



CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES

LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025	L\$197.9645/US\$1.00	L\$200.9528/US\$1.00

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



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FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

Ellen, Taylor endorse h-Gonglo



Gracious Ride case closed

-Focus shifts to business

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Ambassador Nora Finda Bundoo

Continental News

Gambian ex-soldier convicted responsibility for his crimes in

has been convicted on torture charges by a US court for his involvement in crimes committed while feared strongman Yahya Jammeh was in power in the West African country.

former Gambian soldier the US in 2019 for overstaying his visa, three years after settling in Denver where he reportedly worked as a day labourer. The 46vear-old was charged in 2020 with torture and conspiracy to commit the torture of at least six people in The Gambia under a



Michael Sang Correa was found guilty of being part of a while serving under a military unit known as the "Junglers".

"The torture inflicted by Michael Sang Correa and his coconspirators is abhorrent," the Justice Department said.It follows a week-long trial in Denver, Colorado, under a rarely used law that prosecutes crimes committed outside the US.Correa was first detained in Correa "tried to evade

seldom-used law that allows people to be tried by the US conspiracy to commit torture judicial system for torture against suspected opponents allegedly committed abroad. He is the first non-US citizen to be convicted on torture charges in a federal district court for crimes committed overseas, according to the Department of Justice. The law has only been used twice since it was enacted in 1994 but both of the previous cases were brought against US citizens. The Department of Justice said

US-Somali airstrike as

The Gambia by coming to the US and hiding his past".

"But we found him, we investigated him," said Matthew Galeotti, head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. The evidence at trial showed that Correa and his fellow Junglers tortured five people accused of plotting a coup against Jammeh.The victims, including high-profile members of Jammeh's inner circle who fell out with him, told the jury how they were tortured by being electrocuted and smothered with plastic bags."Correa and his coconspirators beat, stabbed, burned, and electrocuted the victims," the Justice Department said. Prosecutors on Tuesday said Correa "played an integral role in inflicting this torture on the victims".He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison for each of the five torture counts and the count of conspiracy to commit torture, the Justice Department said.

His lawyers had argued that Correa was a low-ranking soldier who only obeyed orders from his superiors.But while the jury agreed that there was evidence that the Junglers lived in "constant fear," prosecutors said at trial that some Junglers had refused to obey orders to torture

battle rages for key town he US and Somalia have The African Union-led information ministry said. carried out an airstrike peacekeeping force helped push "The targeted strike hit a site

against Islamist militants the jihadists onto the defensive used by the militants as a Yabaal, in the Middle Shabelle in 2016 before being recaptured

launchpad for military US Africa Command (Africom) on Wednesday after al-Shabab "aimed to neutralize the threat fighters raided the town, using

during a battle for control of a in 2022 and 2023, but the group gathering and hideout," it said, strategic central town, the remains a big threat despite adding: "Importantly there were government says. The "well- numerous military operations no civilian casualties." Adan coordinated" strike on Adan against it. Yabaal, north of the capital The Somali government insists region, was seized by al-Shabab Mogadishu, came hours after the group has been weakened.

al-Shabab raided the town The airstrike late on Wednesday by government forces in 2022. which is used as a key by Somali armed forces and the Heavy fighting broke out early Among the 12 militants killed posed" by militants, the heavy explosives.BBC

Al-Shabab has in recent months regrouped and launched a series of counter-attacks (file photo)

US issues warning over new **Zambian cyber-security law**

law introduced in the southern result of an offence. African country.

new law that requires the prescribed. interception and surveillance Offenders may be fined or jailed for country".

'critical information,' a term communications. tackle online fraud and child alert on Facebook. pornography, as well as the "As this new law introduces an spread

he US embassy in computer or computer system Zambia has warned its containing material that is either citizens to be wary of a evidence necessary to prove an new "intrusive" cyber-security offence or acquired by a person as a

It also allows the government to The embassy issued an alert extradite Zambians deemed to have telling Americans "in or committed any offence under the planning to visit Zambia of a law, with a range of jail terms

of all electronic between five and 15 years, communications in the depending on the crime they have committed. Among other provisions, This includes calls, emails, the legislation requires Information texts and streamed content and Communication Technology "in-country to assess if they (ICT) companies to proactively include any transmission of intercept all electronic

the law defines so broadly that It was signed into law by President it could apply to almost any Hakainde Hichilema on 8 April with activity", the embassy very little publicity and the first says.Zambia's government many Zambians knew about it was said the law was needed to when the US embassy posted its

of intrusive surveillance ecosystem disinformation. Following the significantly different from privacy alert from the US embassy, protection provisions that prevail in Zambia's foreign ministry many countries, the embassy of the released a statement saying United States encourages Americans that the new Cyber Security living in Zambia or considering Act was "not intended to visiting the country to carefully invade any person's privacy" - assess the implications of this law



The government has sought to reassure Zambians and foreigners

foreigners.

"classification of 'critical corruption in the government. Zambians have expressed new law "tyrannical". concern that a new cyber- "Until Edward Snowden revealed the

whether Zambians or and adjust accordingly," the US statement said.

'The Law does not authorize The alert came as a surprise to many mass or random surveillance. as the US has widely been seen to Any interception or data enjoy a warm relationship with the request requires a court- Hichilema-led administration, issued warrant," it said. The although the ambassador has statement added that the recently been critical of alleged

information'" referred to Zambia had enjoyed a frosty national security, "and any relationship with the US after the assessments or actions taken former government expelled its are carried out by authorized pro-gay rights ambassador Daniel institutions, in line with due Foote in 2019 but relations had process". There are fears that improved since Hichilema was the law could be use against elected in 2021. Social commentator anyone who criticises the and civil rights activist Laura Miti government, especially with accused the US embassy of elections due next year. Some "hypocrisy", while also labelling the

security unit is being set up in matter, the US secretly surveilled its the president's office. The new citizens for years. He remains in measure empowers a law exile and one of the most wanted enforcement officer with a people by American law warrant to enter any premises enforcement," she wrote on to search and seize a Facebook.BBC

Islamist state.

attacks, including one that targeted President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's convoy last

month.Al-Shabab, which controls large parts of southern and central Somalia, has been

operations.

fighting the government for nearly 20 years. It seeks to

in the airstrike were several

senior fighters from the al-

Qaeda-linked group, the

Somali information ministry

The latest fighting comes amid

fears of a jihadist resurgence in

Somalia after growing militant

said in a statement on X.

overthrow the federal government and establish an

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 I 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.

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By Shang-Jin Wei

How Might China Manage rump's Tariff War

prolonged trade war?

(10%) US tariffs, on February 1 and March 3, compliance. and that did not prevent Trump from adding another 34% levy on April 2.

Agreement in December 2019, the US market. retained 20% tariffs on Chinese goods.

would try a different strategy this time?

A second reason concerns "face" (as in erecting new barriers. "saving face"), which is important in Chinese toughness.

can tariff more of its goods than vice versa. tax cuts and consumption subsidies. But this argument may have backfired, by and buy our opium?

concessions to the US. Since the high US of what the US does. tariffs could cause Chinese producers to thus could function as a deterrent against International and Public Affairs. such moves.

