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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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**P11**

Pres. Boakai

# I'll never dedicate a hand pump again

## -President Boakai declares

# ALCOP backs off on UP Kogar's endorsement

## -Amid potential review to pullout of the UP Alliance



**P11**

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# Continental News

## Diplomatic tensions escalate as Algeria expels French officials

Algeria's decision to expel 12 French consular staff members appears to have put paid to hopes of any imminent rapprochement between the two countries. The order was in response to charges filed in France on

come about by chance. Its purpose is to scupper the relaunch of bilateral relations agreed by the two heads of state."A phone call between French President Emmanuel Macron and Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune at the

circles. Reading between the lines, it is evident the real target of Algerian fire is not Macron but elements in his government - most notably Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau.

Retailleau - a right-wing conservative with ambitions for the next presidential election in France - has won a reputation for his hardline pronouncements on immigration, law and order, and relations with Algeria. Algiers is claiming to see the hand of Retailleau in the arrest of its consular official. It is implicitly accusing the interior minister of trying to undermine Macron's more "even-handed" approach to the crisis in relations. Significantly, several of the 12 officials ordered out are from the French interior ministry - and thus subordinates of Retailleau.

Algerian commentators regularly attack the French right and far-right for having undue influence in Paris, and for trying to poison relations. But they have recently become more indulgent towards Macron, even though it was him who personally precipitated the crisis last July by declaring a strategic shift towards Algeria's long-standing rival Morocco. BBC



The French foreign minister met his Algerian counterpart during an official visit to Algiers earlier in April

Friday against an Algerian consular official, accused with two other Algerians of taking part in the kidnap of an opposition dissident in the Paris suburbs a year ago. Algiers chose to see the arrest of the official as "a flagrant contravention of the immunities and privileges that attach to his (diplomatic) functions".

According to the official Algerian state-run news agency APS: "This unprecedented judicial incident... has not

end of March was a first sign of a possible reconciliation after months of crisis.

Since then there was a visit to Algiers a week ago by Jean-Noël Barrot, Macron's foreign minister, which appeared to confirm a willingness on both sides to turn the page.

But this dramatic escalation - the biggest expulsion of French consular staff since Algerian independence in 1962 - suggests that anti-French voices are still very much in the ascendant in Algiers' government

## South Africa re-opens inquest into Nobel laureate's death

South African court has begun a fresh inquest into the death of one of the most renowned campaigners against the racist system of apartheid, which had initially been described as accidental.

A 1967 inquest ruled that Chief Albert Luthuli was walking on a railway line when he was struck by a train and died after fracturing his skull. Activists and his family have long cast doubt on the official version of events, and have said they welcomed the re-opening of the inquest.

Luthuli, who at the time of his death was the leader of the then-banned African National Congress (ANC), won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960 for spearheading the fight against apartheid. The ANC went on to lead the struggle against white-minority rule and came to power in 1994, following the first democratic elections. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has said that it "will be presenting evidence before the court in an attempt to have the

initial findings into the deaths of Chief Luthuli... overturned". It has not said what that evidence is. Nearly six decades ago, the initial inquiry into the Nobel laureate's death "found that there was no evidence which disclosed any criminal culpability on the part of any of the employees of the South African Railways or anyone else", the NPA said last week. But campaigners suspected the authorities had killed him and

covered it up.

Luthuli's grandson, Sandile Luthuli, told the BBC that the initial investigation had been a "whitewash meant to cover up the activities of the [former] apartheid government".

"We look forward to an independent judiciary that will preside over this matter and [make] independent findings on exactly what transpired on that fateful day in July 1967," he told the BBC.



Chief Albert Luthuli won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960

## South Africa appoints special envoy to ease US relations

South Africa has appointed a special envoy to the US in an effort to ease tensions between the two countries, which have worsened since Donald Trump's return as president.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Mcebisi Jonas's selection, adding that he would be "entrusted with [advancing] South Africa's diplomatic, trade and bilateral priorities".

Jonas, a former deputy finance minister, made headlines when he made corruption allegations against a wealthy family linked to former President Jacob Zuma. The US last month expelled South Africa's ambassador, Ebrahim Rasool, over remarks he had made about the Trump administration. Ramaphosa's office said Jonas would be "serving as the official representative" of the president and South Africa.

"He will lead negotiations, foster strategic partnerships and engage with US

resistance, said this offer came just before his then boss, Nhlamhla Nene, was sacked by Zuma. Had he accepted, Jonas at the time said that he would have been expected to remove key Treasury officials from their posts and use his position to advance the Gupta family's "business ambitions" - an example of what has become known in South Africa as "state capture".

He later said he had been told he would be killed if he ever spoke about the meeting. The Gupta family has denied the allegations, while Zuma has always denied all accusations of corruption made against him. Nene was eventually replaced by then little-known David van Rooyen, leading to a run on the currency and national protests, before a new finance minister was appointed just days later.

Jonas currently serves as an independent non-executive chairman of the multinational telecommunications company, the MTN Group, which Ramaphosa said he will continue with alongside his appointment as special envoy.

Ramaphosa earlier this year announced he would be dispatching envoys to several countries,



Mcebisi Jonas has previously served as South Africa's investment envoy

government officials and private-sector leaders to promote our nation's interests." Jonas has previously served as one of South Africa's four investment envoys, appointed in 2018 to help encourage foreign companies to put their money into the country. He first came into the spotlight during his tenure as deputy finance minister when he accused the wealthy Gupta family, which had close ties to Zuma, of offering him a bribe of 600 million rand (\$31.7m; £24.14m) to become finance minister.

This was one of the most shocking of a series of allegations of corruption against Zuma and the Guptas. Jonas, who declined the offer and would later become vocal about his

including the US, to explain the country's position on key issues, some of which have drawn the Trump administration's ire. Relations between the US and South Africa, characterised by ups and downs over the years, hit rock bottom earlier this year, with Trump cutting off aid to the country, citing the new Expropriation Law, which allows the government to confiscate land without compensation in certain circumstances. Trump, in a post over the weekend, reiterated his intention to boycott the upcoming G20 2025 Summit taking place in South Africa later this year, citing the controversial land policy as the main reason. Trump has also condemned South Africa for taking Israel to the International Court of Justice, accusing it of committing genocide in the Gaza Strip, which Israel has denied. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## We hold NOCAL CEO by his words

The National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) recently presented an impressive progress report to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia on a partnership with TGS NOPEC, a global geological and geophysical leader.

Reading the report to the President, cabinet minister, and industrial leaders, the Acting ECO of NOCAL, Fabian Lai, said the 23-year collaborative venture has positioned Liberia as West African’s most promising energy frontier, resulting in acquisition of multi-client 2D and 3D seismic survey program. The investment covers more than 15,000 square kilometers of the country’s offshore basin, CEO Lai detailed.

He also disclosed the economic impact of the partnership, stating that Liberia currently enjoys 80 percent of revenues from 3D data sales, which has significantly bolstered government’s financial resources, enhancing public services and development.

The report sounds very promising and motivating, but we think Liberians should celebrate with cautious, given past experiences at NOCAL under this very ruling Unity Party-led government then led by former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, when plunder, cronyism, lavish spending and uncontrollable corruption racked this promising public entity, and shattered dreams and aspiration of ordinary citizens.

NOCAL eventually collapsed under the watch of the former President with her son, Robert Sirleaf, serving at the helm of the entity. Madam Sirleaf took responsibility and that was end of story, for what should have been a great game-changer in post-war Liberia socio-economic development. The rest is history.

But here we are again, with a revised NOCAL under a new administration that has begun to inspire hope in Iberians amidst ongoing widespread corruption in the government, particularly so when the President and Chief Executive Officer Madam Rustonlyn Suakoko Dennis is under suspension over allegation of corruption, financial mismanagement and abuse of public office.

This followed recommendation by the Board of Directors that called for investigation into the purchase of SUV valued US\$75,000 and other financial irregularities when feces flows our streets like a mighty stream of river.

