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VOL. 15 NO. 063 THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00

S/Court stamps Koffa's Speakership But...



Meanwhile, Koon adamant



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Continental News

Ghana: Tensions rise as chief justice Torkornoo suspended

Ghana's Chief Justice, Gertrude Torkornoo, has been suspended following three misconduct petitions, in a move that has sparked political controversy and divided public opinion. This marks the first time in the nation's history that a sitting chief justice has been suspended.

President John Mahama's administration claims the suspension is necessary to allow a fair investigation. However, opposition leaders accuse the president of interfering in the judiciary and attempting to install judges sympathetic to the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Former Attorney General Godfred Yeboah Dame condemned the action as "the biggest assault on the judiciary in the nation's history," citing procedural missteps, including the delayed delivery of the petitions to the chief justice. Torkornoo, who was appointed in 2023 as Ghana's third female chief justice, has not publicly responded to the allegations.

A five-member committee has been formed to investigate the claims, with two additional petitions emerging after the suspension.

The controversy has intensified the debate over judicial independence in Ghana, as the nation awaits the outcome of the investigation.



President John Dramani Mahama takes the oath of office during his inauguration ceremony, at Independence Square in Accra, Ghana, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025.

ECOWAS team leaves Guinea-Bissau after threat of expulsion

A mission from the West African Regional bloc, ECOWAS, has left Guinea-Bissau saying the president had threatened to expel it.

The team was sent to the country last month to help it reach a "political consensus" on how to conduct elections this year.

It said it had "prepared a draft agreement on a roadmap for elections" and had started presenting it to the stakeholders for their consent.

But the team decided to leave early on Saturday morning after President Umaro Sissoco Embalo's threat.

It says it will now present its

report to the ECOWAS president, including a proposal for an agreement leading to "inclusive and peaceful elections".

Embalo has not responded to the bloc's accusation.

There has been heightened tension in the country over when his five-year mandate ends.

The opposition say his term as president expired last week, but the Supreme Court of Justice ruled that it ends on 4 September. A new round of general elections was due to take place last November, but Embalo postponed them and has since announced they will take place on the 30 November this year.

The opposition has opposed the delay.

Guinea-Bissau has experienced several military coups since independence in 1974, and there have been two attempts to overthrow Embalo, the latest in December 2023.

This led him to dissolve the opposition-dominated parliament.

The opposition last Thursday called for a nationwide strike, on the day they said the president's term was expiring, with the government deploying security forces across the capital.

Embalo travelled to Moscow the day before where he held talks with Russia President Vladimir Putin, reportedly discussing developing cooperation between the two countries.



Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embalo, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin

Egypt FM Abdelatty: Egypt is making "continuous, genuine and non-stop efforts" for ceasefire in Gaza

Egypt's foreign minister Badr Abdelatty said Tuesday that his country is exerting "continuous, genuine and non-stop efforts" to return to a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. His statement came after meeting his Lebanese counterpart Youssef Rajji in Cairo. Rajji said that the international community should place more pressure on Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

"I emphasized from my side the continuous, genuine and non-stop efforts in cooperation with Qatar and in coordination with the United States to return to the (Gaza) ceasefire deal that was signed on 19 January, and to

mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants.

Israel says it has killed around 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 people hostage.

They are still holding 59 hostages, 24 of whom are believed to be alive.

Hamas has said it will only free the remaining hostages in return for the release of Palestinian prisoners, a full Israeli withdrawal and a lasting ceasefire.

According to Israeli statements, the



Israeli soldiers secure a lookout overlooking a road that was opened for two days, during the Jewish holiday of Passover, near the Israel-Egypt border, 16 April 2025.

work on stopping the bloodshed of the brother Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip," Abdelatty said.

Israel's air and ground war has killed over 51,000 Palestinians,

country will keep fighting until the hostages are returned and Hamas has been either destroyed or disarmed and sent into exile. It has pledged to hold onto so-called security zones in Gaza indefinitely.

Egypt: Coptic Catholics mourn Pope Francis

Egyptian Coptic Catholics attended a prayer service for the late Pope Francis at the Holy Virgin Mary Coptic Catholic Cathedral on Tuesday in Cairo. Worshipers at the cathedral remembered Pope Francis' values and his efforts to bring peace to the world.

"Certainly, we believe that the Pope's departure may be in body, but on the other hand, we believe that those who carry ideas, and that ideas never die," said Anba Basilios, Metropolitan of Minya.

Pope Francis was history's first Latin American pontiff who charmed the world with his humble style and concern for the poor but alienated conservatives with critiques of capitalism and climate change.

He died on Monday aged 88. He made his last public appearance on Easter Sunday - a day before his death -

to bless thousands of people in St. Peter's Square, drawing wild cheers and applause.

Other regional churches and denominations have also declared their mourning of Francis. Egypt's Al-Azhar - one of the oldest Sunni Islamic institutions - also offered condolences to the Vatican.

The Coptic Catholic Church is part of the Catholic Eastern Churches and is based in Cairo. Egypt counts seven dioceses of the church; an estimated 15 million Egyptians are Copts, according to Pope Tawadros II, the head of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church.



EDITORIAL

Allow President Doe to rest in peace

Seeming words of war ensued recently between Madam Nancy B. Doe, widow of slain President Samuel Kanyon Dow and a family, Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue over a memorial ceremony of her late husband, President Doe.

Senator Pennue, an ethnic Krahn, and family member of the slain President, reportedly initiated a military traditional memorial ceremony for the late President recently in Caldwell, Montserrado County.

But this is not go well with Mrs Doe, who contended that she and her children, as the immediate family, should have been the one to lead such exercise.

We think that brewing confusion in the once first family over what should be a last respect and memorial for a husband, father and renowned statesman, who was decapitated by rag-tag rebels is absolutely unwarranted.

President Doe died a very painful and humiliating death in the hands of rebels commanded by late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson after he was attacked and captured in September 1991, on the base of the regional peace monitoring group, ECOMOG inside the Freeport of Monrovia. He had gone to welcome the peacekeepers when he met his fate.

We call on Madam Doe to ceasefire and focus on keeping the family united especially, in the wake of plan by the government to give the late President a national memorial thru reburial.

We believe that as widow and mother, she is in a unique position to carry the family along irrespective of who does what. Rather that issuing public statement, washing their dirty clothes in the press, such disagreement should be addressed in family meetings.

The late President was a very decent and loving president, who positively impacted Liberia is many ways. His love for sports kept the nation united. His agriculture program, Green Revolution, put citizens to work, including his officials, who were required to cultivate private farms for self-sufficiency in food.

President Doe was also development-oriented. He modernized the National Police Headquarters. As a military man himself, he gave the Armed Forces of Liberia top priority, increasing salary of servicemen, building barracks and equipping troops. All that is history now.

This is why we think it is important that the family should unite and look up the current government that has announced a reburial plan, not only for President Doe, but late President William R. Tolbert, so that the two leaders, whose leaderships ended, leaving dark clouds over the nation, can rest in final peace, and allow Liberia to forge ahead.

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COMMENTARY

Trump's Tariff Chaos Could Reverse 80 Years of Economic Progress

By Anne O. Krueger

WASHINGTON, DC – International trade and exploration have captivated the human imagination for millennia. From Alexander the Great to Marco Polo, from the Silk Road to the East India Company, history is filled with examples of commerce redrawing the map of the known world. But for much of history, trade was shaped more by power than by fairness.

This began to change after Adam Smith and David Ricardo showed that tariffs are economically harmful: they raise costs for importers, divert production to higher-cost countries, discourage innovation, and foster monopolies and corruption. Gradually, Smith's insights into the dangers of protectionism, the importance of predictable economic policy, and the rule of law prevailed.

The governance of international trade shifted dramatically after World War II, when the United States emerged as a dominant economic and military power. Instead of seeking economic concessions from defeated countries, American leaders championed the creation of an open, rules-based trading system.

The multilateral trading system – institutionalized through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and its successor, the World Trade Organization – benefited the US and the rest of the world, ushering in eight decades of unprecedented economic growth. By the 1990s, even protectionist developing-country governments recognized free trade as an effective way to reduce poverty and raise living standards.

Over the years, trade barriers were gradually lowered as the WTO promoted open global trade, resolved disputes, and facilitated negotiations for reciprocal tariff reductions and the elimination of other trade restrictions. Until about a decade ago, this system was widely regarded as a success.

