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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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**P11**

**Nancy Doe**

# Nancy Doe

## rejects plans for husband's memorial



**P11**

**Cllr Gongloe Tiawan Saye**

# Liberia's bid for UN seat under threat

## -Cllr. Gongloe warns

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# Continental News

## Zambians protest over heinous child rape reports

A protest march has been held in Zambia's capital, Lusaka, against a recent spate of reports of men raping children. Over the last two months, Zambians have been shocked by several cases of child rape, some of

infecting his six-year-old with genital warts, a sexually transmitted infection. Zambia's Justice Minister Princess Kasune-Zulu has called for the castration of child rapists as an extreme measure to deter perpetrators and protect

amend the law to introduce tougher punishments for child rapists. In a petition handed to Vice-President Mutale Nalumango, they demanded the law be changed so that those accused of child rape are not granted bail.

In response, Nalumango said the issue concerns everyone and that Zambians must take a stand. A musician who took part in the protest march told the BBC that "we need to create a safe environment for our children". Daputsa Nkhata-Zulu, also known as Sista D, added that child rapists should be castrated "for the safety of children and also to deprive them of the pride of manhood because they don't deserve it."

In just the last three months of 2024, Zambia recorded more than 10,000 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) involving children, according to the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation. These were mostly in the capital, Lusaka. More than 32,000 people received counselling for GBV last year, according to the Zambia Police 2024 annual GBV data analysis. BBC



The protesters handed a petition to Vice-President Mutale Nalumango

which resulted in death. Among the most horrific reports was that of a father allegedly raping his seven-year-old daughter while she was admitted to hospital for cancer treatment. There have also been reports of a five-year-old allegedly being raped by a gang of four men, while another father was jailed for raping and

children from abuse. "How low can we go as a nation? How low can we go as a society? What is happening is sickening. It is beyond laws now - it is up to us as Zambians to interrogate why our morals have decayed," she recently told parliament. Following the reports, civil society organisations, musicians, and individuals held a protest march on Thursday, calling for the government to

## Ex-Shell boss tasked with cleaning up Nigeria's oil sector

Nigeria's president has appointed Bayo Ojulari - a former Shell executive - to lead the state-owned oil company, as part of sweeping reforms aimed at cleaning up the sector dogged by allegations of corruption, pollution and decades-long inefficiency.

Mr Ojulari was picked in a "crucial" overhaul of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC), the presidency said on Wednesday. It added that the restructure - which also involved replacing the entire board - was necessary to drive economic growth in Africa's biggest oil exporter. President Bola Tinubu's time in power has seen a series of economic shocks, with food and fuel prices rocketing over the past couple of years. The NNPC has also been under financial strain - last September it admitted to having debts of around \$6bn (£4.5bn). In its statement announcing the NNPC restructure, the presidency said Tinubu wished to boost Nigeria's oil output and refining capacity. Despite its massive oil sector, most of the crude oil

Nigeria produces is exported, while it has to import the fuel it uses from other countries because it does not have enough oil refineries.

The cost of fuel used to be subsidised by the government - until this was removed by President Tinubu when he came to office nearly two years ago. He said the country could no longer afford to pay for it, leading the price of fuel to skyrocket.

The subsidy was overseen by the NNPC and was shrouded in mystery leading to allegations of massive corruption. However, oil marketers say the price at which fuel is imported is still higher than the pump price, leading

many to believe that the government is still subsidising the cost of fuel through the NNPC, which it has denied. Nigeria's oil production slowed to less than a million barrels per day in 2023, news agency AFP reported. Tinubu's administration wants to hit two million barrels per day of oil by 2027 and three million barrels per day by 2030. Tasked with executing this mission, Mr Ojulari replaces former NNPC boss Mele Kyari. Some oil industry experts have expressed confidence in his appointment owing to his decades of experience in the oil sector, however they fear the challenges he inherits.



Bayo Ojulari's biggest job will be to try and increase Nigeria's oil output

## How jeans and diamonds pushed Lesotho to the top of Trump's tariffs list

Lesotho was slapped with the White House's highest tariff rates in the list released by US President Donald Trump on Wednesday. Americans bringing goods in from the small southern African country will have to pay an additional 50% import tax.

The US has a big trade deficit with Lesotho, which sells textiles - including jeans - and diamonds to America. The 50% rate for Lesotho was part of what Trump described as "reciprocal tariffs" imposed on imports from dozens of countries, including 20 in Africa. All nations face a minimum rate of 10%. Responding to the news, Lesotho's Trade Minister Mokheithi Shelile said his government would send a delegation to Washington to argue against the new trade measure.

"My biggest concern was the immediate closure of factories and job losses," the AFP news agency quotes him as telling journalists on Thursday. One of

Clinton, Agoa was intended to help African countries grow their economies and create jobs, but these tariffs appear to threaten its future. Lesotho's garment factories have made jeans for major American brands such as Levi's and Wrangler in recent years. Clothes make up nearly three-quarters of what Lesotho exports to the US - its second biggest trading partner after South Africa.

The value of that US trade amounts to more than 10% of its total annual national income. The extra costs that the tariffs will incur for American buyers could reduce demand and therefore have a big impact on Lesotho's economy. "This has been a devastating day for us," Teboho Kobeli, founder of Lesotho clothes manufacturer Afri-Expo Textiles, told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme.

He said he had spent the day in talks with industry colleagues and the government about what to do next. While his business, which Mr Kobeli says employs around 2,000 people, can look for other markets, the US is so significant that "we can't just shelve the US market... we need to do everything we can to



Jeans form a part of Lesotho's textile exports to the US

Trump's aims with his tariff announcement is to reduce his country's trade deficit with the rest of the world. And this gives a clue as to why Lesotho has been hit so hard. According to White House figures, in 2024 while the US exported just \$2.8m (£2.1m) worth of goods to Lesotho, its imports from the southern African country amounted to \$237.3m. In their calculations, US officials used the difference between the value of imports and exports in setting the tariff rates for different countries. In recent years, Lesotho has been successful in selling textiles to the US, making the most of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa). This US legislation from 2000 allowed eligible African countries to send some goods to the US without having tariffs slapped on them. Signed into law by President Bill

bring [it] back". Colette van der Ven, a lawyer who specialises in international trade, told the BBC that the 50% figure Trump has imposed on Lesotho "makes little sense logically".

She described it as "ironic" that the US was effectively punishing Lesotho for the success it has enjoyed under Agoa. "It's this sense that the US is being taken advantage of because it's running a trade deficit. It's really reflective of a new ideology about trade and who is benefiting and who is not". Other African countries hit with extra tariffs include 47% for Madagascar, 40% for Mauritius, 37% for Botswana and 30% for South Africa. Nigerian exports will be hit too - at a rate of 14%.

Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal and Liberia were among those countries whose exports to the US will be subject to the baseline tariff of 10%. The US is not running a trade deficit with these countries. BBC



# 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.

# COMMENTARY

by Alain Ebobissé,  
Fatih Birol

Diplomacy Is the Newest Front in the Russia-Ukraine War  
By Richard Haass

NEW YORK - The war between Russia and Ukraine continues unabated. Neither side is in a position to achieve its stated objectives through military force. But now there is significant diplomatic activity as well.

Ukraine has agreed to a 30-day ceasefire, in large part to patch up relations with US President Donald Trump’s administration, which unraveled during a February 28 Oval Office confrontation between Trump and President Volodymyr Zelensky. Russia rejected the ceasefire proposal, instead suggesting (but not implementing) a prohibition on attacking energy infrastructure. Both sides also indicated a readiness to accept a ceasefire in the Black Sea, but with Russia linking its support to a relaxation of sanctions, it is far from clear when - or even if - such a limited ceasefire would start, much less what it would encompass.