CEO Lai talked of corporate social responsibility efforts initiated by NOCAL as a result of the partnership with TGS NOPEC. Revealing an annual contribution of US\$200,000 for social welfare programs, which we think is a drop in the ocean. But our mind runs to the Sharon-sponsored recreation park right at the entrance of the Gabriel Tucker Bridge in Via Town that reportedly cost over US\$1million under the collapsed NOCAL. Every assessment of that place does not indicate that the facility even worth US\$500,000.

This is why we are sounding an early caution to the Lai-led NOCAL to exert a great departure from the previous NOCAL under Madam Sirleaf md her son, Robert, for that was not a pleasant experience. And we don’t want a re-occurrence.

We want hold CEO Lai by his words that the current partnership with TGS NOPEC is not just about data sales and profits, but empowering citizens and building a future that eluded them under former CEO Robert Sirleaf, so that Liberians can have an opportunity to lead their energy sector. This we believe strongly would frog-leap their socio-economic wellbeing.

Not that we do not have confidence in CEO Lai and his team of officials n managing our energy sector, but experience of the past are or should be very good lessons to propel us into the future that is filled with uncertainties and surprises.

# COMMENTARY

By Daniel Gros

## Can a Global Trade War Be Avoided?

**B**RUSSELS - On April 2, US President Donald Trump proposed sweeping tariffs on nearly all of America’s trading partners, wiping more than \$5 trillion from the value of global stock markets, and fueling recession fears. In the face of the impending financial meltdown, the “reciprocal” tariffs were then “paused” for 90 days, but the tit-for-tat retaliation with China continued, leading to absurd rates exceeding 100% on both sides. The pause on the rest of Trump’s “Liberation Day” tariffs will lead to three months of febrile negotiations. But if the rest of the world responds wisely, the damage could be circumscribed entirely to the United States with even a small dose of liberalization for everybody else. The European Union will be the key actor to make this benign outcome possible.

This is not the first time the US has suddenly embraced protectionism. In 1930, the US Congress passed the now-infamous Smoot-Hawley Act, which increased tariff rates on a large share of US imports by 40-60%. While unemployment reached double-digit rates following the Wall Street crash of 1929, foreign competition was hardly the reason: unlike today, the US was running a trade surplus (which the tariffs would do nothing to expand). But the US agriculture sector, beset by overproduction, was demanding protection, as were some industrial sectors, despite America’s emergence as a manufacturing powerhouse. The new tariffs would prove highly damaging to the global economy and trading system, not so much because of their direct impact - trade accounted for less than 5% of US GDP at the time - but because of how the rest of the world reacted.

While most smaller countries could protest only diplomatically, many larger economies introduced retaliatory tariffs against the US. Some - such as France and the United Kingdom - raised tariffs on all imports, partly because their existing bilateral commercial treaties with the US generally included a “most-favored nation” clause, which prevented them from imposing tariffs only on American goods. (The Smoot-Hawley Act did not violate these treaties, because the tariffs were the same for all countries, varying by product.) Moreover, with the onset of the Great Depression, countries were looking for ways to protect their economies, and retaliating against the US gave them political cover to do just that.

The Smoot-Hawley tariffs were not in place for long. They were effectively reversed through a series of trade-liberalization measures, beginning, crucially, with the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act of 1934. But the damage was done: world trade had contracted sharply, and the global geopolitical climate had worsened significantly, complicating reciprocal tariff reductions.

Today, trade is far more important to the global economy than it was in the 1930s. Imports amount to about 14% of GDP for the US, nearly 18% of GDP for China, and

more than 48% for the EU. For exports, those shares are roughly 11%, 20%, and 52%, respectively. The economic fallout of a global tariff war could thus be much larger than in the 1930s.

The pause announced on April 9 has only postponed the problem. The outcome of the many bilateral negotiations is highly uncertain because the Trump administration clearly expects an asymmetric result. Its trading partners should open their markets, but the US would offer only somewhat lower tariffs.

But accepting asymmetry is politically difficult, and retaliation if there is no agreement is politically tempting, especially for larger countries that want to flex their geopolitical muscles. That is why China has retaliated immediately against the US. But there is no economic benefit to this approach, and the EU should accept an asymmetric agreement (or at least one that Trump can present as a victory).

One might counter that, whereas small economies might feel compelled to capitulate to the US - Vietnam, for example, has offered to eliminate tariffs on all US imports - a major economic power like the EU should stand up to it. But pragmatism, not ego, should guide Europe’s response. After all, “standing up to the bully” would do nothing to increase Europe’s geopolitical influence, and the Trump administration is unlikely to be impressed by European grandstanding. Meanwhile, European consumers would pay the price.

European policymakers must also resist the temptation to react to the “flood” of cheap Chinese goods that are diverted from the US market to Europe. In the 1930s, efforts to stem the flow of imports redirected from the US - exemplified by the UK’s Abnormal Importations Act of 1931 - helped to transform US protectionism into a global trade war. An EU effort to limit Chinese imports would be all the more inappropriate today, because European exporters will enjoy a massive tariff advantage over their Chinese competitors in the US market, totaling more than 80 percentage points. Given this, increased EU exports to the US, together with increased profits from European plants there, may well offset the impact of higher Chinese imports.

The good news is that, while the Trump administration appears determined to repeat the mistakes of the 1930s, the rest of the world can still avoid them. Given that US imports account for less than one-sixth of the global total, and US exports even less, what matters is that trade among the rest of the world remains free.

Instead of taking short-sighted steps to protect its domestic market or playing counter-productive power games with the US, the EU should rally a coalition of like-minded countries to uphold the open, rules-based global trading system that the US has abandoned. That would be true global leadership.



## OP-ED

By Konstanty Gebert

## Will Qatari Gold Sink Netanyahu?

**W**ARSAN - Can an Israeli prime minister dismiss the country's internal security chief? The Israeli Supreme Court considered that question on April 8, when it placed a pause on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's firing of Ronen Bar, the head of Shin Bet since October 2021. Seemingly expecting a different verdict, however, Netanyahu had announced beforehand that he would ignore any adverse ruling.

Typically, such flagrant disregard for the judiciary, whose authority Netanyahu seems determined to undermine, would have triggered a constitutional crisis. It still could, since the court has frozen Bar's dismissal only until April 20, demanding that the government strike a compromise with the country's independent attorney general, who has opposed Bar's dismissal on the grounds that Netanyahu has a conflict of interest.

The situation is complicated, though, because Shin Bet's disastrous failure to anticipate Hamas's attack on October 7, 2023, is certainly reason enough to fire Bar. He has even admitted as much, but has also called for a state commission of inquiry into the matter. Netanyahu, keen not to be implicated in the failure himself, adamantly opposes this. Moreover, Bar alleges that Netanyahu, facing criminal prosecution for corruption, fraud, and abuse of power, tried to pressure him into convincing the court to delay the date of his testimony in the trial.

So, while there are valid reasons for Netanyahu to "lose trust" in Bar, there are also valid reasons to suspect a conflict of interest. And here, the most damning and contentious issue of all is Bar's investigation of "Qatargate" - a complicated case of bribery and leaks involving Netanyahu's closest aides. Notably, Netanyahu decided to fire Bar immediately after this investigation began.

To summarize the case, two of Netanyahu's personal aides, Yonatan Urich and Eli Feldstein, were arrested on suspicion of accepting bribes from Qatar in return for leaking statements to Israeli media tailored to burnish the sheikdom's image. A third aide, who has conveniently departed to Serbia, is wanted for questioning; the editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Post is suspected of having been the go-between; and a businessman has admitted to transferring funds to Feldstein from a known Qatari lobbyist in the US.

Leaks from the prime minister's office are often believed to come from Netanyahu himself, since he is known to have leaked classified information that was damaging to political opponents in the past. Though nothing suggests that he was personally aware of "Qatargate," he admits that some leaks made by Urich reflected his instructions.

Qatar allegedly paid the leakers to present the country as a trustworthy partner in the on-and-off indirect negotiations over the fate of the Israeli hostages in Gaza. Qatar has been known to use bribes to advance its interests elsewhere - as became apparent in the 2022 arrests of European Parliament members who were accused of taking Qatari money for this purpose. But in Israel, Qatari money has different associations.