But after Donald Trump won the 2016 US presidential election, he began to reverse that progress. During his first term, Trump broke with decades of bipartisan support for free trade and launched a trade war with China. His successor, [Joe Biden](#), was expected to restore traditional US trade policy. Instead, he retained many of the Trump-era tariffs and trade restrictions.

Trump has gone even further in his second term, tearing up trade agreements and launching a global trade war. Currently, all goods entering the US are subject to a baseline tariff of 10%, with a 90-day window for bilateral negotiations to avoid significantly higher rates. Tariffs on Chinese imports have been [raised to 145%](#), following a week of tit-for-tat hikes during which China raised its own tariffs on US goods to 125%.

The Trump administration's erratic and unpredictable approach compounds the problem. Over the past three weeks, Trump has announced steep tariffs on almost every country in the world, lifted most of them, and then reinstated others, creating widespread uncertainty. His administration is clearly intent on reasserting the geopolitical hegemony of the rich and powerful, but so far, it has delivered only chaos.

Although Trump has occasionally suggested that his goal is to pressure other countries to lower tariffs or reduce their trade surpluses, such claims can no longer be taken seriously. The

European Union, for example, [offered](#) to eliminate all industrial tariffs if the US would do the same – but Trump declined. He has also imposed tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports despite the free-trade agreement he himself negotiated during his first term. Singapore, which maintains [zero tariffs](#) on American goods and runs a trade deficit with the US, was nonetheless hit with the baseline 10% tariff.

These actions are a flagrant violation of both the spirit and the letter of WTO rules, as well as the foundational principle of equal treatment among trading partners. They also represent a clear departure from longstanding American commitments, and from the rule of law to the use of power in bilateral relationships that prevailed before WWII.

When importers and exporters cannot predict future tariffs or count on stable market access, they are less likely to make long-term investments. Consequently, if the Trump administration continues on its current path, global growth prospects will most likely decline significantly.

If individual countries respond to Trump's threats by trying to meet his vague and shifting demands, the result could be a fragmented world economy marked by slower growth and greater instability. Given the stakes, the most effective way to restore global growth prospects would be for the US to reverse course and reassure the international community that the change is both genuine and lasting.

Alternatively, in the likely event that Trump remains unwilling to compromise, other countries should take the initiative and form a new trade alliance that upholds WTO principles while operating independently of the US. After all, the US accounts for [less than 5%](#) of the world's population and [roughly 9%](#) of global exports. Such a coalition could coordinate through an international trade body that facilitates dispute resolution, thereby reducing America's bargaining power. They can call it the Minus US Trade Organization (MUTO).

There is precedent for this kind of initiative. When the US effectively paralyzed the WTO's dispute-settlement mechanism by refusing to approve new appellate judges, many countries agreed to resolve trade disputes among themselves using the WTO's processes. If enough countries reaffirm their tariff and trade commitments within a new MUTO framework, American influence will diminish, and domestic stakeholders may push for a return to an open multilateral trading system.

Whenever tariffs and other trade barriers are implemented – whether in the US or abroad – they give rise to interest groups that benefit from their existence, making their removal increasingly difficult. If the countries targeted by Trump's 90-day trade demands can coordinate a timely and unified response, the outlook for the global economy could begin to improve. But if Trump's bullying – and the resulting uncertainty – persists, much of the economic progress of the past 80 years could be undone.

Anne O. Krueger, a former World Bank chief economist and former first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, is Senior Research Professor of International Economics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and Senior Fellow at the Center for International Development at Stanford University.

OP-ED

By Saliem Fakir and Shuchi Talati

Why African Leadership Matters in Geoengineering

CAPE TOWN/WASHINGTON, DC – As climate disasters proliferate and intensify, interest has grown in solar radiation modification (SRM), a group of large-scale interventions to lower global temperatures by increasing the amount of sunlight reflected away from Earth. To be clear, the risks and benefits of SRM remain uncertain. But that is all the more reason to design a thoughtful policy approach to these emerging – and controversial – geoengineering technologies.

This is particularly true in Africa, where SRM efforts could have potentially major economic and social implications and divert attention or funding from other urgent priorities such as expanding energy access and supporting a just transition. The continent's policymakers and academics must therefore ensure that discussions about SRM in Africa are guided by a set of principles that emphasize transparency and informed decision-making, and shed light on the biases, power dynamics, and governance gaps surrounding this potential tool.

SRM research is still in its infancy, focused mostly on modeling and small-scale experiments. The most studied option is stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), which involves releasing large amounts of sulfur particles into the upper layer of the atmosphere. The natural analogue of this process – a volcanic eruption – has been shown to decrease temperatures. But the possible environmental and socioeconomic risks associated with SAI, including its effects on everything from precipitation to human health, are not well understood.

Given such uncertainty, African leaders must push for a transparent and equitable approach to researching and governing SRM. For starters, that means recognizing the asymmetrical power dynamic between those funding research in this area and those working to increase oversight of it. This gap will only widen if governments, NGOs, and philanthropic organizations do not start to engage with the fact that private-sector entities are starting to develop SRM. Without a full understanding of the technology's implications, public authorities will not be prepared to establish clear rules for its potential testing and deployment. This could lead to climate-vulnerable countries and communities being sidelined and bearing the brunt of any adverse consequences.

To some extent, this is already happening. Over the past two decades, Global North actors – both proponents and opponents of SRM – have dominated the field. Efforts to pursue new research in Global South countries and seek their policy perspectives are encouraging, but remain insufficient. To move beyond colonial forms of engagement, it is essential to facilitate knowledge-sharing, rather than to push for predetermined outcomes. Global South countries can and should forge a responsible path forward for SRM governance, while ensuring that mitigation and adaptation remain a high priority for global climate policy.

African governments are acutely aware of the difficulty of balancing climate-related investment and economic development. Trapped in a cycle of debt distress, many are struggling to restore fiscal stability, finance counter-cyclical measures to put their economies on a more sustainable trajectory, and adapt to the growing climate threat. A key concern for African stakeholders is that there are still more questions than answers about the consequences of SRM – raising questions about whether its effects will ultimately be more helpful or harmful. At the same time, it may well divert resources from other investments that are more likely to drive long-term economic growth and development.

A series of dialogues organized by the African Climate Foundation and the Alliance for Just Deliberation on Solar Geoengineering came to many of the same conclusions, including that SRM must not exacerbate inequalities and undermine climate action, and should be governed accordingly. The meetings also highlighted the need for better information-sharing and capacity-building in African governments, civil society, and academia when it comes to SRM, as many of the continent's leaders do not know enough about these technologies.

Developing an effective climate strategy – from accelerating the uptake of renewables to decarbonizing industry and responsibly exploring controversial technologies like SRM – requires in-depth knowledge of the topic at hand. Multistakeholder dialogue and grassroots engagement – essential components of any geoengineering strategy – require it. Rather than simply arguing for or against SRM, these efforts should focus on collecting diverse perspectives and obtaining local input by increasing transparency, debating potential risks, and emphasizing that no single technology is a panacea.

While African countries undoubtedly have more immediate concerns than SRM, the continent's policymakers and stakeholders must become better prepared to engage with this rapidly evolving field. The design and governance of SRM will play an important part in determining its impact, and developing a nuanced understanding of these early-stage technologies across Africa can help guide long-term decision-making. As global warming accelerates, engaging with SRM at the regional, national, and local levels will be crucial to creating an inclusive, transparent, and accountable solar-geoengineering ecosystem on the continent.

Saliem Fakir is Founder and Executive Director of the African Climate Foundation. Shuchi Talati is Founder and Executive Director of the Alliance for Just Deliberation on Solar Geoengineering.

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OPINION

by Zhang Jun

China Is Fighting for Bigger Consumer Demand

SHANGHAI – There are signs that the Chinese economy has been improving, owing to the government's September 2024 stimulus package. Year-on-year GDP growth in the first quarter of this year reached 5.4% – continuing the marked acceleration from the third quarter of last year.

In fact, the change in policy direction has been evident since late 2022, when Chinese policymakers acknowledged that falling demand was becoming a major problem. The most important cause was the real-estate market, where a collapsing price bubble hit local government revenues hard, cutting into residents' property and business income (an important part of disposable income) and pushing consumer spending below trend.