Such partial steps, if implemented, could be a way-station to something more significant. But it is at least equally possible that partial steps would not lead to a comprehensive peace agreement. Russia could prosecute the war even if the Black Sea were not an active theater.

The biggest question remains US policy. The Trump administration has used a combination of pressure and incentives to persuade the two sides to stop fighting. But its approach has been skewed toward offering benefits to Russia while bringing heavy pressure to bear on Ukraine.

To be clear, it is appropriate to offer Russia certain incentives. This could include a willingness to resume high-level contacts and restaff embassies, support for limited relaxation of sanctions if specified conditions are met, and to allow Russia to keep its long-term objectives for Ukraine on the table.

What is not acceptable is to embrace flawed Russian positions, such as its claims to Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and/or Zaporizhzhia based on the results of illegal referenda conducted by Russian occupation forces. It is one thing for Trump’s envoy to the Kremlin, the property-developer-turned-novice-diplomat Steve Witkoff, to characterize Russia’s stance and quite another for him to adopt it as his own.

More broadly, there is no good reason to introduce final-status considerations at this point. The goal for now should be an open-ended ceasefire agreement, not a permanent peace treaty. In this instance, excessive ambition is likely to be the enemy of the possible.

To achieve a cessation of hostilities, the agreement ought to be as clean and simple as possible. Only two elements are essential for a viable ceasefire: a cessation of all hostilities, and a separation of forces, ideally with a peacekeeping contingent between them.

Everything else, including the disposition of territory and populations, should be left for final-status negotiations. For now, both sides should be allowed to arm or agree to security arrangements with third parties. Nothing should be done to preclude measures that would buttress a ceasefire. Russia should be permitted to retain North Korean troops on its territory; Ukraine could invite forces from European countries.

What is essential is for the US to continue providing military and intelligence support to Ukraine. Such support is the only way to convince Russian President Vladimir Putin that further stalling is not in his interest, and is essential to Ukraine’s ability to deter renewed Russian aggression even if there is a ceasefire agreement. But it need not be unlimited: such US assistance has totaled around \$40 billion a year for three years - a level that is likely to suffice for the foreseeable future.

The goal should be to give Ukraine what it needs to deter and defend against Russian aggression, not to liberate its lands. To assert, as Witkoff did, that there is no reason to worry about renewed Russian aggression is not serious. After all, the current war is Russia’s second invasion of Ukraine since 2014, when it illegally annexed Crimea. Given Putin’s intentions, what matters are capabilities.

Matters could come to a head by summer, when the pipeline of congressionally-approved arms for Ukraine runs out. The Trump administration will have to decide (if it has not already done so) on the connection between the security relationship with Ukraine and US diplomacy.

As we attempt to discern what the administration will choose to do, the February 2020 deal that the first Trump





You know, before, before, I used to geh vex over plus wein I hear people say, ley Congou people dem spoiled this Kountry. Bor da na, na I understand wein they say ley Congou people dem spoiled this Kountry.

In Fact, by ley time you put dem over something, they think that their time to steal and own what belong to everybody has come.

Loka ley Papay who say he could even ride wheelbarrow to work, see ley kina car him just brought to our village. Somebody who told our village people da him wor living on loan for six years.

Father, ley people dem taste ball for wealth na geh so high like a male dog wan do woman bisnay. They na make corruption really sit down leh King-kon. Then they moh go bring somebody who master ley corruption to go after corrupt people again?

Puah, da na corruption dig, hole cover hole they on here. Ley Congou people really spoiled ley place for true ya. Nobody wan to stay in ley village and make farm anymore. By ley time Tamba come to Ducor, him wan fight to get village job to start stealing.

So, even ley other village people who were spoiling ley Congou people dem name just yesterday-see what they have become in less than 18 months.

Hmm, dis one here, it hard to deny ooh.  
 Look, Father, ehn da ley same thing dem they say ley Congou  
 people dem wor doing da why ley killed those poor people for.  
 Na, it worser.

Father, just go to our small, small hamlets around here, children dem sitting on ley dusty floor just to learn something. You see somer ley school building dem sef, you will think da animal dem ley people dem keeping inside. Bor da native woman children been in charge for 45 years na oo. You moh come see sky scrappers all around our village again-nonsense!

Everyday, ley Congou people spoiled ley country, come fix it na da stealing gallop we on. Our own village children we na care. Na, I understand how ley Congou people spoiled ley country. For some of you they gave you chance to go to good school and what did you learn-stealing.

*By Ylli Bajraktari*

# America's Last Chance to Lead in Fusion Energy

Electrification didn't happen overnight, nor was it inevitable. It was made possible by a mix of private innovation, government investment, and national ambition. But once the United States committed to it, the process became unstoppable. As factories, businesses, and homes were electrified, a new era of American dominance dawned.

Likewise, the race to harness fusion energy is not only about scientific discovery; it is about who will dominate the future of energy. If the US leads, fusion power plants could provide abundant, clean, and safe energy for generations of Americans, breaking the country's dependence on fossil fuels and insulating it from global energy shocks. But if America fails to meet this moment, it will find itself buying fusion machines from China, just as it now imports Chinese solar panels, electric-vehicle (EV) batteries, and rare-earth minerals.

Fusion - when two light atoms fuse to form a new, heavier atom, releasing a huge amount of energy - moved to the forefront of the global energy transition only recently. For decades, it was viewed as a grand but remote scientific ambition. While researchers made slow but steady progress in replicating the reactions that power the sun and stars, harnessing them to produce limitless, carbon-free power seemed to be a distant dream.

An inflection point came in 2022, when scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility achieved a controlled fusion reaction that produced more energy than it consumed, proving that fusion power is theoretically possible and within reach. Now, researchers are doing more than running experiments; they are laying the groundwork for real power-generation systems.

The race to harness fusion energy will be decided not by physics, but by engineering, infrastructure, and industrial capacity. The first country to bring fusion power to the grid, not the first to achieve fusion reactions in a lab, will decide how the world's next great power source is deployed and dominate a potential multi-trillion-dollar industry, reshaping its own economy in the process.

There was a time when the US set the pace for every major technological revolution. It built the first light bulbs, the first airplanes, the first computers, and put a man on the moon. But it is China that is moving aggressively to win the fusion race, investing heavily in research and development and positioning itself to control the supply chains that will enable large-scale fusion deployment. Chinese laboratories have already set records in sustaining fusion reactions, and state-backed initiatives are seeking to secure control over tritium, one of the fuels that will power future reactors. The US is falling behind.

We have seen this pattern before - first with solar panels, then with batteries, and now with EVs. In each case, American innovation laid the foundation for new industries, but it was China that implemented a long-term strategy aimed at cementing its dominance over manufacturing and supply chains. And in each case, the US ended up dependent on foreign production.

When it comes to fusion, the stakes are even higher. The ability to generate near-limitless energy would amount to a strategic advantage rivaling the greatest breakthroughs of the twentieth century. Beyond acquiring powerful economic leverage over the US, a China that leads in fusion would gain considerable geopolitical clout. If China also leads in AI, quantum computing, and advanced manufacturing - as it is positioning itself to do - its influence will be unmatched.

US policymakers are well aware of the risks a dominant China would pose, as reflected in recent national security strategies and economic and foreign policies. They also know that energy independence is critical to US security; it has been a priority for decades. But they have yet to recognize the critical importance of leading on fusion. This must change - and fast.

Harnessing fusion energy is not a challenge for the next presidential administration or even the next Congress. The decisions the US makes in the next five years will determine whether it wins the fusion race - or watches others run away with the prize.



