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

The New Dawn

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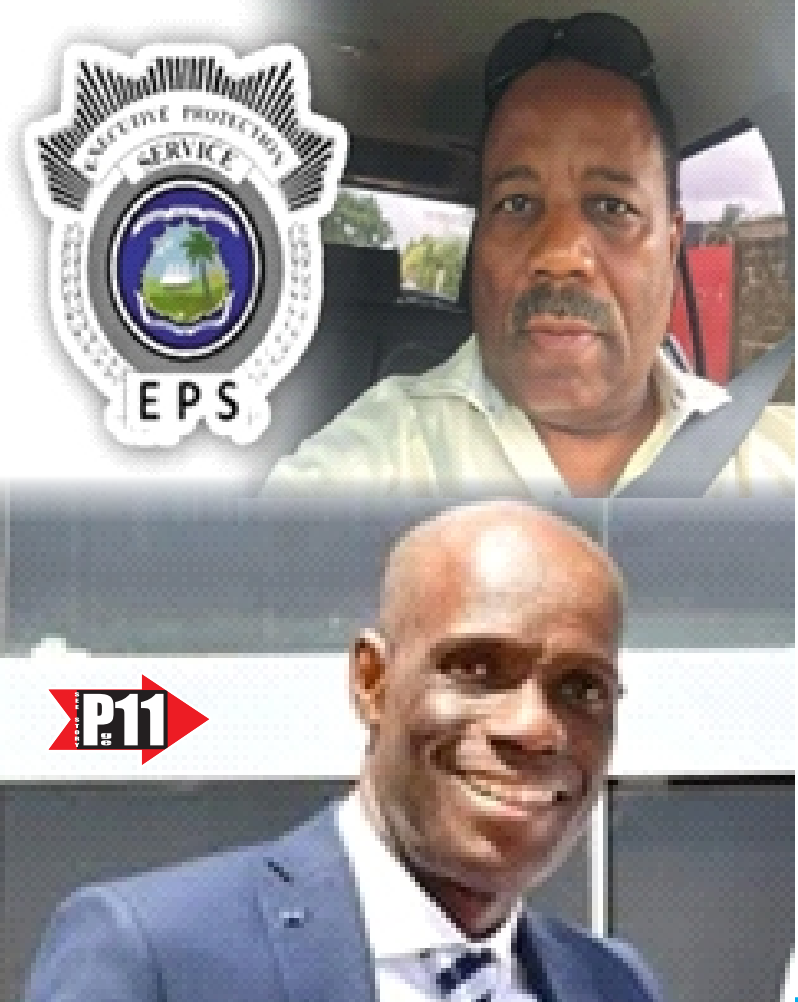
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EPS boss gives Eugene Nagbe 48hrs ultimatum

Cummings joins Nimba by-election



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Continental News

South Sudan backtracks on decision to not accept deportee from US in visa row with Washington

South Sudan has reversed its decision of refusing the entry of a man deported from the US on its territory "in the spirit of friendly relations" with Washington, according to the South Sudanese government. The two countries have been in a visa row after the US imposed a blanket visa ban on South Sudan on the 5th of April and

accused the country of failing to accept its citizens deported from American territory in "a timely manner". US Secretary of State Marco Rubio furthermore said that South Sudanese citizens would be prohibited from entering US territory. The transitional government in Juba had then initially refused the entry of a man that it said was

a citizen of the Democratic Republic of Congo and not of South Sudan, before backtracking on its decision on Tuesday. Under President Donald Trump, the US has considerably ramped up its enforcement of immigration rules and has cracked down on immigrants it considers to have entered the country illegally. The row between the two countries also comes as fears have been growing that South Sudan might redescend into civil war in the face of increasing political instability. Juba's First Vice-President Riek Machar has recently been placed under house arrest, after President Salva Kiir accused him of instigating a new revolt. Fighting has broken out in one part of the country, and Washington ordered all its non-emergency staff to leave the country last month.



In this image made from video, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, left, shakes hands with his South Sudan counterpart Salva Kiir in Juba, South Sudan, Friday, April 4, 2025.

Nigeria struggles to rein in a widespread meningitis outbreak that has killed at least 150

Nigerian health authorities are struggling to contain a rapidly spreading meningitis outbreak that has so far killed 151 people across the West African nation, mostly in remote parts of the northern region with children affected the most. While cases first recorded in October have spread to 23 of Nigeria's 36 states, nearly half of the deaths, 74, were reported this year, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control said this week, with local partners describing the recent rise in fatalities as "alarming." Most deaths from the disease have been mainly due to infected people not going to health facilities or arriving there late with severe complications, NCDC spokesperson Sani Datti told The Associated Press, a common problem in past outbreaks in the country. The current outbreak has hit Africa's most populous country as its health sector reels from U.S. aid cuts ordered by the Trump administration in February that have affected multiple countries. Nigeria relied heavily on such aid over the years to help fight similar outbreaks and support its underfunded healthcare systems. Seasonal meningitis outbreaks are common during the dry

season, especially in northern Nigeria. Almost all the worst-hit states are in the north, where health providers have warned the outbreak is rapidly spreading in hard-to-reach areas. Meningitis, more common during the hot season in Nigeria, affects the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It's a major public health challenge for a country already grappling with "the world's highest burden of malaria," according to the World Health Organization. Last week, Nigeria received the first batch of more than 1 million vaccine doses from the global vaccine alliance Gavi, described by local officials as a crucial milestone in disease response. The Nigeria CDC also said it is working with state authorities to scale up disease surveillance with

a focus on tracking new cases, laboratory testing, and public sensitization campaigns to curb the outbreak. Campaigns are also being rolled out, urging residents to take precautionary measures and seek immediate medical attention if they are experiencing symptoms such as high fever, stiff neck and severe headaches. However, access to hospitals remains a huge problem, local partners say. "We have seen hundreds of admissions and scores of deaths in just a few weeks. The high fatality rate is due to access (to) care, there are challenges with that and low vaccination coverage," said Simba Tirima, Nigeria's country representative for French medical charity Doctors Without Borders, or MSF.



A patient suffering from meningitis receives treatment at the University teaching hospital in Maiduguri, Nigeria, Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

At least 14 million children worldwide risk malnutrition, warns UNICEF

An estimated 14 million children are projected to experience interruptions in nutrition support and services due to recent and anticipated global funding reductions, significantly increasing their risk of severe malnutrition and mortality, as highlighted in preliminary analyses released by UNICEF during the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris. This funding crisis arises during a time of unparalleled need for children, who are grappling with record levels of displacement, ongoing and prolonged conflicts, disease

are at risk of closure or drastic service reductions. 3. Nearly 28,000 outpatient therapeutic centers supported by UNICEF for malnutrition treatment are in jeopardy, with some already ceasing operations. Currently, the rates of severe wasting among children under five remain alarmingly high in various fragile contexts and humanitarian crises, with adolescent girls and women being particularly at risk. Even prior to the funding reductions, the number of pregnant and breastfeeding women, along with adolescent girls facing acute malnutrition, surged from 5.5 million to 6.9 million—a 25 percent increase since 2020.



Babies sleep as their parents wait their turns to have them checked for symptoms of malnutrition at the Gheskio Center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Nov. 21, 2022.

outbreaks, and the dire effects of climate change—all of which are compromising their access to sufficient nutrition. "Over the past few decades, we have made remarkable strides in reducing global child malnutrition thanks to collective commitment and ongoing investment," stated UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Since 2000, the number of stunted children under five has decreased by 55 million, saving the lives of millions of severely malnourished children. However, significant funding cuts threaten to undo these achievements and endanger the lives of millions more children." The repercussions of funding cuts across 17 high-priority countries include: 1. More than 2.4 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition may lack access to Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for the rest of 2025. 2. Up to 2,300 life-saving stabilization centers, which provide essential care for children with severe wasting and medical complications,

UNICEF warns that these numbers are likely to climb further without immediate intervention from donors and sufficient investments from national governments. "UNICEF is urging both governments and donors to make health and nutrition programs for children a top priority, and is calling on national governments to increase their funding for local nutrition and health services. Proper nutrition is essential for the survival and development of children, yielding significant returns on investment. The benefits will be seen in stronger families, communities, and nations, contributing to a more stable world," stated Russell. To tackle child and maternal malnutrition in a sustainable way—focusing on prevention, detection, and treatment of child undernutrition—UNICEF introduced the Child Nutrition Fund (CNF) in 2023, with backing from the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, the Gates Foundation, and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation. UNICEF continues to appeal to governments, partners, and philanthropic donors to support this vital fund and other flexible funding initiatives aimed at benefiting children and women.

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 inducing 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 Shang-Jin Wei

Trump's Misguided Tariff Formula

NEW YORK – US President Donald Trump [reportedly](#) delayed the launch of his global “reciprocal tariffs” until after April 1. If his goal was to avoid being dismissed as a fool by the rest of the world, it is not at all clear that he has succeeded.

Despite the branding, Trump's “reciprocal tariffs” are nothing of the sort. Consider South Korea: the country collects no tariffs on most US imports under its free-trade agreement with the United States, yet it will now face a 25% US tariff. Meanwhile, Hong Kong – recognized by the World Trade Organization as a separate customs territory from mainland China – imposes no tariffs on US imports, either, but will still be hit with tariffs [exceeding 100%](#).

