. Se présentant comme d'ardents militants ayant contribué à l'élection de Boakai, les manifestants ont

L'Intervention des forces de sécurité a rapidement mis fin à la manifestation du 27 mars 2025, dispersant les protestataires dans les quartiers environnants. Cet épisode s'inscrit dans un climat de tension croissante au sein du parti au pouvoir, alors que la direction

fait face à des pressions accrues de la base militante. Nombre de ces partisans se disent oubliés, accusant le comité exécutif et le leader du parti de donner la priorité à des dossiers ne correspondant pas aux attentes des militants de terrain.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que leur mécontentement s'exprime publiquement. Des manifestations similaires ont déjà eu lieu, notamment lors d'une réunion du Comité Exécutif National (NEC) à l'hôtel Golden Key à Paynesville, ainsi qu'au siège national du parti à Monrovia. Ces militants, qui constituent une force essentielle pour l'avenir politique de l'UP, se sentent trahis par une direction qu'ils accusent d'avoir oublié les efforts ayant conduit à la victoire électorale de Joseph Boakai. Ce mouvement de contestation pourrait marquer un tournant pour l'Unity Party, confronté à la nécessité pressante de répondre aux attentes de ses partisans sous peine de les voir s'éloigner. Par ailleurs, plusieurs hauts responsables du parti ont

Boakai lance le Programme d'éducation financière de la CBL et le Système panafricain de paiement

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., a officiellement lancé le Programme d'éducation et de littératie financière de la Banque centrale du Liberia (CBL) ainsi que le déploiement du Système panafricain de paiement et de règlement (PAPSS) lors d'une cérémonie à l'Hôtel de Ville de Monrovia. Ces initiatives, portées par la CBL, constituent un pilier essentiel de l'Agenda A R R E S T pour le développement inclusif (AAID) du gouvernement, en favorisant l'inclusion financière et en renforçant la position économique du Liberia. Dans son discours, le président Boakai a salué l'engagement du Conseil des gouverneurs et de la direction de la CBL pour leur soutien constant aux objectifs de développement du gouvernement, à travers des politiques visant à autonomiser financièrement les citoyens. Il a souligné que l'éducation financière est un levier essentiel pour l'inclusion financière, un élément clé pour une croissance économique durable et inclusive. “L'Agenda ARREST est

conçu par et pour le peuple”, a déclaré le président, ajoutant que “l'éducation financière permettra aux individus, en particulier aux femmes et aux communautés à faible revenu, de mieux gérer leurs finances, de créer des entreprises et de contribuer au développement économique du Liberia.” Le président a cité le rapport Findex 2022 de la Banque mondiale, qui révèle que le taux d'inclusion financière du Liberia a augmenté à 52 %, contre 36 % en 2017. Toutefois, un écart de 15,4 % entre les hommes et les femmes subsiste, ces dernières ayant un accès limité aux services financiers. Il a insisté sur la nécessité de mettre en place des programmes d'éducation ciblés pour réduire cette disparité et garantir une participation financière élargie à tous les Libériens.

Par ailleurs, il a mis en avant l'importance du PAPSS, un système de paiement innovant facilitant le commerce transfrontalier en Afrique en permettant des transactions instantanées en monnaies locales. Aligné sur la Zone de libre-échange continentale africaine (ZLECAf), le PAPSS devrait atténuer les contraintes liées aux devises étrangères, améliorer la stabilité économique et soutenir les efforts de dédollarisation du Liberia. “Avec le PAPSS, les entreprises libériennes n'auront plus besoin de convertir notre monnaie en dollars américains pour commercer en Afrique. Cela nous permettra de préserver nos réserves de change, de renforcer



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

Boakai lance le Programme d'éducation financière

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notre monnaie nationale et de consolider la résilience économique du pays”, a assuré le président.

Il a encouragé les parties prenantes, les institutions financières et les entreprises à adopter le Programme d'éducation financière et le PAPSS comme des outils d'autonomisation économique, d'inclusion financière accrue et de développement national.

“Je félicite la Banque centrale du Liberia pour ses efforts continus en faveur de la stabilité macroéconomique et de l'accessibilité des services financiers pour tous les Libériens. J'exhorte nos concitoyens à saisir ces opportunités pour contribuer à la croissance économique du pays”, a-t-il conclu.