FEATURE

ARTICLE

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

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

In a dimly lit room, faded posters of political leaders line the walls, remnants of a time when hope flickered brightly in the hearts of the young. Colorful images of protests, chants for freedom, and passionate speeches resonate with an echo of nostalgia. The air is thick with memories of revolution, of those who have fought for political identity, rights, and freedom from oppression for all Liberians. Yet, today, the vibrant spirit of the Liberian youth/young people appears dulled, overshadowed by the apathy that comes from years of manipulation and disenchantment. Liberia's urban centers throng with young people. They gather in groups, their chatter rising above the honking vehicles, the sizzle of street food, and the rhythmic beats of music from neighboring shops. Some wear caps emblazoned with political party logos, while others sport t-shirts featuring portraits of leaders. Yet, as one glance closer, it becomes apparent that many of these young people are merely puppets, strings pulled by figures who promise change but deliver only deception. These so-called leaders, resembling headless snakes, slither through the political landscape, evacuating their followers of hope and direction, leaving them without a clear path toward genuine progress. Liberia's youth/young people seem trapped in a cycle of naive loyalty, attending rallies, waving flags, and chanting slogans without understanding the true essence of political engagement. It starkly contrasts with the fervor observed in the 1970s and 1980s, when young Liberians were at the forefront of political activism, their minds aflame with ideas of nationalism, democracy, and social and economic justice. Members of that generation marched for the right to speak freely, advocated for the poor, and sought a nation where every citizen, not just the political elites, could thrive. Fast forward to recent gatherings of today's youth/young people, where excitement and enthusiasm wane. The once-electric air of potential activism has been siphoned off by the repetitive cycle of disillusionment. After discussing the upcoming 2029 presidential and general elections at the Handz-On-Barbershop in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, a young man told me, "There are too many empty promises." Another young man echoed his peers' sentiments, "Why should we believe anything will change?" This resignation is a summation of the repeated betrayals experienced over decades as young people witness leaders turn their backs on the principles they once championed. For many young Liberians today, this reality is a stark reminder of the downfalls of leadership devoid of integrity and vision. Present-day leaders, often self-proclaimed champions, navigate a political landscape rife with corruption and mismanagement. They rise to power through populist rhetoric and promises of change, yet their intentions, shrouded in secrecy, become painfully apparent when they achieve their coveted positions. Chicken-feed (politics) politicians treat the electorate as mere fodder for personal gain, with no thought for the future they are meant to guide.

The ghost town feels the emotional exhaustion trailing behind these promises. The papers might be alive with bold headlines proclaiming that the latest political party has launched its campaign, but there's an evident disconnect at the grassroots level. Young people listlessly clap and shout but lack the spark of genuine belief. They know well that these rallies have little weight in changing their reality, almost as if they have become spectators in a play devoid of substance. Alternatives emerge in the following discussions. Voices call for a different way forward. Some propose, "What if we could create real change ourselves?" Ideas flow about returning to grassroots movements, connecting with communities, and focusing on self-empowerment. It is a craving for a way out, a longing to reclaim the autonomy that generations before them fought for so bravely.



The question arises: how did the change happen? When did young people transition from active agents of political change to followers of ineffective leaders? It is a question rooted in Liberia's historical context, which has marked civil wars, economic turmoil, and a deterioration of trust in political institutions. The catastrophic events shaped a generation haunted by trauma, robbing them of the energy required to stand and fight as their predecessors once did. Instead, this new generation has inherited a political environment exhausted by corruption, where the concept of a principled leader feels like a distant fantasy. Delving further into the past, one realizes that the youth movements of the late 20th century were not just movements. They were a clarion call for visionaries who could lead them with clear principles and moral clarity. The students of the University of Liberia organized protests demanding freedom, social justice, and an equitable distribution of resources. They were fearless advocates who stood firm against prevailing narratives and were never willing to be silenced. As a youth at that time, now a young man (Austin S.Fallah), I was allowed to serve as a guest speaker at an occasion held by Liberian Women United For Business at the Monrovia City Hall, spoke on the topic "The Importance of the Liberian Woman in the Family." In my discourse, I said, "We must rise and ensure this madness of abuse of women must stop and stop now!" A young woman in the crowd of over 500 jam-packed Monrovia City Hall shouted amidst her peers, "I agree with you," her voice a balm for those seeking direction.

Her voice echoed the power of the youth and the importance of thought leadership, which is essential in creating alternative political landscapes. I am calling on all of us to educate ourselves. What change do we want, and how can we achieve it without following those headless snakes? My impassioned plea in this write-up/article must ignite a spark within all of us for a better tomorrow. Instead of blind allegiance, we, the young people and the youth of our motherland, should be active participants, responsible, and accountable. The shift is palpable. Young women and men must engage in vigorous discussions, exploring ways to leverage social media to build awareness about issues affecting our motherland, start local initiatives, and influence policy through civic engagement and demonstration that holds no iota of water for the nation. The poetry of the young people's words frames a vision grounded in creating inclusive spaces, empowering every young person, and amplifying underrepresented voices. Reflecting on this, one understands that the headless snakes symbolize a more significant threat than political incompetence. They represent a cycle of dependency that keeps generations shackled without guidance. These figures bewitch the political landscape. A siren's call lures the young into a perpetual loop of futility. Liberian youths/young people must understand that they have the agency to break these chains. They must learn that power lies not in naive loyalty but in discerning leadership evaluation. As discussions should ripple through the crowd, that change is undeniable. Some voices will begin to talk about holding leaders accountable, while others will focus on the importance of voter education. The aim is not to unquestioningly endorse new leaders but to demand a set of principles and policies and the culture of malaise that has become the status quo. An awakening begins when they seek to restore integrity and purpose in their political landscape. The conclusion becomes clear: youth must avoid following the headless snakes of unschooled and ill-fitted political leadership but instead look towards their sages, ancestors, and each other for direction. Authentic leadership can emerge within the nuances of logic, reason, and shared experiences. By harnessing their potential, driven by the historical fervor and spirit of activism, they can transcend the repetitious failures of the past. As the sun rises over Liberia's landscape, illuminating the young people/youth's faces filled with renewed hope, it signals a new beginning. Liberia's landscape illuminates the youth's faces. The vibrant colors of awakening promise a genuine place where the leaders are not merely self-proclaimed but are genuinely committed to the cause of unity, empowerment, and progress. The Liberian young people/youth stand poised, ready to reclaim their narrative, not as blind followers but as a collective force for change, armed with the history they must honor and a future they are determined to build. No longer will they follow the "headless snakes." They will forge the political paths that lead to true prosperity. The time has come for young/youthful Liberians to step forward, dispelling shadows of the past, seizing control of their destiny, and illuminating the way for generations to come.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# ArcelorMittal Liberia unveils new cohorts of trainees