Trump's so-called “reciprocal” tariffs are based on a peculiar formula: the tariff on any country, k , is set at a maximum of either 10% or a higher value, 0.5 times k^* , where k^* is what the White House determines as a comprehensive tariff equivalent of all trade barriers that k imposes on the US. This is computed as k 's trade surplus with the US in 2024, divided by its exports to the US in the same year.

By this formula, if a foreign country (say, the United Kingdom) runs a trade deficit with the US, the US will charge an extra 10%. If a foreign country runs a large trade surplus with the US, and its trade surplus is 60% of its exports to the US, the US will charge a 30% tariff.

To give Trump's tariffs a semblance of intellectual rigor, the Office of the US Trade Representative has [pointed](#) to academic studies that purportedly support certain elements of the formula for setting rates, citing estimates of how import prices respond to US tariff hikes and how import volumes decline as those prices rise. Yet, despite this scholarly veneer, the formula devised by Trump's team suffers from two fatal flaws.

The first critical error is its conceptual foundation: the belief that US trade deficits are driven entirely by foreign trade barriers or other unfair trade practices. Textbook macroeconomics tells us that a country's trade balance reflects the difference between national savings and investment. South Korea, for example, runs a trade surplus because it saves more than it invests. The US, by contrast, runs a trade deficit because it suffers from a savings shortage relative to its investment.

A country's saving-investment ratio can be influenced by many factors unrelated to its trade policies. For example, a major shale-gas discovery in Texas could boost Americans' expectations of future wealth. In response, US consumption rises, and savings falls, resulting in an increase in its trade deficit. If developing the shale-gas field also raises the overall US investment rate, the trade deficit will widen even further. But under Trump's “reciprocal” tariff framework, any such increase in the deficit, rather than reflecting good news in the US economy, would be blamed on other countries' unfair trade practices.

The notion that a country's trade surplus with

the US must be the result of unfair trade policies is risible. By Trump's logic, the US – which runs a [large and persistent trade surplus in services](#) with China, the European Union, and many other countries – must be engaging in unfair trade practices on a massive scale. In reality, of course, that surplus reflects America's strong comparative advantage in high-value service sectors.

The second major flaw in the Trump administration's tariff formula is the assumption that raising US tariffs will reduce imports without significantly affecting exports. In fact, tariff hikes are often followed by retaliatory measures, leading to a sharp drop in US export volumes. China, for example, has already announced it will match the administration's “reciprocal” rate by imposing an [84% tariff](#) on US goods, after Trump imposed a 104% tariff on Chinese goods.

But even if no foreign county chose to retaliate, American exports would still be likely to decline. With unemployment near historic lows, the US economy has little slack. Tariffs may encourage previously uncompetitive firms to expand – but only at the cost of diverting labor and capital away from more competitive companies, particularly in export-oriented industries.

Consequently, any tariff-induced reduction in US imports will be accompanied by a corresponding decline in US exports. This principle, known as the [Lerner Symmetry Theorem](#), helps explain why Trump's sweeping tariffs are more likely to shrink both exports and imports than to reduce the overall trade deficit. The only way to “solve” the trade deficit problem through tariffs would be to raise them to a prohibitively high level – say, 500% – effectively shutting down all trade. At that point, the US economy would begin to resemble that of North Korea, which achieves a near-balanced trade position by eliminating both imports and exports.

While Trump insists that his trade war will strengthen the US economy, the stock market tells a very different story. In the aftermath of his tariff announcement on April 2, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq each dropped by [roughly 12%](#), wiping out trillions of dollars in market value. The fallout hasn't been limited to US markets: Japan's Nikkei 225 index [fell by 7.8%](#), Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index [plunged by 13.2%](#), and the pan-European Stoxx 600 [declined by 4.5%](#). In China, which is grappling with domestic economic pressures, the Shanghai Composite Index [fell by 7.3%](#).

Because stock prices represent investors' expectations of future corporate earnings, the fall in US equities suggests that investors are not buying Trump's claim that tariffs will benefit the US economy in the long run. As a result, American households now suffer simultaneously from a decline in the value of their retirement savings and the prospect of sharply rising prices.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

OP-ED

By Martín Guzmán

Will the IMF Get Played by Javier Milei?

VATICAN CITY – The International Monetary Fund just [announced](#) an agreement to provide yet another new loan to Argentina, and the IMF's executive board will meet this week to decide on it. Many in Argentina already have: the new debt would be seen as illegitimate. If the IMF disbursed the loan under current conditions, it would violate its own lending rules, and doing so would pose myriad risks to multilateralism and hurt the Argentine people. The board must act decisively to mitigate them.

Argentina is already the IMF's [largest debtor](#), accounting for approximately 37% of the Fund's total outstanding credits – 31.1 billion special drawing rights (the IMF's international reserve asset, which itself reflects a basket of major currencies) out of [84.2 billion](#) – and 28% of the total approved credit of 110 billion. In 2018, the IMF [approved](#) a \$57 billion loan to Argentina – its largest ever to a single country – nearly \$45 billion of which was disbursed. But the financing stopped after President Mauricio Macri lost his re-election bid in 2019, and the loan is now widely seen to have been politically motivated. Making matters worse, the disbursed funds financed a capital flight of around \$24 billion by carry-trade speculators. The rest was used to amortize roughly \$21 billion in unsustainable sovereign bonds – debt that had to be restructured in 2020, by which point I had become Argentina's minister for the economy.

The IMF acknowledged this failure in December 2021 in an “[Ex-Post Program Evaluation](#)” of its 2018 Stand-By Arrangement with Argentina. The Fund concluded that there should have been capital-account regulations to prevent capital flight, as well as a debt restructuring to avoid IMF resources being used to repay unsustainable public debt with the private sector.

Now, the IMF is dealing with Javier Milei, the far-right radical who became president in December 2023. Since then, Argentina has experienced a massive resurgence of carry-trade activity (when investors borrow at a low interest rate and use the proceeds to invest in another currency or asset promising a higher rate of return).

The Milei government's use of the exchange rate as a nominal anchor to contain inflation produced a sharp real appreciation of the peso, resulting in outsize returns on local-currency financial investments. With investors expecting a stable official exchange rate and government interventions in the parallel “blue-chip” (CCL/MEP) market, they bet heavily on carry trades. In just the past 15 months, carry-trade returns in US dollars have [reached 43%](#).

But this capital inflow did not translate into sustainable investment in the real economy, especially the tradable sectors. Instead, the money went into short-term financial speculation, and we are now witnessing a reversal of the same flows. Milei's government wants the new IMF loan so that it can intervene in the currency markets to manage the exchange rate ahead of this year's legislative elections.

Unlike in 2018, Argentina now has a [law](#) – passed almost unanimously by both houses of Congress in 2021 – requiring congressional approval for any IMF financing program, with the aim of preventing future governments from borrowing massively in foreign currency and under foreign law without proper legislative oversight. But the Milei government has bypassed the law by issuing a Decree of Necessity and Urgency (DNU) – the Argentine equivalent of an emergency executive order – to avoid Senate approval altogether.

Meanwhile, the government's unilateralism has triggered a backlash within Argentina's political system. Three senators have sent a [letter](#) to the IMF's managing director and executive board warning that disbursing a loan under such irregular conditions would violate the IMF's own Exceptional Access Criteria – specifically the criterion requiring broad political support and institutional capacity for program implementation.

The senators warned that such a breach would render the loan illegitimate, and many others share that concern. Argentina's finance minister has even publicly [admitted](#) that the DNU was issued to overcome a lack of majority support in the Senate, not to address a genuine emergency. And the government has explicitly stated that it is seeking the loan not for budget support, but to increase foreign-exchange reserves for discretionary use by the central bank.

The DNU itself states that part of the new loan will be used to roll over around \$14 billion of IMF debt coming due between September 2026 and March 2029. The total financing under the proposed new program is \$20 billion, but the government is apparently requesting a 75% disbursement – \$15 billion – during year one. Why would it need \$15 billion this year – on which Argentina would pay hefty interest – if repayments to the IMF do not resume until September 2026, and if the net increase in IMF debt is expected to be \$6 billion? The obvious answer is that the government wants immediate liquidity to fund exchange-rate interventions.

If the IMF goes along with this scheme, it will reinforce the perception that it is politically motivated and will make it even harder for Argentina to roll over its remaining external debt to private creditors: When a country owes a large sum to the IMF – a senior creditor with preferred status – other lenders are deterred from extending credit, because they know that they would be behind the IMF in repayment priority.

More broadly, a new politically motivated IMF loan would have profound global implications. The IMF could end up even more entangled in Argentina's domestic politics to ensure repayment, and parts of Argentina's political system are already warning the IMF that any new disbursement will be considered illegitimate. Does the Fund really want to be seen as campaigning for the current government in the next presidential election? It should go without saying that this would severely damage the Fund's global credibility.