From 2018, and with the explicit approval of Netanyahu's government, the Qatari government transferred \$30 million per month to prop up the Hamas regime in Gaza. The money, transported in suitcases to avoid possible US anti-terror sanctions, was used to pay the salaries of civil servants and welfare benefits, thus freeing up other Hamas funds for terrorism.

Qatar's support for Islamists has often made it a pariah in the Arab world. Netanyahu's own rationale for allowing the payments was that Hamas's regime supposedly served Israel's interest. With terrorists in charge of Gaza and corrupt, incompetent Fatah bureaucrats in charge in Ramallah, Israel had a convenient excuse to avoid negotiations on the Palestinian issue. All this would have been exposed by Bar's proposed state commission of inquiry.

Lawyers for the suspects have not responded directly to the allegations, but they stress that Qatar is not an "enemy state," implying that no treason was involved. They also point out that under Israeli law, only civil servants can be bribed. Strictly speaking, the prime minister's aides do not qualify. The defense also might add that Israeli media, which gullibly published the leaks, bears as much responsibility as anybody else.

But given Israel's back-stabbing political culture, leaks come with the territory. Journalists necessarily thrive on them, and so do politicians. Feldstein was arrested last year over his participation in another leak scandal, but did not lose his job.

The battle lines are drawn. According to Justice Minister Yariv Levin, the Netanyahu government is defending "millions whose rights are being trampled on and whose democratic choice they made at the ballot box is being taken from them by a handful of arrogant and detached judges." Yet polls show that 63% of Israelis fear for the future of the country's democracy, and that they trust the Supreme Court, the attorney general, and Shin Bet more than the Netanyahu government by a two-to-one margin.

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## OPINION

By Gary Yohe

## The EPA's Rejection of Climate Science Threatens Everyone

**M**IDDLETOWN - In mid-March, Lee Zeldin, President Donald Trump's newly confirmed administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, announced that the EPA was undertaking a formal reconsideration of its "endangerment finding." The Trump administration has made no secret of its desire to rescind the 2009 declaration that greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions endanger "both the public health and the public welfare of current and future generations." In other words, Trump wants to walk back the US government's assertion that climate change is real and caused by humans.

This scientific finding stemmed from a 2007 US Supreme Court ruling that various GHGs are pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act. The Court held that the EPA must determine whether GHG emissions from new motor vehicles "cause[s], or contribute[s] to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare" (emphasis added). To be clear, the ruling did not command the EPA to regulate GHG emissions. But if the agency found that emissions caused or contributed to air pollution, the Clean Air Act would require it to establish air-quality standards that accurately reflect "the latest scientific knowledge."

To make this determination, the EPA had to survey the scientific literature, assess existing and emerging risks based on that science, and evaluate the costs and benefits associated with alternative options for prospective regulation. The agency then posted a preliminary draft of its findings and policy options for a 60-day public-comment period, and was required to respond publicly to each comment while revising the document.

After publishing a final version of its endangerment and "cause or contribute" findings - the latter recognizes that GHG emissions from new motor vehicles contribute to harmful air pollution - in December 2009, the EPA began to design its response and implement appropriate measures. But the pushback was almost immediate. By July 2010, the agency had received and denied ten petitions for reconsidering both findings. In June 2012, after a group of lawsuits, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the endangerment finding. Later, in April 2022, the EPA denied another four petitions for reconsideration.

But now, with a US president who calls climate change a "hoax" and is following a governing blueprint that seeks to roll back US environmental and climate policy in the name of fossil-fuel extraction and deregulation, the EPA has abruptly changed course. The stated rationale for reconsidering the endangerment finding is tenuous, based in part on false claims about the climate agenda - most notably that it has imposed trillions of dollars in costs on Americans.

Still, the EPA faces a difficult road ahead. Before the agency can reach the opposite conclusion - that GHG emissions do not endanger public health and welfare - it must undertake the same rigorous, multi-step process that produced the 2009 finding. And now it must contend with a much larger body of scientific evidence for the observed and projected damages from these emissions: the past 16 years have produced reams of research pointing to GHG emissions' harmful effects.

The severity of the climate crisis became clearer in 2019, when 15 scientists published a review of the then-current literature in *Science*. They concluded that, since 2009, "the amount, diversity, and sophistication of the evidence" had "increased markedly, clearly strengthening the case for endangerment." In 2023, the sixth assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change brought home the message, finding that "adverse impacts from human-caused climate change will continue to intensify." The report emphasized that the effects were worsening at a faster pace than ever before.

Simply embarking on an official reassessment of the endangerment finding may produce the Trump administration's desired effect: a massive retreat from climate action at the federal level. That is already happening to a certain degree. The EPA has announced plans to eliminate its scientific-research arm, even though almost every US agency depends on the climate science that it produces.

Moreover, the new leaders of the many government departments that support research on global warming - from Health and Human Services (which houses the National Institutes of Health) to Commerce (which houses the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) - largely share Trump's climate skepticism. The EPA's reconsideration of the endangerment finding will give them cover to defund existing scientific programs, discontinue the collection of valuable data series, reject creative research proposals, freeze government hiring, and undertake large-scale personnel reductions.

The Trump administration's disdain for established science, coupled with dramatic cuts to research funding for universities, NGOs, and the private sector, may end up discouraging an entire generation of young people from studying climate change. Whatever the EPA decides about the endangerment finding, the process is almost certain to drag on, involve multiple court cases, and make its way to the Supreme Court - by which point, the damage may already be done. Dismantling the world's most prodigious climate-research program threatens to harm Americans - and everyone else.

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Job VACANCY

Post Title : Chief Marketing Officer  
Organization Unit : Business Development  
Hours of Work : Full time (48 hours per week)  
Status of Post : Regular based on satisfactory performances/probation  
Reports To : Deputy Managing Director for Administration  
Location : LTC Headquarters and other locations as may be required

About Us

The Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LTC Mobile) is a national telecommunications operator committed to delivering cutting-edge communication solutions that empower individuals, businesses and government institutions across Liberia. As we continue to expand and innovate, we are seeking a visionary **Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)** to lead our marketing strategy and drive brand excellence.

Job Summary

As CMO, the position holder will serve as a key member of the Executive Leadership Team, responsible for shaping and executing a cohesive marketing vision that align with LTC Mobile’s strategic goals. This role demands a dynamic leader with deep understanding of the telecom industry, strong analytical capacities, and a passion for digital transformation and customer experience.

Job responsibilities:

- Develop and implement strategic marketing and sales plans, forecast for short, medium, and long terms to achieve the corporate objectives of LTC Mobile’s products and services
- Develop and manage sales including marketing operating budgets
- Plan and oversee advertisement, promotional activities including printing, online, electronic media, and direct mail
- Develop and recommend product positioning, packaging and pricing strategy to produce the highest possible long term market share
- Ensure profit ratio and market share in relation to pre-set standards and industry and economic trends
- Ensure effective control of marketing results, and take corrective action to guarantee that achievement of marketing objectives are within designated budgets
- Oversee and evaluate market research and adjust marketing strategy to meet changing market and competitive conditions
- Monitor competitor products, sales and marketing activities
- Guide presentation of marketing activity reports for presentation to executive management and Board of Directors
- Establish and maintain relationship with government entities, industry influencers and key strategic partners
- Establish and maintain a consistent corporate image throughout all product lines, promotional materials, and events
- Direct sales forecasting activities and set performance goals accordingly
- Direct staffing , training, performance evaluations to develop and control sales and marketing programs
- Direct market channel development activity and coordinate sales distribution by establishing sales territories, quotas, and goals
- Represent Corporation at trade association meetings to promote products and services
- Coordinate or serve as a liaison between sales department and other sales related units
- Prepare periodic sales report showing sales volume, potential sales, and areas of proposed client base expansion
- Meet key clients, assisting sales representatives with maintaining relationships and negotiating and closing deals
- Analyze and control expenditures of division to conform to budgetary requirements
- Assist other departments within the Corporation to prepare manuals and technical publications for public use
- Review and analyze sales performances against programs, quotes, and plans to determine effectiveness
- Direct product research and development
- Ability to present and sell the corporation’s products and services to current and potential clients
- Prepare action plans and schedules to identify specific targets and to project the number of contacts to be made.
- To follow up on new queries and contact resulting from field activity.
- To develop and maintain sales materials and current product knowledge
- To establish and maintain current client and potential client relationships
- Ability to identify and resolve client concerns
- Prepare a variety of status reports, including activities, closings and follow-ups
- Develop and implement special sales activities to reduce stock
- Ability to work accurately to meet requirement and high standard
- Ability to work in a customer focus approach as a team player with professional colleagues, corporate clients and all other stakeholders
- Ability to give clear instructions and effective guidelines to others
- Ability to deal with conflict and its related resolution
- To be able to work as a member of a team and team leader
- The ability to prioritise workload and use self-initiative to provide creative solutions to practical problems and meet deadlines
- The ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing with colleagues, the public and all stakeholders
- Excellent interpersonal skills to deal with a variety of people at different levels of the Corporation, stakeholders and the public
- Ability to create work plans and schedules to meet deadline
- Perform other duties as may be assigned