ArcelorMittal Liberia has unveiled a significant new cohort of trainees under its Artisans and Process Operator programs, marking a major investment in the professional development of Liberian youth.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, April 4, 2025: This initiative is part of the company's broader strategy to enhance technical

ensuring that participants are well-prepared to handle complex processing equipment. Upon successful completion,



skills within the local workforce, supporting Liberia's development goals. The program, which began with a large recruitment exercise, targets over 200 trainees from Bong, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties. These individuals were selected to be prepared for positions in ArcelorMittal Liberia's Phase II expansion project, which includes the construction of a new concentrator plant in Yekepa. The training is designed to combine both theoretical and practical components,

the trainees will have the opportunity to join ArcelorMittal Liberia as Process Operators. The company's Training Academy (AMTLA) in Yekepa has played a crucial role in providing vocational and technical education, with a curriculum covering diesel mechanics, electrical mechanics, and product making. The training program also begins with six months of foundational courses in engineering science, mathematics, drawing, and

trade theory. A career-launch ceremony for the trainees was held at the AMTLA in Yekepa, Nimba County, on Thursday, April 3, 2025. The event was attended by staff from ArcelorMittal Liberia, and trainees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to embark on this important stage of their careers. During the ceremony, the trainees reflected on their experiences, highlighting the valuable hands-on skills they gained in operation, troubleshooting, and teamwork. Barebo T. Toure, a Process Operator Learner, and Cyrus Bsryogar, an Artisan in Training, both spoke highly of their education and the skill development they were receiving. They expressed appreciation for ArcelorMittal Liberia's unwavering commitment to providing career empowerment opportunities. Michael Vandermerwe, Chief Executive Officer of ArcelorMittal Liberia, welcomed the trainees and pledged his full support for the program. "This is an opportunity that will launch your career, and we are excited to be part of your journey," he said in his address. In his special remarks, Mr. Kleber Silva, CEO of ArcelorMittal Liberia Mining, expressed his satisfaction at

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# "Uniting to make a difference" -PACT's generous donation strengthens healthcare resources at Phebe Hospital in Bong

By: Edwin N Khakie

Gbarnga, Bong County - April 3, 2025 - In a demonstration of solidarity and commitment to improving healthcare access in Liberia, the U.S.-based nonprofit organization, Partnership for Community Transformation (PACT), has donated a shipment of vital medical supplies to Phebe Hospital in Gbarnga, Bong County. The donation, which includes essential pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment, aims to enhance the hospital's capacity to provide critical healthcare services to the local population. According to PACT Secretary Elijah Zina, this initiative is part of the organization's ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare systems in underserved regions, particularly in countries with limited access to medical resources. "These supplies will support

Phebe Hospital in addressing the medical needs of the community, particularly in maternal and child health, emergency care, and infectious disease management," Zina stated. "This donation is not just about providing supplies; it is about investing in the health and well-being of the community." Zina reaffirmed PACT's dedication to supporting Phebe Hospital and other healthcare institutions in need.

Receiving the donation, Dr. Nemi Sankawolo Ricks, Medical Director of Phebe Hospital, expressed gratitude to PACT, describing the donation as timely and crucial in improving healthcare delivery. "We deeply appreciate this support from PACT. These medical supplies will go a long way in strengthening our ability to provide quality care

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



# Liberian Delegation Attends International Workshop on Land Administration in India

A high-level delegation from the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) recently participated in a six-day International Workshop on Land Governance and Management, held at the Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) in Gurugram, India (24-29 Mar 2025). The delegation comprised Dr. Mahmoud Solomon, Commissioner; Mr. C. Sylvester N. Bundoo, Director; and Mr. Mencer Poewoe, Assistant Director at the Department of Land Administration. The workshop, organized by India's Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, brought together experts, policymakers, and officials from multiple countries to exchange knowledge and best practices in land administration, governance, and policy implementation. The training covered key areas such as land registration, dispute resolution, and digitization of land records, and Indian hosts. They had the

workshop were highly relevant to Liberia's land administration system and would aid in developing efficient and technology-driven mechanisms to address existing challenges. Mr. Mencer Poewoe highlighted the significance of the workshop in learning about innovative land governance practices, particularly India's 'SVAMITVA' program, which focuses on land boundary marking to solve numerous land administration challenges. He expressed his intent to bring back valuable lessons to Liberia, aiming to enhance the country's land administration system and promote sustainable land governance. Dr. Solomon underscored that the training provided practical strategies for improving land governance, including lessons from India's own land administration reforms. Beyond the workshop, the Liberian delegation profoundly appreciated the warmth and hospitality extended by their Indian hosts. They had the



tenure, all of which are critical to Liberia's ongoing land reform efforts. Liberia has long faced challenges in land governance, ownership rights, and disputes arising from overlapping claims. The country has been working to implement land tenure reforms, particularly after the passage of the Land Rights Act of 2018, which recognized customary land rights and aimed to streamline land ownership. However, challenges such as inadequate land records, unclear legal frameworks, and disputes between customary and statutory land ownership systems continue to hinder effective governance. Upon their return, the delegation met with the Ambassador of India to Liberia, Mr. Manoj Bihari Verma, to express their gratitude for the opportunity. They emphasized that the insights gained from the

opportunity to experience India's rich cultural heritage, including a visit to the iconic Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The delegation described the visit as an unforgettable experience, showcasing India's history, architectural marvels, and vibrant traditions. The participation of Liberian officials in such international capacity-building programs reflects the government's commitment to improving land governance, property rights, and sustainable development. Looking ahead, the Liberia Land Authority aims to explore further collaboration with India in areas such as technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and policy implementation, reinforcing the growing bilateral ties between the two nations.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MDR withdraws case with reservation

As the people of Nimba County prepare for senatorial by-election on April 22, 2025, the collaborating party, Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) withdraws a petition before the National Elections Commission with reservation.

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Monrovia, Liberia, April 4, 2025 - The Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) has with reservation, withdrawn its complaint or petition against



two independent candidates National Elections Commission (NEC) on April 3, senatorial by-election. The 2025. However, minutes candidates are Tee Wonokay-Farnagalo and Edith L. Gongloe-Weh. The MDR is the party of late candidates. Senator Prince Yormie

# Accountability Lab begins digital literacy, advocacy training

By Lewis S. Teh  
Monrovia, Liberia, April 3, 2025 - Accountability Lab Liberia with funding from UN Women, Peacebuilding Fund and UNFPA begins a two-day comprehensive orientation and refresher capacity building training for 12 civil society organizations (CSOs) within Montserrado and Lofa counties. The program is part of its accelerating digital opportunities for youth civic participation project. Speaking to reporters Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at Icampus in Monrovia at the start of the training, program and learning director at Accountability Lab Liberia, Nyema J. Richards, said the project is geared towards youth civic participation, how young people can get involved and contribute towards national governance. "Now, you know, we live in a digital world and things are moving away from physical interaction to everything happening online and in digital spaces. So, it's about taking the next step with the young people to see how they can get involved in their own Jerusalem, in their own communities, in their own spaces", he explains. Mr. Richards notes that the training is meant to equip youths on how

Johnson. The party's candidates in the senatorial race is incumbent Nimba County Representative Samuel Kogar. The complaint, which alleges electoral violations, was set for a hearing before the National Vice Chair for NEC/Electoral Affairs Michael T.V. Deddeh, indicates that the withdrawal was "with reservation." Reasons behind the decision were not disclosed, but the wording suggests that MDR may revisit the issue later. "Please spread on the records of the above-entitled cause of action that the Plaintiff, Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR), in these proceedings, hereby withdraws its complaint with reservation. "FOR SO DOING, THIS SHALL CONSTITUTE YOUR LEGAL AND SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY", Vice Chair Deddeh, writes the NEC. However, the Elecetions Commission is expected to formally document the withdrawal. The case is now removed from the NEC's docket unless MDR takes further action. The MDR initially challenged Wonokay-Farnagalo's eligibility due to a prior candidacy in Montserrado County and accused Madam Gongloe-Weh of voter registration irregularities. The letter, signed by MDR's

They sought partnership with UN Women to be able to actually do the training with the young people. "So, about four months ago in November, December last year, there was this call for application where UN Women were looking for a partner who has worked with young people who were involved in training and capacity building and that's how Accountability Lab Liberia was vetted and accepted to take on this role." Mr. Richards continues that AL role is to build capacity in digital literacy, adding "What we organized today is a training of trainers. So, the group of people you saw there are going to be the ones leading the training for the individual organizations in the



Accountability Lab gives Liberian youth digital literacy here.

