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

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Boakai under pressure

-Over House impasse



Concession tug-of-war

-Threatens to derail railway progress

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Continental News

Namibian minister sacked after being accused of rape

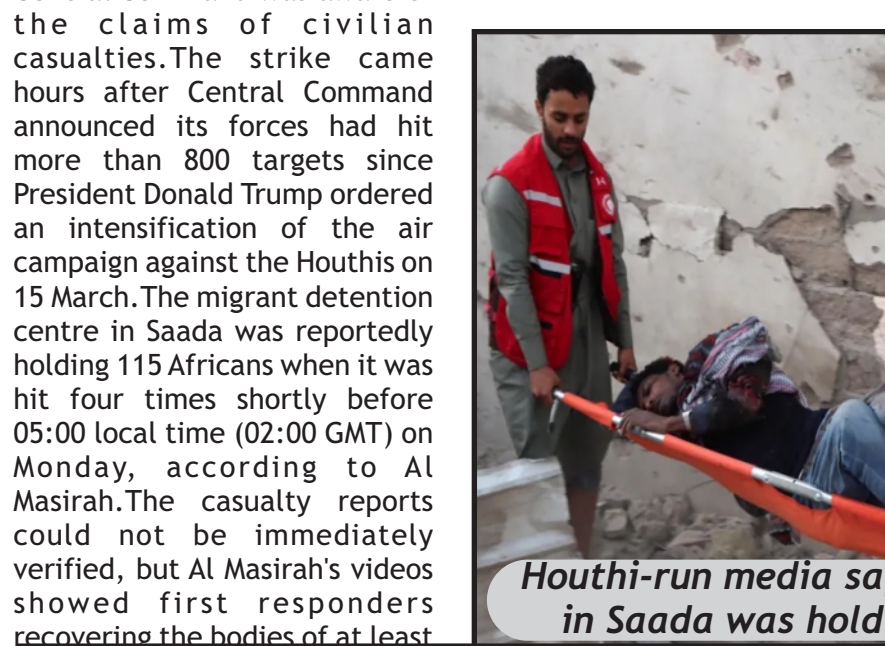
Mac-Albert Hengari was nominated to parliament by the president to represent the ruling party, Swapo denied any wrongdoing, appeared in court on Monday and was denied bail.This is the first major scandal for Namibia's first



Namibia's agriculture minister has been sacked after being accused of raping a 16-year-old girl five years ago.Mac-Albert Hengari was arrested on Saturday after allegedly attempting to bribe the victim, now 21, to withdraw the case against him, the police say.Hengari, 59, who has

Dozens of African migrants killed in US strike on Yemen, Houthis say

At least 68 African migrants have been killed in a US air strike on a detention centre in Houthi-controlled north-western Yemen, the armed group's TV channel says. Al Masirah reported that another 47 migrants were injured, most of them critically, when the centre in Saada province was bombed. It posted graphic footage showing multiple bodies covered in the rubble of a destroyed building.A US defence official said the US military's Central Command was aware of the claims of civilian casualties.The strike came hours after Central Command announced its forces had hit more than 800 targets since President Donald Trump ordered an intensification of the air campaign against the Houthis on 15 March.The migrant detention centre in Saada was reportedly holding 115 Africans when it was hit four times shortly before 05:00 local time (02:00 GMT) on Monday, according to Al Masirah.The casualty reports could not be immediately verified, but Al Masirah's videos showed first responders recovering the bodies of at least



Houthi-run media say the detention centre in Saada was holding African migrants

ruling party, Swapo. He is under investigation for multiple charges related to the case including kidnapping, rape and assault, police say.On Monday he appeared before a magistrates' court in the capital Windhoek facing a charge of obstructing the course of justice. He and his co-accused will remain in custody until 3 June when the next hearing is scheduled. They were denied bail on the grounds that they could be a flight risk and could seek to contact witnesses.