De son côté, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a souligné les inefficacités et les délais dans les transactions financières, qu'il considère comme des formes cachées de taxation nuisant à la croissance des entreprises. Il a affirmé que le PAPSS, en conformité avec le cadre de la ZLECAf, favoriserait l'intégration économique régionale et l'indépendance financière.

Le gouverneur exécutif de la CBL, Henry F. Saamoi, a réaffirmé l'engagement de la Banque centrale à promouvoir l'inclusion financière et la

transformation numérique. Il a décrit l'éducation financière e' les systèmes de paiement numériques comme les deux piliers de l'autonomisation économique, offrant aux citoyens les connaissances et les outils nécessaires pour effectuer des transactions aussi bien au Liberia qu'à l'échelle continentale et mondiale.

Le gouverneur Saamoi a mis en évidence la croissance du secteur financier numérique au Liberia, avec une hausse des transactions par mobile money atteignant 471 milliards L\$ en 2024, contre 421 milliards L\$ en 2023. Les transactions en USD via mobile money se sont élevées à 3,47 milliards USD sur la même période. Les transactions transfrontalières, un élément clé du PAPSS, ont augmenté de 17,7 % pour atteindre 494,5 millions USD. Le Liberia compte désormais plus de 3 millions d'abonnés actifs à des services de paiement mobile, faisant des paiements numériques le mode dominant des transactions électroniques dans le pays.

L'événement de lancement a rassemblé des responsables gouvernementaux, des acteurs du secteur financier, des partenaires au développement et des représentants du monde des affaires, qui ont tous exprimé leur soutien à la mise en œuvre réussie de ces initiatives.

Jeety Rubber LLC et SRC accueillent leurs travailleurs musulmans pour l'Iftar du Ramadan

Les entreprises Jeety Rubber LLC et sa filiale, la Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC), ont organisé un somptueux dîner d'Iftar en l'honneur de leurs employés musulmans et de la communauté islamique de Weala, dans le comté de Margibi.

L'événement, qui s'est tenu sur le site de l'usine Jeety Rubber à Weala, a rassemblé de nombreux travailleurs, dirigeants locaux et membres de la communauté dans un esprit de réflexion, de gratitude et de fraternité. Moment essentiel du Ramadan, l'Iftar permet aux musulmans de rompre leur jeûne quotidien et favorise les échanges culturels et la cohésion sociale.

S'exprimant lors de la cérémonie, l'homme d'affaires indien Upjit Singh Sachdeva, PDG des deux entreprises, a souligné l'importance du respect et de l'inclusion sur le lieu de travail.

“Le Ramadan est un moment sacré de réflexion, de compassion et de gratitude. Il est essentiel pour nous d'honorer nos frères et sœurs musulmans qui contribuent sans relâche à nos activités et à notre communauté”, a-t-il déclaré.

M. Sachdeva a précisé que ce dîner était un modeste

t é m o i g n a g e d e l'appréciation et du respect que l'entreprise porte à ses employés et voisins musulmans.

“Nos institutions valorisent chaque individu, indépendamment de son ethnie, de sa religion ou de sa race, non seulement durant les périodes religieuses mais tout au long de l'année”, a-t-il ajouté.

En réponse à ce geste, les travailleurs ont salué cette initiative comme un modèle de relations harmonieuses entre l'entreprise et la communauté.

“Ce n'est pas qu'un simple repas. C'est un symbole d' a m o u r e t d e compréhension entre les confessions et les communautés. Nous remercions Jeety Rubber et Salala Rubber Corporation de reconnaître l'importance du Ramadan et de partager

ce moment avec nous”, ont témoigné plusieurs employés.

Lors du dîner, les invités ont dégusté une variété de plats traditionnels libériens et moyen-orientaux, offrant ainsi une fusion culinaire qui a apporté chaleur et convivialité à la soirée.

Plusieurs employés ont exprimé leur gratitude pour cette initiative, la qualifiant d'inspirante et inoubliable.

“C'est la première fois que la SRC va aussi loin pour honorer notre foi durant le Ramadan”, ont déclaré certains travailleurs. “Cela nous donne le sentiment d'appartenir à une famille, et pas seulement d'être des employés.”

L'événement s'est achevé par une brève allocution des dirigeants de l'entreprise, réaffirmant leur engagement en faveur du bien-être des employés, de la diversité culturelle et de l'implication communautaire.