Nor would the damage stop there. A politically motivated loan would add default risk to the IMF's portfolio, reducing its ability to respond to crises elsewhere and jeopardizing its ability to fulfill its core mission of assisting countries facing balance-of-payments distress.

For Argentina, the future seems clear: at some point, it will become apparent that a new IMF loan will not fix the current-account dynamic – and even less so if the loan is again used to finance capital flight. Exchange-rate pressures will be even larger than if the IMF had not abetted the government, and this will prove very costly to the people of Argentina – and to the IMF itself.

Martín Guzmán, a former minister of economy of Argentina, is a professor at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

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OPINION

by Simon Johnson

A US Tariff Idea That Makes Sense

LOS ANGELES –There is unfortunately absolutely nothing good to say about the announcements US President Donald Trump made during his recent “Liberation Day” event in the White House Rose Garden. Try as one might to “sane-wash” Trump's economic policies, there is simply no coherent rationale for his supposedly “reciprocal” trade tariffs.

Kim Clausing of UCLA sums it up perfectly: “The largest tax increase in more than fifty years will burden US consumers, generating thousands of dollars in tax increases for the median household.” Michael Strain of the American Enterprise Institute is similarly spot on, noting that “[these new tariffs] will decrease, not increase, manufacturing employment. They will reduce the competitiveness of manufacturing companies.” And, as for the underlying methodology for calculating the new tariff rates, Doug Holtz-Eakin does not mince words, “They've got an indefensible foundation to an indefensible policy.”

Clausing worked on taxes for the Treasury Department under President Joe Biden, while Strain and Holtz-Eakin are highly regarded Republican economists. When these three agree so completely, it is a powerful indication that Trump's latest tariffs represent an impending national disaster.

Interestingly, the day before Trump's announcement, 50 senators, led by the Republican Lindsey Graham and Democrat Richard Blumenthal, advanced a better bipartisan tariff proposal, aimed at pressuring Russia to seek genuine peace with Ukraine. The overall structure of the proposal is sensible, and its most obvious flaw – it would impose tariffs on countries that import oil from Russia, rather than on Russia itself – is entirely fixable.

Importantly, the Senate bill can have a real impact without necessarily passing the House. Just the threat of congressional action on this front will be enough to get the Kremlin's attention. After all the disruptions to trade, foreign aid, and relations with NATO and other US allies, Trump needs a win on the international stage. This bill can help him get that, and perhaps Graham, Blumenthal, Trump can share a Nobel Peace Prize if Russia really does sue for genuine peace.

Glenn Hubbard (chair of the Council of Economic Advisers under George W. Bush) and Catherine Wolfram (who worked on related issues as a senior Treasury Department official during the Biden administration) recently set out very clearly the right way to think about how to put pressure on Russia. Hubbard and Wolfram note that Russia needs ongoing hard-currency earnings in order to purchase armaments and other essential war-related supplies from abroad, and fossil-fuel exports (worth about \$600 million per day) are the Kremlin's only significant source of dollar revenue. The strategy they propose is simple and brilliant:

“The administration should impose sanctions on any company or individual – in any country – involved in a Russian oil and gas sale. Russia could avoid these so-called secondary sanctions by paying a per shipment fee to the United States Treasury. The payment would be called a Russian universal tariff, and it would start low but increase every week that passes without a peace deal.”

Most Russian oil moves via ship, and all these shipments (and the underlying financial transactions) are meticulously tracked by commercial experts. It would therefore be straightforward to ensure that if Russia failed to pay the required tariff on any shipment, all parties to the transaction, including any tanker owner or operator, the insurer of the cargo, and the purchaser, would become liable. If these private parties in turn declined to pay within, say, 30 days, they would themselves be subject to sanctions. Recent evidence confirms that no one – including Indian and Chinese entities – wants to be caught up in American sanctions.

A \$20-per-barrel tariff on Russian oil would generate between \$40 and \$50 billion per year, payable to the US. Ideally, the threat of a Russian universal tariff (RUT) would pressure Russia into serious negotiations, where its removal could be part of a deal that ends Russia's devastating and entirely illegitimate invasion and brings lasting peace to Ukraine. It would be easy to set this up so that any new military aggression would immediately trigger renewed or increased tariffs under the RUT. To get out from its RUT, Russia just has to stop attacking people.

If Russia continues to negotiate in bad faith, the US would still collect billions annually under the RUT. In that scenario, Russia would at least be defraying the costs imposed on others from its full-scale assault on Ukraine. During COVID, Russia did not cut oil production, even when world prices dipped below \$20. Under the RUT, Russia will need revenue more than ever, so there should be no reduction in world oil supplies.

Trump's “Liberation Day” tariffs were the culmination of a terrible first two months for his administration on the world stage. He badly needs a win to boost American prestige around the world and convince investors that the US has not become an entirely nihilistic and self-destructive place. A slightly improved version of the bipartisan tariff proposal –one that imposes real costs on Russia – would do exactly that.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senator Chie receives warm reception in Grand Kru

Grand Kru, Liberia, April 10, 2025 - Citizens of Grand Kru County have extended an overwhelming welcome to Senator Albert T. Chie, who is currently on a "Thank You Tour" to express gratitude for his re-election in the 2023 election. During his visit, Senator Chie aims to appreciate inhabitants of Grand Kru County for their support and to listen to their concerns. Atty. Lavoisier Julu, Chief of Staff for Senator Chie, shared insights via mobile phone from the county on Wednesday April 9, 2025, highlighting that the citizens are grateful for the senator's

Julu remarked.

He emphasized that Senator Chie remains committed to addressing the needs of his constituents, contrary to the common practice of elected officials abandoning their projects post-elections. Senator Chie is known for his legislative efforts, including advocating for several constitutional amendments intended for national referendum. Notably, these proposed amendments aim to address citizenship issues, reduce terms for senators and representatives, and adjust election dates and complaint resolution timelines.

Citizens have also expressed pressing



numerous contributions over the years since he took office in 2011. Senator Chie's ongoing projects in the county, which include clinics, town halls, school buildings, and bridges, were initiated prior to the recent elections. According to Julu, the senator is not visiting to announce new projects but to engage with the community, inspect existing initiatives, and consider citizens' proposals. "The Grand Kru County Senator is often referred to as the 'Political Godfather' of the county, recognized for his generosity towards the people of Grand Kru and the broader Southeastern region of Liberia,"

concerns about deteriorating road conditions ahead of the rainy season, which could lead to increased prices for commodities in Grand Kru County. Julu confirmed that the senator's "Thank You Tour" is intended to gather insights from the community rather than to critique the government of President Joseph N. Boakai. Senator Chie's commitment to his constituents and his proactive approach to community engagement underscore his dedication to serving the people of Grand Kru County. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

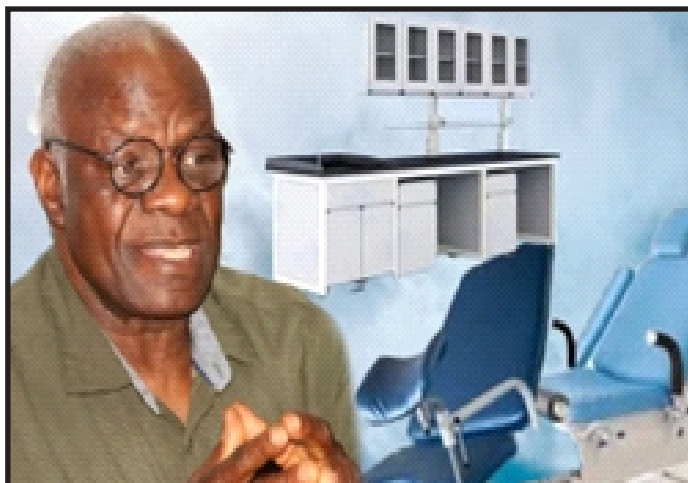
Rep. Banks donates to Healthcare in Grand Bassa

Grand Bassa Lawmaker Clarence T. Banks, donates health equipment.

Grand Bassa, Liberia, April 10, 2025 - Grand Bassa County Electoral District #2 Representative, Clarence T. Banks, has taken a significant step

to improve healthcare services in Grand Bassa by donating essential medical equipment to several health centers.

The donation, valued at approximately twelve thousand United States dollars (USD 12,000), includes delivery beds, birthing chairs, sterilization equipment, and lab furniture. Beneficiaries of the donation include Sinyah Clinic, St. John Clinic, Tubmanville Clinic, District #2 Clinic, and the Liberian Government Hospital in



JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOR. SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR, ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF **FATU MOORE**, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL, CLLR. LAWRENCE YEAKULA, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "**FATU DUKULY**"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner by and thru her legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name from **Fatu Moore** to **Fatu Dukuly**.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her true Father's name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just, legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by her.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on **October 23, 2002**, in Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, and that she was born unto the union of **Mr. Sekou Dukuly** and **Madam Alice Ireland**, all of the Republic of Liberia, and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish her just identity more firmly and that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name **Fatu Moore** be changed to **Fatu Dukuly**, beginning this **5th** Day of **March, A.D. 2025**. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty(20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS **5th** DAY OF **MARCH, A.D. 2025**.