China is hoping that the turmoil in US

EW YORK - China has taken a tough financial markets will persuade Trump to stance against US President Donald change course. But its strategy could also Trump, matching the last two rounds trigger further US escalation. The bipartisan of US tariffs with tariffs of its own. The US anti-China sentiment in Washington may be tariff on goods from China is now 145%, while strong enough to allow the administration to China's is 125%. Why does China take such a stay the course, even if it proves painful to US position, and are there any off-ramps that households and firms. Moreover, losing access would allow it to mitigate the costs of a to the US market may add pressure to an already weakening Chinese economy.

There are three plausible reasons why China So, are there off-ramps in this game of has responded this way so far. First, Chinese chicken? One option is for China to follow the leaders may believe that negotiation at this Europeans in offering zero tariffs on US goods, stage will not produce a satisfactory as well as committing to policy reforms to outcome. They regard the US approach as reduce other market-distorting barriers if the akin to a kidnapper: any concession could US does the same. China could even propose a just invite more hostage taking. After all, third-party monitoring mechanism - such as a China already abstained from responding in panel of experts appointed by other World kind to two earlier rounds of incremental Trade Organization members - to ensure

A second option is to reinforce trading relations with other countries as leverage. The Chinese can see that Mexico and Canada Since many are concerned about Chinese are also being hit with new US tariffs, even export diversion from the US market, China though they agreed to Trump's first-term could promise an import diversion: goods that demand to renegotiate the North American it used to buy from US producers can now Free Trade Agreement. Similarly, following come from other countries. China is already the first Trump administration's tariffs on the world's second-largest importing country, China in March 2018, the Chinese agreed to and it could well claim first place if the US purchase more from the US, only to be met follows through with its "reciprocal" tariffs on by even higher tariffs on a wider range of the rest of the world. Thus, any country that goods. Although they acceded to the introduces higher export barriers against unfavorable terms of the so-called Phase One China could risk losing a crucial export

China can also reduce its trade barriers on The Chinese also consider it unfair for the US goods from other countries, as it did during to refuse to sell them goods that they really the first Trump administration, and it could do want - such as advanced semiconductors and a better job of advertising its International other technology-intensive products - while Import Expo. While most countries have compelling them to buy more of the goods export-promotion agencies, China may be (soybeans) that they could obtain at a better unique in having a major state-sponsored price elsewhere. Is it any surprise that they exhibition devoted to imports. In the current context, the expo could promote more imports from countries that refrain from

culture. The Chinese may suspect that Trump Third, to reduce its trade surplus, China needs looks down on foreign leaders who come to to find more effective ways to boost domestic beg for lower tariffs. After all, he recently consumption. A fundamental reorientation of boasted that foreign governments were its saving-consumption balance would require "kissing my ass." At the same time, Trump is structural reforms to its social safety net, known to admire foreign leaders who exhibit financial system, and gender balance, implying a multiyear process. While China could pursue macroeconomic stimulus in the US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wants to short run, recent efforts have had only mixed persuade the Chinese with the following results. What China really needs is much more logic: You should capitulate, as you are in a aggressive monetary easing combined with weaker position than the US, because the US fiscal measures that include temporary sales-

reminding Chinese of the British position There is a very small chance that the US would during the 1839-42 Opium war. The message accept an offer of zero-for-zero tariffs, at then was: Our guns have a much longer range least for now. But a combination of trade than yours, so why don't you just capitulate reform, macroeconomic stimulus, and other structural measures to boost consumption and reduce net exports should be on the table Finally, the Chinese may worry about an anyway. Such an approach would be good for unfavorable spillover effect from making both China and the world economy, regardless

divert some of their exports to other Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at markets, many other countries are already the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of considering their own additional tariffs on Finance and Economics at Columbia Business Chinese goods. A tough response to the US School and Columbia University's School of

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Lord, Ley Papay moh wake up again

Dear Father:

Ley Papay moh bear gee again? Him say, him na dedicating no hand pump again-our village na pass hand pump place.

Bor wait ooh, da who make ley Oldman vex so?

Father, ehn da that orlor conned man who come make ley Oldman drive from here for 10 hours just to go dedicate one small kenen, kene hand pump in one lay village.

And ever since thing, ley Papay too ya, him can really hurl-lay

Bor da small thing. Ley man go make ley Oldman drive way to da far place jus to show him that kene kene thin. And they say what make ley Oldman vex more is ley way ley man lied through him teeth.

Da small money ley man moh call again-ley man say da small thing cost hundreds of thousands of Unice Sam's money.

You joking!

Yes, ooh, Father. They say da ley one really made ley Oldman vex. Bor him jus decided to let da one slide. They say da why after all those times, him come bring it back in him speech to warn him. So, if him know, him know.

So, this Oldman know that him people can just be pushing

him around some funny, funny project them ehn.

Father, him know ooh. Bor, we don't know why him jus allowing them to be doing some funny, funny thing them around here.

Just imaging your man saying ley amount him spent on that thing that can't ever water one person farm, before you say a town.

Bor da it na Gowerment job sweet.

Father, da na lie ooh, da small free money ley people can be eating. And ley people them who can be doing ley hard, hard part can see ley money sef.

Anyway, Father, leh talk so, and talk so oo. Ehn da ley same Oldman who said he can even ride wheelbarrow to work. Have you seen him latest convoy ley entire village talking about?

Aaah, they say one of him car price can buy medicine for 5 clinics in a town for 6 years and take care of 20 village schools for 5 years.

You joking my son!

Father, da na joke oo. Ley Oldman car can even go to war front and all. They say, it can even deter bomb.

Wait oo, your still fighting war in your village? Father, da ley question everybody asking here oo. So, tell me na, ley man who say him can even ride wheelbarrow to work can go buy ley most expensive car ever for our village Chief in Chief, then da him will hold him word?

Ehn da bad ley village people go do. We here, we moving.



WRITE TO DAILY OBSERVER

AML expresses concern

pril 14, 2025

The Editor-in-Chief Daily Observer Newspaper Monrovia, Liberia

Subject: Misleading and Inaccurate Reporting on April 10, 2025, Edition - "ArcelorMittal Defies Liberian Government"

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We write on behalf of ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) to express our deep concern and strong objection to the article published in your April 10, 2025, edition under the sensational headline: "ArcelorMittal Defies Liberian Government." The article is factually misleading and inaccurate. It grossly misrepresents AML's conduct in relation to the Government of Liberia's ongoing engagements concerning access to rail infrastructure and the proposed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) by Ivanhoe Atlantic within AML's concession area.

Let us be absolutely clear: ArcelorMittal Liberia has never defied the Government of Liberia. We remain a law-abiding corporate partner, committed to honoring our Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) with the Government, and continuing our constructive engagement with relevant authorities, including the Ministries of Mines & Energy, Transport, and the National Investment Commission. The request made contradicts the procedure agreed-to in the current MDA that AML has with the Government of Liberia. The Third Amendment to the MDA has provisions that would enable such requests, but that Amendment has not been concluded.