The opposition Independent Patriots for Change said Hengari's arrest "on allegations of rape, kidnapping and forced abortion" was a "profound failure of leadership and exposes the hollowness of government rhetoric on gender-based violence".It said the case came against a backdrop of

'They aimed to kill' - BBC identifies security forces who shot Kenya anti-tax protesters

The members of Kenya's security forces who shot dead anti-tax protesters at the country's parliament last June have been identified by the BBC. The BBC's analysis of more than 5,000 images also shows that those killed there were unarmed and not posing a threat.The East African nation's constitution guarantees the right to peaceful protest, and the deaths caused a public outcry.Despite a parliamentary committee ordering Kenya's Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to investigate the deaths

2024.Warning: This story contains images of dead bodies Young people, labelled Gen Z protesters who had mobilised themselves on social media, began streaming into central Nairobi early in the morning - in what would be the capital's third large-scale protest since the finance bill was introduced on 9 May. "It was a beautiful party," says prominent human rights activist Boniface Mwangi, who was there. "Kids came out with Bluetooth speakers and their water. It was a carnival."Protests earlier in the week had already led lawmakers to axe tax increases on bread, cooking oil, mobile money and motor vehicles, as well as an eco levy that would



on the streets of the capital, Nairobi - and make public its findings - no report regarding the killings at parliament has yet been issued and no-one has been held to account. The BBC World Service team analysed videos and photos taken by protesters and journalists on the day. We determined when each was taken using camera metadata, livestream timings and public clocks visible in the shots.We plotted three of the killings on a 3D reconstruction of Kenya's parliament, allowing us to trace the fatal shots back to the rifles of a police officer and a soldier.What follows is BBC Africa Eye's detailed timeline of events as Kenya's MPs entered parliament for the final vote on the government's controversial finance bill, while protesters amassed on the streets outside on Tuesday 25 June

have raised the cost of goods like nappies and sanitary towels.But other measures to raise the \$2.7bn (£2bn) the government said it needed to cut its reliance on external borrowing, such as higher import taxes and another on specialised hospitals, remained. "For the first time it was the Kenyan people - the working class and the middle class and the lower class - against the ruling class," says Mwangi.The protesters had one target - parliament, where the final vote was taking place.By 09:30 local time, the last of the MPs filed into the lower house. Outside, thousands pushed towards Parliament Road from the east, north and west of the city."For me, it was just a normal day," says 26-year-old student journalist Ademba Allans. People were livestreaming on their TikTok and Instagram accounts, while events were broadcast live on national TV, he adds.At first, protesters were held back at roadblocks by tear gas and truncheons.BBC

EDITORIAL

Legal or political path: Which way is expedient for peace?

Despite acknowledging the Supreme Court Ruling on the leadership impasse in the House of Representatives, President Joseph Boakai says his government would seek a political resolution to the impasse.

This supposes that despite the ruling from the High Court being as crystal clear as daylight that Representative Richard Koon is not Speaker, the Executive seems even more determined to remain on its current path of political maneuvering in having its way in the House of Representatives.

On the other hand, the leader of the majority bloc in the House of Representatives, Richard Nagbe, has run to the Supreme Court, praying for re-argument of the Bill of Information from Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, which is a paradox, because while President Boakai is talking of pursuing a political approach than implementing the Supreme Court Ruling, Rep. Koon is returning to court. Which way does the UP-led government want to proceed in this matter?

“We are a country governed by laws, not by mobs or self-serving ambition. Those who undermine peace, violate the law, or seek to disrupt national harmony will face the full force of the law and justice”, President Boakai said in his address to the nation last week, a day after the ruling by the Supreme Court, upholding Speaker Koffa's Bill of Information.

Instead of enforcing the ruling from the Supreme Court of Liberia, the President says his government has already initiated broad consultations with relevant national stakeholders to determine the most appropriate and constitutionally sound path forward. “We have actively involved our traditional and other national leaders in addressing this matter”, Mr. Boakai adds.

We wonder what other path is “most appropriate and constitutionally sound” in the words of the President, other than the Supreme Court Ruling on the impasse.

The President's position clearly brings him in conflict with the Highest Court and final arbiter of justice in the land. The Executive that has been funding the illegal removal of Speaker Koffa, says it is consulting with traditional and other national leaders in addressing what is clearly a matter of law. This is quite unfortunate for the practice of the rule of law in Liberia.

This is a sad moment in our country that ruling of the Supreme Court is no longer respected by the highest office in the land that should set example on adherence to the rule of law. What message does this send to incoming generations? Are we truly a country of law or men, where might and influence make right.