Le gouvernement soupçonne des influences extérieures derrière la manifestation des élèves du MCSS

L'Agence de la fonction publique (CSA) a lancé une enquête approfondie sur la récente manifestation des élèves du Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) afin d'en déterminer les causes sous-jacentes.

Plus tôt cette semaine, un groupe d'élèves du MCSS a bloqué les rues de Monrovia pour protester contre l'absence de leurs enseignants en classe. Cette manifestation faisait suite à une déclaration de l'association des enseignants annonçant un mouvement de grève tant que leurs revendications salariales et autres doléances ne seraient pas satisfaites.

Toutefois, lors d'une conférence de presse organisée au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT), le directeur général de la CSA, Josiah Joekai, a laissé entendre que la protestation ne concernait pas uniquement les salaires et les conditions de travail. Selon lui, d'autres facteurs auraient influencé le mouvement.

Durant son intervention, M. Joekai a présenté un message WhatsApp qui, selon lui, contenait des menaces de certains enseignants contre toute tentative de suspension des activités du Conseil représentatif du corps professoral. Il a suggéré que ce message indiquait que la manifestation n'était pas une simple réaction spontanée à la grève des enseignants, mais plutôt un mouvement orchestré par des influences extérieures.

Une enquête approfondie en cours

Pour faire toute la lumière sur cette affaire, la CSA a décidé de mener une enquête approfondie sur le MCSS en s'appuyant sur son système de régularisation du statut des employés. Ce système permettra de détecter d'éventuelles irrégularités, notamment les doublons sur la liste de paie, et d'améliorer l'intégrité du système de rémunération centralisé.

M. Joekai a révélé que la CSA, en collaboration avec le Dr Jallah et l'honorable Gaphwan, entreprendra un audit complet du personnel du MCSS, incluant une vérification rigoureuse des salaires et un recensement précis des employés.



MCSS Students

Par ailleurs, il a annoncé qu'une vérification des diplômes sera effectuée pour s'assurer de la qualification des enseignants du MCSS. Un test de présence physique sera également mené afin de garantir que seuls les enseignants en exercice figurent sur la liste de paie.

Tout enseignant bénévole non vérifié sera exclu du système, a précisé M. Joekai, ajoutant que l'agence utilisera des analyses de données et des vérifications de terrain pour identifier et éliminer les “employés fantômes”, afin de réduire les dépenses inutiles.

Vers une amélioration des conditions salariales

Le directeur général adjoint de la CSA, Gosefor Gocard, a souligné que le gouvernement a déjà pris des mesures pour améliorer les salaires et les conditions de travail. Il a indiqué que 73 agents agricoles avaient été recrutés et que les salaires des enseignants sous l'égide du ministère de l'Éducation avaient été augmentés. Il a également noté que le processus était encore en cours dans plusieurs régions du pays.

“Jusqu'à présent, nous avons augmenté les salaires de 5 613 employés du ministère de la Santé”, a-t-il annoncé.

M. Joekai a ajouté que le gouvernement procédait également à une reclassification salariale de plus de 120 médecins, avec des ajustements allant de 2 300 à 3 500 dollars par mois, pour un coût total annuel de 3,9 millions de dollars. Il a précisé que le salaire minimum dans le secteur de la santé était désormais de 180 dollars.

Recrutement et remplacement des retraités

En parallèle, la CSA traite actuellement 139 avis de plan d'action pour 39 nouveaux médecins et 21 pharmaciens, pour un total de 300 000 dollars. L'agence collabore avec le ministère de la Santé et les autorités sanitaires des 15 comtés afin d'examiner la situation des travailleurs de santé bénévoles en service depuis plus de six ans.

M. Joekai a Indiqué que ces listes de bénévoles étaient en cours de vérification par le ministère de la Santé et que la CSA procéderait à sa propre vérification pour garantir que seuls les candidats qualifiés soient intégrés à la fonction publique. Il a assuré que les fonds nécessaires à cette intégration avaient déjà été débloqués par le ministère des Finances.

Enfin, il a annoncé que 479 employés du secteur de la santé seront bientôt mis à la retraite, don't 81 spécialistes. Cependant, ces départs ne seront effectifs qu'après l'identification de remplaçants qualifiés, afin d'éviter toute perturbation des services de santé.