The article's central claim, that AML obstructed a government-sanctioned ESIA, is both misleading and inflammatory. AML's decision not to grant Ivanhoe access to its Tokadeh mining area was not an act of defiance, but a decision grounded in the legal provisions of the MDA. No provision within the current MDA allows an unauthorized third-party access to the active mining zones, and none of the Government's communications provided a legal instrument to override that contractual stipulation. Moreover, the Ministry of Mines and Energy's letter requesting AML's cooperation was received on March 18, 2025, one day after the proposed commencement of the ESIA (March 17-21), effectively making timely review, coordination and response impossible. The Daily Observer's article failed to present this crucial timeline, instead implying that AML ignored pre-existing and legally binding instructions, which is factually incorrect.

AML's CEO responded formally to the Ministry of Mines & Energy in a letter dated March 21, 2025, clearly outlining the legal concerns surrounding Ivanhoe's ESIA request and reiterating AML's willingness to engage in constructive dialogue to explore mutually agreeable solutions. The response also reaffirmed AML's support for a multiuser rail system—an effort we continue to promote through lawful, negotiated frameworks that respect both our MDA rights and the Government's policy direction.

AML has also received a letter from the National Investment Commission on March 14, 2025, which acknowledged AML's concerns, affirmed our legal position under the MDA, and confirmed that these matters were under review by the Inter-Ministerial Concessions Committee with advice from the Ministry of Justice. Contrary to the article's assertions, Ivanhoe's ESIA team was not "blocked" arbitrarily. They conducted assessments in Buchanan, along the rail corridor, and near border areas—areas outside AML's sensitive operational zones. The only restricted zone was the Tokadeh mine, an active and hazardous worksite where access requires rigorous legal, technical, and safety coordination.

It is disappointing that a newspaper of your stature chose to amplify anonymous commentary and speculative assertions, while disregarding readily available documentary evidence from AML and the Government. The piece leans heavily into provocative language, such as describing AML as a "State within a State," which undermines objective journalism and serves no constructive purpose in a complex national dialogue about shared infrastructure use. We respectfully request that the Daily Observer take steps to correct the public record by publishing this clarification with equal prominence in your next edition. We remain open to further dialogue with your editorial team should you seek balance and factual accuracy in future reporting.

AML stands by its record as Liberia's largest and long term foreign investor, a significant contributor to national revenue, and an employer of thousands of Liberians. We continue to support infrastructure sharing, lawful collaboration, and the Government's vision for multiuser rail access, so long as it is implemented through structured, transparent, and legally sound processes. Let facts—not sensationalism—guide our national conversations. Let the law—not conjecture—determine our actions. And let mutual respect—not misinformation—govern our partnerships.

Sincerely,
Winston Daryou
Communications Manager
ArcelorMittal Liberia

ARTICLE

After 2 years of conflict Sudan's health System faces collapse as rainy season nears 5 April 2025, Cairo, Egypt - Two years into control. With immunization campaigns disrupted, among displaced populations.

breaking point. As the rainy season looms the country faces a perfect storm of disease Malnutrition is surging, particularly among young outbreaks, malnutrition and collapsing is running dry.

need humanitarian assistance, including over 20 million in urgent need of health services. But insecurity, shortage of life-saving medicines and medical supplies and repeated attacks on health facilities and personnel have made access to care and aid nearly impossible for millions. Hospitals have shut their doors or erode any remaining capacity to deliver care.

the conflict, Sudan's health system is at children are dying from preventable diseases.

children and mothers. Famine has been confirmed in services at a time when humanitarian access is at least 5 areas, and projections indicate expansion dangerously restricted and funding for health in 17 areas with 24.6 million people - half the population - expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025, including 770 000 children Today, more than 30 million people in Sudan under 5 estimated to suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

> Since April 2023, WHO has verified 156 attacks on health care, which have killed 318 people and injured 273. These attacks are blatant violations of international humanitarian law and continue to

WHO has also delivered over 2,250 metric tons of medical supplies to Sudan's 18 states since the start of the conflict in April 2023, including via cross-border operations from Chad and South Sudan.

Additionally, WHO's work with the Ministry of Health in Sudan goes beyond humanitarian support towards development. Recently, the Sudan Health Assistance and Response in Emergencies (SHARE) project was launched, marking a strategic partnership between WHO, the World Bank, the Sudan Ministry of Health, and UNICEF. The project aims to support the emergency, and development needs to restore the functionality of hospitals and primary health



are only partially functioning. People are dying medicines, vaccines and lifesaving services.

apart," said WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Balkhy. workers are under threat and disease is spreading in areas we can barely reach. The Stabilization centres supported by WHO have treated people."

The consequences are already visible. More than two-thirds of Sudan's states are battling 3 or more disease outbreaks at once, including WHO has also expanded support for the clinical cholera, dengue, measles and malaria, fuelled management and other lifesaving interventions and by the breakdown of surveillance, mental health and psychosocial support to survivors

injuries and the daily lack of essential its partners are doing everything possible to deliver. services and support health systems functions. Since the conflict began, WHO-supported health services have reached over 1 million patients and "This crisis is tearing Sudan's health system helped sustain 52 hospitals across Sudan's 18 states. More than 10 million children have been vaccinated against measles and rubella, 11.5 million against "Hospitals have run out of supplies; health polio and nearly 12.8 million people against cholera.

rainy season will multiply the health risks while close to 50 000 children suffering from severe acute further restricting access to those in need. We malnutrition with medical complications. In need urgent access and funding to provide November 2024, with WHO support, Sudan launched essential care to millions of vulnerable the malaria vaccine for the first time, targeting 148 000 children in Gedaref and Blue Nile states over 1year period, more than 35 000 of whom have been vaccinated in the 4 months since November.

vaccinations, clean water systems and vector of gender-based and sexual violence, particularly

from diseases, malnutrition, conflict-related Despite these unprecedented constraints, WHO and res to provide essential health and nutrition

But the scale of need is still far outpacing the response.

In 2025, WHO has a US\$ 135 million-worth response plan, one-fifth of which is funded, only a fraction of what is urgently needed.

"Sudan's brave health workers are achieving the impossible with almost nothing," said Dr Balkhy. "They need protection, safe access and the tools to save lives. Time is running out."

WHO urgently calls on all parties to the conflict in Sudan to ensure unimpeded, sustained humanitarian access and to respect international humanitarian law. Health care is a human right. but in Sudan today it is a lifeline at risk of being severed.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Captain Jerry Kollie accuses Sen. Moye of tearing Bong apart

2025

-Warns of 'disaster' if re-elected" comes 2029 Senator Moye and

By Edwin N. Khakie

appearance on a local radio Melvin Cole. He identified Captain Jerry Kerkulah criticized Senator Moye for major factor contributing to Kollie has launched his what he described as "self- the tension at the House of



Moye, accusing him of fuelling leaders in the region. Kollie division among the county's linked the current disunity in

the county to longstanding efforts," Kollie stated. Speaking during a radio political friction between

Kollie dismissed it as 'doomed to fail."