To alleviate the pressure on local governments, the central government allowed them to expand their debt financing by issuing \$1.4 trillion worth of long-term bonds (over five years) to replace their short-term debt. Proceeds from long-term bond issuances were also used to shore up state-owned commercial banks' balance sheets and enhance their capacity to generate credit. Meanwhile, the central bank has maintained faster credit growth, but is being cautious about lowering policy rates. With China's real interest rates above 4%, a significant rate cut is unavoidable given concerns about exchange-rate volatility and commercial banks' financial condition.

Chinese authorities understood that stabilizing the property and stock markets could mitigate the slowdown in consumer spending. Thus, the stabilization strategy requires local governments to use a portion of the special debt financing they receive to purchase unsold residential buildings on the market, and to use those units as guaranteed housing for local residents. It also requires state-owned non-bank financial institutions to buy back and hold more shares. In another country, such measures would sound implausible. But China's state-owned financial system makes them feasible.

Moreover, there is broad-based social support for expanding government income assistance for households. During the National People's Congress in early March, raising incomes and expanding protections for the elderly and infants were hotly debated topics. Though the government raised the minimum urban and rural basic pension disbursement by another 10% this year, most economists suggested that the standard should be much higher. After all, current disbursements are a mere 200 yuan (\$27) per month in most small and medium-size cities and rural areas.

Calls for increased pension payments reflect large differences between regions. The basic pension in Beijing and Shanghai is almost 5-7 times higher than the national average mainly owing to big differences in local subsidizing capacity and the cost of living. Thus, to expand the overall level of consumer spending, it is crucial to reduce regional differences in the level of health care and pension protection.

China's household consumption expenditure is largely positively correlated with family size and the number of children. But in addition to rapid aging, China is also struggling to deal with a low fertility rate. Although the government has lifted fertility restrictions – permitting families to have three children – the fertility rate remains at only around one. In surveys, younger Chinese point to the high cost of raising children as the top reason why they do not intend to have more.

Thus, the central government has promised to formulate a national policy to subsidize childbirth and child-rearing within the year, and many cities are already implementing local policies to subsidize or reward childbirth. For example, one city in Inner Mongolia recently offered a 50,000-yuan subsidy for a second child, and 100,000 yuan for a third.

It has been nearly 70 years since China implemented its hukou household registration system, which limits rural residents' options for internal migration. Yet with hundreds of millions of migrant workers entering big cities, facilitating their integration has become imperative. China needs to ensure that every resident enjoys equal access to jobs and public benefits, including childcare and schooling, employment, health care, and pensions.

Such urbanization will greatly increase the scale of consumer demand. If more families receive higher transfers from the government – whether in the form of pensions or fertility incentives and subsidies – that would boost household consumption of services such as childcare, education and training, health care, and elderly care. These are precisely the parts of China's consumer demand that remain significantly untapped.

DeepSeek's recent breakthroughs opened the world's eyes to China's progress in AI and high tech. The country clearly has the potential to advance cutting-edge technologies, owing to its huge and diverse domestic economy, deep talent pool, and well-developed supply chains. Continuous technological breakthroughs will allow it to produce higher-value-added goods, with all the gains that implies for incomes, productivity, and domestic demand for services.

But government programs will have to adapt to this new phase of development. With large-scale construction spending having peaked, policies now need to help ensure that labor receives a higher share of national income. That means directing more fiscal firepower toward income support for households, and toward providing better, more equitable social protections. Higher household incomes and lower savings rates are key to unleashing the purchasing power of China's 1.4 billion people.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

"We are the Oceans"

From 9 to 13 June 2025, France will be hosting the third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (UNOC, or United Nations Ocean Conference). For this crucial event, some 100 Heads of State and Government will converge, as well as tens of thousands of



researchers, scientists, economic actors, activists and citizens from around the world. On this occasion, France's aim will be clear: protecting the oceans through tangible action.

The oceans belong to all of us. They feed and protect our peoples. They inspire dreams and enable travel. They offer sustainable energy, means to trade, resources and infinite scientific knowledge.

One in three people relies on the oceans for their livelihood, yet the oceans are in danger. They remain little-known, with neither global governance nor the financing needed for their preservation. The numbers are worrying more than eight million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year, according to a study in *Science*. Moreover, more than a third of fish stocks suffer overfishing, while ocean acidification, rising sea levels and the destruction of marine ecosystems gain pace, as direct consequences of climate change.

We must act now. More than ever before, we must make sure that multilateral action is equal to the challenges of protecting the oceans.

Ten years after COP21 and the Paris Agreement, which established a binding global framework to limit climate change, the third United Nations Ocean Conference is a historic opportunity. The “Nice Ocean Agreements” will form a genuine international compact for conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, fully in line with the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

To this end, the talks in Nice need to be very

operational and action-focused, aiming for better governance, more financing and greater knowledge of the seas.

When it comes to governance, the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) is essential. The high seas, which represent more than 60% of the oceans, are currently the only space not governed by international law. The lack of oversight and common rules is causing a real social and environmental disaster, with massive hydrocarbon and plastic pollution, illegal and unregulated fishing techniques, and the taking of protected mammals. To end this legal vacuum, we need the BBNJ Agreement to be ratified by 60 countries, so as to come into force.

The protection of the oceans also requires public and private financing and support for a sustainable blue economy. To continue enjoying the incredible economic opportunities offered by the oceans, we need to make sure marine resources can regenerate. In Nice, several commitments will be announced for global trade, shipping, tourism and investment.

Lastly, how can we protect what we know not – or know insufficiently? We need to enhance our knowledge of the oceans and share it better. Today, we are capable of mapping the surface of the Moon or of Mars, but the depths of the oceans – which cover 70% of Earth's surface – remain unknown. Together, we need to put science, innovation and education to work to better understand the oceans and raise public awareness.

In the context of ever faster climate change and overexploitation of marine resources, the oceans are not just one more issue: they are everyone's business. We must not forget our shared responsibility in the context of challenges to multilateralism. The oceans join us all together and are central to our future. Together, we can make the third United Nations Ocean Conference a turning point for our peoples, for future generations and for our planet.

Liberia is in the process of ratifying the treaty, with the hope of concluding it before June 9." More than ever, we must take action together and make the third United Nations Ocean Conference a turning point. Your commitment will be decisive for sustainable management of the high seas. France will be pleased to welcome His Excellency Mr. Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia, to Nice, committed to the protection of the Ocean, for the celebration of the entry into force of the BBNJ Treaty. We are counting on you.

H.E. Madam Isabelle Le Guellec
Ambassador of France to Liberia

LIBERIA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CORPORATION

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

- MBA in Marketing or Management or related area
- Minimum of 10 years of progressive experience in Marketing Leadership with at least 5 years in the technology sector or its equivalent.
- Proven track record of building and leading high-performing marketing teams.
- Demonstrate success in brand development, digital marketing and customer engagement strategies.
- Must maintain a professional appearance that will project a positive image of the corporation at all times
- Must maintain confidentiality at all times
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and data entry
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and in a team.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Strong analytical skills and background
- Knowledge of the Liberian market and regulatory environment is a strong advantage.

What we offer

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Politics plagues Medical Outreach at Bong Mines Hospital

The former Bong Mining Company Hospital, now a government run facility now stands in shadow political waters.

By Edwin N Khakie

Barnga, Bong County—What was once a trusted public health facility has now become a symbol of political manipulation, leaving residents of Bong Mines disillusioned and deeply concerned about the future of healthcare in their community.



The Bong Mines Hospital, a government-run facility intended to serve thousands in District # 7 and its surroundings, has been thrust into political controversy following allegations that Representative

Foday E. Fahnbulleh is turning the institution into a political outpost.

In a complaint addressed to Deputy Minister Martha C. T. Morris at her Congo Town office, an anonymous whistleblower and citizen of Bong County, particularly District #7, decried Rep. Fahnbulleh's alleged

as both unprofessional and unethical.

"This is not politics, this is healthcare. And people are now abandoning the facility, choosing to travel to Margibi County instead. That's how serious this is," Mr. Alfredson G. Momo added.

The backlash doesn't end at Signage. It is further alleged that Rep. Fahnbulleh recommended one of his Human Resources staff from the Capitol to serve as the new hospital administrator, raising eyebrows over a clear attempt to centralize control and blur the lines between governance and personal political interest.

According to Bong Mines residents, any interference may negatively impact the hospital's credibility, staff morale, and service delivery.

Mr. Momo stated that the hospital should be under direct supervision from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, not by a single legislator seeking to gain control.