La CSA réaffirme ainsi son engagement à améliorer la gestion des salaires de la fonction publique et à assurer une rémunération équitable aux employés de l'État, tout en renforçant la transparence et l'efficacité de son administration.

FEATURE

ARTICLE

Breaking the Cycle: The Responsibility of Western-Educated Liberians in Nation-Building:

By: Austin S Fallah-A True Son of the Planet
Earth Soil and An Advocate for Social and
Economic Justice for All Airbreathing Human Beings:

In the context of post-colonial states, where socio-political intricacies intertwine with historical legacies and modern aspirations, Liberia emerges as a poignant case study. Many consider Liberia a nation of profound contrasts, where the chasm between the educated elite and the masses widens, breeding cultural dissonance and deepening socio-economic disparity. My disquisition will argue that some of Liberia's so-called Western-educated elites have become purveyors of corruption and mismanagement instead of serving as catalysts for progress. Their actions have contributed to a pervasive culture of lawlessness and poverty, raising alarming questions about the moral underpinnings of education and its application in the face of national challenges. At the heart of this discussion is the stark reality that the genuine lawbreakers in Liberia are not the impoverished masses or those residing in remote areas but a group of so-called individuals who have benefitted from Western education. Ironically, those educated in societies upholding the rule of law frequently blatantly disregard the principles they were taught. The narratives of these Western-educated individuals often starkly contrast with the positive counterparts in other African nations, where educated individuals leverage their expertise to foster development, instigate change, and elevate their homeland above historical adversities. The juxtaposition raises an essential question: Why is Liberia entangled in a web of corruption and governance failures while similarly situated nations flourish? Liberia has a shared history with many African countries that endured colonial rule, and this shared experience could have fostered a united front toward self-determination and accountability. Yet, as the nation has transitioned into an era of some democracy, the endemic issues of corruption and lawlessness prominently loom over its governance. Ironically, those who have returned from their sojourns in the West, armed with knowledge and potential, seem to have turned their backs on their compatriots, wielding their education not as a tool for empowerment but as a means of exploitation. This troublesome trend merits scrutiny and demand for accountability. One critical aspect of this dissonance is the personal integrity and ethical values often inadequately addressed within the education framework. Western institutions emphasize knowledge acquisition and the societal responsibility that comes with it. Here, an essential question surfaces: Why do these Western-educated Liberians abandon the moral compass they supposedly cultivated abroad? Their actions comply with the characteristics of opportunism; they exploit the ignorance of the

Liberian electorate, nourishing their ambitions while neglecting the pressing needs of their homeland. As these individuals accumulate wealth and power, the masses continue to wallow in abject poverty. Corruption in Liberia encapsulates a multidimensional crisis. The elites capitalize on systemic weaknesses, promoting an environment conducive to despotism rather than democracy. It is well-known that some Western-educated individuals have criminal records that disqualify them from certain professions in their adopted countries. Yet, upon their return to Liberia, they assume positions of authority, employing their dubious backgrounds not as cautionary tales but as blueprints for navigating the labyrinth of Liberia's governance. Inescapably, the return of these individuals raises questions about the intersection of education, morality, and its potential for societal advancement.



Could it be that their education did not foster genuine leadership but instead armed them with tools for manipulation and deception? The crux of the problem is not merely education; the association of power and privilege with impropriety perpetuates a cycle of lawlessness. The narrative surrounding these elites paints a picture of exploitation, where the educated minority fails to acknowledge their privileges and, instead, seeks only personal gain at the expense of the populous. They have become allegories for predation, where some of the so-called educated elite are the “money-eating-hyenas-crocodiles” feasting on the economic flesh of the innocent. Such powerful imagery communicates the deep frustration felt by many who witness their leaders' relentless pursuit of wealth, often through corrupt means. However, the plight of Liberia cannot solely be attributed to a so-called cabal of Western-educated elites. The masses, too, bear the weight of responsibility. The electorate's inherent vulnerability speaks volumes about the culture of apathy and disconnection from the political process. Many people remain ignorant, leaving them susceptible to manipulation. These challenges underscore the importance of civic education and awareness about governance, an education that transcends traditional classrooms and