"Moye should first reconcile County Senator Prince K. emerged among prominent the county's legislative caucus before initiating any county-wide reconciliation

Representative Josiah barnga-Bong County - station in Gbarnga, Kollie this unresolved conflict as a Development (AAID). first political attack on Bong styled divisions" that have Representatives and the broader political unrest in Bong. The former District #2 representative claimed that Senator Moye has repeatedly played a divisive role in the county's politics. He warned that if Moye is re-elected in 2029, Bong County could face catastrophic consequences. Commenting on the recently formed reconciliatory committee led by Senator Moye and Superintendent Norris

GOL, partners hold retreat

The Government of Liberia and its development partners held a highlevel retreat on Thursday, April 18, to realign their strategies and reinforce coordination for the successful implementation of the country's National Development Plan, the Arrest Agenda for Inclusive

By Lewis S. Teh

being held at the Ministerial \$300 million that has brought a Complex in Congo Town under the level of unpredictability to our theme "Strengthening planning." Partnerships for the Ngafuan acknowledged that the Implementation of Liberia's entire landscape of official National Plan."

government officials, heads of "backpedaling" due to internal diplomatic missions, international financial pressures. Still, he development agencies, civil affirmed Liberia's commitment society actors, and the private to driving the AAID forward, sector.

for the government to present the Arrest Agenda is estimated at priorities and implementation \$8.38 billion, covering more status of the ARREST Agenda, than 370 critical interventions which focuses on Agriculture, across all sectors," he said. Roads, Rule of Law, Education, "From infrastructure to water, Sanitation, and Tourism. we are moving with speed, vim Development partners, in turn, and vigor." provided feedback and discussed how their support could align He cited specific goals such as

have been cancelled, with the he retreat, dubbed the exception of two," he revealed. Government-Development "The total cost of the cancelled Partners Retreat (G-DPR), is projects could be upwards of

development assistance is The forum brings together senior shifting, with many partners despite the headwinds.

The retreat provided a platform "The cost of implementing the

more closely with the reducing multidimensional poverty from 45% to 36% and

homegrown medical facility emerges By Stephen G. Fellajuah

the face of serious illness. Center (WPMC), a state-of- center. the-art facility officially "I've seen too many people full-fledged Wellness customer-centered, world- in 2009, the early inspiration class services, all provided by | Liberian professionals. Its offerings range from advanced laboratory diagnostics to outpatient care and medical screenings for international

visa applicants. WPMC's practices are in line with national and international standards and are supported by technologies sourced from the U.S., Europe, and Asia. From the outset, the center has been designed to restore trust in Liberia's

medical system.

The official launch ceremony behind what would ealth care challenges brought together distinguished eventually become Wellness have long stood in the guests, including former Partners. In 2021, she way of Liberia's President Ellen Johnson returned to Liberia with the national development. With Sirleaf, health sector leaders, goal of building a system limited access to quality staff, and the general public. that met international medical services, many The event not only marked a standards but remained Liberians have found major milestone in health care accessible and reliable for themselves traveling abroad or delivery but also celebrated all Liberians. relying on prayer and hope in the vision and leadership that She began with Wellness made it possible. At the heart Partners Clinic, a small pilot But a new chapter is unfolding, of WPMC is Dr. Nicole Cooper, that tested health care one driven by local leadership, the facility's Medical Director. delivery models, global standards, and a bold A passionate health leader, affordability, and customer commitment to change. Enter who shared the journey that care strategies. From those the Wellness Partners Medical led to the creation of the humble beginnings, the

opened to the public in praying outside hospital Partners Medical Center. Monrovia on April 17, 2025. rooms, hoping that everything "We're different," she said. More than just a center, WPMC aligns just to save a life," she "We invest in our people, is a symbol of what's possible said. "Too many are forced to prioritize quality and safety, when Liberians come together leave the country for basic and put transparency at the to tackle systemic issues with health care because they don't center of what we do." "Our homegrown solutions. Located trust that it can be done here." vision is bold yet simple: to along the Congo Town back That reality, Dr. Cooper become the safest, most road, WPMC delivers safe, explained, planted a seed back

initiative expanded into the

CONT'D ON PAGE 7





government's priorities.

Delivering the welcome address and overview of the retreat at the EJS Ministerial Complex in oldest Liberia into a lower-middle-Congo Tow,n Finance and income category. Ngafuan Development Planning Minister emphasized that the Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan painted government is proactively a vivid picture of both the responding to the global shift by ambition and the challenges enhancing domestic resource facing the Boakai administration's mobilization and minimizing national agenda.

"On January 15, 2025, we gathered in the beautiful city of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, where His Excellency President processes to increase Joseph Nyuma Boakai formally efficiency," he said. He also launched the Arrest Agenda and highlighted Liberia's renewed the 15 County Development focus on regional integration as a Agendas," Ngafuan recalled. "This strategic path toward economic agenda encapsulates the resilience. "Whether it's through ambitions of the Liberian people for development."However, the other mechanisms, we're taking Minister disclosed that just weeks regional cooperation more after the launch, Liberia's seriously than ever before," he development momentum was hit noted. "We've realized we're by a major setback: the less integrated with our unexpected withdrawal of support neighbors than with countries from one of its biggest donors.

"Nearly all projects supported by As the retreat opened, Ngafuan

USAID, our second-largest donor -

increasing GDP per capita from \$850 to \$1,050 by 2029—an important threshold to move

"We are rationalizing expenditure, reducing leakages and abuse, and digitizing ECOWAS, the African Union, or outside the continent."

called on development partners

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2025

reliable, and most convenient network of provider of health services, the private medical care in Africa," she told attendees. "This is what's possible when we believe in ourselves and build from the inside out." Representing the WPMC Board of Directors,

Mrs. Monique Cooper Liverpool echoed that sentiment, calling the center "a homegrown solution led by Liberian talent with worldclass expertise."

Also speaking at the event was Mrs. Sophie Parwon, CEO of Benson Hospital, who highlighted the growing contribution of the private sector in Liberia's health care ecosystem.

sector is increasingly stepping up, contributing to service delivery, financing, innovation, and capacity building," she said.Mrs. Parwon praised Dr. Cooper as a "public health icon" and called on government and development partners to strengthen support for private health initiatives that align with national priorities. As WPMC opens its doors, it does more than offer medical services. It offers hope, hope for a health care system where Liberians no longer need to look abroad for basic care, where dignity and quality go hand in hand, "While the government remains the main and where innovation is driven from within.

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AML empowers local farmers

The CEO also emphasized that this initiative started." ArcelorMittal is deeply committed to fostering selfreliance. "Yes, we will help. But we must also help ourselves. Let's work this land, keep this place clean and safe, and make Liagbala a model for what a thriving, empowered community looks like."

He continued, "My dream for Liagbala is that one day we take produce from here and put it on our train to export to the rest of aim is to support food security Richard Martin thanked the world. That's the challenge I and generate income for the ArcelorMittal Liberia for giving want us to take on."

According to Samuel Peter, a staff member of AML's Community development team, the project was inspired during a visit by Van Der Merwe to Liagbala last year.

"When the CEO came last year, he asked about the farming activities here. He said he's a farmer and a friend of farmers and encouraged the community to get into serious agriculture. The people responded that they were already farming but faced challenges."

Samuel explained that the community asked for basic tools, seeds, and other support. "They said if the company could help with those things, they would be happy to get involved more seriously. And the CEO said if they were willing to farm, he would support them. That's how small, but the vision is big. You

by sending a team to assess the can sell your fruit and community's preparedness and vegetables there. That puts the people of Liagbala presented real money in your pockets." a concept note and confirmed Meanwhile, the residents of the availability of five acres of Liagbala welcomed the land for vegetable cultivation. project with excitement and

include assorted farming tools, ArcelorMittal Liberia for its seeds, and other supplies will be continued presence and used to cultivate a variety of tangible support. vegetables. The project's dual Yarmein Paramount Chief community involved.