Community leaders and residents are reportedly monitoring the situation closely

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

UP supporters reject S/Court's ruling

A number of ruling Unity Party supporters, including Mines Minister Wilmot Paye, have vehemently opposed ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Liberia in favor of embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, following his Bill of Information file before the Court.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Nimba, Liberia, April 24, 2025 - Several supporters of the ruling Unity Party have expressed disappointment and dissatisfaction over the Supreme Court's ruling, restoring the legitimacy of embattled Speakership J. Fonati Koffa, and ordering the majority bloc to respect the law and return to status quo, ante.

Following the ruling of the Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Wilomot Paye, wrote and posted on his official Facebook page, expressing disappointment against the ruling. He argues that the ruling demonstrates two separate opinions on one matter.

"The Supreme Court of Liberia, by its majority opinion today, becomes the first supreme court in the world to render two (2) separate opinions on the same matter. This has made the quagmire in the Legislature even more complicated, if not impossible, for resolution any time soon. How could Members of The Supreme Court be more confused than the public?" He wonders.

Also, Liberia Water and Sewer Managing Director, Mo Ali, notes that the Supreme Court handed down a ruling that is confusing.

"When the Supreme Court hands down a ruling that is not enforceable, the court has undermined its own authority. Hon. Richard Koon remains the Speaker. Let the Supreme Court go organize the majority for their own speaker. Let me go back to enjoying my Nimba victory", he says.

Also, National Transit Authority Deputy for Administration and Unity Party Youth League Chairperson, Togar M. Cephus, describes the Supreme Court's ruling as ambiguous.

"The Supreme Court, which is tasked with interpreting the law, is instead complicating legal

matters and adding ambiguity to the issues faced by the legislature", Togar expresses.

Meanwhile, former Senate Pro-Temp Armah Zolu Jallah, notes via his official Facebook page that the majority bloc's defeat on the Koffa's Bill of Information, demonstrates that it's time to let Liberia Move Forward.

According to him, in the aftermath of the by-election results in Nimba County, the Majority bloc faced a judicial and political setback as the Bill of Information filed by Speaker J. Fonati Koffa was sustained.

Former Sen. Jallah notes that the outcome, while disappointing to some, serves as a constitutional reaffirmation of the current balance of power in the Legislature.

"The move to challenge or



Ministries of Health and Mines recommit to partnership with UNDP

The Liberian Government and UNDP have renewed partnership to remain engaged in key areas such as coastal resilience, renewable energy integration, and environmental governance, among others.

Monrovia, Liberia; April 24, 2025 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative here, Mr. Aliou Dia, has met with Liberia's Minister of Mines and Energy, Wilmot J.M. Paye, to reaffirm and strengthen the longstanding partnership between the two institutions. The discussion focused on enhancing collaboration to support the Ministry in fulfilling its mandate effectively and sustainably. According to UNDP, during the meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, both parties emphasized the importance of continued engagement in key areas such as coastal resilience, renewable energy integration, and environmental governance.

The UNDP Resident Representative highlighted past joint efforts, including climate adaptation projects in Grand Bassa and New Kru Town, capacity building for Ministry technicians, and initiatives under the Environmental Governance Project. These efforts have established a robust foundation for further collaboration.

Looking forward, the meeting explored opportunities to mobilize resources for renewable energy initiatives like the Liberia Energy Compact, strengthen the formalization of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining sector, and promote coordinated environmental stewardship across key agencies.

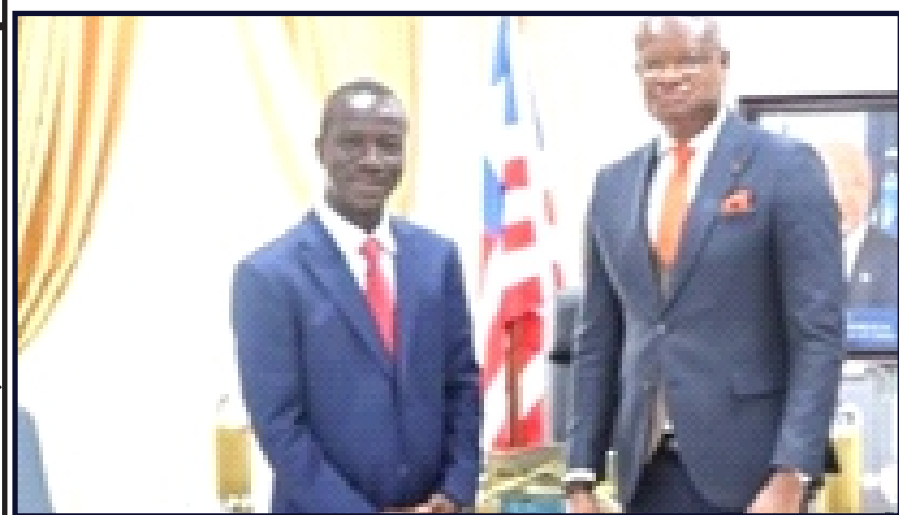
Dia reaffirmed UNDP's support for Liberia's health sector, citing the recent donation of seven ambulances to the Ministry of Health (MOH), which the Minister gratefully acknowledged as timely and impactful.

"Investing in strengthening healthcare delivery, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas, contributes to the well-being and dignity of Liberians for the future. We look forward to working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health to deliver real and lasting impact. Our vision at UNDP is to ensure that 'No one is left behind,'" said Dia.

Looking ahead, the meeting outlined concrete initiatives to expand healthcare access in rural areas. Dr. Kpoto made a heartfelt appeal for two mobile clinics to further expand access to healthcare in remote regions. The UNDP Resident Representative proposed to deploy a few medical professionals, including doctors and dentists, to provide mobile medical outreach services across Liberia's underserved communities.

Dia also mentioned possible support for rehabilitating the Telewoyen Hospital in Voinjama, Lofa County. The interventions will prioritize the operating room, delivery theatre, and sustainable energy upgrades.

His comments come after his recent tour of UNDP's project sites in Lofa,



The significance of long-term sustainability, particularly in maintaining climate resilience infrastructure, was underscored. UNDP reiterated its commitment to supporting high-level advocacy and facilitating coordinated efforts with national and international partners.

Both parties agreed that deepened collaboration will be crucial in driving inclusive development, protecting Liberia's natural resources, and ensuring sustainable progress in the energy and mining sectors.

At the same time, the UNDP Liberia Resident Representative, Aliou Dia, met with the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Louis Kpoto, on Monday, April 21, 2025, to deepen collaboration and strengthen partnership in reinforcing support for Liberia's healthcare sector and health services in Rural Liberia.

The visit formed part of Mr. Dia's ongoing efforts to engage key government officials since assuming his role as UNDP's Resident Representative. Mr. Dia highlighted UNDP's longstanding commitment to health service delivery. He shared insights from his previous work in Togo and Cameroon, where health interventions were central to development efforts.

Bong, and Nimba Counties and a joint assessment of the hospital by UNDP and the MOH technical teams. The Tellewoyesn hospital was among several health facilities that benefited from UNDP's Solar For Health project previously.

Dr. Kpoto welcomed UNDP's proposed interventions and emphasized the importance of involving the MOH Infrastructure Unit in all civil works to ensure alignment and sustainability.

She strongly supports these initiatives, highlighting the critical need to revamp health facilities, especially maternal centers, some of which have already been forced to close due to poor conditions.

"We deeply appreciate UNDP's unwavering support, especially in times of urgent need, like the recent ambulance donation. As we face critical gaps in our health infrastructure, particularly in maternal care, this renewed partnership is timely and lifesaving," she said.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to translate these plans into action, reflecting a strong and growing partnership between UNDP and Liberia's Ministry of Health as they pursue equitable healthcare for Liberians. Press Release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from page 6 **Politics plagues Medical Outreach**

and have vowed to resist any actions that compromise the integrity of the health facility. "We are sitting, prepared, and watching," the letter ominously concluded, signalling potential civic unrest if corrective action is not taken," they added. As of now, the Ministry of Health has not yet

issued an official response. But with pressure mounting and public trust deteriorating, stakeholders will need to act swiftly to prevent a vital institution from becoming collateral damage in the murky waters of politics. *-Edited By Othello B. Garblah.*

Starts from page 6 **UP supporters reject S/Court's ruling**

clarify legislative proceedings via the bill was, in itself, a sign of political engagement—but the result underscores a broader message: Liberia must move forward, beyond courtroom wrangling and political maneuvering. While the UP's "win one, lose one" outcome reflects both opportunity and challenge, the political temperature must now cool. It's time for national cohesion, economic focus, and institutional

strengthening, not continued political contestation", he writes. The former Pro-Temp indicates that the ruling marks a moment for reflection, not retribution, and a chance for the opposition and ruling blocs alike to focus on governance, service delivery, and national healing, urging that let Liberia move on void of distraction, and full of purpose. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Boakai to construct diagnostic centers across Liberia

President Boakai has promised to construct diagnostic centers across the country to help address challenges faced by citizens and bring relief to the sector.