Qualification and Experience

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Along with a Cover Letter, CV maximum 3 pages with names of three (3) professional referees in a single document by email with the position title: Chief Marketing Officer clearly stated in the subject line to: [asherif@ltcmobile.com.lr](mailto:asherif@ltcmobile.com.lr) no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, May 2, 2025.

**Note: Only electronic applications will be accepted.Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

**LTC Mobile is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and we are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply**

Article:Article:Article:

Darius Wonyen Puts Liberia on the Map at Comminution '25 in Cape Town

Young AML Engineer Represents Company and Country with Groundbreaking Research

Darius Wonyen, Mining and Mineral Processing Engineer at ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), stood proudly among some of the world’s leading experts at the Comminution '25 Conference, held from March 31 to April 3 in Cape Town. It was more than just a professional milestone—it was a defining moment for Darius, for AML, and for Liberia’s growing voice in global mining innovation. From the lecture halls of university to one of the industry's most prestigious technical stages, Darius’s journey reflects what’s possible when talent meets opportunity—and when that opportunity is backed by vision, mentorship, and belief.

Taking the Stage at Comminution '25

The Comminution '25 Conference, organized by Mineral Engineering International (MEI UK), brought together pioneers in the field of mineral processing—specialists in the science of

- included:
- Advanced Process Control (APC): New smart control systems for grinding circuits that can dramatically improve energy efficiency—something Darius sees as a game-changer for AML’s future operations.
  - Longer-Lasting Mill Liners: Innovative liner designs that reduce wear and save costs—key to maintaining high-performance concentrators like the one AML is building.
  - Faster, Smarter Mill Relining: Fresh techniques that cut downtime and boost safety during reline operations, ensuring smoother production.
  - Dynamic Simulation Tools: Advanced simulation software that lets engineers “test drive” crusher and SAG mill performance before real-world commissioning. “This could make a huge difference in how we launch our concentrator,” Darius noted.



crushing and grinding ores to extract valuable minerals. Among them stood Darius, the only Liberian engineer in attendance, representing not just his company, but his country.

His paper, “Optimization of Semi-Autogenous Grinding for Oxide and Transition Ores Using Comminution Testing and Discrete Element Modeling (DEM),” explored the unique ore hardness variability across AML’s Nimba Western Range—Tokadeh, Gangra, and Yuelliton—and its impact on mill performance. The research focused on practical, data-driven ways to optimize grinding efficiency while reducing energy use—a topic at the heart of AML’s 15 Mtpa concentrator project.

It was a huge moment. And it didn’t happen by accident. “I’m incredibly grateful to have had the support of my mentors at AML,” Darius said. “Rachel Thole, our Metallurgy Manager, and Pinto Pedro, Global Process Engineering Manager, really believed in the work and encouraged me to submit my abstract. Their mentorship has been key to getting here.” Knowledge, Innovation, and a Whole Lot of Inspiration

Beyond presenting his work, Darius soaked in a wealth of insights that he’s excited to bring back home. From cutting-edge technologies to energizing conversations with global experts, the conference was nothing short of transformational. Some of the most exciting takeaways

And then there was the networking—not just shaking hands, but forming genuine connections with legends in the industry. Darius met Barry Wills (yes, the Barry Wills of Wills’ Mineral Processing Technology fame), Prof. Aubrey Mainza from the University of Cape Town, and John Russell, the founder of Russell Mineral Equipment. He also linked up with major equipment suppliers like CITIC HIC, Derrick Corporation, WEIR, and Magotteaux—many of whom are directly involved in AML’s upcoming project.

Putting Liberia on the Global Comminution Map

One of Darius’s proudest moments came not from the applause, but from a quiet conversation behind the scenes. He began laying the groundwork for ArcelorMittal Liberia to become part of the Global Comminution Collaborative (GCC)—a group of world-class institutions pushing the boundaries of mineral processing research.

“This is how we grow,” Darius said. “We collaborate, we innovate, and we show the world that Liberia has the talent and the drive to lead.”

Gratitude, Growth, and What’s Next

Back in Liberia, Darius remains energized by what he learned and deeply thankful for the chance to represent AML on a world stage.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Snowe & Biney to faceoff

## -At NPP Convention

As the National Patriotic Party (NPP) schedules national convention for May 30, 2025, two of its stalwarts currently in the Liberian Senate are poised to faceoff for the party's standard bearer post.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 15, 2025 - Two prominent Liberian politicians, Senators James P. Biney and Edwin M. Snowe,



Sen. Edwin M. Snowe

Jr., are gearing up for a potential showdown in a race for the next standard bearer for the National Patriotic Party (NPP).

The NPP, which is an offspring of jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor's disbanded NPFL rebels, is scheduled to hold its National Convention on May 30, 2025, to elect a new standard bearer to replace former Vice

President Jewel Howard Taylor.

The Convention will be held in Mr. Taylor's former stronghold, Gbarnga, Bong

County, Central Liberia. The pending face-off between the two NPP stalwarts is as a result of constitutional timeline limit that bars Mrs. Taylor, also a former first lady, from her husband's party top seat for the third time. Making the disclosure in Monrovia on Monday, April 14, 2025, NPP National Chairman, Atty. George Mulbah, said the party is

currently rebranding and recalibrating its chapters across Liberia.

He says in order to achieve that, the once ruling party will hold an open competition at the Gbarnga convention in Bong County to elect a political leader, who will provide its political direction for the next six years.

"So, on May 30, 2025, the National Patriotic Party or NPP will be going into a level and competitive playing field convention in Gbarnga, Bong County to elect our new political leader, who will provide political direction for the party", he states.

Section 9.1 of the Constitution of the NPP gives every qualified member two terms for the standard bearer and National chairperson position. For me, I am completing my term as Senator Biney and if I want to re-contest next year, I will be qualify", Atty. Mulbah notes.

He says a committee will be constituted to enable individuals with interest registered to contest for the standard bearer post, and that guidelines and

healing of societal rifts.

Madam Rosemary Mbabazi also shared Rwanda's experience with post-conflict recovery, pointing to the Gacaca courts as a powerful tool for justice, truth-telling, and national healing.

According to the High commissioner of Rwanda, the Gacaca court which was based on traditional community justice allowed citizens to participate in resolving genocide-related

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# Youth and Sports unveils \$1 Million for Youth Service Program

The Government of Liberia in partnership with UNDP announces a US\$1 Million National Youth Service Program here.

Monrovia, Liberia; April 15, 2025: -In a significant boost for youth empowerment, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Jeror Cole Banggalu, has announced an allocation of US\$1 million to reintroduce the National Youth Service Program. During the launch of the 2025 National Cadet Program at the weekend, supported by UNDP, Minister Bangalu emphasized government's commitment to the Cadet Program, stating, "We are serious about this initiative and will ensure its successful implementation alongside UNDP Liberia."