# EPA and partners end validation workshop in Ganta

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with UNDP has ended a two-day validation workshop on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in Nimba County.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman  
Ganta, Liberia, April 4, 2025 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with UNDP has ended a two-day validation workshop on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in Ganta City, Nimba County. The workshop was supported under the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) project, with funding from Sweden to refine and finalize the draft NBSAP, including its communication strategy, implementation plan, and monitoring and evaluation framework. Speaking at the end of the workshop, EPA Executive Director, Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo, emphasized that the workshop marks a significant step in Liberia's journey toward environmental sustainability. Dr. Yarkpawolo highlighted Liberia's rich



biodiversity, including its Upper Guinean rainforests and coastal ecosystems, which he said, are critical to the country's survival and livelihoods. "There is a need for collective ownership of the NBSAP, with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds contributing to the process to ensure the plan reflects the realities and aspirations of all Liberians," said Dr. Yarkpawolo. He also noted that Liberia's biodiversity goals must align with global initiatives such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the national development agenda, particularly the ARREST agenda. Dr. Yarkpawolo expressed gratitude to UNDP and the Government of Sweden for supporting the drafting of key strategic documents: the NBSAP Implementation Plan,

the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and the Communication Strategy. "These documents form the foundation of Liberia's renewed efforts to halt biodiversity loss, sustainably manage ecosystems, and ensure equitable benefit-sharing of genetic resources," he noted. For his part, UNDP's Team Leader for Inclusive Green Growth, Dorsla Farcarthy, stressed the urgent need for action to address forest degradation, improve livelihoods, and promote sustainable forest management practices. Farcarthy pointed out that many rural communities depend on subsistence farming and forest resources for survival, but these practices often lead to environmental degradation. "Sustainable economic alternatives are necessary to balance the needs of local populations with conservation goals", he noted. Farcarthy also mentioned that Liberia, as a biodiversity hotspot, faces increasing temperatures and environmental challenges over the next decade, making urgent action on natural resource management even more critical. He called for an improved conservation strategy and greater integration of environmental sustainability into public discourse and policy to address challenges of deforestation driven by commercial logging, agricultural expansion, and unsustainable land use practices. The NBSAP is designed to serve as a strategic



# Français

## Les citoyens enthousiastes face à l'expansion d'ArcelorMittal Liberia

**A**lors que les discussions se poursuivent autour de l'expansion d'ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), la Superintendante du comté de Nimba, Kou Meapeh Gono, a souligné l'importance d'une contribution accrue de

FM à Monrovia ce mardi, Mme Gono a reconnu l'impact économique d'AML tout en insistant sur la nécessité d'une responsabilité sociale accrue et d'une plus grande implication des populations locales dans les retombées économiques. « En tant que Superintendante, je dois concilier les intérêts de

industrielle.Elle a reconnu les contributions positives d'AML à l'économie du Liberia et du comté de Nimba, mais a estimé que des efforts supplémentaires étaient nécessaires. « La présence de Mittal dans le pays a été bénéfique, mais nous savons qu'il y a encore une marge d'amélioration, notamment en matière de responsabilité sociale », a-t-elle ajouté.

Mme Gono a par ailleurs souligné que les habitants de Nimba réclament davantage d'emplois et une meilleure redistribution des bénéfices de l'entreprise. « Nos citoyens demandent plus d'opportunités d'emploi et une participation plus équitable aux investissements. Je plaide pour une augmentation des contributions financières d'AML afin que le comté puisse réaliser ses projets de développement », a-t-elle expliqué.Un projet



l'entreprise aux communautés locales, notamment celles directement affectées par ses activités.Dans une interview accordée à OK

diverses parties prenantes et comprendre leurs attentes », a-t-elle déclaré, mettant en avant la complexité des relations entre gouvernance locale et présence

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Bong County : L'Office de la consolidation de la paix du Libéria lance un dialogue de trois jours sur la paix et la réconciliation

L'Office de la consolidation de la paix du Libéria, en collaboration avec le ministère des Affaires intérieures et avec le soutien du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), a lancé un dialogue de trois jours sur la paix et la réconciliation à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong. Créé en 2009, l'Office de la consolidation de la paix du Libéria joue un rôle essentiel dans le soutien au gouvernement pour le développement et la mise en œuvre de programmes de paix et de réconciliation à travers le pays.Un appel à la non-violence et à la cohésion sociale

Lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture le 2 avril 2025, l'ambassadeur de la paix du Libéria, Eric Quaqua, a exhorté les habitants, en particulier les dirigeants du comté de Bong, à rejeter la violence et les discours de haine et à respecter l'État de droit.

Il a rappelé qu'en mars 2024, l'Office de la consolidation de la paix avait organisé un dialogue de réconciliation politique visant à briser le cycle de la violence, faciliter la réconciliation post-traumatique et préserver la paix dans plusieurs comtés,

notamment Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa et Grand Gedeh.L'ambassadeur Quaqua a encouragé les participants à utiliser ce dialogue comme un outil de résolution des conflits et de consolidation de la paix dans le pays. Il a souligné que l'objectif principal est de promouvoir la coopération politique et communautaire en incitant les citoyens et les acteurs politiques à privilégier la paix et la réconciliation pour garantir un développement durable au Libéria.

Par ailleurs, il a indiqué que ce dialogue permettra d'explorer des stratégies visant à préserver la paix et à garantir des élections

libres, transparentes et réussies en 2029. Après Bong, une session similaire sera organisée dans le comté de Lofa.Un engagement fort des partenaires internationaux Elizabeth Sumo, chargée de projet au PNUD, représentant le bureau du PNUD au Libéria, a salué l'initiative du ministère des Affaires intérieures et de l'Office de la consolidation de la paix. Elle a affirmé que ce dialogue unique contribuera à renforcer le processus de paix et à favoriser le développement national.Mme Sumo a également réitéré l'engagement du PNUD à soutenir la consolidation de la



## Éditorial

### La décision de la Cour suprême doit inverser la tendance chaotique au Liberia

Par Raghuram Rajan

**L**a Cour suprême du Liberia a récemment qualifié la crise de leadership en cours à la Chambre des représentants de “tendance chaotique” qui doit être corrigée. Nous ne saurions être plus en accord avec cette déclaration de la plus haute juridiction du pays.

Malgré la présence d'un président légitime à la Chambre, un groupe de députés se faisant appeler le “Bloc majoritaire” s'est réuni et a élu Richard Nagbe Koon, représentant du district #11 de Montserrado et membre du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party, comme président de la Chambre. Cette démarche a été menée en dehors du cadre constitutionnel du Liberia.

Bien que cette action soit illégale, elle a bénéficié du soutien de l'exécutif, qui a interprété à son avantage un avis précédent de la Cour suprême. Cet avis indiquait que les décisions prises à la Chambre étaient “ultra vires”, c'est-à-dire prises sans autorité légale. Cependant, au lieu de corriger cette situation, l'exécutif a permis l'induction du représentant Koon en tant que président de la Chambre, en dépit de la présence du président contesté J. Fonati Koffa.

Le président Koffa a contesté son limogeage illégal à deux reprises devant la Cour suprême, la plus récente étant une requête en information. Lors de cette audience, la Cour a mis en garde contre la “tendance chaotique” qui affecte le système de gouvernance du pays.

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), à travers son organe parlementaire, a tenté par deux fois d'intervenir pour résoudre cette impasse. Cependant, ces efforts ont échoué en grande partie en raison de l'attitude non coopérative des membres du soi-disant “Bloc majoritaire”.

Dans leur quête du pouvoir, ces députés sont allés jusqu'à demander au Parlement de la CEDEAO le retrait de trois représentants libériens désignés sous la direction de Koffa. Toutefois, cette demande a été rejetée car contraire aux règlements de l'institution.