COURT SEAL:

S.R. Dunbar
HIS HONOR SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME **5-2025** PAGE(S) **00014313**
REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.

#: 1220-2024

SITTING IN ITS APRIL TERM A.D. 2025.

BEFORE HIS HONOR. **NECLAR 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 **4TH** 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 **4TH** 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 **3RD** DAY OF APRIL A.D. 2025



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

Buchanan City.

Representative Banks emphasized that the gesture was aimed at addressing challenges faced by local hospitals and ensuring that residents receive adequate medical care.

"I cannot stand idly by and watch my constituents struggle to access proper healthcare," he stated during the handover ceremony.

Speaking during the donation, Grand Bassa County

Superintendent Karyou Johnson, expressed gratitude for the lawmaker's continued support, noting that the donation aligns with President Boakai's development agenda.

Superintendent Johnson highlighted that such contributions are vital to the progress of Grand Bassa County and reflect Representative Banks' dedication to fulfilling his campaign promises.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gov't Defends Yellow Machine Deal

By: Kruah Thompson

The Liberian government has defended its decision to proceed with the procurement of 285 yellow machines, despite mounting public concern over the cost and transparency surrounding the deal.

In May 2024, during a cabinet retreat, Deputy Minister of State

rehabilitation efforts across the country with plans to distribute 19 machines to each of Liberia's 15 counties.

Concerns about the deal's transparency and legality were raised after it was further revealed that it lacks legislative approval and was in non-compliance with the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) regulations, which require competitive bidding and legislative oversight for such significant transactions.

In response to those public criticisms, President Joseph Boakai established a special committee, led by Vice President Jeremiah Koon, to renegotiate the deal.

Speaking recently in Monrovia, VP Koon told a group of journalists that the committee was able to successfully secure more favorable terms for the procurement and shipment of 285 pieces of earth-moving equipment.

He assured the public that all 285 machines would still be delivered, but at a significantly reduced cost, and that the supplier agreed to sell the machines for a total of US\$22 million.

According to report, the deal allegedly included granting the Guma Group mining concession rights, particularly for the exploration of Wologizi Mountain in Lofa County.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Without Portfolio Mamaka Bility announced plans to acquire heavy-duty road maintenance equipment commonly referred to as "yellow machines".

These machines aimed to enhance road construction and

LiMA boss graces 'Sea Admiral Monrovia' commissioning in South Korea

Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr., Commissioner/CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), joined maritime industry leaders in Busan, South Korea, to commemorate the naming of Sea Admiral Monrovia—the latest tanker commissioned by the Greece-based J. Laliotis Maritime Group.

The ceremony, held at the K Shipbuilding Yard, marked the official christening of the 49,650-deadweight-ton (DWT) vessel, designated Hull No. S1952. The Sea Admiral Monrovia, a versatile crude/product oil and chemical tanker, is the newest addition to the J. Laliotis fleet operating under Liberia's registry—the world's largest open ship registry.

Addressing dignitaries and shipping executives at the event, Commissioner Lighe, Sr. highlighted the strategic relationship between the Liberian Registry and one of its most valued clients. "Today is not merely about the christening of a vessel; it symbolizes the enduring strength and continued growth of the partnership between our two institutions," he said. "The J. Laliotis Group's commitment to operating a robust fleet under the Liberian flag is a testament to our shared dedication to global maritime safety, innovation, and environmental sustainability."

The J. Laliotis Maritime Group, a

longstanding Greek shipping powerhouse, has played a key role in Liberia's shipping success story, with vessels sailing under the Liberian flag for decades. The latest addition to their fleet reflects both the group's forward-thinking investment strategy and the resilience of Liberia's maritime administration.

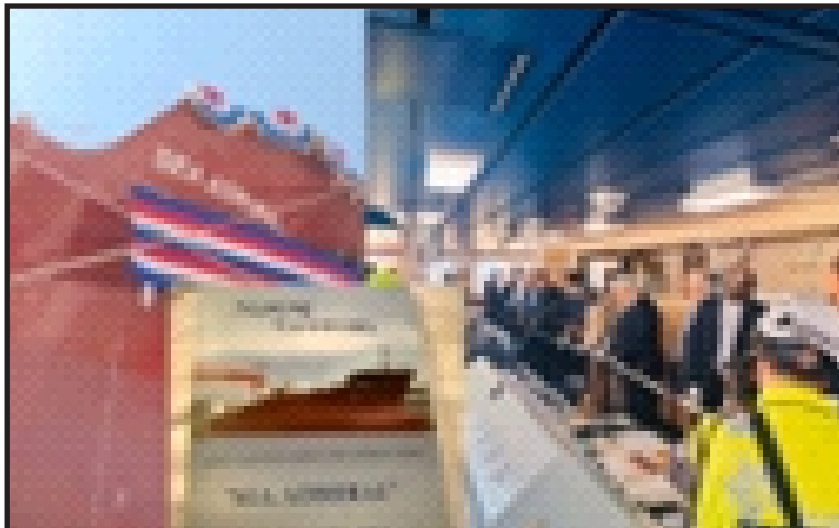
Cllr. Lighe, Sr. praised the company's pursuit of modern tonnage and its focus on acquiring both new buildings and high-performing second-hand vessels. "This kind of foresight advances not only your commercial competitiveness but also the mission we share—creating a sustainable, safe, and economically impactful maritime industry," he noted.

Symbolism also resonated strongly in the vessel's chosen name. "Admirals lead with vision

added. "May Sea Admiral Monrovia embody these traits as she sails the seas of global commerce, bringing prosperity and returning her crew home safely."

As the global shipping industry continues to navigate a complex landscape shaped by climate imperatives, economic pressures, and geopolitical shifts, the Liberia Maritime Authority continues to reaffirm its role as a cornerstone of a reliable registry and international cooperation.

The christening of Sea Admiral Monrovia underscores not just the expansion of a fleet, but the deepening of cross-continental alliances—a signal that Liberia remains a trusted partner in steering global trade toward a sustainable future.



Denounce violence

-Police 102 urges Weala residents

The Liberia National Police is warning residents of Weala District, Margibi County to denounce violence, in the wake of series of fire incidents recently at the Salala Rubber Corporation in Weala.

By Ramsey N Singbeh Jr.,
in Margibi

Weala, Liberia, April 10, 2025 -Following a series of fire incidents at the Salala Rubber Corporation of recent, which led to deployment of Police Officers by government, the Deputy Inspector General of the Liberia National Police for Operations, Cllr. Jallah Nelson Freeman, seriously urges residents of Weala District, Margibi County to denounce violence.

He made the call recently while addressing residents of Weala and its environs during a meeting organized by Margibi County Senator James Emmanuel Nuquay and Margibi District #5 Representative Clarence G Gahr. The forum was meant to ascertain the main issues with Jetty Rubber LLC, SRC and the residents

Rhetorically speaking, Cllr Freeman said Weala has been in the news for very long time for many wrong reasons.

"I will be a little rhetorical. Weala, like the senator said has been in the news for a long time for too many wrong reasons. Let's denounce violence."

He indicated that they are good people who should be exemplifying their good characters.

The Police 102 told the people of Weala that he is a member of the Lorma ethnic tribe from Lofa County, making him a nephew to the Kpelleh People. He was in conversation with a group of people dominated by the Kpelleh tribe at the Weala Public School Auditorium.

He urged the citizens to work together in making the area



Police 102 Jallah Nelson Freeman speaks to Weala residents



leading to negative situations.

At the moment, the residents say the increased in the presence of armed police officers in the area, assigned by government is very scaring for them.

The Government of Liberia had initially assigned five police officers to provide security for Mr Jetty at the Jetty Rubber LLC. Later, due to fire outbreaks, ten more officers were added, bringing the number to fifteen, according to Cllr Jallah Nelson Freeman.

At the meeting, citizens expressed disappointments in the presence of armed police officers, which they said has instilled fear in them.

They also alleged rights violations by the police against them.

peaceful for everyone, and admonished the Police to remain professional in the discharge of their duties.

He also promised to have a conversation with police officers assigned in the area on allegations made against them.

Speaking about the fire outbreaks at SRC, he attributed some of the incidents to mistake, and others he noted, were done deliberately.

102 Freeman noted that a man who works and survives by the company cannot deliberately put fire in the plantation unless by mistake, but situation with people burning down weighing stations the same night at several different locations cannot be termed as a mistake.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from page 6 **Gov't Defends Yellow Machine Deal**

According to Koon, Payment will be aligned with the national budget and completed over three years, starting in this fiscal year 2025. Also Speaking on the machine at the ministry of Information culture affairs and tourism regular press briefing Tuesday April 8, 2025, in Monrovia, Information Minister Jerolinmek Mathew Piah, further defended the procurement process, stating that they are committed to ensuring that the yellow machines are available to play a critical role in improving road infrastructure nationwide. He reiterated the government's commitment to transparency, further acknowledging that while the initial announcements about the deal sparked public backlash, particularly concerning the procurement process, the government was able to respond by pausing the deal and forming a

committee to re-evaluate it. He expressed confidence in the Vice president who is chairing the committee indicated that the number of machines would remain unchanged and that their quality would meet national standards. To illustrate this, he gave a comparison: "If the Ministry of Information puts out a bid and receives two offers one for \$50,000 and another for \$75,000 it makes sense to go with the \$50,000 option. But now, some are accusing the \$75,000 bidder of trying to defraud the government, which, in our judgment, is not a valid argument." Meanwhile, He added that the controversy has been unnecessarily politicized, and those raising concerns are doing so for political gain rather than the public interest.