Koon is convinced by his conscience that he is not Speaker of the 55th Legislature. This is why he addressed himself as Representative Koon in his petition to the Supreme Court. Yet, the Executive is maneuvering all out to have him imposed as Speaker, contrary to what the Constitution says about removal of the Speaker.

It is unfortunate that a government that campaigned on a promise of rescuing Liberia would embark on path that leaves much to be desired.

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COMMENTARY

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.

OP-ED

By Courtney C. Radsch

Resisting American Techno-Fascism

WASHINGTON, DC - Big Tech’s massive encroachment upon the levers of state authority under US President Donald Trump is creating a dangerous new power structure - one not confined to its homeland. Trump’s threats against countries - US allies and adversaries alike - that dare to regulate their digital markets and communications systems are not merely a case of economic bullying. Rather, they are an attempt to export this power structure and undermine the rule of law and democratic governance worldwide.

For example, America’s European allies risk tariffs and retaliation for enforcing much-needed digital regulations, as do countries, like the United Kingdom and Brazil, that impose a digital-services tax. But these challenges also create strategic opportunities for democracies. If they collectively refuse to submit to US pressure, it is less likely that any one government will bear the brunt of retaliation. These countries must therefore unite against the tech giants that mine their citizens’ data, control key information and commercial infrastructure, and refuse to pay taxes or even acknowledge the jurisdiction of national governments.

Of course, defending national interests while fostering genuine innovation is a difficult balancing act. But the unprecedented alliance forged between Big Tech and the Trump administration underscores the urgency of this task. As head of Trump’s “Department of Government Efficiency,” Elon Musk, the world’s richest person, has gained access to government data systems, fired thousands of federal workers, and taken aim at regulatory agencies. Musk has also used the Federal Trade Commission as a cudgel against businesses that are reticent to advertise on his social-media platform X, which he has turned into a megaphone for right-wing extremists and a tool for disinformation and political interference.

Musk is not the only tech boss to have bent the knee. When Mark Zuckerberg announced in January that Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, would end its fact-checking program, he repeated Trump’s talking points. More recently, Instagram concealed results when users searched for “Democrats,” and Facebook amplified posts from Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance.

These are only the most prominent examples of how the world’s most powerful tech CEOs have aligned themselves with an authoritarian leader, shaping public discourse to his (and their own) benefit. When tech interests capture the US government to this extent, other countries must stand up to Trump’s threats to avert a global slide into techno-fascism.

Some will argue that by taking a strong regulatory stance, these countries risk losing access to technological innovation. But this fundamentally misreads the situation. Given the extraordinary protections and privileges they have secured at home, US tech giants don’t need more favorable treatment from other countries. They need access to these countries’ markets. Advanced economies with skilled workforces, including the UK, Japan, and those in Europe, are highly valuable, as are middle-income and emerging economies like Brazil, Indonesia, and India.

The revelation that China’s DeepSeek developed a large language model comparable to those of dominant American AI firms at a fraction of the cost has underscored this point. It belies the narrative that only the biggest tech companies with the most advanced chips and the least restrictive regulatory environment can develop the best AI, and shows that alternatives to the Silicon Valley model exist.

So far, Brazil is the only country with the courage and conviction to challenge Musk (albeit before he joined the Trump administration). It is less clear whether Europe, which has recourse to its digital markets and AI directives, will defend its right to regulate and rein in the “broligarchs” power.

Because enforcing competition policy has implications beyond traditional market concerns, more countries should regulate digital services, focusing not just on market dominance, but also on a corporation’s ability to shape public discourse, control information flows, and leverage data advantages in order to entrench its power. Allowing Big Tech to pursue unfettered AI development that is environmentally and culturally destructive - or, worse, subsidizing such innovation - could pave the way for techno-fascism on a global scale.

Clear rules for protecting competition and intellectual property are far more likely to foster innovation than would enabling dominant players to strengthen their monopoly power. For example, the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation has, despite initial resistance, become a global standard, spurring privacy-enhancing innovation and acting as a safeguard against corporate overreach, especially with regard to data mining.

Similarly, requiring credit and compensation for the use of copyrighted materials for AI training is not just about protecting creative industries. It is about integrating the development of these transformative technologies into the fabric of our economies and societies, before a handful of US companies get a chance to “move fast and break things” - like democracy and the rule of law - that are not easily repaired.