A Vision Beyond Farming Integrated Center for He said agriculture helps to Community Empowerment develop countries: We can't (RICCE), the local NGO depend on company everyday implementing the project, going asking for work with hailed the initiative as company will delay us. Open transformational and said your farm. Plant plantain and ArcelorMittal Liberia's CEO " is banana eddoes will build you talking about local production, and develop. Liagbala- you value addition, and even export. need to put power to That means year-round farming, implement what the people jobs, and prosperity for have given you. If you continue Liagbala."

"This is power to the people—use community will develop." it to the best of your ability," a AML's intervention in Liagbala representative stated during the reflects its broader donation.

Community Development growth, community Manager Eric Swen echoed that empowerment, and sentiment adding "Sustainable sustainable development development means working across Grand Bassa, Bong, and with the communities as Nimba counties. partners. This project may look

have your own market. We AML, he added then followed up have our AML canteen, and you The donated materials, which gratitude, praising

> support for agriculture to be done In Nimba County

to grow more food, the

commitment to inclusive

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answers, but we know that international partners." together, we can generate ideas Madam Umutoni pointed to the dynamic. We must be willing Umutoni, the United Nations Liberians in the diaspora. Resident Coordinator to Liberia, who praised the government for

globally.

nartners hold

development vision. "We have directly—through program strategies. not come here in retreat, but to budgeting, private sector "The challenges we face are plan. We don't have all the engagement, civil society, and complex and multifaceted;

of the Arrest Agenda," he financing and unlocking explore alternative financing said. Also speaking at the domestic potential, including mechanisms," Umutoni said.

its leadership in launching the a participant in development; it international partners shifting financial terrain growth, and job creation," she briefing by the Ministry of invaluable knowledge and evolving global financial "This retreat is an opportunity to financial resources that can help environment.

our responses must be equally

ongoing policy dialogues "The private sector is not merely between the government and

-Minister Piah damns structures built in wetial

Liberia's Information Minister, Jeremiah Matthew Piah, frowns on waves of constructions in wetlands across the country, terming the practice as total mess.

Affairs & Tourism, Jeremiah also being carried out in Matthew Piah, describes collaboration with the Liberia construction of structures in National Police and the wetlands across Montserrado Ministry of Justice. County a "total mess," stating The EPA warns that failure to that such actions directly violate comply with environmental the Environmental Protection regulations will lead to and Management Law of the enforcement actions, Republic of Liberia.

illegal practice, Minister Piah prosecution. The Agency stresses, "Before anyone builds highlights the crucial role in wetlands, they must comply wetlands play in Liberia's with Liberia's zoning laws." He climate resilience and disaster further emphasizes that no one risk reduction, especially in should construct in wetlands or preserving biodiversity and alleys, as these are protected preventing natural disasters.

address the problem, some environment and ensuring all people are being hesitant," he Liberians enjoy a clean and says, adding, "We have a leader ecologically balanced

By Stephen G. Fellajuah Public Works, and Liberia Land onrovia, Liberia, April Authority, launched a joint 18, 2025 - The Minister of demolition exercise here on Information, Culture April 16, 2025. The operation is

including demolitions, fines, Speaking strongly against the and potential legal

The EPA reaffirms its 'Now that we're taking steps to commitment to protecting the



committed to changing the environment. narrative and bringing It may be recalled that development to Liberia. In this President Joseph Nyuma process, no one is untouchable." Boakai appointed Dr. Piah further discloses that the Emmanuel K. Urey National Culture Center, where Yarkpawolo, Executive RLJ hotel complex now stands, Director of the EPA, to chair a was demolished by the newly formed Wetlands and to engage in "frank engage in deep dialogue on how shape Liberia's future."Shelgovernment, and 52 acres of Coastal Protection Task Force, conversations" and provide to strengthen partnerships," she also praised the government's land were secured to build a new under Executive Order No. innovative solutions to help said. "We must align our efforts willingness to embrace cultural center. However, that 143. This task force was Liberia stay on course with its to support Liberia's national plan dynamic and adaptive land, he notes, has been heavily established in response to encroached upon by squatters, increasing environmental leaving only 11 acres.

According to the Minister, coastal erosion, and climate government does not need to be change. "ready to develop the wetlands" President Boakai emphasized that will sustain the momentum importance of innovative to adapt, innovate, and before evicting illegal the urgency of the initiative, occupants. "Building in these warning that the continued areas is wrong, so we will destruction of wetlands, opening was Madam Christine N. through the private sector and The UN envoy commended remove the structures and waterways, and beachfronts develop the land when resources threatens both the become available."

AAID and acknowledged the is a catalyst for innovation, including the recent March Environmental Protection residents. Editing by Jonathan Agency (EPA) in partnership with Browne stressed. "Our diaspora carries Finance, which focused on the the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC), Monrovia City Corporation (MCC). Ministry of

threats such as pollution,

environment and the As part of this effort, the livelihoods of community

d'rançals

Nora Finda Bundoo rejette l'invitation de l'équipe de récupération des biens

■présidentiel, l'ambassadrice Nora Finda Bundoo, a décliné une convocation de la Task Force gouvernementale pour la récupération des biens et des propriétés, dénonçant un processus

'ancienne Cheffe du » et a exprimé sa ferme Depuis moins d'un an, Mme Protocole opposition à ce qu'elle considère comme une tentative politique de nuire à sa réputation.

> « Je ne vais pas me soumettre à une procédure de récupération d'actifs menée par une équipe qui joue à la fois le rôle d'accusateur et de juge. Si vous

Bundoo est sous pression après que l'équipe de récupération a saisi plusieurs véhicules de sa société de transport, Gracious Ride, sur fond d'accusations de fraude financière.

Dans une communication officielle datée du mardi 15 avril 2025, la Task Force a informé Mme Bundoo qu'elle fait l'objet d'une enquête pour conflits d'intérêts, vol de biens, mauvaise gestion de fonds publics, sabotage économique et blanchiment d'argent. Ces faits seraient liés à son implication présumée dans le groupe de sociétés Anita et sa filiale Gracious Ride.

Selon des documents obtenus par la Task Force, Mme Bundoo aurait apposé son nom, sa signature et son identité officielle sur des documents d'entreprise relatifs aux sociétés actuellement visées par

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



biaisé et à visée politique. Mme Bundoo, visée par des accusations de corruption, de crimes économiques et de vol, a qualifié <u>l'invitation de « grotesque</u>

avez des preuves, utilisez-les », a-t-elle déclaré à la Task Force.

« Ce sont là des manœuvres politiques destinées à salir mon nom, mais je reste déterminée et résiliente », a-t-elle ajouté.