Commission on Disability wants 15% of Nat'l Budget

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 10, 2025 - The Government of Liberia's commitment towards inclusivity of the disabled Community has been described here as illusional. The Executive Director of the National Commission on Disabilities (NCD), Mr. Samuel Dean, who made the observation, is appealing to government to allocate 15% of the National Budget to the development of people living with disabilities here. Mr. Dean stressed that despite government's commitment to promoting inclusivity, tangible actions and financial backings are essential to make meaningful progress. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, 9 April at the Commission headquarters after his return from a Global International Conference, Mr. Dean urged the government of President Joseph N. Boakai to allocate at least 15% of the annual national budget towards disability development in Liberia. He noted that these discussions establish that good policies for persons with disabilities can only be crafted through their active participation in decision-making processes. "As such, it is equally imperative that individuals living with disabilities have a seat at the table, influencing policies that impact their lives and ensuring the growth and development of their respective countries." He noted. Further speaking on the topic of Disability Inclusive Development, Mr. Dean reechoed statement by Cara E. Yar Khan that empowered Disability people can transform lives as such, by investing strategically in disability-related initiatives, Liberians can transform the society and ensure that all citizens are meaningfully included in the country's development plans.

"Countries like Australia have shown us the way by allocating a percentage of their national budget to disability initiatives, and if Liberia were to invest just 15% of our annual budget towards disability development, we could lift countless individuals out of poverty and despair", he maintained. He suggested that as Liberia moves forward, it is essential that the government uphold its commitment to the Amman Berlin Declaration, adding that this landmark declaration represents a pledge to bridge the longstanding US\$4 trillion financial gap that has left persons with disabilities marginalized and disenfranchised. "And Liberia's signature on this declaration reflects our unwavering dedication to fostering an inclusive society where all citizens can thrive. We must remember: there can be no development without disability equity." The disable advocate emphasized the urgent need for increased funding and resources to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Providing update of his participation in the 3rd Global Disability Summit held in Berlin, Germany, where he engaged with international leaders and advocates on pressing issues facing people with disabilities worldwide, Mr. Dean expressed

gratitude for participating in the program. The Global Disability Summit stands as a pivotal moment in the global movement for disability rights, and convened civil society, government leaders, and advocates from over 100 nations, under one noble goal: to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Throughout the summit, Dean said they participated in a variety of sessions and discussions focused on critical issues that resonate deeply within their own context back home. According to him, the delegation further engaged in insightful forums on key topics such as public life, data collection, and disability-inclusive development, all in the interest of persons living with disabilities worldwide. "Together, let us champion this cause with passion, determination, and compassion for all Liberians because investing in disability development is not just a moral obligation; it is a fundamental human right. So, we hope that the government can see the need to commit 15% of the national budget for people with disabilities, to empower our communities and foster a more inclusive society," the NCD boss reiterated. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Mr. Samuel Dean

Senator takes Inter-religious Council to task

-But Council distances itself from a purported statement

Senator Augustine Chea of Sinoe County picks bones with Inter-Religious Council on House of Representatives' leadership saga.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 10, 2025 - Sinoe County Senator and Judicial Chair of the Liberian Senate accuses the Inter-religious Council of Liberia of disservice to the country and faith, for a purported statement on the prolonged leadership impasse in the House of Representatives. The Inter-Religious Council is comprised of the Liberia Council of Churches and the Liberia Muslim Council. Senator Augustine Chea, in a late reply via his official Facebook page to a joint statement issued by the Council questions what he terms the Inter-religious Council's late opinion and call for action in the impasse at the House. He wonders why would Bishop Michael Kpakala Francis (late), Bishop George Daniel Brown (late), Bishop Alfred Flomo Kulah (retired), Imam Kafumba Konneh (late) say if they were alive or not retired about the leadership of the Inter-Religious Council today? Senator Chea argues that they're

involved in its drafting or release. On April 7, 2025 a purported release titled Joint Statement by the Liberia Council of Churches, National Muslim Council of Liberia, and the Inter-religious Council of Liberia said they have been facilitating a dialogue process by the consent of all concerned parties to find an amicable resolution to the leadership dispute in the House of Representatives regarding the Speakership. The purported statement calls for action, unity and cooperation, noting that in the interest of peace, national pride, and the sustainability of Liberia democracy, the Councils call on the minority bloc to accept the leadership of Hon. Richard N. Koon and collaborate with him to foster inclusivity within the leadership structure of the House and its various committees. "We extend our gratitude to Hon. J. Fonati Koffa for his service during his time as Speaker", the statement further reads. It commends efforts of Nimba County Representative Musa



foaming, adding that now he knows why the LCC "suspended" Rev. Dr. Samuel B. Reeves as President. "The Liberia Council of Churches and the Liberia Muslim Council (collectively the Inter-Religious Council) have done a Great Disservice to our Country and their Faiths. Why didn't they just remain quiet and unconcerned, as they did throughout this crisis, spanning about six months? And what's the motivation or conviction for coming in at the eleventh hour, especially on the heels of the arguments on the Bill of Information and ahead of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Bill?" Senator Chea asks. However, the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) and the National Muslim Council Liberia categorically distance themselves from a widely circulated statement that purported to represent their joint position on the impasse. In a sharp rebuke, LCC Secretary General, Rev. Christopher Toe denounces the statement as "fake," saying that neither the LCC nor its leadership had any knowledge of or

Bility, leader of the Rule of Law Caucus, for his advocacy and urges all stakeholders to summon the courage for peace, reconciliation, and cooperation. It also appeals to all Lawmakers to return to session and resume the people's business. "Let us work together to address and amend the constitutional and procedural gaps that have led to the current challenges to avoid a recurrence. Recommendations: we call for the lifting of suspensions and the legitimate payment of salaries and claims of all Lawmakers, in accordance with the rules and orders of the House of Representatives. However, we recommend that the suspension of Hon. Yekeh Y. Kolubah remain in effect for a period of one year or more, as currently stands", the statement concludes. But Senator Chea wonders what school of thought informed them or the statement that the President, by a mere recognition, can confer "legitimacy" on a public official occupying an elective office.

Français

La famille Doe en paroles de guerre sur l'ancien président lors des funérailles d'État

Une fille de l'ancien président libérien Samuel Kanyon Doe se réjouit de l'organisation prévue par le gouvernement libérien pour les funérailles d'État de son défunt père. Mme Celue Doe-Addo, fille de l'ancien président libérien assassiné Samuel K. Doe,

considérant cela comme un grand pas vers la guérison nationale qu'elle soutient pleinement. Mme Celue Doe est la fille biologique de l'ancien président, mais elle est la belle-fille de Madame Nancy B. Doe, sa mère biologique étant originaire du comté de Grand Cape Mount, à l'ouest du Liberia.

d'État à son défunt père et à feu le président Tolbert.

Le président Doe, alors sergent-major dans les Forces armées du Liberia (FAL), a dirigé 17 officiers de l'armée non commissionnés et a assassiné le président Tolbert le 12 avril 1980, mettant fin à un régime de parti unique au Liberia. Selon elle, ces funérailles d'État proposées contribueront à la réconciliation du pays, fermant ainsi les plaies anciennes de la nation.

"Je suis profondément honorée et reconnaissante envers le président Joseph N. Boakai d'avoir initié le processus de réinhumation de mon père et du président Tolbert. Je suis enthousiaste à l'idée car personne n'avait envisagé cela auparavant. Cela contribuera à la guérison du Liberia en offrant des funérailles d'État à ces présidents. De plus, cela est une brillante initiative de relations publiques pour le Liberia, démontrant beaucoup sur le président Boakai. J'ai rencontré le président, et il m'a dit qu'il voulait que je joue un rôle



Madam Nancy B. Doe

Mrs. Celue Doe-Addo

accueille favorablement les funérailles d'État proposées par le président Joseph N. Boakai pour honorer son défunt père ainsi que l'ancien président William R. Tolbert,

Lors d'une intervention tardive le lundi 7 avril 2025 sur une station de radio locale, Mme Doe-Addo a exprimé sa reconnaissance au président Boakai concernant le projet de donner des funérailles

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le gouvernement promet d'examiner les allégations de Jewel Howard-Taylor concernant ses indemnités de retraite

Le gouvernement libérien a annoncé l'ouverture d'une enquête afin de vérifier les réclamations de l'ancienne vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor, qui affirme ne pas percevoir ses indemnités de retraite depuis la fin de son mandat en janvier 2024.

Invitée lundi 7 avril 2025 sur un plateau de radio et télévision locale, Mme Howard-Taylor a déclaré qu'elle n'a reçu aucun des avantages prévus par la loi pour une ancienne vice-présidente, bien qu'elle continue à percevoir une rémunération en tant qu'ancienne sénatrice.