By Lewis S. Teh
Monrovia, Liberia; April 24, 2025 - The Government of Liberia has committed to constructing diagnostic centers across the country help address the challenges faced by citizens and bring relief to the sector.

"Ladies and Gentlemen: President Boakai is very much interested in what is happening at celebrate Lab West Africa, he has spoken several times to the Liberian people that he will not rest until he constructs a diagnostic center around Liberia to tackle the problems of unexplained deaths because of illness that cannot be detected at the early stages in emerging diseases" Ambassador-At-Large Charles A. Snetter made the disclosure yesterday April 23, 2025, at the EJS ministerial complex in Oldest Congo Town at the opening of the tenth year of Celebrate Lab@West Africa Conference 2025, and Africa Bio Enterprise. The conference held under the theme: "Propelling Our Professionals into the Future of Now" which saw the convergence of scores local and international health practitioners from across the African region and the world. It is hosted by Celebrate Lab @West Africa and co-hosted by Africa Bio Enterprise Inc.

Delivering the celebratory remarks as guest of honor on behalf of President Boakai, Ambassador Snetter terms the ten year celebration conference as a milestone achievement for Celebrate Lab @West Africa, as the organization has hosted over the past ten years conferences totaling over three thousand attendees from the United Kingdom, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, South America and the United States. He says President Boakai has taken note of many achievements in this sector in West Africa during the past ten years, including fostering an innovative ecosystem, increase in research and life science programs, new technologies and increasing number of key contributors and experts, who empower young people, building scientists in the region.

He continues that constructing diagnostic centers will only be possible with government's collaboration through the Ministry of Health, National Public Health Institute to have diagnostic centers specialized in clinical, medical and research laboratory works.

He recalls that Liberia has had terrible experiences with the likes of Ebola

pandemic, COVID-19, and Mpox, saying "Therefore, we know the critical needs of laboratory science to solve the problem of outbreak of disease in our region."

He pledges government's willingness to work with all stakeholders, especially those that are attending virtually, and international organizations to build a more resilient health system in Liberia and West Africa.

Earlier, the Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Dr. Dougbeh Chris Nyan, explained that several years ago, beginning from 2013 through 2017, laboratory scientists on the continent, particularly in Liberia, decided to establish an institution that will cater to the science, research, and innovation in diagnostics.

Dr. Nyan explains that as a result of that, when the Ebola crisis broke out in 2014, it provided impetus in establishing NPHIL.

"And so Ms Candace Eastman and others got together and created Africa Bio Enterprises, which then had a diagnostic research function and termed Celebrate Lab, particularly giving emphasis to the high level of work put into clinical and research practice by laboratory technologists and laboratory scientists, who, over the time, have not been actively recognized.

He explains further that in 2017, the conference was held here in Monrovia at the City Hall, but didn't look at strengthening diagnostic capacity on the African continent. "Just after two years then, we had the COVID pandemic, and that gave rise to the conference moving on to other parts of the continent, particularly on the West African coast.

And so between 2021 and 2023, the

conference was held in Ghana two times and in Nigeria one time. That was at the heat of the 10th anniversary of Celebrate Lab, which has been propelled by Africa Bio".

He recalls that those conferences did look at the issue of laboratory response amidst epidemic and pandemic situations on the continent, with several regulations put in place.

"I would hasten to say that because of the respect that is due to be given to laboratory personnel, who practically are the fulcrum of medical science and research, in 2017 and 2018, the Africa Bio Celebrate Lab Conference emphasized laboratory technologists being designated and called laboratory scientists from the master's level. And that designation has caught up", he adds.

Meanwhile, the program director for ICM Macro, Ellen Munemo notes, "We are celebrating 10 years of Celebrate Lab. It's being 10 years since 2015, where we have been gathering just to celebrate you, a lab professional."

According to her, the initiative started in Liberia, saying "We went to Ghana; we went to Nigeria, and for the 10th anniversary, we are coming back to Liberia, and here we are in Liberia once again. Today is more than just a gathering; it is a moment of recognition, appreciation, and celebration of the critical role that you do behind the scenes to safeguard the health of our communities."

She encourages lab technicians to keep up doing good work, reminding them that they might not be known in the community, as people will know a doctor and a nurse, but technicians should always know that the play a very important role in the community." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Ambassador-At-Large Charles A. Snetter

Soniwein Community to get Police station

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; April 24, 2025 - Aimed at reducing crimes and proliferation of drug users, Montserrado District # 8 Representative Prince Tole has broken grounds for construction of a police station.

Rep. Toles, during the groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday, emphasized safety concerns of citizens, something that prompted his desires.

According to the lawmaker, his attention has been drawn to proliferation of drugs in the community, something that led to his action to forward a communication to the House of Representatives (HOR), citing the LDEA and LNP to clearly explain why people should openly sell drugs.

"I always had in mind, before becoming a Representative that I wanted to do something in Soniwein Community that will stop the hard-level of crimes and at least reduce drugs rate in this community and others within our District", Rep. Toles stressed.

He assured his constituents that the

police station project in the community will be constructed in four months.

"We remain committed to supporting government efforts to restore law and order in every corner of our district and country, and I will ensure this Police station be built under four months.

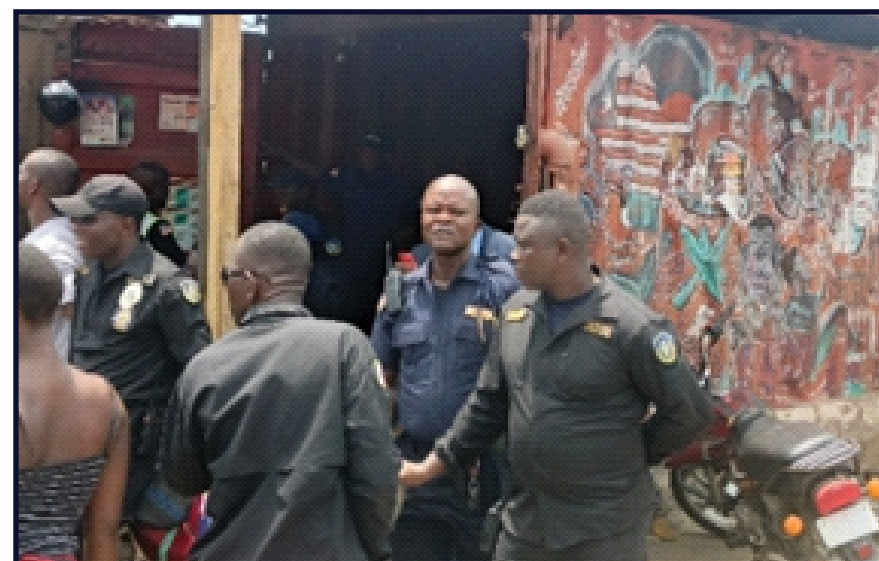
Monrovia City Mayor, John Siafa promised 20% contributing 20% towards the total construction cost of the Modern Police Station.

Deputy Inspector- General of the Liberia National Police DIGP William K. Mulbah assured the residents of the LNP will fully furnish the station and provide adequate manpower and logistical support to curtail criminal activities.

Meanwhile, Soniwein Community has been on the horizon of crimes rate in Central Monrovia, and construction of the new Sub- Police Station will help relief citizens' fears.