Nous sommes convaincus qu'aucune institution, en dehors de la Cour suprême, ne peut régler cette violation flagrante de la Constitution du Liberia. En tant que seule instance habilitée à interpréter les lois du pays, elle doit user de son autorité pour clarifier la situation sans ambiguïté et rétablir l'ordre constitutionnel.

Lors de sa dernière prise de parole sur cette affaire, la Cour suprême a laissé le public dans l'incertitude, une situation qui a été exploitée par l'exécutif pour justifier ses actions.

Cette fois-ci, nous exhortons la plus haute juridiction du pays à se prononcer avec fermeté et clarté sur cette affaire, en se fondant uniquement sur le droit. Il est essentiel que la Cour détermine de manière décisive quelle partie est dans son tort, afin que le peuple libérien puisse comprendre la loi et agir en conséquence.

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# Français

## Starts from page 8 Les citoyens enthousiastes face à

d’expansion majeur  
ArcelorMittal Liberia célèbre cette année 20 ans d’opérations dans le pays, marquant deux décennies d’investissements dans le secteur minier, l’économie et le développement communautaire. Premier employeur privé du Liberia, l’entreprise génère plus de 2 100 emplois directs et 5 300 emplois indirects. Elle a déjà investi environ 2,5 milliards de dollars dans le pays, démontrant ainsi son engagement à long terme. Actuellement, AML est en phase finale de négociation pour son projet d’expansion, une initiative de plusieurs milliards de dollars visant à tripler sa capacité de production de minerai de fer, passant de 5 millions à 15 millions de tonnes par an. Ce projet constitue l’un des plus importants investissements miniers de l’histoire récente du Liberia et devrait avoir un impact significatif sur l’économie nationale. Kleber Silva, vice-président exécutif et PDG d’ArcelorMittal Global en charge du secteur minier, a réaffirmé l’engagement de l’entreprise envers le Liberia. « La réalisation de ce projet renforcera notre partenariat avec le Liberia et apportera d’importants avantages économiques et sociaux au pays et à nos communautés. Nous voulons croître avec le Liberia et pour le Liberia. En 2025, nous serons fiers d’avoir accompli cette grande étape dans notre parcours vers la croissance », a-t-il déclaré.

Selon AML, ce projet d’expansion créera environ 1 000 emplois permanents et 2 000 postes temporaires dans la construction. L’expansion devrait également accroître les revenus du gouvernement, passant de 35 millions de dollars à 200 millions de dollars par an. En outre, AML s’est engagée à investir dans la formation et le développement des compétences locales afin de renforcer l’expertise de la main-

d’œuvre libérienne. Un débat sur le nouvel accord de développement minier  
Le nouvel accord de développement minier (MDA) définissant les conditions de cette expansion suscite de nombreux débats parmi les parties prenantes. Mme Gono a souligné que le gouvernement libérien veille à ce que cet accord bénéficie aux communautés locales et contribue à la croissance économique nationale. « De nombreuses personnes s’intéressent au nouvel MDA en cours de discussion, et notre rôle est d’écouter leurs opinions pour construire un consensus », a-t-elle expliqué. Tout en reconnaissant que certaines parties prenantes pourraient ne pas être pleinement satisfaites des conclusions, Mme Gono a insisté sur le fait que l’objectif principal du gouvernement est d’assurer le bien-être du plus grand nombre. « Nous savons que tout le monde ne sera pas d’accord, mais notre priorité est de veiller à ce que la majorité des citoyens, en particulier ceux des communautés affectées, puissent améliorer leurs conditions de vie », a-t-elle affirmé. Elle a réitéré son engagement à défendre les intérêts des habitants du comté de Nimba, rappelant que le développement durable repose sur une collaboration étroite entre les autorités publiques et les entreprises privées. « Nous devons nous battre pour nos citoyens », a-t-elle déclaré, appelant AML à renforcer ses efforts pour améliorer les conditions de vie des populations locales. Alors que les discussions sur l’expansion d’AML se poursuivent, les résidents de Nimba et les responsables gouvernementaux resteront vigilants quant à la mise en œuvre des engagements de l’entreprise, afin que les retombées de cet investissement majeur profitent aux populations qui en ont le plus besoin.

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## Bong County : L’Office de la

paix au Libéria. Un soutien du gouvernement à la paix et au développement  
Le ministre adjoint des Affaires culturelles au ministère des Affaires intérieures, William Jallah, a exprimé sa gratitude envers l’administration du comté de Bong, dirigée par la superintendante Hawa Loleyah Norris, pour les progrès réalisés dans la région. Il a rappelé l’importance cruciale du maintien de la paix tant dans le comté de Bong qu’au Libéria dans son ensemble. Il a souligné que le ministère des Affaires intérieures, en partenariat avec l’Office de la consolidation de la paix et avec le soutien du PNUD, avait initié ce dialogue dans les comtés ciblés afin de préserver la stabilité nationale. Un appel à l’engagement des jeunes  
De son côté, la superintendante du comté de Bong, Hawa Loleyah Norris, a exprimé sa reconnaissance envers l’Office de la consolidation de la paix et ses partenaires pour cette initiative louable. Elle a encouragé les participants

à profiter de ces trois jours de discussions pour approfondir leurs connaissances et contribuer activement à la reconstruction du comté de Bong et du Libéria. Elle a également souligné que le comté a longtemps souffert d’un retard en matière de développement et que l’unité des habitants est essentielle pour assurer son progrès. Dans ce cadre, elle a lancé un appel aux jeunes du comté pour qu’ils adoptent le dialogue comme moyen de résolution des conflits au lieu de recourir à la violence. Une initiative inclusive

pour renforcer la cohésion sociale Cette rencontre de trois jours réunit des représentants d’organisations de la société civile, des leaders traditionnels et religieux, des groupes de jeunes, des personnes vivant avec un handicap, des associations de femmes ainsi que des représentants des forces de sécurité. Le dialogue se tient sous le thème : « Renforcer la paix, la réconciliation et la cohésion sociale à travers la consolidation de la confiance civique et la promotion de la réconciliation au sein des communautés. »



## Le Liberia et la Chine signent un accord pour un développement durable

Le gouvernement du Liberia et la République populaire de Chine ont signé un accord historique de coopération économique et technique visant à financer et à mettre en œuvre divers projets dans plusieurs secteurs du pays. L'accord a été signé le vendredi 28 mars 2025 par la ministre libérienne des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, et l'ambassadeur de Chine au Liberia, Yin Chengwu. Cet accord vise à renforcer la collaboration bilatérale à travers la réalisation de projets convenus par les deux gouvernements, avec un accent particulier sur la paix, la stabilité, la prospérité et le développement durable du Liberia. Lors de la cérémonie de signature, l'ambassadeur Yin Chengwu a souligné que cet accord témoigne de l'amitié profonde et du soutien indéfectible de la Chine envers le Liberia. Il a ajouté que cet engagement s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des résolutions du Sommet de Beijing du Forum sur la Coopération sino-africaine (FOCAC). “Aujourd'hui, j'ai l'honneur de signer cet accord de coopération économique et technique avec Son Excellence la ministre des Affaires étrangères Nyanti. Cet accord porte sur une assistance financière dont les fonds seront alloués à des projets déterminés conjointement par nos deux gouvernements, dans le but de promouvoir la paix, la stabilité, la prospérité et le développement durable au Liberia”, a expliqué l'ambassadeur Yin. Il a rappelé qu'en septembre dernier, le président chinois Xi Jinping avait présenté dix initiatives de partenariat pour accélérer



la modernisation des pays africains dans le cadre du FOCAC. Pour soutenir ces initiatives, la Chine a annoncé une enveloppe financière de 360 milliards de RMB sur trois ans, dont 80 milliards destinés à diverses formes d'assistance. L'ambassadeur a également mis en avant l'élévation des relations bilatérales entre la Chine et le Liberia au rang de “partenariat stratégique”, suite à une déclaration conjointe des présidents Xi Jinping et Joseph Nyuma Boakai. “Cet accord illustre parfaitement la solidarité et le soutien mutuel entre nos deux nations. La Chine travaillera en étroite collaboration avec le Liberia pour sa mise en œuvre, afin de concrétiser la vision présidentielle et répondre aux attentes de nos populations respectives”, a-t-il ajouté.