« C'est un sujet que j'ai soulevé à plusieurs niveaux », a-t-elle déclaré. « J'ai même écrit au Président pour signaler que je suis toujours payée comme une ancienne sénatrice, et non comme une ancienne vice-présidente. Je n'ai reçu ni salaire, ni véhicule, ni personnel, comme le prévoit pourtant la loi. »

Elle a également affirmé que tous les véhicules qui lui étaient affectés ont été retirés lors de l'investiture du président Joseph Boakai, la laissant sans moyen de

transport officiel. « Quand je me suis apprêtée à rentrer chez moi, tout le cortège était déjà affecté à l'actuel vice-président. Il ne restait plus un seul véhicule pour moi », a-t-elle ajouté, précisant qu'elle utilise désormais son véhicule personnel et qu'aucun service de sécurité ne lui a été attribué depuis.

Cependant, des documents ayant fuité sur les réseaux sociaux semblent contredire ses déclarations. Ces pièces révèlent que Mme Howard-Taylor a bien reçu des paiements liés à sa retraite. En mars 2025, elle aurait perçu un montant brut total de 1 432,35 dollars américains, dont 1 117,88 dollars nets après déductions

fiscales. Ce paiement comprenait 782,52 USD en devises étrangères et 66 311,52 dollars libériens (LRD), correspondant à 30 % du montant en monnaie locale.

Lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information, tenu le jeudi 8 avril 2025, le ministre Jerolinmek Matthew Piah a reconnu les préoccupations soulevées par l'ex-vice-présidente et assuré que le gouvernement s'engage à faire toute la lumière sur la situation.

« Nous avons pris note des préoccupations exprimées

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Former VP Taylor

Éditorial

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

Par Raghuram Rajan

La 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 La famille Doe en paroles de guerre sur

significatif, ce que j'ai accepté. J'espère que nous travaillerons tous ensemble pour clore ce chapitre", a-t-elle déclaré. Faisant le point sur sa tournée de paix et de réconciliation récente dans le comté de Nimba et sa réunion ultérieure avec le comté d'origine de son défunt père, Grand Gedeh, ainsi que le comté natal de sa mère, Bomi, elle a décrit ces moments comme étant à la fois émouvants et passionnants. Elle a indiqué qu'elle avait conclu sa tournée dans le comté de Nimba en prônant la paix, la réconciliation et l'unité entre les comtés de Nimba et de Grand Gedeh.

L'ancien président Doe, originaire du Grand Gedeh, a été capturé et exécuté de manière brutale en 1990 pendant la guerre civile libérienne par feu le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba, alors chef des rebelles dissidents de l'INPFL.

Celue affirme croire que tout ce qui arrive dans la vie est voulu par Dieu, précisant qu'elle ne nourrit aucune haine envers les habitants de Nimba. Elle a révélé qu'au cours de sa tournée à Nimba, elle a rencontré des communautés traditionnelles et divers groupes avec lesquels elle a échangé et tracé une nouvelle voie vers une coexistence pacifique.

Elle a souligné qu'avant de revenir au Liberia, elle entretenait de bonnes relations avec certains membres des familles Tolbert, Johnson et Quiwonkpa aux États-Unis, malgré les différends historiques.

Elle a noté que l'utilisation active de Facebook par les Libériens à partir de 2011-2012 avait contribué à une image négative accrue de son père et d'autres figures publiques, la poussant à consulter un thérapeute.

"Si nous, Libériens, pouvons réellement comprendre que nous ne devrions pas nous détester, ce serait bien. Le tribalisme est nocif. Les gens se détestent à cause des tribus et cela n'a pas de sens. Les mensonges et la propagande ont divisé Nimba et Grand Gedeh. Sommes-nous satisfaits maintenant ? Des familles ont perdu des proches et beaucoup de choses se sont passées pendant la guerre civile. Nous sommes

enthousiastes à l'idée de ce nouveau départ", a-t-elle conclu.

De même, l'ancienne première dame Nancy B. Doe soutient le plan de l'administration Boakai de donner un enterrement d'État à son défunt mari.

"La famille Doe, composée de moi-même, de nos enfants et de notre lignée directe, travaille en étroite collaboration avec le gouvernement de Son Excellence le président Joseph Boakai pour que mon mari reçoive une réinhumation digne et appropriée. Une date pour les funérailles sera annoncée en temps voulu par les autorités compétentes, et aucune action non autorisée de la part de Zoe Emmanuel Pennue ne sera tolérée", a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle avait précédemment exprimé son opposition aux plans de commémoration de son mari par le sénateur Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, les qualifiant d'initiative non autorisée.

Un communiqué de presse de la famille Doe, publié le 3 avril 2025, déclare : "Nous avons été informés qu'un prétendu Service commémoratif militaire traditionnel avait été organisé par le sénateur Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, un homme qui a continuellement cherché à promouvoir son propre agenda sous le prétexte d'honorer le défunt dirigeant libérien, feu le président Samuel Kanyon Doe Sr.

"Nous tenons à préciser de manière catégorique et explicite qu'aucun individu ou groupe d'individus, en particulier dirigé par le sénateur Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, n'a le droit d'interférer avec les restes de mon mari sans l'approbation expresse et la participation de moi-même et de notre guide spirituel désigné."

Le communiqué clarifie que le sénateur Zoe Emmanuel Pennue est membre de la famille Pennue et de la lignée sanguine, ce qui en fait un neveu et un fils de la sœur du défunt président.

"Il n'a aucun droit ou autorité légitime sur la famille Doe tant que je suis en vie, ainsi que mes enfants, et il doit cesser son ingérence non autorisée, illégale et injustifiée dans les affaires concernant ma famille, en particulier celles relatives aux restes de mon défunt mari", a rejeté Madame Doe.

Starts from page 8 Le gouvernement promet d'examiner les allégations de

par l'ancienne vice-présidente. Le gouvernement est disposé à examiner ces réclamations afin de garantir que tous les avantages auxquels elle a droit lui soient effectivement accordés », a déclaré le ministre Piah.

Il a expliqué que les efforts de standardisation des avantages post-service pour les hauts fonctionnaires ont commencé sous l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, à travers des projets de loi de transition qui n'ont jamais été pleinement adoptés.

« Le président Boakai lui-même ne percevait que 800 dollars par mois à l'époque, en raison de l'absence de politique uniforme », a-t-il indiqué. Ce n'est qu'en

décembre 2016 que la législature a adopté la *Consolidated Pension and Retirement Act*, abrogeant le décret n°14 du Conseil de Rédemption du Peuple (PRC) et instaurant un cadre légal géré par la Caisse nationale de sécurité sociale (NASSCORP).

La réforme de 2017 a mis en place un système de retraite contributif pour tous les fonctionnaires, mais les anciens présidents et vice-présidents continuent de bénéficier de l'ancien régime non contributif, en raison de leur statut spécial et d'un précédent établi par l'Agence de la Fonction publique (CSA) en 2014.

Le ministre a précisé que pour être éligible au nouveau régime, il faut avoir au moins 60 ans et

avoir cotisé pendant une durée déterminée. Il a également confirmé que Mme Howard-Taylor percevait actuellement des prestations à la fois du régime contributif géré par la sécurité sociale nationale et du régime spécial non contributif de la CSA.

Malgré ces éléments, le ministre Piah a réaffirmé la volonté du gouvernement de faire toute la lumière sur la question. « Nous ne souhaitons pas contester d'emblée les déclarations de l'ancienne vice-présidente. Si certains avantages ne lui sont pas accordés alors qu'elle y a droit, nous sommes prêts à enquêter et à résoudre le problème », a-t-il conclu.

« Nous sommes ici pour contribuer à la construction du Liberia », dit le PDG d'ArcelorMittal Liberia

À l'occasion d'une célébration haute en couleurs réunissant chefs traditionnels, anciens, autorités gouvernementales, jeunes et leaders communautaires, ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) a célébré vendredi dernier son 20e anniversaire au Liberia avec un message fort : un engagement renouvelé en faveur du développement national, de partenariats durables et d'une exploitation minière responsable.

La cérémonie, organisée dans la ville minière historique de Yekepa, a marqué deux décennies d'activités de la multinationale sidérurgique dans le pays, depuis la signature de son premier accord minier (Mineral Development Agreement – MDA) après la guerre civile. Cette présence a été essentielle dans le processus de relance économique et de reconstruction des infrastructures du Liberia.

Au centre de l'événement, Michiel Vandermerwe, directeur général d'ArcelorMittal Liberia, a prononcé un discours inspirant :

« Nous ne sommes pas simplement une entreprise minière. Nous sommes ici pour bâtir un Liberia plus fort et plus résilient. Ces 20 dernières années n'ont pas été qu'une affaire d'extraction de minerai de fer. Il s'est agi d'investir dans les populations, de transformer les communautés et d'être un partenaire du développement du Liberia. »

Visiblement ému, le PDG a décrit comment AML s'est progressivement imposée comme un moteur d'opportunités pour des milliers de Libériens, à travers la création d'emplois, la formation professionnelle et des investissements majeurs dans les infrastructures.