Over the years there has been a makeshift structure and limited manpower unable to coup crimes rate in the community. *Editing by*

Jonathan Browne



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PRESS

Français

La Banque centrale du Liberia reconnaît des erreurs dans son rapport annuel 2024

La Banque centrale du Liberia (CBL) a admis, mardi, des erreurs dans la présentation graphique de son rapport annuel 2024, lesquelles ont pu donner une fausse impression d'un déclin du secteur bancaire. Elle a toutefois rassuré que ce secteur demeure stable, de son rapport, notamment à la page 10 et dans le tableau 19 sur les « Indicateurs de solidité financière » (page 53). Ces erreurs d'étiquetage, a expliqué la Banque, ont résulté en une inversion des chiffres des bilans bancaires pour les années 2022 et 2024, donnant à tort l'image d'un recul du secteur. La clarification de la Banque



rentable, et en pleine croissance. Dans un communiqué adressé à la presse, la CBL a reconnu l'existence de divergences dans les données graphiques

centrale intervient à la suite d'un article analytique publié le 21 avril 2025 dans le journal *New Dawn*, qui s'appuyait sur les données erronées du rapport et présentait une interprétation inexacte de la santé

financière du secteur bancaire. « Cette erreur de présentation graphique a engendré une perception erronée d'une contraction du secteur, perception qui ne correspond pas à la réalité économique », a précisé la CBL. La Banque a salué l'intervention des experts qui ont soulevé les incohérences et a exprimé ses regrets pour cette représentation involontairement trompeuse. Elle a annoncé la publication imminente d'un graphique corrigé sur son site officiel, ainsi que la mise en place de mécanismes destinés à prévenir la répétition de telles erreurs. **Des indicateurs solides et une croissance continue** Malgré ces erreurs, la CBL insiste sur la solidité du secteur bancaire, dont la croissance s'est poursuivie sans interruption depuis 2022, avec des performances soutenues au premier trimestre 2025. Elle souligne que l'analyse narrative figurant aux pages 50 et 51 du rapport 2024 reste exacte, mettant en lumière un renforcement constant des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Hommage solennel à l'ancien président Tolbert et à ses collaborateurs, 45 ans après leur exécution

Quarante-cinq ans après l'un des épisodes les plus tragiques de l'histoire contemporaine du Liberia, la mémoire du président William R. Tolbert, Jr., et de treize hauts responsables de son gouvernement a été honorée lors d'une cérémonie de commémoration empreinte de recueillement et de dignité, organisée ce mardi par le *April 22nd Memorial Group*.

Dr William R. Tolbert, Jr., président de la République du Liberia de 1971 à 1980, fut assassiné dans la résidence présidentielle par des soldats mutinés lors du coup d'État militaire du 12 avril 1980. Peu après, treize hauts fonctionnaires de son administration, ainsi que plusieurs membres de sa garde présidentielle, furent exécutés publiquement par peloton d'exécution. Ces événements dramatiques marquèrent un tournant sombre dans l'histoire du pays, annonciateur de décennies d'instabilité politique et de conflits civils.

Un hommage vivant et symbolique

La cérémonie de mardi, qui s'est tenue au Séminaire théologique baptiste du

Liberia à Paynesville, a rassemblé familles, proches, survivants et citoyens venus honorer la mémoire des disparus. Parmi les temps forts de la commémoration figuraient la plantation d'arbres, l'érection de poteaux commémoratifs et l'appel solennel des noms des victimes, autant de gestes forts pour souligner la perte personnelle et l'impact national de cette tragédie.

Cllr. **Yvette Chesson-Wureh**, figure respectée de la société civile et membre influente du *April 22nd Memorial Group*, a ouvert la cérémonie par un discours émouvant. Elle y a salué la force des familles qui portent, depuis 45 ans, le poids du deuil, tout en rappelant l'importance de rendre hommage

aux disparus avec dignité. « Nous ne rendons pas hommage à de simples personnages publics, mais à nos pères, nos frères, nos oncles... des hommes qui représentaient tout pour nous. Ces treize hommes exécutés ce jour-là étaient simplement “papa” pour beaucoup d'entre nous », a-t-elle confié, la voix empreinte d'émotion. Elle a annoncé le lancement des travaux de construction d'un **mausolée** sur le site commémoratif, accompagné d'une **bibliothèque mémorielle** dont l'inauguration est prévue

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

« Nous sommes l'Océan »

Du 9 au 13 juin 2025, la France accueillera la troisième Conférence des Nations unies sur l'Océan (UNOC3). Ce rendez-vous sera un moment décisif : il réunira, à Nice, une centaine de chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, et plusieurs dizaines de milliers de participants, chercheurs, scientifiques, acteurs économiques, militants associatifs et citoyens du monde entier. A cette occasion, la France portera un objectif clair : protéger l'Océan par des actions concrètes. L'Océan est notre bien commun. Il nourrit les peuples et les protège. Il nous fait rêver et voyager. Il nous offre de l'énergie durable, des moyens de commercer, des ressources et des connaissances scientifiques infinies. Un être humain sur trois dépend de l'Océan pour vivre, et pourtant, ce dernier est en danger. C'est un espace encore largement méconnu, qui ne dispose ni d'une gouvernance globale, ni des financements nécessaires à sa préservation. Les chiffres sont inquiétants : plus de 8 millions de tonnes de plastique sont déversées dans l'Océan chaque année, selon une étude de la revue *Science*. A cela s'ajoute la surexploitation, qui touche plus d'un tiers des stocks de poissons, mais aussi l'acidification des eaux, la montée du niveau de la mer et la destruction des écosystèmes marins. Et ces phénomènes s'accroissent, conséquences directes du dérèglement climatique.

Il est temps d'agir. Plus que jamais, nous devons faire en sorte que l'action multilatérale soit à la hauteur des enjeux liés à la protection de l'Océan.

Dix ans après la COP21 et l'Accord de Paris, qui a permis d'établir un cadre mondial contraignant pour limiter le réchauffement climatique, l'UNOC3 représente une opportunité historique. Les « Accords de Nice » constitueraient un véritable pacte international pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable de l'Océan. Ce pacte serait ainsi directement en ligne avec les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) adoptés par l'ONU, en 2015.

Pour y parvenir, les discussions à Nice devront être concrètes et tournées vers l'action. Il s'agira d'œuvrer pour une meilleure gouvernance, davantage de financements et une plus fine connaissance de la mer.

En matière de gouvernance, le traité sur la protection de la biodiversité en haute mer (BBNJ) est un levier essentiel. La haute mer – plus de 60% des Océans – est aujourd'hui le seul espace qui n'est pas régi par le droit international. L'absence de surveillance et de règles communes entraîne un véritable désastre socio-environnemental : pollutions massives d'hydrocarbures et de plastiques, méthodes de pêche illégales et non régulées, captures de mammifères protégés. Pour mettre un terme à ce vide juridique, nous devons obtenir la ratification de 60 pays et ainsi permettre au traité BBNJ d'entrer en vigueur.

La protection de l'Océan passe également par la mobilisation des financements publics et privés et le soutien à une économie bleue durable. Pour continuer à bénéficier des formidables opportunités économiques de l'Océan, nous devons faire en sorte que les ressources marines puissent se régénérer. A Nice, plusieurs engagements seront annoncés en matière de commerce international, de transport maritime, de tourisme et d'investissement.

Enfin, comment protéger ce que l'on ne connaît pas – ou pas assez ? Nous devons accroître notre connaissance de l'Océan et mieux la diffuser. Aujourd'hui, nous sommes capables de cartographier la surface de la Lune ou celle de Mars, mais le fond des Océans nous demeure inconnu. Ils recouvrent pourtant 70% de la Terre ! Ensemble, mobilisons la science, l'innovation et l'éducation pour mieux comprendre l'Océan et sensibiliser davantage le grand public.

Face au changement climatique qui s'accroît et à la surexploitation des ressources marines, l'Océan n'est pas un enjeu parmi d'autres. C'est l'affaire de tous. La remise en question du multilatéralisme ne doit pas nous faire oublier notre responsabilité commune. L'Océan est un lien universel, il est au cœur de notre avenir. Ensemble, nous pouvons faire de l'UNOC3 un tournant majeur pour nos peuples, pour les générations futures et pour notre planète.

Le Libéria a engagé le processus de ratification du traité, avec l'espoir de le conclure avant le 9 juin. Plus que jamais, nous devons nous mobiliser collectivement et faire de l'UNOC3 un tournant. Votre engagement est décisif pour la gestion durable de la haute mer. La France sera heureuse d'accueillir S. E. M. Jeremiah Kpan Koung à Nice, engagé en faveur de la protection de l'Océan, pour la célébration de l'entrée en vigueur du traité BBNJ. Nous comptons sur vous.