<u>L'Evêque Samuel J. Quire condamne</u> fermement l'attaque meurtrière condamne fermement le

e président du Collège des Évêques **■**de la Conférence centrale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et évêque résident de la Conférence annuelle de l'Église Méthodiste Unie du Liberia, Mgr Samuel J. Quire Jr, s'est dit profondément attristé et gravement préoccupé par l'attaque violente survenue récemment contre des membres de l'Église Méthodiste Unie dans le district de Zailana

Dorofai, au Nigeria. Dans une déclaration officielle publiée ce jeudi, l'évêque Quire a condamné sans équivoque cette agression, qui a coûté la vie à un fidèle et fait quatre blessés graves. Selon les informations en provenance de la zone épiscopale de l'Église Méthodiste Unie au Nigeria, des membres de l'Église Méthodiste Globale (GMC), un groupe dissident, auraient fait irruption sur une propriété de l'Église à Zailani et

lancé une attaque non

provoquée. Ils ont

cependant été confrontés à une résistance des fidèles méthodistes unis présents sur les lieux.

L'agression a conduit à la mort tragique de M. Alhaji B. Sambo, un fidèle engagé, époux et père de trois enfants. Parmi les blessés figurent Mme Victoria Bawa Michael, veuve d'un ancien pasteur, ainsi que MM. Gideon Hamza, Bolyo Bitrus et Justice Mani, tous membres actifs de l'Église.

« En tant que président du Collège des Évêgues de la Conférence centrale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, je recours à la violence comme moyen de résoudre des conflits. Ces actes ne font qu'aggraver les souffrances, approfondir les divisions et contredisent les enseignements du Christ », a déclaré l'évêque Quire.

Il a exhorté les responsables de l'Église Méthodiste Globale à respecter le droit de l'Eglise Méthodiste Unie au Nigeria — et ailleurs d'exercer librement son ministère conformément aux lois des pays

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Éditorial

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

Par Raghuram Rajan

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

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

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

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

La Communauté économique des Etats 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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Nora Finda Bundoo rejette l'in

l'enquête, alors qu'elle était encore en Exécutif n°145, qui prolonge l'Ordre fonction à l'Executive Mansion sous l'administration de l'ancien président George Weah.

Gracious Ride, notamment, est soupçonnée d'avoir acquis, par des moyens illicites, une flotte de véhicules Suzuki utilisés dans son service de transport. Les autorités estiment que les modalités de ces acquisitions suscitent de graves inquiétudes quant à leur légalité et leur financement.

L'enquête s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'Ordre

Exécutif n°126. Celui-ci autorise le gouvernement libérien à traquer, identifier et récupérer les biens supposément acquis de manière illégale par des responsables actuels ou anciens de l'État.

Interrogée mercredi par The NEW DAWN, l'ambassadrice Bundoo a remis en question l'impartialité de la Task Force et qualifié ses actions de « campagne politique déguisée » visant à ternir son image.

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L'Evêque Samuel J. Quire condamne

concernés.

Mgr Quire a également lancé Le prélat libérien appelle un appel à tous les chrétiens également le gouvernement force et la guérison pour la et membres de la famille nigérian, la communauté méthodiste à promouvoir la internationale, l'Église Il a conclu en rappelant les paix, la justice et la Méthodiste Unie mondiale et paroles de l'apôtre Paul dans réconciliation, soulignant toutes les institutions l'Épître aux Romains : « Ne que l'usage de la violence éprises de paix à mener une te laisse pas vaincre par le pour résoudre des différends enquête approfondie, à mal, mais surmonte le mal ecclésiastiques ou liés à des condamner ces actes de par le bien » (Romains biens est totalement violence, et à faire en sorte 12:21), soulignant que inacceptable.

« J'adresse mes sincères traduits en justice. condoléances aux familles Enfin, Mgr Quire invite les agent de guérison dans un endeuillées et aux blessés, méthodistes unis du Nigeria monde déchiré par les au nom du Collège des à faire preuve de retenue et conflits. Évêques de la Conférence à ne pas répondre à la « En cette période centrale de l'Afrique de violence par la violence, d'épreuve, que le Prince de l'Ouest. Nous nous tenons mais à demeurer des la Paix règne dans les cœurs aux côtés de l'Église témoins de l'espérance et de des croyants et guide chacun Méthodiste Unie du Nigeria l'amour du Christ. Le Collège sur le chemin de la justice, et prions pour que Dieu des Évêques continue de de la guérison et de l'unité », accorde consolation, prier pour l'évêque Ande I. conclut le communiqué. guérison et justice en ces Emmanuel, sa famille et temps douloureux », a-t-il l'ensemble de la

communauté ecclésiale, implorant la sécurité, la nation et pour l'Église.

que les responsables soient l'Église demeurera un instrument de paix et un

Edwin M. Snowe annonce sa candidature à la présidentielle de 2029 : "Je serai un meilleur président"

e 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 guestion du journaliste Stanton Witherspoon. Interrogé sur une éventuelle préférence entre le viceprésident 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.

Libéria : Le NPP divisé sur le choix du candidat à l'élection sénatoriale partielle de Nimba

(NPP) à l'approche de l'élection sénatoriale partielle du 22 avril 2025 dans le comté de Nimba. Le contredite quelques heures plus tard par la direction nationale du parti qui Edith Gongloe-Weh.

Mercredi, lors d'une intervention sur une radio locale de Gbarnga, l'avocat George S. Mulbah a annoncé le soutien du NPP à la candidature de M. Kogar, assurant que cette décision émanait d'une session exécutive de haut niveau du parti.

Se présentant comme président national du NPP, M. Mulbah a salué « l'expérience législative, la

Une vive controverse secoue maturité politique et l'ancrage Au cours de la même émission. le National Patriotic Party historique » de M. Kogar au sein M. Mulbah a annoncé la tenue du parti. « Alors que nous d'une convention préparons notre convention, extraordinaire du NPP le 30 mai nous sommes fiers d'apporter à Gbarnga, visant à élire un notre plein soutien à nouveau leader politique — une l'honorable Samuel Kogar », a-t- fonction distincte du porteparti est confronté à une il déclaré. « Il incarne l'héritage étendard désigné en période fracture interne suite à une politique de l'ancien sénateur électorale. Les sénateurs James déclaration publique de Johnson et demeure O. P. Biney (Maryland) et Melvin soutien au représentant profondément enraciné dans le Snowe (Bomi) seraient Samuel Gongben Kogar, NPP. »Il a également annoncé pressentis pour le poste. l'envoi d'une delegation a « Il s'agit d'insuffler une Nimba le 17 avril pour nouvelle orientation politique formaliser cet appui et », a-t-il affirmé, promettant un mobiliser les partisans.Une processus transparent et affirme son appui à Mme convention prévue pour le 30

démocratique.



FEATURE ARTICLE

News & Analysis: Nimba's Edith Gongloe-Weh started a movement. Can she become senator of Nimba County?

By Seltue Karweaye Sr

his month marks four months since the passing of Liberia's formidable former warlord and influential politician, Prince Yormie Johnson, famously known as "The Godfather of Nimba." Serving as Senator for Nimba County from 2006 to 2024, he played a pivotal role in making the county the most politically divisive region in its recent history.

Since Liberia's return to voting in 2005, the legislative elections in Nimba County have been largely shaped by Johnson and his network of allies. With a reputation for his controversial past and unparalleled political power, Senator Johnson forged a legacy that profoundly influenced Nimba's position in national politics. His authority was seldom questioned, and his impact was felt across the county.