finds its roots in community engagement and active participation. The onus falls on the populace to demand accountability and advocate for transparency in governance. To confront Liberia's cycles of corruption and lawlessness, a fundamental shift in the relationship between education, governance, and civic responsibility is needed. Liberians must rekindle their collective consciousness and unite against these predatory elites who exploit the system for personal gain. This paradigm shift requires acknowledging that higher education should not precede ethical governance. Institutions such as elementary, junior, and senior high schools and higher learning like the University of Liberia and others within Liberia and abroad must advocate for holistic education that emphasizes integrity, accountability, and a commitment to national development. Moreover, societal structures must be established to empower the masses and foster an environment that encourages ethical leadership. By promoting transparency, we can build a culture of accountability where leaders understand that their legitimacy comes from the trust of their constituents rather than the depth of their pockets. Narrowing the education-to-action gap is imperative. If those educated in the West genuinely understand the tenets of democracy, social justice, and leadership, they must consciously employ their knowledge to improve the lives of their fellow Liberians. Civil society organizations have a significant role to play in this renewal. They must take the reins of advocacy and demand accountability, pushing for policies that seek the masses while holding lawmakers to their promises. The voters must be passive recipients of governance and participants in the electoral process, equipped with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions. This sense of agency is critical in challenging the so-called elites who have consistently failed to fulfill their obligations toward the nation. The education system in Liberia must no longer be viewed as a vessel for individual advancement that disregards communal welfare. Liberians must harness the potential of their education to confront the corrupt practices rampant among their so-called perceived elites. It is time for the masses to stand against rampant corruption and demand accountability. A collective reclamation of power is essential to break the chains of entrapment that weigh down the nation. Genuine, ethical leadership can only arise when education is paired with accountability, transparency, and a commitment to serving the greater good. Liberia's future rests not solely in the hands of the so-called educated elites but in collective unity and action, demanding a higher standard for leadership and governance grounded in the true principles of justice and integrity.

Travel nightmare at RIA

Normal travel activities at the Roberts International Airport were disrupted on Sunday, March 30, 2025, due to power outages at the country's main airport.

March 31, 2025: The blackout created a complete nightmare for passengers disembarking

following the disruption in travels, the LAA confirmed that the airport experienced a temporary power outage disrupting airport operations and affecting travelers. The statement:



SN Brussel flights, many of whom were forced to use phone lights to locate their luggage. Authorities at the airport blamed the disruption in the airport operations from an electrical fault originating from the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) power grid. In an official statement issued Sunday night by the Liberia Airport Authority (LAA),

The Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) confirmed that the disruption was caused by an electrical issue originating from the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) power grid. The outage occurred at approximately 5:00 PM, resulting in operational challenges at the airport's terminal. While the LAA has apologized for the inconvenience caused to

passengers and staff, efforts to restore full power are already underway, with LAA officials working closely with LEC technicians. “The Liberia Airport Authority deeply regrets any inconvenience caused by this disruption and is fully committed to resolving the situation as swiftly and safely as possible,” a statement from the LAA read. Despite the challenges, the LAA emphasized its commitment to restoring normal operations at the airport as quickly as possible, assuring passengers and visitors that all necessary measures are being taken to minimize further delays. The LAA Management, at the same time, advised the public to remain calm as the LAA works toward a resolution. According to the LAA, further updates will be provided as the situation evolves. About the Liberia Airport Authority The Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) is the body responsible for managing and regulating airport operations across the country. Its mission is to ensure the safe, efficient, and high-quality operation of air travel services in Liberia, supporting the growth of the aviation sector in the region.

LP leapfrogs 30% Affirmative Action Bill

The Liberty Party in Liberia boasts here that it has achieved 50% women's representation in its leadership, far above 30% quota set in a bill before the 55th Legislature.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, March 31, 2025 - The Opposition Liberty Party (LP) announces here that it has achieved 50% women's representation in its leadership, surpassing 30% quota set by the Affirmative Action bill. This milestone is a testament to the party's commitment to gender equality and empowerment of women in Liberia's political and leadership spaces. Senate President Pro-Tempore and political leader, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, celebrates significant contributions of women in Liberia and honors those who have shown exceptional commitment, resilience, and dedication to the country. Reflecting on the journey of women in the country, Pro-Tempore Karnga Lawrence points out that for many years, women's voices were marginalized in the political arena. Today, however, Liberia is proud to have its first former female president, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and the first former female vice president, Jewel Howard-