S.E. Madame Isabelle Le Guellec
Ambassadrice de France au Libéria

Français

Starts from page 8 La Banque centrale du Liberia reconnaît

indicateurs de bilan, traduisant la résilience du secteur. Voici quelques chiffres révélateurs de cette progression :

- **Actifs totaux** : de 206 milliards LRD en 2022 à 293,7 milliards en 2023, 314,4 milliards en 2024, et plus de 340 milliards au 1er trimestre 2025.
- **Dépôts clients** : de 135 milliards LRD en 2022 à 198,7 milliards en 2023, 228,77 milliards en 2024, et 251 milliards au 1er trimestre 2025.
- **Capitaux propres des banques commerciales** : de 31,44 milliards LRD en 2022 à 47,6 milliards au 1er trimestre 2025.
- **Crédits au secteur privé** : en hausse

continue, atteignant plus de 100 milliards LRD en 2024, représentant plus de 95 % du portefeuille de crédit total.

- **Résultats nets** : de 4,20 milliards LRD en 2022 à 10,6 milliards en 2024.

La Banque souligne également des ratios de liquidité et de solvabilité robustes : un **ratio de liquidité de 49,29 %** et un **ratio de fonds propres de 33,8 %**, tous deux largement supérieurs aux exigences réglementaires.

« Ces performances illustrent la stabilité, la solidité et la capacité du secteur bancaire libérien à soutenir une croissance inclusive à moyen terme », conclut la CBL.

Starts from page 8 Hommage solennel à l'ancien président Tolbert et

pour 2026. Le lieu, a-t-elle précisé, servira d'espace de réflexion, d'apprentissage historique et de guérison collective.

Un regard lucide sur l'histoire nationale

Cllr. Chesson-Wureh a également dressé un parallèle entre les événements de 1980 et les mutations profondes qu'a connues le Liberia depuis : des deux guerres civiles ayant coûté la vie à quelque 250 000 personnes, à l'élection d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, première femme présidente d'Afrique, en passant par l'épidémie d'Ebola. Elle a aussi évoqué les bouleversements mondiaux récents, tels que la pandémie de COVID-19, les conflits géopolitiques persistants, et l'essor de l'intelligence artificielle.

« Mais au milieu de toutes ces transformations, la douleur du 22

avril 1980 reste gravée dans nos cœurs », a-t-elle rappelé.

Elle a souligné que le traumatisme ne s'est pas arrêté aux exécutions : familles déchirées, vies bouleversées, exils forcés... nombre d'enfants des victimes ont été contraints de fuir, devenant réfugiés à travers le monde. Elle a salué le courage de leurs pères, qui avaient choisi de servir leur pays avec loyauté.

Brisant une lecture souvent réductrice des événements de 1980, elle a déclaré que le coup d'État n'était pas une insurrection tribale, comme on l'a souvent prétendu, mais une **lutte de classes**, dirigée contre une élite dirigeante perçue comme déconnectée du peuple.

« L'exécution de ces hommes était une violation flagrante de la loi libérienne. Leurs morts ne doivent pas être vaines. Nous devons rester fermement attachés aux principes de justice,

de respect de la loi et à la sacralité de la vie humaine. »

Appel à la réconciliation et à une gouvernance renouvelée

La cérémonie s'est conclue par un appel vibrant à l'introspection nationale, au pardon et à la réconciliation. Chesson-Wureh a exhorté les Libériens à tirer les leçons du passé pour construire un avenir plus juste.

« Notre lignée pardonnera, mais elle n'oubliera pas », a-t-elle déclaré. « Nous sommes déterminés à bâtir le Liberia et à faire vivre l'héritage de ces hommes. Utilisons ce jour de deuil pour réinventer notre gouvernance, dans le respect de la mémoire et des principes qu'ils incarnaient. »

Ce 22 avril 2025 n'a pas seulement été un jour de souvenir, mais un moment de **prise de conscience collective**, d'engagement pour l'histoire, et de renouveau du contrat social au

Des partenaires internationaux en visite sur les sites d'ArcelorMittal à Buchanan et Yekepa

Monrovia, 23 avril 2025 – Dans une démonstration de soutien au développement durable et à la croissance économique du Liberia, l'ambassadrice de l'Union européenne au Liberia, Son Excellence Nona Deprez, et l'ambassadrice de France, Son Excellence Isabelle Le Guellec, ont récemment effectué une visite officielle sur les sites d'exploitation d'ArcelorMittal

Liberia (AML) à Buchanan et Yekepa.

Cette visite souligne l'importance croissante de la collaboration entre ArcelorMittal et ses partenaires internationaux, ainsi que leur engagement commun en faveur du développement local, de la formation professionnelle, et du renforcement des infrastructures stratégiques du pays.

Focus sur l'expansion et les

infrastructures clés

Accompagnées de représentants diplomatiques, les deux ambassadrices ont visité les installations minières et portuaires, où elles ont pu échanger avec les équipes sur le terrain. Une attention particulière a été portée au projet d'expansion de Phase II, qui comprend d'importants investissements dans le chemin de fer, le port de Buchanan et les infrastructures minières à Yekepa.

Son Excellence Nona Deprez, ambassadrice de l'Union européenne, a salué les efforts de l'entreprise :

« Je félicite ArcelorMittal pour son engagement de long terme au Liberia. Ses investissements substantiels dans le chemin de fer et l'usine de concentration auront un impact positif en créant des emplois et en générant des revenus domestiques pour le pays. »

Soutien à la formation et à

La Cour suprême se prononce aujourd'hui sur le différend Koffa-Koon

Monrovia, 23 avril 2025 – La Cour suprême du Liberia doit rendre ce mardi à midi sa décision tant attendue dans l'affaire opposant le président contesté de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa, au “président de régime” Richard N. Koon.

Saisi d'un "**Bill of Information**", un recours en interprétation, par le Cllr. Koffa, la Cour a été appelée à trancher le différend institutionnel né de l'avis juridique donné par le ministre de la Justice, Oswald Tweh, au président Joseph Boakai. Cet avis avait permis à l'exécutif de reconnaître le bloc majoritaire dirigé par Koon comme interlocuteur officiel à la Chambre.

Dans un avis émis le 16 avril 2025, la Cour a ordonné au maréchal de notifier les parties concernées de sa décision prévue pour ce jour, à 12 heures.

« VOUS ÊTES PAR LA PRÉSENTE SOMMÉ de notifier aux parties susmentionnées ou à leurs représentants légaux que la Cour suprême rendra sa décision le 23 AVRIL 2025 à midi, et qu'ils doivent être présents pour cette audience », peut-on lire dans l'avis officiel.

L'affaire remonte au 4 mars 2025, lorsque la Cour suprême avait émis une ordonnance exigeant que M. Koon et les autres parties présentent leur réponse juridique avant le 14 mars.

À l'issue des audiences, et après avoir accédé à une demande du président Boakai sollicitant un délai pour consulter, la Cour a réservé sa décision, laquelle est attendue aujourd'hui avec grande anticipation au sein de la classe politique libérienne.



l'emploi des jeunes

La visite a également permis de découvrir l'Académie de formation professionnelle d'ArcelorMittal Liberia, où des centaines de jeunes Libériens bénéficient d'un enseignement technique de haut niveau, les préparant à des carrières durables dans le secteur industriel.

L'ambassadrice Isabelle Le Guellec a exprimé sa profonde admiration :

« La visite d'AML m'a permis de mieux appréhender l'engagement remarquable de l'entreprise au Liberia depuis 2005, même à travers des crises majeures comme Ebola. Les lourds investissements dans le rail, les milliers d'opportunités d'emploi créées, le soutien étendu aux communautés locales et la formation professionnelle m'ont profondément impressionnée. Je remercie et félicite AML pour tout cela. »

De son côté, Dimitri de Pues, attaché diplomatique au sein de la Délégation de l'UE pour le développement du secteur privé,

les finances et le commerce, a également salué les efforts d'AML :

« Nous avons accueilli avec intérêt l'invitation d'ArcelorMittal à observer ses investissements sur le terrain. Nous les félicitons pour les infrastructures réalisées au fil des années, leur résilience durant la pandémie de COVID-19, ainsi que leur engagement pour l'emploi et le développement des compétences de leurs quelque 7 000 collaborateurs. »

Un partenariat tourné vers l'avenir

Guidée par une vision de développement durable et de prospérité partagée, ArcelorMittal Liberia affirme sa volonté de créer des retombées positives durables pour les communautés, le gouvernement et l'ensemble du peuple libérien.

« Ensemble, nous construisons un avenir plus prometteur et plus durable pour le Liberia », conclut la direction de l'entreprise.