Instead of accepting a false choice between innovation and regulation, the world’s democracies have an opportunity to create the conditions for genuine innovation, not imitation, and show how democratic oversight can enable technological progress while preserving fundamental rights. But this requires recognizing that tech policy has become integral to resisting authoritarian tendencies.

Such a stance is not anti-American. In fact, it reflects concerns about the fusion of Big Tech and political power in the US that many Americans share. That makes it all the more important for other governments to ensure that digital technologies serve democracy and protect human dignity.

OPINION

By Vera Songwe,
Moritz Kraemer

Climate Action Requires Debt Relief

WASHINGTON, DC - Today’s global economic turmoil is not just about trade. As G20 finance ministers gather in Washington this week during the annual spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has warned that growing economic uncertainty and financial market stress pose serious threats to developing countries.

The danger is particularly acute for highly indebted economies, which are now facing weaker growth prospects and reduced financial support from the United States and other donor countries. In February, the IMF estimated that nearly half of the lowest-income countries were at risk of debt distress, at which point they may no longer be able to meet their debt obligations. That number is expected to rise as conditions continue to deteriorate.

Compounding the crisis, the world’s poorest countries - especially small island developing states - are highly vulnerable to climate change and biodiversity loss. Extreme weather events like hurricanes, droughts, and floods can wipe out critical infrastructure and cripple agricultural production in an instant, while slower-onset changes like rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns require continuous and costly adaptation measures.

The debt and climate crises are closely intertwined. As more public funds are diverted toward disaster relief and recovery, fewer resources are available for climate adaptation, nature conservation, and long-term investment. This, in turn, increases vulnerability, weakens growth prospects, and drives up borrowing costs, shrinking fiscal space even further. The result is a self-reinforcing, vicious circle.

But it doesn’t have to be this way. Over the past year, we have co-chaired the Expert Review on Debt, Nature, and Climate - an initiative launched by the governments of Colombia, Kenya, France, and Germany. In our final report, “Healthy Debt on a Healthy Planet,” we outline several steps that emerging and developing economies can take to break free from the debt-climate trap and move toward a virtuous cycle of low-carbon, climate-resilient, and nature-positive growth.

First, climate and nature considerations must be integrated into macroeconomic and fiscal analyses. This is especially critical in the debt sustainability frameworks used by the IMF and World Bank to assess developing countries’ fiscal health. Although both institutions have made some progress in recent years, much more needs to be done to ensure that these frameworks fully account for climate-related risks.

Equally important, such assessments must recognize not only the risks posed by climate change but also the economic benefits of investing in resilience. Their value - especially their potential to fuel medium-term growth and reduce a country’s financial risks - must be properly reflected in economic and financial models to encourage governments to act.

Second, many developing countries need assistance in reducing their debt burdens. Some are already in debt distress, while others suffer from liquidity problems. Our report proposes new mechanisms for restructuring and refinancing debt in return for investments in climate adaptation and conservation projects that promote sustainable growth. Borrower countries, major global creditors, the IMF, and multilateral development banks (MDBs) must all champion such solutions.

Third, proven approaches to addressing debt, nature, and climate risks must be scaled up. These include contingency clauses in debt contracts that suspend repayments during natural disasters and various forms of sustainability-linked finance. While debt-for-climate and debt-for-nature swaps are not yet scalable due to a lack of standardization, they have already delivered vital funding for environmental initiatives, demonstrating their value and warranting greater support.

More broadly, MDBs must significantly boost lending to support low-carbon, climate-resilient, and nature-positive growth. While discussions on much-needed recapitalization are ongoing, optimizing MDB balance sheets remains the most effective way to stretch scarce public resources and accelerate sustainable development.

Lastly, our report calls for the development of new financing instruments aimed at mobilizing private capital for climate mitigation and adaptation. For example, we propose establishing a Finance Facility against Climate Change (F2C2) - a special-purpose vehicle designed to issue green bonds backed by future donor commitments. The proceeds would be directed primarily toward climate-mitigation investments in developing countries. If successful, the F2C2 could unlock up to \$1 trillion in private financing.