As the people of Nimba prepare to head to the polls to choose his successor, they stand at a crossroads, hopeful for a transformative new era that can redefine the county's political landscape and restore unity.

Women's groups in Nimba County and across the nation are fervently uniting in support of Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh, the former Superintendent of Nimba County, as she seeks election to the Senate. Their enthusiastic campaign is not only gaining traction but is also capturing widespread attention and generating momentum. These committed organizations have publicly endorsed Madam Gongloe-Weh and are actively engaging in fundraising efforts to bolster her campaign, compellingly advocating for the necessity of enhanced geographic and gender representation in the Senate, as well as within the broader context of Nimba County.

Recent polls and surveys conducted within Nimba County reflect a promising outlook for Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh's election on April 22, revealing that a significant portion of the electorate supports her vision. With her extensive background as a former Superintendent, she possesses a deep understanding of the county's unique administrative challenges and developmental needs. Her leadership experience equips her with the skills to navigate the complexities of governance and drive meaningful progress. Now is the critical moment for change, and Madam Gongloe-Weh stands ready to lead us toward a more equitable and prosperous future for all residents of Nimba County.

Competition, however, remains stiff, even with Edith's rivals burdened by substantial baggage. The foremost contender is Samuel Kogar, the influential Representative for Nimba County District #5, aligned with the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) and the ruling Unity Party. Kogar's party played a pivotal role in elevating Liberia's current Vice President, Jeremiah Koung, and was instrumental in Boakai's landmark victory in 2023. Viewed by many as the candidate to beat, he navigates a landscape marred by controversies related to his leadership in the House of Representatives, which have fueled ongoing divisions within the body.

Kogar, a relative of the late Senator Prince Johnson, is positioning himself as the rightful heir and "godfather of Nimba." He strategically references

the traditional rites performed at Johnson's funeral to assert his legitimacy, while also leveraging gender dynamics to his advantage. Unlike Prince Yormie Johnson, the original "godfather of Nimba," who endorsed Ellen Johnson Sirleaf—the first woman to ascend to the presidency in Liberia—Kogar asserts that, as per traditional beliefs, "if a Zoe dies, particularly as a man, his replacement can only be a man." This rhetoric not only underscores his commitment to heritage but also strengthens his claim to leadership within the region.

Both the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) and the Unity Party (UP) possess substantial resources and strategic organizational structures in Nimba County that could significantly influence the election's outcome. However, Edith Gongloe-Weh and her movement are adopting a grassroots approach by actively engaging women voters to rally support and sway the electoral results in their favor.

Gongloe-Weh's core promises of inclusion and



accountability have struck a chord with voters across diverse demographics, fostering a strong sense of community and empowerment among her supporters. This renewed enthusiasm has transformed her campaign from what was once perceived as lackluster into a vibrant movement, capturing the attention and commitment of the electorate. As a result, her candidacy is not just a political campaign; it is becoming a beacon of hope for those seeking genuine representation and change in their communities.

Numerous endorsements that have ruffled feathers in the political establishment have followed, galvanizing support for Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh, a formidable candidate in the upcoming Nimba County senatorial by election. Alexander Cummings, the influential political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), has officially endorsed Gongloe-Weh, emphasizing her unique qualifications and capabilities. "We believe she is the best candidate to honor and advance the legacy of the late Senator Prince Johnson," Cummings proclaimed. "The ANC is prepared to mobilize all resources necessary to ensure her victory in this election, as we have full confidence in her integrity and dedication to serving the people of Nimba County."

Compounding this momentum, her brother, Counselor Tiawan Gongloe, who leads the Liberia People's Party (LPP), has equally pledged his support, further solidifying her position within the political arena. The LPP stands alongside her, reinforcing that this is a united front striving for positive change in Nimba County.

In a groundbreaking effort, a coalition of women from diverse backgrounds throughout Liberia has initiated the inspiring nationwide campaign—#SheDeservesASeat—advocating for Edith Gongloe-Weh as the only female candidate in this critical election. "We are women from every corner of Liberia—whether from bustling towns, quiet villages, busy markets, or government ministries," the coalition passionately states. "Today, we come together as one voice to declare: Edith Gongloe-Weh not only deserves a seat at the table; she embodies the hope and empowerment for all women in our nation." This campaign seeks to highlight the importance of female representation in governance and to ensure that women's voices are heard and valued in the political discourse.

Edith Gongole-Weh's supporters passionately say that she has brought an unfussy style to leadership in Nimba County that downplays the privileges of power and has done away with political "godfatherism", in which an

individual handpicks an often less influential leadership candidate to exert influence over them, an entrenched concept in Nimbian politics.

During her tenure as Superintendent, Edith Gongloe-Weh spearheaded an ambitious public infrastructure initiative with the assistance of the central government that significantly improved roads, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions, demonstrating her commitment to community development. Her substantial investments in primary healthcare and education in Nimba County have not only enhanced access to vital services but have also empowered local communities through increased resources and opportunities for growth. Her candidacy has sparked an invigorating sense of hope among the electorate, particularly among young women who, despite representing the largest demographic in Nimba, have historically been sidelined in political decision-making processes.

In stark contrast to her vision, many voters view Samuel Kogar and Vice President Jeremiah Koung—who is actively campaigning on Kogar's behalf—as entrenched career politicians who epitomize the status quo. They are seen as perpetuating the very conditions that have stifled economic prosperity and social cohesion in Nimba County. To a growing number of young people, Edith Gongloe-Weh embodies the promise of an inspiring new direction for a country desperately seeking renewal and progress.

Although Edith enjoys a rock star reception as she criss-crosses Nimba, often engaging with multiple communities in a single day, the path to victory is fraught with challenges. The pervasive use of cash inducements in local politics presents a formidable obstacle that conflicts sharply with Edith's well-documented reputation for frugality and integrity.

In a county often characterized by disunity and political confusion, Edith Gongloe-Weh emerges as a rare and principled politician. Her presence serves as a beacon of hope for Liberian women most especially in male-dominated Nimba county, symbolizing the possibility of genuine change and empowerment. Her vision resonates deeply with those eager to break free from the shackles of traditional politics and build a brighter, more inclusive future for all. I rest my pen.

Ellen, Taylor endorse Edith Gongloe-Weh <u>Gracious Ride case closed</u>

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf joins an array of women advocate for good here, lending support to the senatorial bid of female candidate, Edith Gongloe-Weh, in Tuesday, April 22, 2025, senatorial by-elect in Nimba County. Madam Gongloe-Weh is contesting against seven male candidates in the race fill a seat made vacant by the death last year, of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson.

By Lincoln G. Peters Liberian President, well.

administration as onrovia, Liberia, April superintendent of Nimba 18, 2025 - Former county, and did serve very

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, openly "Let me just say this, Edith

governance and women's empowerment, reminding Gongloe-Weh is a positive force for the region. "As Standard Bearer of the NPP, I fully endorse the courageous and strategic choice of the Concerned Partisans and NEC



Taylor also endorses the Madam Gongloe-Weh.

world. So, I am here today, to senatorial by-election.