LIBERIANS

DEBATE

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

By Naneka Hoffman

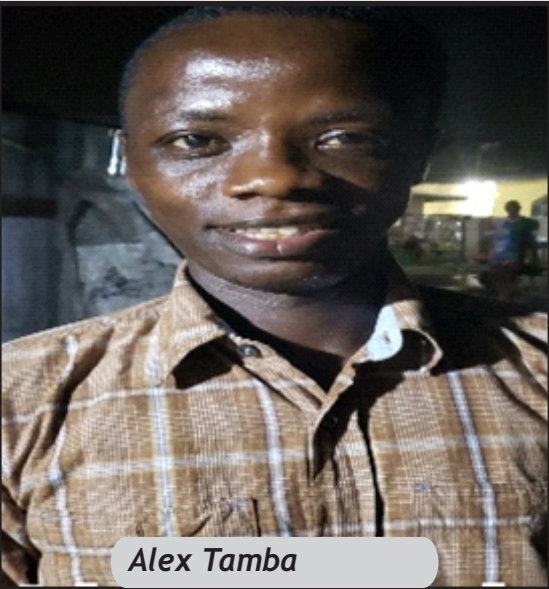
Moving two years into leadership, Liberians debate strength and weaknesses of the Boakai Administration, as you may read below.



Henry M. Gray

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

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



Alex Tamba

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

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



T. Mohammed A. Kiazolu

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

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



Robert Political Zlatan Ibrahimovic

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

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



Kesselley E. Johnson

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

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



Marcus M. Goodridge

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

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

S/Court stamps Koffa's Speakership But...

The Supreme Court of Liberia has sustained the Bill of Information filed before it by embattled Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, upholding his speakership of the 55th Liberian Legislature.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Capitol Hill, Monrovia – April 23, 2025: In what has become a stand-off between the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives, majority bloc leader Richard Koon has rejected the well publicised Supreme Court ruling arguing that embattled House Speaker Koffa was rightfully

afforded due process, referencing the 2007 Supreme Court opinion in *Snowe v. House of Representatives* as precedent. Koon also asserted that no lawmaker has filed a motion to reconsider Koffa's removal, a move that would be required under Rule 17.4(q) of the House's internal procedures. “No opinion or judgment of the Supreme



removed. His statement comes hours after the Superior Court interpreted its December 6, 2024, ultra vires ruling, which was left open to various interpretation. It also follows embattled Speaker Koffa's press statement calling for unity and reconciliation after the court handed down its opinion. However, Koon in his statement argued that the Supreme Court's ruling represents “an atrocious and audacious violation” of the principle of separation of powers and accused the Court of overstepping its bounds by interfering in the internal affairs of the Legislature. “The Leadership of the House of Representatives, acting by and between me, the undersigned, Honorable Richard Nagbe Koon, Sr., rejects in the strongest term the judgment of the Supreme Court,” Koon wrote. “Koffa was duly removed by a resolution signed by 50 members of the House—well above the two-thirds constitutional threshold required,” he added. Embattled Speaker Koffa was ousted in early 2025 on allegations of corruption, conflict of interest, and mismanagement—charges the Majority Bloc claims violated Articles 90 of the Constitution and Rules 44 and 45 of the House. Koon maintains that Koffa was

Court can or will erase this resolution from the records of the House,” Koon added. “Plenary will not allow Hon. Koffa to preside over any sitting or meeting of the House of Representatives.” Still in a defiant posture, Koon maintains that the House has continued to function as normal including carrying out its legislative duties such as enacting the 2025 National Budget. Legal and political analysts are closely watching the development, warning that the escalating dispute could trigger a constitutional crisis if left unresolved. The Majority Bloc further revealed it is exploring both legal and political avenues to challenge the Supreme Court's ruling. “We shall vigorously and assiduously pursue any recourse necessary to protect the sanctity and integrity of the House and ensure effective governance of the Republic of Liberia,” Koon stressed. This bold defiance by Regime Speaker Koon signals deepening divisions between branches of government, and poses critical questions about constitutional interpretation, rule of law, and institutional respect. As the power struggle unfolds, the Liberian public and the international community await clarity on who holds legitimate authority in the nation's first branch of government. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Weah on Baokai's back

Monrovia, Liberia: Former President George Manneh Weah on his official Facebook page, Weah has called on President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and his administration to respect and uphold the recent ruling of the Supreme Court, which confirmed Hon. J. Fonati Koffa as the legitimate Speaker of the 55th House of Representatives. In a statement published on Wednesday

on his official Facebook page, Weah described the Court's decision as a landmark affirmation of the rule of law and a crucial moment for Liberia's democracy. He warned that any attempt to undermine the authority of the judiciary could destabilize the country and threaten its constitutional order. “Today, the Supreme Court of Liberia issued a landmark opinion regarding the Bill of Information filed by the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa and some members of the House,” Weah stated. “The Court decisively declared that the actions of the so-called majority-bloc in the

Starts from Back page

Koffa extends olive branch to Koon, and Fallah.

thirds majority of the members of the Senate, which they did not obtain. Based on this, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Youh described the actions of the Majority Bloc as vague. However, the Bloc allegedly violated the Supreme Court's December 6, 2024, ruling by refusing to comply and failing to conduct legislative business in accordance with the Court's directives. On March 15, 2025, Speaker Koffa filed a Bill of Information against the self-styled Majority Bloc. The Court heard oral arguments on March 26, 2025, and issued its ruling on April 23, 2025, confirming Koffa as the legitimate Speaker of the 55th House of Representatives. Following the ruling, Speaker Koffa extended an olive branch to his opponents, calling for reconciliation in a bid to restore unity and stability in the House. “Today, the Supreme Court of Liberia reaffirmed and upheld the rule of law in what has been described as a legislative impasse in the House of Representatives. We pledged that the Court's ruling would be our final stop, and it has now effectively recognized our leadership as constitutionally mandated. We welcome that ruling,” he said. Koffa expressed gratitude to God for giving him and his colleagues the strength to endure what he described as a challenging six-month period. “To my colleagues who stood for the rule of law and risked both their political and financial lives, I offer my sincere salute,” he added. “Your dedication is a true testament that society becomes great

when ordinary people rise to do extraordinary things.” He continued “Today, you walk into history with the wind at your back and the thanks of a grateful nation.” he noted The Speaker also thanked the hundreds of thousands of Liberians at home and abroad who prayed with them during the crisis. “Your words of encouragement held us up, lest we fall. Your belief in us means everything. Without your support, this advancement in our democracy would not have been possible. We will always remember you,” he said. “We will always be proud, and we will always be your servants.” Additionally, he called on his colleagues who opposed him to join in ending the stalemate at Capitol Hill, emphasizing “Come, let us reason together. In the words of President John F. Kennedy, let us remember on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof.” Speaker Koffa at the same time said he plans to reach out to Deputy Speaker Fallah and Richard Koon to form a joint reconciliation and transitional committee. “Let us not negotiate out of fear but let us not fear to negotiate. I will reach out to Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah and Hon. Richard Koon so that we can establish a joint reconciliation and transitional committee,” he pledged. Meanwhile, he urged all lawmakers to demonstrate to the nation that democracy can thrive despite their differences. -**Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**



House are unconstitutional and illegal. It reaffirmed that Speaker J. Fonati Koffa remains the legitimate and constitutional Speaker. Therefore, any attempt by the Boakai-led administration to undermine or reject the authority of the judiciary could destabilize the country and threaten its constitutional order.” Weah further emphasized that the ruling goes beyond a mere legal judgment. “It is a crucial affirmation of the rule of law and the constitutional order that underpins our democracy,” he said. “Any attempt to undermine, ignore, or dismiss this ruling threatens the very foundation of our nation. It risks plunging Liberia into a constitutional crisis—a crisis that our fragile peace, hard-won stability, and democratic progress cannot withstand.” The former president also appealed to Liberia's international partners to encourage the Boakai administration to abide by the ruling and protect the country's legal and democratic institutions.

“You are our allies, and your investments have been vital to Liberia's stability and progress in democracy,” he said. Addressing the Liberian people directly, Weah called for unity and resilience in defending the country's democratic principles. “Our democracy is founded on justice, legality, and the rule of law,” he noted. “It is our shared duty to defend these principles with unwavering resolve. We must stand united and firm in support and protection of our Constitution, regardless of political pressures or challenges.” Weah concluded his statement by emphasizing that Liberia's strength lies in its commitment to justice and constitutional order. “As we face this critical moment, let us reaffirm our dedication to building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Liberia, one that remains a beacon of democracy and hope in the region. May God continue to bless Liberia and guide us all in this crucial time,” he closes

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