We also propose a new kind of equity-like instrument to finance climate-resilient infrastructure. Investments in sea walls, flood defenses, and similar systems can significantly reduce the costs of disaster relief and recovery. As the primary beneficiaries, insurance companies must work together with MDBs to develop an instrument capable of translating these savings into returns for investors.

These are all practical, actionable proposals. When combined with technical assistance and policy support, they could significantly improve the growth prospects of developing countries grappling with debt and climate risks. Making debt management both fiscally and environmentally sustainable is not only feasible but also essential to safeguarding global growth, which is in the interest of all countries - not just the poorest.

FEATURE ARTICLE

"From grass to grace"

-A disabled girl praises destiny helper for transformed life

By: Edwin N Khakie

A 22-year-old girl from Gbarnga-Siaquellah Town, Panta District#4, Bong County, departed her rural village for a better life in the United States of America.

This positive change was made possible through the efforts of a dedicated son of Gboawuta Town, Harrison Kpartipa, through his effort and his church, Trinity Lutheran Church in Tipton and Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids

She learned to walk on her knees to complete such tasks as 'fetching' water, gathering firewood for cooking, thrashing rice, and 'walking' to school when she could attend.

However, Harrison Kpartipa, who grew up in the adjacent village of Gboawuta based in the USA, stated, 'children born in Liberia with a handicap are often treated as outcasts due to their inability to carry their own weight'.

course of treatment. At the time, all the documents were in transit to Cedar Rapids," he added.

Moreover, Mr. Harrison Kpartipa said upon receipt of the aforementioned documents, he was in a position to begin making travel arrangements to bring Thinking Paye to Cedar Rapids in the US.

These arrangements included having him fly to Liberia to escort Thinking Paye back to the USA. At the same time, with these documents in hand, he was able to schedule Thinking's preliminary consultation evaluation with the Shriner's Hospital.

"During the period from when Mis Paye arrived in Cedar Rapids until she is admitted to the Shriner's Hospital, I intend to immerse her into 'life in the USA.' This included enrolling her in ESL classes, teaching her basic (to us) life skills, such as NEVER bringing electrical devices near water, how to flush a stool, cooking on a gas/electric stove, operating a micro-wave oven, turning a light switch on, how and when to make a call to 911, etc. I even have to quit my job to take care of her," he stressed.

Remember, this is a young lady coming from the rainforest of remote Africa who lived through the horrors of life in Liberia. Try to imagine the world she was leaving, then think about the world she was being entered into.

Mr. Harrison Kpartipa told the media that one of Thinking's first medical reviews of her life was made in early 2016, where she was reported to be extremely malnourished but otherwise to be in relatively good health.

He said Thinking Paye, who could not walk when she was in Liberia, can now walk, and her health condition has improved in the US.

Meanwhile, in an exclusive interview with Thinking Paye via mobile phone from the United States of America lauded the efforts of Mr. Harrison Kpartipa for transforming her life from darkness to light.

Thinking Paye told our reporter that she can walk now, and she completed her high school studies in 2023, and she is currently in university.

"If Mr. Harrison Kpartipa was not going to bring me to the United States of America, probably I may have been dead long ago because life was very difficult for me as a person who couldn't walk. There was no care for me," Thinking Paye explained her ordeal.



Iowa, United States of America.

Thinking was born on October 11, 2002, in the remote farming village of Gbarnga-Siaquellah Town, located in northern Bong County, Liberia. Due to a 'probable' neurological condition, Thinking has never had use of her legs from the knees down.

She was born during a very difficult period in the country's history, being born in year eleven of what ended up being a devastating fourteen-year civil war. While the war may not have caused her medical affliction, it certainly has impacted the first fourteen and one-half years of her life.

With no electricity, running water, or nearby medical clinics/hospitals, Thinking's birth came under less-than-ideal circumstances, probably aided by the village's elder women (traditional midwives). With the war raging, the people of Liberia, especially in the rural villages, had virtually no financial means to travel, and thus to seek medical treatment.

As a result, Thinking was forced to adapt to her circumstances as she grew. This meant to become a contributing part of her family/village unit, she had to carry out the same tasks as her able-bodied peers.

According to Mr. Kpartipa, while on a mission trip to Gbarnga-Siaquellah in the spring of 2015, he was introduced to Thinking, with the question asked of him, "Is there a way someone in the United States can help Thinking?" Upon his return to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he currently resides, as an eight-year US citizen, Mr. Kpartipa approached the mission support committee of his church, Trinity Lutheran, Cedar Rapids.