According to a press release, he highlighted success of past cadets, many of whom have secured permanent roles in government following their internships. The Youth and Sports Minister spoke of efforts to expand the program and

Programs like the NCP are essential to breaking that cycle by equipping young people with practical skills, professional exposure, and confidence to pursue dignified livelihoods," Kuuken stressed.

He said the cadet program is not a temporary placement but a launchpad for careers, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Kuukpen urged cadets who will be recruited this year to take full advantage of the opportunity to learn, grow, contribute, and dream boldly.

Speaking on behalf of Commerce Minister, Kolubah Yekeh emphasized the importance of the program, calling for increased support from other partners for the next 5 years.

The National Youth Cadet Program is an initiative that



expressed gratitude to UNDP for the partnership. "The government is dedicated to the welfare of young people; therefore, it is our responsibility to improve the lives of our citizens, especially our youth," Minister Bangalu noted.

The Deputy Resident Representative for programme at UNDP Liberia, Louis Kuukpen, lauded the government's ongoing efforts in youth development, asserting that investing in youth is an investment in Liberia's future. "At UNDP, we strongly believe that investing in youth is investing in the future. Young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow, they are the changemakers of today. Yet across Africa, and here in Liberia, youth unemployment remains a pressing challenge.

aims to provide short-term employment and internship opportunities across government ministries, agencies, and the private sector, with a focus on enhancing job readiness and offering practical experiences.

The 2025 edition of the program will select 150 high-achieving graduates from universities and vocational institutions in several counties, including Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Cape Mount. Beneficiaries will receive a monthly stipend of \$200 for the three-month internships, helping them gain essential workplace skills while covering living

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# Rwandan Commissioner shares country experience

## -Charges CU students to embrace unity and reconciliation

Rwandan High Commissioner has shared her country's experience with students at the Cuttington University, charging them to embrace unity and reconciliation as foundations for national progress"

By Edwin N Khakie

The Rwandan High Commissioner to Ghana, Madam Rosemary Mbabazi, on Monday delivered a charge to students at Cuttington University, underscoring the importance of unity, consistent governance, and reconciliation in the path to national development.

Speaking during a special lecture at the university's Suakoko campus, Madam Mbabazi highlighted Rwanda's post-genocide transformation as a testament to what a united and accountable government can achieve. She told students that national unity and reconciliation are not just moral imperatives but critical tools for rebuilding and sustaining a developing country.

She stressed that reconciliation plays a vital role in healing historical wounds and fostering a forward-looking national identity. Drawing from Rwanda's experience, she encouraged Liberia and other developing nations to embrace inclusive governance and prioritize the





## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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### Snowe & Biney to faceoff

requirements for would-be candidates will be published. However, in various chartrooms, there are two notable names are emerging namely; Bomi County Senator Edwin M. Snowe and Maryland County Senator James P. Biney.

"Senator Snowe has gone back to the party. He is not just a partisan, but a founding member of NPP. It's true that he is eyeing the political leader position, which is his right. Also, we are hearing about Senator James P. Biney, who is a very good candidate. The both of them are qualified and meet the standing of the society. So, these are the names that are coming up in our various chartrooms but, if any other names, it will be welcoming. "Chairman Mulbah adds.

According to him, former VP Taylor is unable to contest for the standard bearer position based on constitutional timeline.

He notes that in 2011, and 2017, she was elected as standard bearer of the NPP, and chosen by former President George M. Weah to be his running mate, something, which enables her to serve in the party as standard bearer for two terms and beyond.

"So, the National Executive Committee of the Party over the weekend has to vote to ensure that the position is vacant to allow the position be elected by majority members of the party. And so, that is where we are."

However, Chairman Mulbah says the NPP has withdrawn from the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change; therefore, they will communicate with Mrs. Taylor to provide explanation regarding her recent statement, linking the party to the CDC arrangement. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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### "No media institution will

to be handled with care. If not, it can cause problems for the country," Piah warned.

Also, as Chairman of the Board of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), Minister Piah reaffirm the government's commitment on the occasion stated that the state-run ELBC is undergoing a progressive transition from a government mouthpiece to a public broadcaster for all Liberians, including members of the opposition.He acknowledged that just a few years ago, it would have been unthinkable for members of the opposition to freely express dissent on ELBC.

"Six years ago, it wasn't very possible for a member of the opposition community to sit on ELBC and be critical of the government. Today, it is not only possible, it is encouraged. ELBC is now giving the space for opposition voices to be heard," he noted.Liberia's media landscape has historically faced

challenges related to press freedom, government interference, and limited or no access to state owned platforms. During previous administrations, state broadcaster ELBC (Liberia Broadcasting System) was often criticized for operating as a mouthpiece for the ruling party, with little or no space given to opposition voices or critical commentary.

Following his election in 2023, President Joseph Boakai pledged to create a more inclusive and democratic environment, promising reforms across key sectors including media. These efforts come as Liberia continues to recover from years of civil unrest, with growing calls for media institutions to play a more constructive role in fostering national unity, transparency, and democratic governance.

Speaking at the inaugural Presidential Dinner with the

media aimed to build trust with journalists and reaffirm government commitment to press freedom and responsible journalism, Minister Piah further stated that President Joseph Boakai's administration is determined to "rescue every sector of the country," including the media, by creating the space and environment needed to enhance its work.

He said President Boakai and Minister of State Eugene Nagbe remain committed to transforming LBS into a fully independent public broadcaster.

Meanwhile Minister Piah said, Since taking office on January 22, 2024, the Boakai administration has taken deliberate steps to widen the space for a free and independent media.-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

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### ALCOP backs off on UP

National Retreat held in Monrovia, said that the party is angry with the UP over the handling and ignoring of the MoU signed between the both institutions during the 2023 Presidential and legislative elections.

According to him, the Party first major post-election lesson-learnt retreat was held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 and brought together the Political Leader; Chairman and members of the Executive Committee, former candidates of the party, youth and women leaders, elders, coordinators and other stakeholders.

Disclosing the recommendations and decision of the retreat, he

further indicated that the Party has taken an overwhelming decision to reviews its past strategies and develop a new one ahead of the 2029 Presidential and legislative elections.

"That the party reiterates calls for the unconditional respect of the agreement signed with the Unity Party government in the 2023 elections and continues with constructive engagement for good governance. That members of the party are deeply concern about the failure of the Unity Party to implement its agreement with ALCOP in the areas of appointments in government. That the party resolved to remind the Unity Party of its

full adherence to all commitments of the collaboration agreed upon, including granting of national holidays at the end of Ramadan and on Abraham day each year, through an Executive order or a legislation, beginning with the next Abraham day. That the party frowns on the government's delay on lifting the employment moratorium that is affecting Liberians deserving employment" he concluded. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

### 38-year-old father gets one-year sentence

*-Attempting to sell his son*

*A father, who was arrested, while attempting to sell his 11-year-old son in Pleebo, Maryland County, has been sentenced to one year imprisonment.*

*By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County*

**M**aryland County, Liberia, April 15, 2025- The Pleebo Magisterial Court has sentenced a 38-year-old father to one year in prison after he was found guilty of attempting to sell his 11-year-old biological son.

Convict Joshua B. Odarbeh, is a resident of Garraway, Grand Kru County, He was arrested on March 20, 2025, following an investigation by the Liberia National Police (LNP) that linked him to an alleged plan to

Attempting to Commit Human Trafficking.

He was sentenced on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, by the presiding magistrate of the Pleebo Magisterial Court For his part, the City Solicitor of the Pleebo Magisterial Court emphasized the importance of upholding justice and deterring similar crime.

He pointed out that Liberia needs responsible citizens to build the nation, not people of such, noting that the sentence sends a strong message against human



*Convicted Father Joshua B. Odarbeh*

sell his son, Prosperous trafficking.

Odarbeh, to a local businessman identified as Abraham Weah, aka "DJ Cassava Leaf," in Pleebo City. During court trial, Odarbeh admitted under oath that he had engaged in discussions with Mr. Abraham Weah regarding the sale of his son in exchange for money, but pleaded with the court for leniency, expressing remorse and vowing never to commit such an act again.