« Merci aux représentants des différents comtés, aux caucus, à nos superintendantes et représentants locaux. Mais surtout, merci à nos employés. Votre présence massive aujourd'hui est la preuve d'une organisation bien structurée. Bravo à vous ! »

Une entreprise intimement liée à la reconstruction post-conflit Depuis 2006, AML s'est imposée comme le premier grand investisseur



étranger à s'engager dans la reconstruction du Liberia. L'entreprise a restauré la ligne ferroviaire reliant Yekepa à Buchanan, modernisé le port de Buchanan, et réhabilité des routes, des écoles et des centres de santé dans les communautés hôtes.

« Nous avons redonné vie à la ligne ferroviaire Yekepa-Buchanan. Nous avons modernisé le port de Buchanan. Ce ne sont pas uniquement des actifs d'AML – ce sont des actifs nationaux », a insisté Vandermerwe.

Ces infrastructures, autrefois abandonnées, jouent désormais un rôle central dans l'économie nationale en facilitant la circulation des biens, des personnes et des opportunités entre les régions.

Priorité aux communautés : au-delà de la responsabilité sociétale Tout au long de son intervention, le directeur général a souligné l'attachement d'AML à ses communautés hôtes – notamment les comtés de Nimba, Bong et Grand Bassa.

« Nous ne pratiquons pas un capitalisme d'extraction. Nous croyons en une croissance partagée. C'est pourquoi nous contribuons chaque année à hauteur de plusieurs millions de dollars au Fonds de Développement Communautaire, géré directement par les communautés », a-t-il déclaré, sous les applaudissements.

En 2024, AML a versé plus de 3,5 millions de dollars américains au titre du *County Social Development Fund* et du *Community Development Fund*, finançant ainsi des projets de santé, d'éducation, de jeunesse, de marchés et d'agriculture.

« Nous n'imposons pas aux communautés ce qu'elles doivent faire de leurs fonds. Nous soutenons leurs choix et les aidons à concrétiser leurs visions », a-t-il ajouté.

Des chefs traditionnels ont salué l'approche d'ArcelorMittal, qualifiant l'entreprise de partenaire fiable et constant, y compris en période de difficultés économiques mondiales.

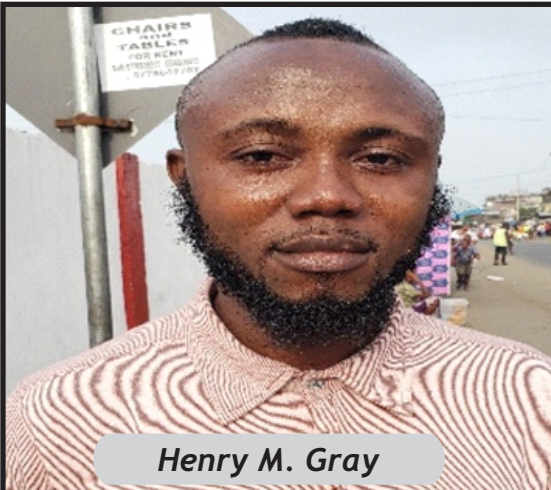
« ArcelorMittal est toujours présente, même quand les temps sont durs », a affirmé le chef Emmanuel Dolo du comté de Nimba.

LIBERIANSDEBATE

Topic: **An X-ray on Boakia's government**

By Naneka Hoffman

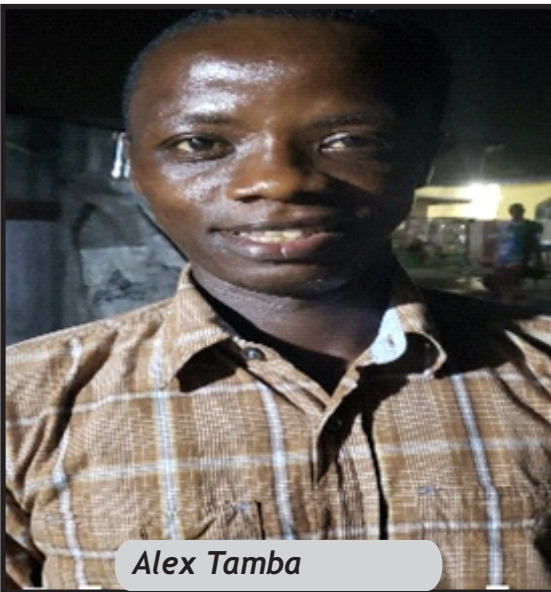
Moving two years into leadership, Liberians debate strength and weaknesses of the Boakai Administration, as you may read below.



Henry M. Gray

“I think for President Boakai government to go on smooth firstly, he should pay attention to civil servants salary because Joseph Boakai came to power through civil servants, so based on that, President Boakai should pay attention to civil servants. And also, President Boakai should be able to appoint competent

“There are several things that President Boakai should do to make his government smooth: The first thing is one of the key things that are affecting this country is corruption; let him make sure his appointees work in line with the Liberian people demand. The Liberian people have been fighting for a leader, so those appointees as a team along with himself should provide responsible leadership. Now, you look at education, health, food and light, these are the major things that are affecting the common people, so if Boakai can ensure that rice price can drop, Liberians will be happy for that. As he promised, if Liberians begin to produce their own rice, that will significantly reduce price of their stable food and people will hail him. Education, many parents can't afford. If he can make education such as everyone can afford, so that everyone will be



Alex Tamba

“I think the first thing President Boakai should do to make his government smooth is that he should pay attention to civil servants salary. Second thing is the audit, the audit of the past government because you can't take over as new government than you don't audit anyone; you just

people within his leadership because those competent people will be the ones to engage on all of the facilities. All of his efforts and dreams that he spoke about up to now, I'm yet to see the 100 days deliverables and up to now other feeder roads or county roads are still deplorable. What the Minster of Public Work is doing toward all of these? Is the Ministry of Public Work ready now to do the work? What is his footprint, because his footprint will be the cause to say yes, President Boakai is working, so for President Boakai government to be successful without protest is to see how best civil servants salary are paid on time, if possible stipend should be added up and his 90 days deliverable be included.”



T. Mohammed A. Kiazolu

able to enter any school of their choice. Let the people go to hospital, when the common people are sick and can be able to afford to go to hospital and they are not dying, it will be good. The government will not only be going smooth but it will be one of the historical government that Liberians will continue to make reference to.”

sit as a new government without auditing. Thirdly education, education is very important, if you look at Liberians problem, you will believe that education is our main problem; let him pay attention to education in the country. Lastly, the Freeport of Monrovia, let the President pay attention to it, because there is where goods come from other countries to enter in the country through the Freeport and the taxes are too high on goods. Also let the government pays attention to the security sector and the Justice System. Let him work with the new Justice Minister so things can be better, because sometime when investors come in the country, they look at the Justice system; they look at what happen in the country. When they have problem, where they will go, so let him pay attention on those keys issues.”



Robert Political Zlatan Ibrahimovic

“I think at the beginning of his government, there was serious problem, so for him to regain his image and the government should be sincere to stop fooling the Liberian people. President Boakai

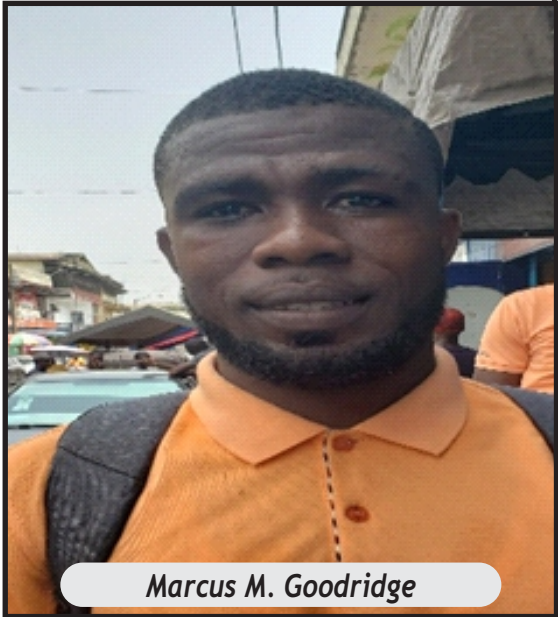
“What I think in my mind is that looking at the situation of those veterans that he started appointing, I consider them to be veterans because they had worked in the space before, so they already have the experience, but there are few sectors that a little bit dormant for some time and we think he should put money there and look into it is the issue of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, and bring those necessary tools that are needed.” President Boakai should pay attention to civil servants, because during the election, 90 % supported Boakai in the election. I'm sure one of key things they expect from him is increment of salary. If not increasing, it but at least it should be something that is reasonable that when they go home, they will be able to share with someone. He should also strengthen the TVet program at



Kesselley E. Johnson

“There are lot of things we expect the oldman Boakai to do, as it is said that a thousand mile journey begins with the first step. He has a lot of things to do. On the academic side I admire him for appointing a woman. I am not seeing her performance yet but, I believe that she can deliver the goods and services. I appreciate it from the onset, where he introduced to uplift teachers' salary, it sent a message. There are lot of things that the past government did and if a

made us to understand that he was living on loans, on every platform that he appeared on. For investors to come in the country, he needs to be sincere on anything he says, because he told the Liberians that he was the poorest person in the country, living on loans, some of us were even feeling for him. Boakai, upon taken office, he declared his assets and before even officials that he appointed should declare their assets, but today, some of us have to keep ourselves hungry just for them to declare their assets He should try to attract foreign investors to the country and increase civil servants' salary because he said he came with experience.”