He revealed that he asked the question of how they could assist Thinking Paye, adding at first, the conversation centered around mobility devices, such as crutches, wheelchairs, or a PET tricycle.

According to Mr. Kpartipa, the committee asked him (Kpartipa) to find a Hospital that would cater to Thinking Paye's health condition, so he contacted the Shriner's Hospital in the Twin Cities, to inquire whether the Shriner's would accept Thinking Paye to be evaluated and then offer a course of treatment.

"In January 2017, I received news from the Shriner's Hospital that they would accept Thinking as an international patient. That set the wheels in motion to secure Thinking's birth certificate (no small feat), to apply for a passport and VISA, and lastly, obtain notarized POA and guardianship documents, as Thinking's parents do not have the means to accompany her for this year-long expected medical

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Enforce the Court Ruling

-CENTAL urges Boakai

President Joseph Boakai has been urged to immediately enforce ruling of the Supreme Court of Liberia on the House crisis.

By Lewis S. Teh
Monrovia, Liberia, April 29, 2025 - The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL urges President Joseph Boakai to immediately enforce ruling of the Supreme Court by restoring all rights and privileges accorded embattled Speaker J. Fonati

and privileges of Speaker Koffa and sever any ties with the Koon bloc of lawmakers until the Supreme Court can rule otherwise", CENTAL says. On April 23, 2025, the Supreme Court of Liberia granted Speaker Koffa's Bill of Information, recognizing him as the legitimate Speaker of the House, while

Yuoh, maintained that the bench stands by its December 6, 2024, ruling, describing the action of the Majority Bloc's removal of Speaker Koffa as ultra vires.

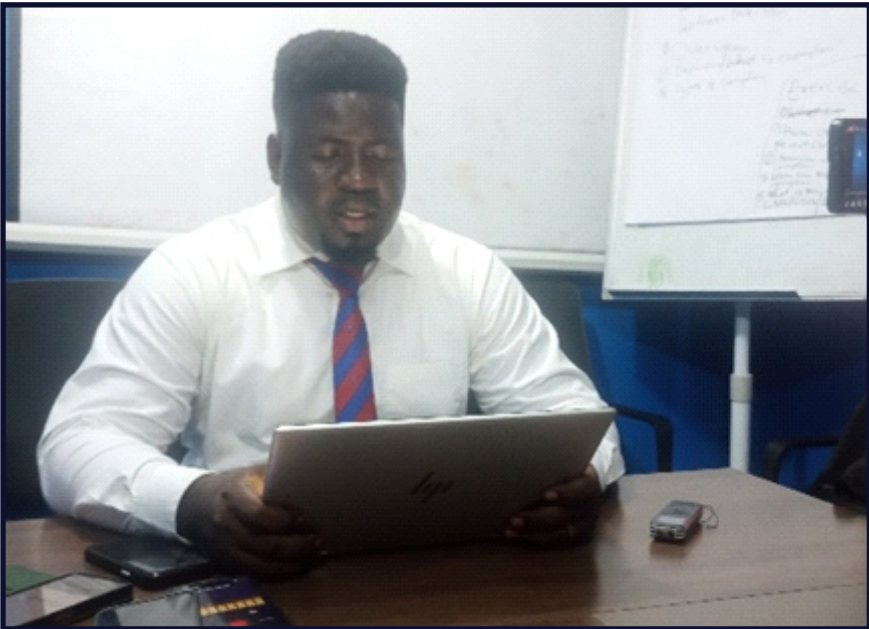
Ultra vires or beyond the powers is a Latin phrase in law to describe an act that requires legal authority but is done without it.

President Boakai in a statement argued that the Liberian Constitution and the Supreme Court have defined what constitutes a quorum for the conduct of business in the Legislature.