The court, however, found his actions in violation of the New Penal Law of Liberia, specifically under the charge of

Several community dwellers have lauded the Pleebo Magisterial Court, pointing out that it will serve as a deterrence for others.

Although Odarbeh attributes his to "satanic attack", but many think it could've been as a result of economic desperation, mental health struggles, or possible involvement in a larger criminal network.

Police in Pleebo have turned the child over to his mother, as Joshua serves his sentence.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Français

## Boakai réaffirme son engagement envers la liberté d'expression

Le président libérien Joseph N. Boakai a réaffirmé, jeudi 10 avril 2025, l'engagement de son gouvernement à défendre la liberté d'expression, tout en gardant le silence sur les dettes impayées envers les organismes de

Boakai a salué le rôle fondamental de la presse dans le renforcement de la démocratie et le développement national.

« Ce dîner est bien plus qu'un geste de courtoisie. Il symbolise notre reconnaissance, notre partenariat et la lourde responsabilité partagée entre

presse constitue une valeur fondamentale que le Liberia entend protéger et renforcer.

« Je suis fier d'annoncer que le Liberia donne l'exemple en Afrique en matière de liberté de la presse. Nous restons fermement engagés en faveur de la Déclaration de Table Mountain. Cet engagement va au-delà des mots : c'est une promesse vivante de défendre les droits des journalistes et de garantir la libre circulation de l'information », a-t-il affirmé.

Le président Boakai a également annoncé la création d'une Commission d'accès à l'information, soutenue par des partenaires nationaux et internationaux, avec pour mission de renforcer la transparence et de faciliter l'accès des citoyens aux données publiques.

« L'accès à l'information n'est pas un privilège, c'est un droit fondamental.

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presse. S'exprimant lors de son tout premier dîner annuel avec les professionnels des médias, organisé au Complexe ministériel, le président

le gouvernement et les médias », a déclaré le chef de l'État. Il a vanté la résilience, la vigilance et l'engagement des journalistes envers la vérité, soulignant que la liberté de la

## Le Koweït mènera la mobilisation de fonds pour la construction routière au Liberia

Le Fonds koweïtien s'engage à financer le tronçon Salayea-Voinjama de l'autoroute Gbarnga-Mendikorma

Koweït City, 14 avril 2025 — Une délégation gouvernementale libérienne conduite par le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, M. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a obtenu l'engagement du Fonds koweïtien pour le développement économique arabe en vue de piloter un consortium de bailleurs arabes pour mobiliser les financements nécessaires à la réhabilitation du tronçon Salayea-Voinjama (114 km) de l'autoroute Gbarnga-Mendikorma.

Les institutions financières partenaires comprennent notamment le Fonds saoudien pour le développement, la Banque arabe pour le développement économique en Afrique (BADEA), le Fonds de l'OPEP pour le développement

international (OFID), ainsi que le Fonds d'Abu Dhabi.

Cet engagement a été formalisé à l'issue d'une réunion de haut niveau tenue ce dimanche à Koweït City entre la délégation libérienne et le directeur exécutif par intérim du Fonds koweïtien, M. Waleed S. Al-Bahar, accompagné de ses collaborateurs.

La délégation libérienne comprenait également le ministre des Travaux publics, M. Roland Giddings, le vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères chargé de la Coopération internationale et de

l'Intégration économique, Dr Ibrahim Al-Bakri Nyei, le vice-ministre chargé de la gestion économique au ministère des Finances, M. Dehpue Zuo, et le directeur général de l'Autorité portuaire nationale, M. Sekou H. Dukuly.

Cette avancée fait suite à la signature, le même jour, d'un accord entre le gouvernement libérien et le Fonds koweïtien portant sur la restructuration d'une dette de 6,7 millions de dollars américains

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## 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 **Boakai réaffirme son engagement**

Mon administration est déterminée à le garantir », a-t-il martelé, insistant sur la nécessité pour les institutions publiques de partager les informations librement. Dans cette dynamique, le président a réitéré son engagement à appliquer la loi Abdullah K. Abdullah, qui protège les journalistes contre les arrestations arbitraires et les intimidations, tout en consacrant la liberté de la presse comme un pilier de la démocratie libérienne.

« Sous ma gouvernance, il n’y aura ni prisonniers politiques, ni répression de la presse. La critique n’est pas une menace pour la démocratie, c’est son essence même. Nous n’éviterons pas vos questions, nous y répondrons. Nous n’étoufferons pas les voix dissidentes, nous les écouterons », a-t-il promis.

Le président Boakai a par ailleurs noté une augmentation significative du nombre de médias enregistrés depuis son entrée en fonction, signe selon lui d’un climat politique plus ouvert et favorable à la liberté d’expression. « Cette croissance n’est pas un hasard. Elle est le fruit d’un environnement politique qui respecte le droit de parler, de publier et de critiquer », a-t-il souligné.

Tout en saluant les avancées, le président a reconnu que des défis persistent, notamment en matière de professionnalisation des médias, de lutte contre la désinformation et de sécurité des

journalistes, notamment dans les zones reculées.

« Ce soir, célébrons aussi le chemin parcouru. Continuons à construire ensemble une société fondée sur les faits, le respect de nos valeurs traditionnelles, et où médias et gouvernement, bien que distincts, avancent dans la même direction pour le bien du peuple libérien », a-t-il conclu.

Silence persistant sur les dettes impayées envers les médias

Malgré ce discours d’ouverture et de reconnaissance, le président Boakai n’a pas abordé la question des dettes accumulées envers les médias, à la fois héritées et contractées depuis 2024 par son administration. Ces dettes, transférées par le ministère des Finances à la Commission générale d’audit dans le cadre du portefeuille de la dette intérieure datant de 1980, demeurent en suspens. Et ce, en dépit des multiples sollicitations de la part des médias et de l’appel lancé par le sénateur Darius Dillon, président de la Commission sénatoriale des Communications, pour que l’État honore ses engagements. L’absence de réponse du président sur cette question soulève des doutes quant à la concrétisation du partenariat annoncé entre le gouvernement et la presse, dans un paysage médiatique toujours confronté à des contraintes financières sévères.

## **Edwin M. Snowe annonce sa candidature à la présidentielle de 2029 : “Je serai un meilleur président”**

Le sénateur du comté de Bomi, Edwin M. Snowe, a officiellement déclaré son intention de se présenter à l’élection présidentielle de 2029, affirmant qu’il ferait un meilleur président que l’actuel chef de l’État, Joseph N. Boakai. L’annonce a été faite au cours du week-end, lors d’une émission nocturne diffusée sur le réseau Spoon, en réponse à une question du journaliste Stanton Witherspoon. Interrogé sur une éventuelle préférence entre le vice-président Jeremiah K. Koung et l’ancien président George M. Weah, M. Snowe a surpris son interlocuteur en annonçant qu’il sera lui-même candidat à la magistrature suprême en 2029. « Toutes les cartes sont sur la table. Je suis en pleine réflexion sur cette candidature. Mon siège sénatorial sera vacant en 2029, mais je pourrais soit me représenter dans le comté de Bomi, soit me présenter ailleurs. Toutefois, je vise la présidence. Et si je me présente, je suis convaincu de pouvoir l’emporter », a-t-il déclaré avec assurance.

Critique à l’égard de l’administration Boakai et du Parti de l’unité, le sénateur Snowe a dénoncé ce qu’il considère comme une mauvaise gouvernance, des violations de la Constitution et une négligence à l’égard des citoyens. Il a également mis en doute la pertinence du débat autour de Koung et Weah, arguant qu’il représente une alternative bien plus compétente.

« Pourquoi parler de Weah ou de Koung alors que je peux être un meilleur président que ces deux hommes ? », a-t-il lancé.