Marcus M. Goodridge

the Ministry of Youth \$ Sports, stable water, stable electricity with increment of salary, we can assure Boakai that the country will be peaceful.”

new government comes in and don't set up a deterrence, it will be bad. It is very good to hear NSA and all is going to be audited; it sent a message and indicates that Boakai means business. What the government should do for salary is that first and foremost, he should audit. Audit the Civil Service to know the capacity of people that should be there. There should be academic audit on enrollment to know how people get into government because the past government created a lot of things that make it difficult for us today. And one of the things that the international community is looking at from this government is War Crimes Court. I see it is ongoing on the way the past government was having the opportunity to do it. George Weah went to the UN told us that he was going to bring the War Crimes Court when he came to RIA he to us that he will pass it over to the senate to make decision. Now, I think the process thru which Boakai is using to bring War Crimes Court will set a precedent to the international community.”

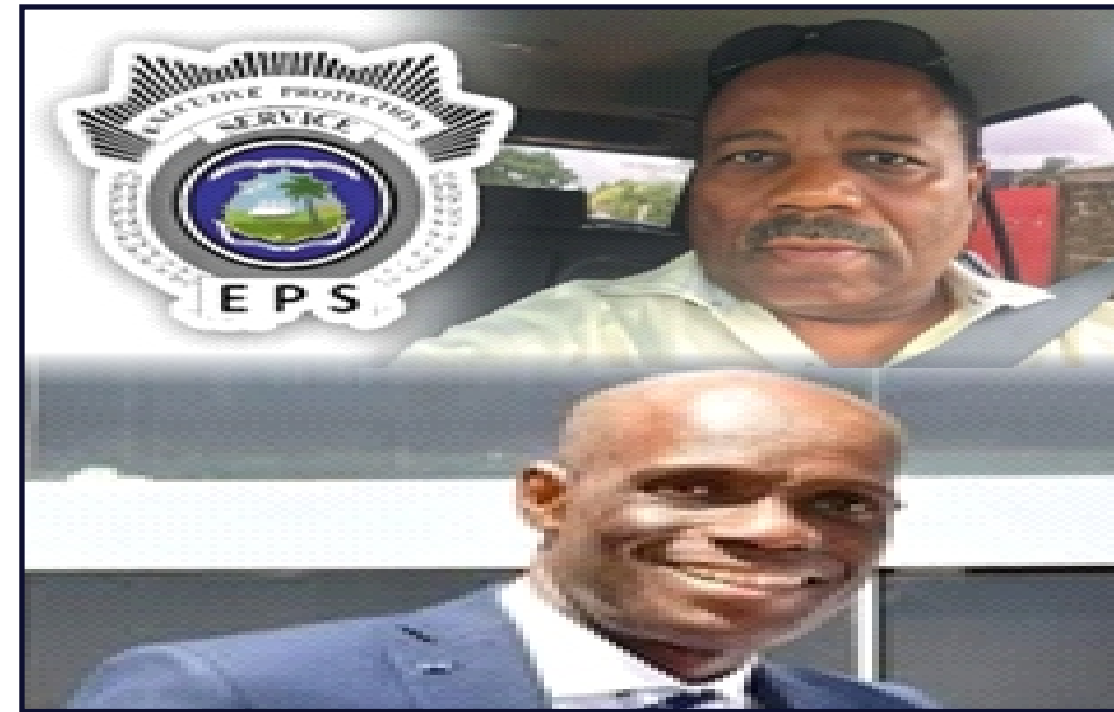
EPS boss gives Eugene Nagbe 48hrs ultimatum

Mr. Sam Gaye, the Director of the Executive Protection Services, has given Mr. Lenn Eugene Nagbe, the Chief of Staff of former President George Weah, 48 hours to publicly retract accusations and defamatory statements he made against him.

By: Edwin N Khakie
Monrovia, April 10, 2025:
Amidst growing tension between the EPS Director and the office of former President George Weah, EPS Director Gaye, through his legal team headed by former Associate Justice Cllr.

Gaye's reputation, both nationally and internationally.

In view of the foregoing, we are most respectfully demanding PUBLIC RETRACTION of these accusatory and defamatory utterances, within 48 (forty-eight) hours as of the hour and



Kabineh M. Ja'neh has given Mr. Nagbe 48 hours to publicly retract recent accusations and defamatory statements he made against the EPS boss.

Mr. Nagbe in a recent interview on Ok FM, publicly revealed the bad blood between the office of former President Weah and the office of the EPS boss, when he alleged that Director Gaye has a photo in his bedroom depicting ““a gun at former President Weah””.

In his letter dated Wednesday, April 9, Mr. Gaye wrote through his lawyers: “We refer to the substantial accusations you made on March 31, 2025, against Mr. Sam Gaye during an interview on O. K. F.M. conducted by Julius Jeh.

In the referenced interview, you accused Mr. Gaye of having a photo in his bedroom depicting “a gun at former President Weah.”

This avalanche of defamatory utterances and accusations against Mr. Gaye, although totally untrue, have nevertheless resulted to an inestimable public shun of Mr.

date of receipt of this communication.” Mr. Nagbe is yet to respond to the letter requesting that he publicly retract his accusatory and defamatory utterances against the EPS boss.

He told the New Dawn Wednesday evening that he had just received the letter and forwarded same to his lawyers to respond.

“I just received the letter an hour ago. My lawyers will respond, and I will send my response to the media,” Mr. Nagbe said.

Meanwhile, in that same interview, Mr. Nagbe accused Gaye of being an unprofessional and incompetent leader, saying that his decisions are often based on hearsay rather than fact.

Nabe also described Gaye as a “you say, I say Director” who cannot effectively lead the EPS.

Nagbe described Gaye as a “You-Say and I-Say Director” who cannot lead the EPS effectively, while making several other allegations.

Mr. Gaye had since denied the allegations and told Nagbe to prepare to substantiate his claims. The letter could be the beginning of such battle.

Arrest at RIA

Security authorities assigned at the Roberts International Airport have arrested a 40-year-old man for allegedly setting ablaze the perimeter of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) late Wednesday afternoon.

The suspect, identified as Abenego Kollie, was caught out of the perimeter of the Roberts International Airport trying to flee the crime scene after the incident.

“This incident is under investigation, and we are taking it very seriously as it posed a significant threat to both airport operations and public safety,” LAA Authority confirmed.

Suspect Abenego Kollie is currently being held in police custody while investigation is still ongoing.

LAA has advised the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities around the airport.

Cummings joins Nimba by-election

The political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) has publicly announced that he will join partisans in Nimba County ahead of the by-election to campaign for Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh, the sister of former Presidential Candidate and renowned human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, April 9, 2025: The ANC leader, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings announced his party's endorsement of Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh this week in an interview with journalists here.

Speaking in an interview with Journalists in Monrovia on Tuesday April 8, 2025, at the ANC Party headquarters in Sinkor following a Youth retreat, Mr. Cummings said that the ANC has taken a consultative and collective decision to support Madam Gongloe-Weh for the senatorial seat of the country.

Providing justifications for the endorsement, Mr. Cummings stated that the party reach out and examine candidates participating in the upcoming by-election and they found Madam Gongloe-Weh most competent and qualified to represent the people of Nimba.

" So, the ANC has taken a consultative and collective decision to support Madam Gongloe-Weh in the Nimba by-election. The ANC

According to him, the ANC will in the coming days begin campaigning for Madam Gongloe-Weh in the county.

" So, we will be campaigning for Madam Gongloe-Weh in the county. And so, I'm calling on all supporters of the ANC to reach out and campaign for madam Gongloe-Weh," he said.

For his part, Nimba County District #9 Representative Taa Z. Wongbe, recommitted his loyalty to the ANC, stressing that he has come with new energy to recruit and bring the party to life.

Commenting on the party's decision to endorse Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh, Mr. Wongbe said he endorsed the party's decision, adding that he will be in the county to campaign for Madam Gongloe-Weh, from his district.

" So, the decision of the ANC to support Madam Gongloe-Weh is something that I'm in support of. Madam Gongloe-Weh is from my district- I mean Nimba County District #9. Also, she has the



looks at candidates, some we talk with and some, we didn't. We evaluate them from their strength and weakness, and everyone supported Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh that is why we have chosen her," Mr. Cummings stated.

qualifications and competence to represent Nimba in the Senate. Therefore, we will be coming out to support our sister, mother and family. This, I don't take likely " he concluded. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.



“Suspect Abenego Kollie has been turned over to the Liberia National Police for further investigation as we

are looking into any possible accomplices or motives. We are committed to ensuring the safety of our passengers and staff. We will work closely with law enforcement to enhance our security measures following this alarming event”, LAA stated.

The Liberia Airport Authority disclosed that the Fire Service Department quickly responded to put off the fire as way to avoid any significant damage.