"We intend to vigorously uphold this vital principle of our constitutional democracy. We will continue to work with the quorum that will ensure the full functioning of our government"

But reacting to the President's statement, CENTAL Program Director Attorney Gerald D. Yeakula, told a news conference here that there can be no short-cut about this, as any will surely harm the country, just as it has been seen over the last few months, whereby there has been a near dysfunctional Legislature and slow pace of key decision-

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Kofa as head of the 55th mandating and ordering the L i b e r i a n majority bloc of "Regime Legislature. Therefore, we Speaker" Richard N. Koon to call on President Joseph N. respect the Court's ruling and Boakai to ensure the full act accordingly. enforcement of the April 23, Delivering the Court's 2025, ruling of the Supreme opinion, Chief Justice, Her Court by restoring the rights Honor, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay

Demonstrate integrity

-Gbowee urges NVTI graduates

Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee urged graduates of a vocational institution here to exhibit highest standards of integrity and professionalism, as they set out to pursue their dreams and develop their careers.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Monrovia, Liberia, dark," but you have April 29, 2025 - chosen to be the light, in Addressing the your electrical 18th cycle batch one engineering, hospitality, graduation ceremony of data analysis, pastry and the Vocational Training catering, software and Institute (NVTI) held at computer technology, so Greater Refuge Cathedral let your light shine upon in Congo Town, Nobel you." She said.

She shared the 2011 Noble

Peace Prize with former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Yemeni journalist Tawakkul Karman, for their non-violent efforts to promote peace and their struggle for women's rights. Speaking on the theme "A Light in a Very Dark Country," Madam Gbowee highlighted the effect of dishonesty, emphasizing integrity, while sharing her personal story.

The Nobel Laureate recounted how a simple act of honesty—returning money mistakenly given to her—broke stereotypes and earned respect.

"Today, I introduced a Ghanaian milita

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Madam Leymah Gbowee

MoA dedicates Model Piggery Farm and Livestock Farmers Field in Nimba

The Government of Liberia has commissioned a Model Piggery Farm and Livestock Farmers Field School at Nimba University.

By: S. Matthew M. Quoi Jr., Nimba County

Sanniquellie, Liberia, April 29, 2025 - The Ministry of Agriculture, through the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP) has officially dedicated a Model Piggery Farm and Livestock Farmers Field School at Nimba University in Sanniquellie, Nimba County.

With an estimated cost of more than US\$190,000 and supported by the World Bank, this brand-new facility aims to promote climate-smart pig farming, hands-on research, and agribusiness development across Liberia. Representing Agriculture Minister, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, at the dedication on April 25, 2025, Assistant

Jeke, expressed optimism about the facility's impact on the livestock value chain at Nimba University.

"We look forward to improvements in livestock production and hope that this model farm will raise the profile of the university's Agriculture College even higher," Jeke stated.

Powered by solar energy, the model farm is designed to be sustainable and modern, setting a powerful example for the future of livestock farming in the country.

Dean Nathan Gono, Sr., of the Nimba University College of Agriculture and Food Sciences hailed the project as transformative for academic instruction.

"For years, we taught theories of animal agriculture without



Minister Folton Blasin, hailed the project as a significant milestone in advancing agricultural innovation and food security in Liberia.

"This facility is not just a building," Minister Blasin emphasized. "It's a living testament to our vision for sustainable livestock farming, research-driven agriculture, and economic empowerment."

Mr. Gala Toto, National Program Coordinator of RETRAP, also praised the initiative, stressing its long-term benefits for local farmers, students, and communities.

"Our happiness will be to return here and see that the cooperative is thriving; the university is actively using the facility for learning, and that communities are benefiting with more products available in markets across Nimba and Liberia," he said.

Operations Manager, Tarnue

the ability to demonstrate practically," Dean Gono remarked.

"Now, our students will gain vital hands-on experience right here on campus, which will better prepare them for careers in agriculture and livestock management," he added.

The establishment of this model piggery farm is seen as a critical step towards integrating theoretical knowledge with practical skills for agriculture students.

Lawrence Gonkanu, Chairman of the Nimba Livestock Farmers Cooperative, called the facility a major boost for over 300 pig farmers in the region.