Sirleaf urges. Reflecting on Madam Gongloe- Madam Gongloe-Weh. Weh's public service record, She describes Edith as a

Vice President Jewel Howard- for the political campaign of Howard Taylor affirms. candidacy of Madam Gongloe- At the rally, they brought ongoing leadership Weh, as political leader of the musical set, and a box covered challenges within the NPP, National Patriotic Party, with a lapper whereby-noting that the Party presenting a purse in support passers, especially women, currently lacks an officially of her campaign. Making brief threw in cash to support the recognized leadership remark on Thursday, April 17, candidacy of Madam Gongloe-structure by the National 2025 in front of the Invincible Weh, while others contributed Elections Commission (NEC). Sports Park in Monrovia, through MobileMoney service. "The NPP is presently in a Madam Sirleaf also endorsed But former President Sirleaf leadership crisis," she states Madam Gongloe-Weh with left her residence right and adds, explicit confidence in her opposite the Park and walked overcome internal divisions ability to deliver quality and to the women where she and commit to rebuilding our transparent leadership for her deposited an envelope party through a transparent containing an undisclosed and democratic convention. "This is former President Ellen amount of money to boost Unity is essential for the Johnson Sirleaf. I am joining Madam Gongloe-Weh's future of the NPP." the women of Liberia to campaign. Similarly, former At the same time, the former support women candidate in Vice President Jewel Howard- first lady reaffirms her the legislature. Liberia can't Taylor, who was unable to be dedication to democratic be left behind. All countries in person, provided an principles and party are moving forward to give envelope and remarked cohesion, pledging to women their rightful place. briefly via mobile telephone. collaborate with all loval Anyone who stops them, you She officially announced her partisans to restore the NPP's

are stopping progress in the support for Edith in Tuesday's legitimacy and prominence support Edith Gongloe-Weh, a According to the former Vice The NPP current political candidate for the Nimba President, her endorsement is leader urges all partisans to County legislature. I want decision of Concerned remain vigilant, engaged everyone, especially women Partisans and members of the and active contributors in and girls in Nimba to join me National Patriotic Party's "shaping a stronger, more and support her" Madam National Executive inclusive NPP" Editing by Committee to unite behind Jonathan Browne

the former President recalls respected native of Nimba that she served in her County and a dedicated

beats her chest here, for lone served as Superintendent in members, to support Madam female senatorial candidate, my administration. And she Edith Gongloe-Weh. At this Edith Gongloe-Weh, in the did a very good job. She critical juncture, I urge all Nimba County Senatorial By-showed integrity, NPP supporters, especially election scheduled for commitment, dedication and women throughout Nimba Tuesday, 22 April, assuring the so, she will do well in the County, to recognize the people of Nimba that if Liberian Legislature; thank importance of voting for elected, Madam Gongloe-Weh you. "Also on Thursday, dozens Edith. Her success will not would serve with integrity, of women mainly from the only advance the county but commitment, dedication and Women NGOs Secretarial of also promote inclusive progress. Similarly, former Liberia held a financial rally leadership," Chief Dr. Jewel

However, she acknowledges

on the national stage.

he Asset Recovery and Property Retrieval Task Force has officially closed its investigation into Gracious Ride and several other individuals who were similarly summoned Nimbaians that Madam for questioning. Authorities are now shifting focus to individuals and businesses that conducted dealings with the company.

> By: Kruah Thompson onrovia, April 18, 2025: In an official Y communication dated Tuesday, April 15, 2025, the Task Force informed former Presidential Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Nora Finda Bundoo, of an ongoing probe into alleged acts of conflict of interest, theft of property, misapplication of public funds, economic sabotage, and money laundering.

These allegations stem from her alleged involvement with the Anita Group of Companies and its subsidiary, Gracious Ride, which the Task Force claims was acquired using illicit means.

After nearly 12 months of court proceedings, the Task Force was directed to continue its investigation. Just days after the court's decision, and through an official communication on April 15, Ambassador Bundoo was once again invited for questioning.

According to the invitation,

case involving the former Chief of Protocol and other similarly summoned individuals has been closed, based on the official communication previously mentioned, but continues that investigations continue into other persons of interest linked to the Anita Group of Companies.Minister Sando further explained that the refusal of Bundoo's legal team to allow her to appear before the Task Force left the body with no alternative but to invoke Article 21 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, along with Sections 2.1 and 2.3 of the Criminal Procedure Law of Liberia.

He revealed that one of the cases has already been completed, and the Task Force is prepared to proceed in accordance with Liberian law. Regarding the Gracious Ride case, Minister Sando disclosed that the former Chief of Protocol opted not to participate in the investigation. He stated that



Ms. Bundoo is believed to have the refusal by her legal team affixed her name, signature, to allow her to appear before and official identity to the Task Force has left the corporate documents related body with no option but to to the companies under invoke Article 21 of the 1986 investigation. These actions Constitution of Liberia and allegedly occurred during her Sections 2.1 and 2.3 of the tenure at the Executive Criminal Procedure Law of Mansion under former Liberia. President George Weah.

damaging her reputation. As a mentioned earlier. result, she declined the Task Meanwhile, he revealed that

Force's invitation. In response, Deputy into other persons of interest Information Minister Daniel connected to the Anita Group Sando on Thursday at MICAT of Companies. -Edited by regular press briefing, Othello B. Garblah.

informed the public that the

Speaking on behalf of the Task However, on Wednesday, Amb. Force, Minister Sando also Bundoo told The New Dawn confirmed that the case that the Asset Recovery team involving the former Chief of has not acted neutrally, Protocol and other individuals describing the investigation as previously summoned has part of a politically motivated been officially closed, based smear campaign aimed at on the communication

the investigations continue



VOL. 15 NO. 059 FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

Duers local farmers

You Grow It, and It's Good, They Will Buy It" - our people here? It means ArcelorMittal's CEO Tells Liagbala Farmers about local you've got access to road. market opportunity as he donates agriculture materials.

ekepa, Nimba County - production. ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) (RICCE) with full support from

As a show of The project, to be implemented commitment to through the Nimba-based group community development and Rural Integrated Center for sustainable livelihoods, Community Empowerment



through the donation of communities. essential agricultural Said the AML CEO: You are the production tools.

has delivered a vital boost to AML, is part of a broader push by local farmers in Liagbala AML to support alternative Town, Yarmein District, livelihoods in its host

community we see every day. The initiative, driven by AML's This brings some opportunity for Chief Executive Officer our community here. You're Michiel Van Der Merwe, aims sitting right next to a road. Our to empower the community plan is to continue to upgrade through vegetable farming the road and make the road

That means if you can somehow start producing some fruit, vegetable and food, even meat, whatever we can produce here, you've got access to the markets".

"You are very well placed to be a primary producer and food source for the times to come," said Van Der Merwe. "Our people need to eat every day. That means there's a steady market. There are thousands of AML workers and contractors around here. If you grow it, and it's good, they will buy it."

"This is a golden opportunity for your future," declared CEO Van Der Merwe during an address to the Liagbala community.

"We don't want to take our food from Ghana or South Africa or Ukraine. We want to produce our own food right here in Liberia so that the money can come back into the pockets of our people."

As CEO Van Der Merwe added. "Let's not be dependent on something else from somewhere else. Let's build our future with our own hands, in our own soil. Let's make Liagbala shine."

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