Ancien député du district n° 6 de Montserrado, Edwin Snowe avait quitté son siège pour briguer avec succès le poste de sénateur dans le comté de Bomi, où il possède une plantation de palmiers à huile. Il a également été, dans le passé, le gendre de l’ancien président emprisonné, Charles Taylor. Concernant sa formation politique, M. Snowe a confirmé son appartenance au Parti national patriotique (NPP), expliquant qu’il envisagera de briguer l’investiture de ce parti comme candidat à la présidence. Il s’est dit confiant quant à ses chances de remporter la primaire lors de la prochaine convention du NPP. « Le NPP est une institution politique dynamique qui a déjà servi le peuple libérien par le passé. Je crois en sa capacité à revenir en force en 2029 », a-t-il affirmé.

Il a précisé qu’à ce stade, aucune alliance formelle n’existe entre le NPP et le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), citant les propos de l’ancienne vice-présidente et présidente du NPP, Jewel Howard Taylor, selon lesquels aucun accord officiel n’a été signé. « Je n’ai aucune raison de douter de ses propos, sauf preuve du contraire », a-t-il ajouté. Enfin, le sénateur a rejeté les rumeurs selon lesquelles il envisagerait de se présenter dans le comté de Rivercess, région d’origine de son père, bien qu’il y ait effectué des visites et investi localement.

« Soyons sérieux, Stanton. Tu ne crois pas que je puisse être un bon président pour le Liberia ? Je peux me mesurer à Weah, et cela arrivera. Parlons franchement », a conclu M. Snowe.

## Starts from page 8 **Le Koweït mènera la mobilisation de fonds**

contractée précédemment. Ce nouvel accord permet de lever la suspension des décaissements imposée début 2023 en raison de retards répétés dans le remboursement d’un prêt de 14 millions USD accordé en 2016 à l’Autorité portuaire nationale.

Le Fonds koweïtien s’est ainsi engagé à débloquent les fonds précédemment gelés, permettant ainsi la reprise rapide des travaux sur le tronçon Gbarnga-Salayea. Par ailleurs, les deux parties ont convenu d’accorder une priorité à la mobilisation de 76 millions USD nécessaires à la réalisation de deux composantes clés : la construction de 50 km de route entre Konia et Voinjama (estimée à 65 millions USD), et l’ajout d’une couche supplémentaire d’asphalte

sur 81 km pour un coût d’environ 11 millions USD.

Une rencontre stratégique est prévue la semaine prochaine en marge des réunions de printemps du FMI et de la Banque mondiale à Washington D.C., entre la délégation libérienne et le groupe de bailleurs dirigé par le Fonds koweïtien.

Il convient de rappeler que le même Fonds koweïtien avait déjà dirigé en 2016 le groupement de bailleurs ayant financé le tronçon Gbarnga-Salayea de ce vaste projet d’infrastructure.

Par ailleurs, le gouvernement du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai avait récemment obtenu l’engagement de la Banque africaine de développement pour le financement du segment Voinjama-Mendikorma.

En marge de ces avancées, la

délégation libérienne prévoit également d’approfondir ses discussions avec les autorités portuaires koweïtiennes ainsi que d’autres responsables dans le but de renforcer les relations bilatérales entre les deux pays.

Enfin, les autorités libériennes ont exprimé leur vive reconnaissance au gouvernement et au peuple koweïtiens pour leur soutien constant au développement des infrastructures nationales, notamment dans le secteur crucial de la connectivité routière.

La délégation a aussi saisi l’occasion pour solliciter le soutien du Koweït à la candidature du Liberia à un siège non permanent au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies.

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## LIBERIANS

## DEBATE

## Topic: President Boakai's statement about criticism

By Naneka Hoffman

At a dinner hosted for the Liberian media last week Thursday, April 10, 2025, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai said criticism against his government is not a threat to democracy, assuring that under his presidency, Liberia will have no political prisoner, no press suppression. But public reactions to the President's comments are mixed, as you may read below from a random sampling conducted by the NEW DAWN in Monrovia.



Samuel K.J. Pokai

"The president was right; criticism is not threat to democracy; criticism is a value for democracy. I mean you can't say you are a president and you

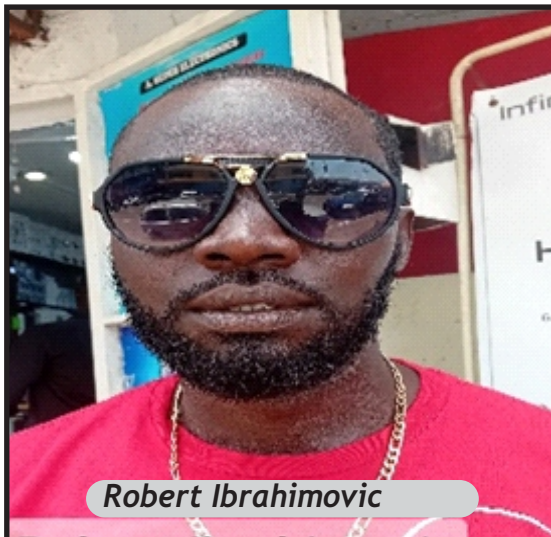
don't expect for people to criticize; let's take for example, we as fathers, our wives sometimes disagreed with us; our children do, so if you come to national leadership, not everybody will be agree with you, of course they will criticize in some ways that you are going, and that criticism will also put you in check, so that you will recognize your mistakes President Boakai means it, which one of the political individuals being arrested because they criticize him? Of course not."



Alfred Kromah

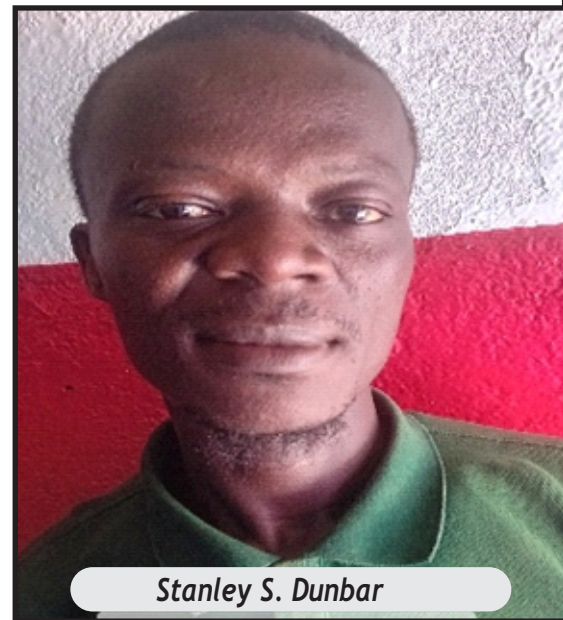
"President Boakai's statement that criticism is not a threat to democracy proves that the President is mature; he is honest and he is more civilized when it comes to Freedom of Speech. He has just proved to the world that he respects freedom of speech and he respects freedom of movement; and he respects rule of law that's why he made that statement."

"The statement made by President Boakai on the media dinner night is anti-productive, and it doesn't match the actions of the government and Boakai himself. Boakai had dismissed people on the basis of criticisms; Boakai dismissed Matthew Nyanplu for criticizing the foreign ministry issue; the next day, he was dismissed. People went to Kanjor to protest on the basis of bad labor and Boakai instructed his police to go and kill people; people have been taken from jobs in the basis of criticism."



Robert Ibrahimovic

"It is not too strange to me, to hear that statement from President Joseph N. Boakai, because I know that type of man. We elected him to power to represent the Liberian people, so when you hear him making that statement, he is a man, who respects democracy. So the freedom of expression, he will allow that to happen among our people, so that all Liberians can live in peace and harmony. When it comes to journalists coming with issues against the government, we accept it because in life, if you don't accept criticism, you will not live a better life, so you need to accept criticism in order to live a better life. Joseph N. Boakai is



Stanley S. Dunbar

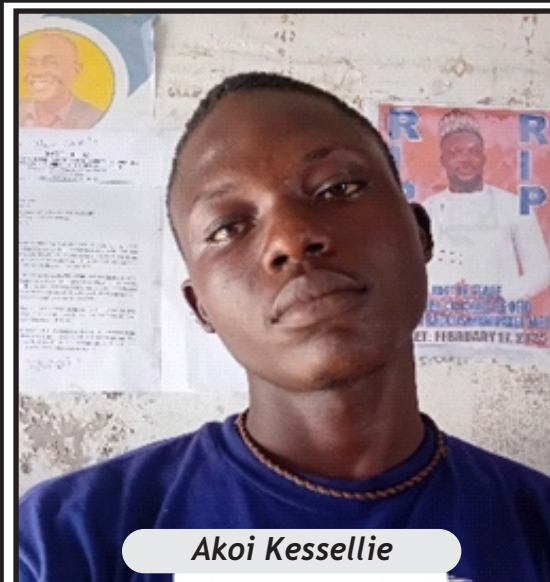
always willing to learn from his critics, whatever suggestion his critics will bring up, he will work along with them."