Dans son allocution, la ministre libérienne des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, a exprimé sa gratitude envers la Chine pour ce partenariat stratégique, qui contribuera au renforcement de plusieurs secteurs clés au Liberia. “Nous remercions la République populaire de Chine pour cet accord de partenariat, qui nous permettra de développer davantage notre pays et d'améliorer les conditions de vie de notre population. La Chine est un partenaire essentiel pour le Liberia, et nous continuerons à renforcer cette relation d'amitié et de coopération”, a-t-elle déclaré. Cet accord marque une étape significative dans les relations bilatérales entre le Liberia et la Chine et devrait favoriser la mise en œuvre du programme de développement inclusif du Liberia, l'Agenda ARREST.



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different communities. He says the pilot is targeting close to 500 young people that will be trained in digital literacy, both in Montserrado and in Lofa. “And if that goes well, towards the close of the project, UN Women is quite interested in scaling up. We don't know to what level they will be able to run the project and secure funding, but it seems promising that they have committed themselves to doing this” he adds. Accountability Lab Liberia, he says, is a nationally registered nonprofit organization that belongs to training local network of Labs in ten countries, including Liberia with headquarters in the United States.“Our Mission at the AL is to make government work for everyone; we work with active citizens, responsible leaders and accountable institutions”, he says, and notes, “The way we work at the lab is by shifting norms and behavior around issues of accountability, ensuring that integrity becomes the expected behavior within the society.” The objective of the project is to improve digital skills, support YG to set up and deliver digital literacy training, monitoring and

## Accountability Lab begins digital

mentorship.The exercise is designed to build participants’ skills step by step, starting with the basics and moving up to advance skills that can help change community. He details that while the teaching is generally about social media software, they try to look at those that are most common to Liberia right now, saying “We see everybody gravitating towards TikTok, for example, they are making small videos. They're posting their stuff. They’re on Facebook. They’re on WhatsApp. So, we're looking at broadly social media outlets but how to be able to navigate safely on the social media and to propagate whatever campaign they're passionate about.”The executive director of Girls Tech, Kate D. Hinder, says the training aligns with their goal as Growth Tech Club because they are involved in empowering young girls and young women with digital skills.Kate continues: “This is a great joy, especially since we implemented the phase one of this project where we launched a program called the e-voices, where we have young girls and young women running their own digital campaigns with issues affecting them in promoting peace in their

community, their schools, as well as their homes. So, coming back for the phase two of this YPI project is a plus for the Growth Secretary that we did well.” As a tech enthusiast, this is a tech space, and the world is not going to go back. Get on board, do whatever means you can. Today we are promoting peace as well as assessing all digital opportunities. Don’t stay back, come on board and let's move this tradition forward, she urges young people in Liberia.Meanwhile, the youth coordinator for the Federation of Liberian Youths or FLY, Decontee D. Walker, says the training means a lot to her, adding “for me as an advocate, especially for girls' rights, this project is important because it helps sustain peace through utilizing the digital needs, which, of course, we all understand that in Liberia is something that we are lacking in the youthful space.” "We have smartphones, but we don't utilize it in reference. So, this project, I believe, will help open the minds of youths on the importance of digitalization,” Kate said. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

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## EPA and partners end

framework for sustainable management and conservation of Liberia’s biodiversity, in line with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The plan will help guide national efforts to address deforestation, species loss, and other biodiversity-related challenges while promoting sustainable development. The validation workshop provides a platform for key stakeholders to review, discuss, and align the draft NBSAP with Liberia's biodiversity priorities and the country's broader development goals. It underscores Liberia’s commitment to sustainable biodiversity conservation, fostering collaboration among all sectors to safeguard the natural heritage for future

generation. The workshop brought together government representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and development partners. Liberia joined the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1994, recognizing the importance of international cooperation in biodiversity protection. Liberia’s rich biodiversity, including its vast rainforests, endangered species, and diverse ecosystems, underscores its commitment to biodiversity conservation. However, growing pressures from economic development, population growth, and unsustainable land use practices pose significant threats to the country's natural resources. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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## CSNL trashes human rights

due Process, it is also essential to know that Madam Mary Boimah has been at the center of violence over the years. Accordingly, the group asserted that she was the ringleader of the violent protest that led to the burning of the LNP Station and Magisterial court in Kakata, Margibi County few years ago. CSN encouraged and urged Liberian to desist from politicizing issues that threaten security and investments in Liberia. They warned that the habit of shifting blame and besmearing the reputation of investors in Liberia has the propensity to scarce away potential investors, urging all Liberians to allow the common good of the country to prevail. " CSNL described the linkage of Mr. Jetty to the legal action taken against the alleged leaders of the Thursday, June 27, 2024, violent protest at the Salala Rubber Corporation as a fake propaganda out of ignorance, intended to tarnish Mr. Jetty reputation and breed a divisive relationship between him and employees of the corporation" the release quoted the group. The Civil Society Network of Liberia further disclosed that the public perception and media publication that Mr. Jetty is engineering the court not to

hear the case against the former employees of the Salala Rubber Corporation is false and misleading. Establishing motives behind the allegation, the group lamented that investigation conducted CSNL unearthed that the wave of allegations against Mr. Jetty is based on the corporation’s decision not to rehire Madam Boimah and her accomplices. "But it is important to note that when Mr. Jetty took over the corporation, all employees were paid off and a new recruitment process was initiated based on merit system. The new management of the Salala Rubber Corporation had the ultimate discretion to rehire and not to rehire any of the former employees based on its policies" the group noted. However, the release argued that given the indictment against the former Workers’ Union President, Madam Boimah and others, the corporation was ethically and professionally right not to rehire those under court’s indictment. "Therefore, it is foolhardy and illogical for anyone to hold Mr. Jetty liable for the court’s action against former employees of the SRC, including Madam Mary Boimah" the release concluded.

Starts from page 6

## ArcelorMittal Liberia unveils

seeing young people engage with the company’s investments. He emphasized the importance of the training in contributing to the country's growth and expressed confidence that the skills learned would help shape a modern Liberia, both now and in the future. The AMLTA offers a comprehensive

program covering various disciplines, underscoring ArcelorMittal Liberia's commitment to building a skilled, diverse workforce. Through this initiative, the company continues to play a significant role in the professional development of Liberia’s future leaders.

Starts from page 6

## "Uniting to make a difference

to our patients. We hope this partnership continues to grow," Dr. Ricks stated. PACT, a U.S.-based nonprofit, is dedicated to addressing primary and higher education needs in underserved communities worldwide while also contributing to critical healthcare initiatives. The donation comes at a crucial

time when Phebe Hospital, like many other health facilities in Liberia, is facing challenges in providing basic medical care due to the lack of essential supplies. In additiona PATC has been in existence since 2015 and has provided support to various health facilities in Liberia.

#: 1220-2024

SITTING IN ITS APRIL TERM A.D. 2025.