Women's Month 2025, a time dedicated to celebrating the achievements, resilience, and invaluable contributions of women across the world. Held on the theme, “Accelerating Actions to Unlock Rights, Power, and Opportunities for Women and Girls,” the event took place at the Liberty Party's headquarters on Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia, on Saturday, March 29, 2025. The gathering brought together women from various sectors, including political leaders and grassroots women. The program included a panel discussion with women from diverse backgrounds sharing their stories and experiences to inspire others to break through barriers. The event also featured traditional performances, singing, and dancing, adding a cultural touch to the celebration. Rugie Barry, Chairperson of the party, emphasizes that women are not just participants in national development but are leaders, innovators, and nation-builders. She acknowledges the ongoing challenges women face in Liberia, such as gender-based violence, economic inequality, and limited



Taylor, along with many other accomplished female leaders. During the event, honorees were recognized in two categories: women in political leadership and grassroots women. Senator Lawrence emphasizes the importance of celebrating and acknowledging achievements of women. In addition to its leadership strides, the party also announces plans to establish a vocational skills training school designed to empower women and enhance their capacities. This initiative is part of the party's broader strategy to promote women's economic independence and overall empowerment. The vocational training school will provide women with the necessary skills to succeed in various industries, helping them become self-sufficient and economically active.

access to leadership opportunities. Barry underscores that these challenges are national issues that require the collective effort of all Liberians. "We will continue to champion policies that uplift women and girls, because we understand that the progress of any nation depends on the progress of its women," Barry pledges. Keynote speaker Madam Laura Korvah, President of the National Young Women Political Council of Liberia, praises Liberia's progress in promoting gender equality. She acknowledges that women have made significant strides in politics, business, and civil society. However, she points out that challenges still persist, particularly access to education, economic opportunities, and political representation. "If we are truly to accelerate action; we must not only recognize these challenges but also work collectively to overcome them by strengthening legal and policy reforms," Madam Korvah continues. **Editing by Jonathan Browne.**

from back page

Choose your career path wisely

“I haven't said it must be something that earns you or gives you money. I haven't put that word in there, because it is a living. Even missionary work. If you want to be a missionary, they will give you some more money. But the money is not what you must put ahead. Because money doesn't buy you everything”, she further cautions the students. She defines the word career as a noun, adding that it is an occupation which is undertaken for a long period of time in a person's life. “It means it's a life decision you must make. “ According to her, it doesn't mean one should trap himself, as a career is a not a cage. “You must make that decision to be able to say this is what I want to do. You may like it now, and you can change your mind later. We can say some people in their home, a career is almost chosen for them. My father is a carpenter; I want

to be a carpenter.” She references graduates from the University of Liberia, and all other universities, noting that there's is a correlation, as nearly all of the graduates focus on Accounting, Sociology, Administration, but notes that they would difficulty in finding job. “But if you study Agriculture, if you study Pharmacology, if you study Aquatic engineering, you will be two or three when you come from there. You will find a job somewhere.” “So in other words, the easier it is to learn and pass, the more difficult it is to find a job. The harder it is to study in the Sciences, in Agriculture, in Mathematics, in Physics, the easier it is to find a job. You understand”, she tells the students. The Vice Principal for Administration at Ricks, Kpaka

Kemah, expresses gratitude to Ambassador Wesseh, for what he terms a timely inspiration to students. We are grateful that one of our very own has returned to inspire our students. This message will resonate in the minds of these students, for this Ambassador, we say thank you for honoring our invitation. You see, career is something that we don't have in our schools; that's why here at Rick's Institute, we thought to introduce it to help our students" Principal Kemah says lack of guidance counselors in schools poses threat to students who are leaving high school, because they find it extremely difficult to pick a profession, something, he says, needs serious attention in the educational system here. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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-Ambassador Wesseh advises students at Ricks

Ambassador Wesseh gave the caution while serving as keynote speaker at a career day program hosted by Ricks Institute in

She continues that it means that when a student pick or chooses a profession, it must be something he or she wants to do, stressing “It must be something you understand; it must be something you like. It must be something you enjoy.”

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Ambassador Medina Wesseh

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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE', and a magazine titled 'New Dawn Sports' with the headline 'J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections'. The publications are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion against a background of colorful, abstract brushstrokes in shades of blue, yellow, and orange.