Rudolph G. Gborkeh

"I agreed with the President; criticism empowers you to build on your mistakes; it corrects the

ills of the past, so I agreed with President Boakai 100%; criticism is no threat to democracy. Saying it, and doing it, is two different things. If President Boakai says criticism is not threat to democracy and he standby that then he is being democratic. But if he says criticism is not a threat to democracy and he doesn't want to encourage criticism then it means that we get it out of our back; I don't want to believe that he is encouraging it; Matthew Nyanplu criticized a minister in UP and UP suspended him."



Akoi Kessellie

"I will agree with President Boakai on his statement, on what he said at the media dinner, if only he will continue to do what he said that criticism is not a threat to democracy, because making statement and doing it is two different things. Presidents come to power and make so many statements that they can't go by, so we are stay waiting to see what President Boakai said, if he really means it by doing it in his regime."

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# I'll never dedicate a hand pump again

President Boakai expresses a change of mind here, saying that he would never perform dedication of hand pump projects, because they do not align with Liberia's aspirations.

Stephen G. Fellajuah

Paynesville, Liberia, April 15, 2025 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai says here that he will no longer participate in



Pres. Boakai

dedication of hand pumps, noting that such action no longer aligns with the nation's aspirations after 178 years of Independence. The declaration follows a recent event where President Boakai inaugurated a mini-water supply system in Bopolu City, Gbarpolu County. "I said, for me, we will never dedicate hand pumps again. Because for 178 years, we have passed that age," President Boakai states firmly at dedication of a newly- renovated Rehab Broad Street Market in Paynesville.

The President emphasizes the importance of meaningful development, stating that it's time to do things properly for the benefit of the people. He also stresses that he does not want his name on any public project, declaring that he was

elected to serve, not to seek praises.

"Our job is to improve the lives of the people, to give them decent facilities. I don't want my name on anything.

This is not the first time; we've done the same in parts of Lofa County and other areas," he recalls. Mr. Boakai pledges that his administration would focus on improving infrastructure, especially roads and access to clean water. He vows to prioritize "farm-to-market" roads to help farmers transport their goods, enabling them to earn a living and support their children's education.

"We're going to make good roads, ensure access to safe drinking water, and use the country's money to build up our people", he says, and continues: "We cannot keep going to other countries for a better life. God has given us everything we need. It's time to build this country for the future."

President Boakai encourages all Liberians to actively contribute to national development, urging them to appreciate good initiatives and support the ongoing work.

The event, held on April 14, 2025, brought together officials of government, including authorities of the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC), the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA), and members of the public. Cytarus G. Dahn, Coordinator of the Presidential Special Project, provides an overview of the market renovation, noting that marketers had written to President Boakai, requesting assistance. In response, her team engaged several partners, including NOCAL, the National Port Authority (NPA), and NASSCORP, among others, that contributed a total of US\$98,000 to the project. She says other markets across Liberia are also slated to benefit under the Presidential Special Project, which is being implemented by Cytarus Initiative.

Madam Elizabeth Finda Sambollah, National President of the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA), expresses gratitude, calling the initiative a clear demonstration of the President's commitment to market women across the country. She appeals for additional support, including a new site for the ELWA Market and more projects in Paynesville and beyond.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

## ALCOP backs off on UP Kogar's endorsement

Tension appears to be brewing slowly within the Unity Party Alliance more than 16 months following the 2023 general and presidential elections, as one member of the Alliance considers withdrawal.

By Lincoln G. Peters

The All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP), a constituent member of the ruling Unity Party, has distance itself and rejected the Unity Party Alliance purported endorsement of Nimba County senatorial candidate Samuel Kogar. Nimbians are currently gearing up for a crucial senatorial by-election slated for April 22, 2025 in a move to replace late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson who died following a brief illness. According to the National Election Commission, there are eight candidates currently aspiring for the seat, as campaign activities expected to end Sunday, April 20, 2025. The ruling Unity Party has twenty constituent parties as Alliance members, for which the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction of Vice President Jeremiah K. Kounk and Senatorial candidate, Samuel Kogar and domiment Muslim All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP), and others are members.

grassroot supporters in Nimba County, the decision was said to have reflected the commitment of Alliance members to support individuals who embody the principles of service to the nation and community development.

But, responding to the endorsement on Monday, April 14, 2025 on a local talkshow in Monrovia, Mr. Musa M. B. Kenneh, a Stewart of ALCOP, providing update on the party's just ended National Retreat described the endorsement statement read by Unity Party Secretary General Amos Tweh in Nimba County over the weekend as a complete falsehood and misrepresentation of collective agreement.

According to him, at no point in time, did the Unity Party and its alliance members ever took a decision to support representative Kogar for the upcoming by-election, while maintaining that ALCOP will not support Kogar.

"I listen to the Unity Party Secretary General Amos Tweh



Starts from page 6

## Rwandan Commissioner shares

cases, promoting accountability while encouraging forgiveness and unity. Madam Mbabazi emphasized that the system helped uncover the truth about what happened and laid the foundation for Rwanda's stability and

development. She encouraged Liberian students to reflect on Rwanda's journey and consider the importance of locally driven solutions to conflict and governance challenges. For her part, the President of Cuttington University, Dr. Romelle A. lives.

Horton, expressed gratitude to Madam Mbabazi for her visit and inspirational message. She urged students to apply the lessons shared during the engagement to their personal and academic lives.

Starts from page 6

## Youth and Sports unveils \$1 Million

expenses.

The Cadet Program has seen significant growth since its inception, expanding from 75 participants in its first year to 150 this year, focusing more on young women and people with disabilities to promote inclusive development. It is part of the UNDP's broader Livelihood and Employment Creation Project, backed by a

\$7.8 million investment, designed to combat poverty and inequality while enhancing sustainable income-generating activities across Liberia.

The government aims to include 300 youths this year, reaching all 15 sub-political divisions of the country, despite challenges related to

reduced donor funding. The 5-year \$7.8m project was launched on May 13, 2021. To date, 322 youths have benefited from the Cadet Program, with a 51% female participation rate and a notable retention of 57.1% among employed female cadets. Press Release

Over the weekend, the Unity Party (UP) Alliance endorsed representative Samuel G. Kogar as its candidate for the upcoming Nimba County Senatorial by-election and urged all partisans, members, sympathizers, and citizens of Nimba County to rally behind him and cast their votes in his favor.

According to the party in a statement captioned "Unity Party Alliance endorsement" said that the announcement follows a series of well-attended meetings at the Unity Party headquarters, where executives from the Unity Party and its Alliance member parties recently convened.

And based on extensive consultations with party leaders, stakeholders, and

reading an endorsement statement on behalf of the Unity Party Alliance in Nimba County pledging support to Kogar. I want to emphatically state that this is false and misleading. That statement is just part of the many falsehoods and unilateral decision that the Unity Party continue to make by disrespecting this alliance and agreement. ALCOP will not honour this because at no point in time did we ever take such decision least to say a consensus. This was done by the UP alone and not the alliance because we are not aware." Mr. Kenneh stated.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kenneh providing update and decision from the Party just ended



## - Information Minister Piah vows

*By: Kruah Thompson*

event designed to foster engagement between the presidency and journalists to dialogue on the state of the press freedom and government - media relationship. Addressing dozens of media

Addressing dozens of media



“While news editorials have the potential to create tension in the country, they also have the

“Many media practitioners love and care for the profession, but it still needs