BEFORE HIS HONOR .. NECULAR Y. EDWARDS, RESIDENT JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT

IN RE: THE PETITION OF GERALD PADMORE AND JANINE PADMORE STEGALL, PRAYING YOUR COURT TO ADMIT INTO PROBATE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE GEORGE ARTHUR PADMORE OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA.

NOTICE!

NOTICE!!

NOTICE!!!

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTEES OF THE LATE GEORGE ARTHUR PADMORE (PEYTON PADMORE, ROCHEFORTE PADMORE, RAGNAR PADMORE, MICHAEL PADMORE, VIVAN PADMORE, JOHN PADMORE AND MRS. GEORGETTE CASSETTE) THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE GEORGE ARTHUR PADMORE, WAS IN DUE FORM BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2025. THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DISTRIBUTEES IS/ARE FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED “PETITION” ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY A.D. 2025, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID “PETITION “GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED TO THE EXECUTOR/TRIXES.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT  
THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL A.D. 2025



HELENA SOGBE-STEWART  
CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT  
MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.



# Liberia's bid for UN seat under threat

Former Presidential Candidate and Human Rights Lawyer, Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe, says behavior exhibited by members of the majority bloc against ECOWAS officials may likely undermine the country's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 4, 2025 - Renowned Liberian Human Rights Lawyer, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe warns here



that the conduct of the “majority block” and its approval by President Joseph N. Boakai and the Liberian Senate, including refusal to cooperate with two ECOWAS delegations has a potential to undermining Liberia’s bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Cllr. Gongloe, in an opinion on the government’s bid for the UN non-permanent seat and the saga at the House of Representatives on Thursday, April 3, 2025 said despite the Supreme Court of Liberia’s ruling on the matter, sadly, the Executive Branch and the Senate have chosen to recognize these actions of the majority bloc.He further indicates that such disregard for the country’s highest court’s decision is a flagrant violation of the Constitution of Liberia. "The conduct of the “majority block” and its approval by President Boakai and the Liberian Senate has the potential of undermining Liberia’s bid for non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Moreover, it is appalling that these dissident lawmakers—breakers of our organic law—refused to cooperate with two ECOWAS delegations, one led by the Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament and another led by the highly respected Professor Ibrahim Gambare", he warns. Cllr. Gongloe, also a former Solicitor General of Liberia, discloses that Liberia’s status as a beacon of democracy in Africa is at stake, and no one who truly loves the country should stand idly and

watch the Constitution being trampled underfoot. He encourages Liberians that they owe it to themselves, their children, and to the legacy of all those who fought for the democracy to reject such unconstitutional, shameful actions, petitioning that may God guide the country and bring it back to a place of honor, respect, and

adherence to the constitutional principles upon which Liberia was founded.He adds that from all indications, the majority block was openly disrespectful and plainly rude to both delegations. Cllr. Gongloe argues that it is inconceivable that the majority block failed to recognize Professor Ibrahim Gambari’s stature as an eminent African public servant and diplomat, who has held several positions in Nigeria and the United Nations."Additionally, no well-informed Liberian who knows about the role Liberia played in world history will ever conduct himself in the manner in which members of the “majority block” of the House of Representatives are conducting themselves towards officials of ECOWAS”, he laments. He says the behavior of the majority bloc is not only an abuse of power, but a notorious display of ignorance and naïveté that is unbecfitting the most basic standards for lawmakers. "Amidst all these missteps, I remain an eternal optimist and cannot give up on Liberia. In the words of soldiers at the battlefield, I say to all well-meaning Liberians at home and abroad: ‘No retreat, no surrender!’ The struggle for a better Liberia must continue until we elect and appoint officials who tenaciously hold the conviction that government is a place to serve, not to steal. Let us, as citizens, remain vigilant and committed to upholding the rule of law", Cllr. urges. Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Nancy Doe rejects plans for husband's memorial

Former first lady Nancy B. Doe has rejected plans to memorialize her late husband former President Samuel K. Doe.

Monrovia, April 4, 2025: Madam Doe in a statement issued on Thursday, April 3, said the plans by Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue to memorialize her husband is unauthorized. Mrs. Doe is therefore demanding that her late husband be shown due respect. Full statement below: April 3, 2025 – It has come to our attention that a supposed Military Traditional Memorial Service has been organized by Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, a man who has continuously sought to advance his own SINISTER agenda under the guise of honoring Liberia’s fallen leader, the late President Samuel Kanyon Doe, Sr. We wish to make it abundantly and categorically clear that no individual or group of individuals, especially led by Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, has the right to interfere with my husband’s remains without the expressed approval and involvement of myself and our appointed spiritual leader. Zoe Emmanuel Pennue is from the Pennue family and bloodline which makes him a nephew and son to the sister to the late president. He has no rightful claim or authority over the Doe family when I’m alive as well as my children and that he must CEASE his UNWARRANTED, ILLEGAL and

Boakai’s government to ensure that my husband receives a dignified and rightful reburial. A reburial date will be announced in due course by the appropriate authorities, and no unauthorized actions by Zoe Emmanuel Pennue will be tolerated. It is appalling that Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, a man who has relentlessly tormented my children and me, is now inserting himself into this solemn matter. This is the same individual who has openly declared over the years, That’s why Samuel doesn’t have a grave, and I will make sure in my capacity as a lawmaker and senior government official that he will never have a grave.’ Such statements and many others against the late president and ourselves exposed his malicious intent, and it is utterly unacceptable that someone harboring such hostility is involved in any capacity with my husband’s reburial activities. We demand that Zoe Emmanuel Pennue immediately remove himself from ANY and ALL activities related to my husband’s remains and allow the Doe family, in collaboration with the Liberian government, to carry out the reburial with dignity and respect. Any further unauthorized actions by Zoe Emmanuel Pennue will be met with FULL LEGAL resistance. The Doe



UNAUTHORIZED interference in matters that concern my family, especially that of the remains of my late husband. The Doe family— consisting of myself, our children, and our direct bloodline—has been working closely with His Excellency President Joseph

family stands firm in ensuring that my husband receives the honorable resting place he deserves, free from interference and spiritual manipulation. Signed, Mrs. Nancy B. Doe Former First Lady of the Republic of Liberia





## CSNL trashes human rights allegation against Jetty

**- warns Liberian of undermining investment & security threat**

Human Rights advocacy group, Civil Society Network of Liberia (CSNL) has urged Liberian to desist from politicizing issues that threaten security and

violent protest on the premises of the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) in Weala, Margibi County.

The Government of Liberia is currently prosecuting Madam

Corporation (SRC) as part of the case because it was the one that got directly affected by the violent incident, which was against national security. But, responding to the allegation, CSNL in a press release dated Thursday, April 3, 2025, however, rubbish the allegations against Mr. Jetty, noting that the allegation is intended to breed a divisive relationship between him and employees of the corporation.

The group pointed out that it's the Government of Liberia that took legal action against Madam Boimah and others, and not Mr. Jetty who took ownership of the corporation after the violent incident.

The release stated that the court has informed the CSNL that since it is still in pursuit of others on the writs of arrest that was issued for Madam Boimah and others, the court cannot release her and those currently under its custody because doing so could potentially undermine the ongoing case.

CSNL said that despite it condemns unlawful imprisonment and see it as a threat against Justice and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



investments in the country, while describing the allegation against Indian businessman as fake propaganda out of ignorance, intended to tarnish his reputation and investment.

Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, affectionately known as "Jeety" has been accused of being the mastermind behind the alleged long detention of individuals arrested in the

Mary P. Boimah and Lawrence Gorgbor, the former President and Secretary General of the Workers Union respectively, and others for allegedly leading violent protests against former owners and management of the Salala Rubber Plantation.

Though the incident occurred four months before Mr. Jeety took ownership of the SRC, the Government of Liberia is only using the Salala Rubber

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