"We are committed to making pig farming in Nimba the best in Liberia," Gonkanu declared. He pledged that the farmers' cooperative would work diligently to ensure the facility remains well-maintained and

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Enforce the Court Ruling

making on key national issues and documents. "Ladies and gentlemen of the press, CENTAL believes that a pronouncement by the President of Liberia to sever ties with the Koon bloc after the unambiguous court's unconstitutional declaration would have demonstrated full compliance with the court's mandate"

He says President Boakai's continuous engagement with the said faction only amounts to disregard for the Court's opinion and represents a grave setback to the country's improving democratic and constitutional credentials. He notes that CENTAL recognizes the contention that it seems unlikely that members of the Koon bloc would return to sessions presided over by Speaker Koffa, as proponents of this contention argue that there is a need for the government to function and that the President has no alternative but to work with the Koon's bloc since they meet legislative quorum. "We find this argument troubling, since the Supreme Court has said that a quorum that is not presided over by the legitimately elected Speaker is in effect, no quorum at all", Atty. Yeakula argues.

He says CENTAL also considers the challenge that no rule has been promulgated by the House to enable Speaker Koffa to compel members of the Koon bloc to attend the session.

He recalls that over 39 years ago, the Liberian

Constitution mandated the Legislature to prescribe said rule to compel attendance of absent members, but it has allegedly failed to do so, saying the Legislature bears the burden of this failure to act, and hopes that this is addressed as soon as stability returns to the House. In the absence of the law compelling attendance, however, CENTAL believes that it is incumbent on members of the Koon bloc to respect the ruling of the Supreme Court and attend session presided over by Speaker Koffa, adding that once in such proper forum, they can initiate any proceeding to remove Speaker Koffa, if they so wish, consistent with law.

The CENTAL program director clarifies that in the absence of such action, Speaker Koffa cannot be constructively removed by absenting themselves from their legislative duty. "We note also that a Petition for re-argument has been filed by the Koon bloc. In our opinion, the filing of said Petition is a recognition of the weight of the Court's decision in the matter."

Atty. Yeakula continues that in the absence of any communication from the court, nullifying its prior decision, CENTAL believes that the opinion of the Court remains valid until such time that it is overturned or invalidated by them. "Hence, we call on the Executive to proceed in respecting the Supreme Court's decision until the Court says otherwise", he urges. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberia laments rise in maternal mortality

The Minister of Health, Doctor Louise Mapleh Kpoto, is calling for concerted efforts to reduce maternal death across Liberia.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 29, 2025 - Liberia's Minister of Health, Doctor Louise Mapleh Kpoto, describes maternal death as a tragedy, pain and a future unrealized that needs urgent reduction.

Addressing opening of the 2025 National Health Summit at Farmington Hotel in Margibi County, Dr. Kpoto,

especially in rural areas, to addressing them.

He emphasized collaboration, calling on the private sector to contribute expertise and resources.

Dr. Massaquoi also presented a data-driven perspective on Liberia's maternal health indicators for the period 2019 and 2020.

"This is a national



Minister of Health, Doctor Louise Mapleh Kpoto

emphasized quality care as tool to reduce maternal mortality.

"Maternal death is a tragedy, and every newborn lost is a future unrealized; and it is our collective responsibility to tackling it", she urged.

"We call on all stakeholders to embrace a unified vision for action to tackling it. We must be guided by three core principles of equity, quality, and accountability. No woman or child should be left behind."

Addressing the Summit, Dr. Moses Massaquoi, Country Director of Christian Health Association of Liberia, said mortality remained critically high, so there is urgent need to fast-track, equity funds, improve infrastructure,

emergency, and everyone has a role to play", he said, adding that strong policies are not enough, but enforcement and sustainable financing are essential.

"Let us not take ambulances away from clinics under the guise of emergencies," he cautioned, referring to lapses in emergency response systems.

Meanwhile, the three-day summit held under the theme "Unlocking the Potential for Improved Health Outcomes: A Pathway to Maternal & Neonatal Mortality Reduction", brought together stakeholders from across the nation to confront long-standing challenges in the health system. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Demonstrate integrity

ry officer to something he thought did not exist: an honest Liberian," she reminisced, urging graduates to let their honesty define them even in lonely moments. "Being the one honest person is lonely – but it is also powerful. Your friends may fear your integrity, but you will stand tall when others fall."

NVTI Executive Director, Marline Cooper, hailed the graduates for their achievements, while urging them to utilize them impactfully.

The Founder of Netlib, Mr. Abdullai Kamara, who is also Chairperson of the Liberia Telecommunication Authority, expressed pride in another successful class, noting,

"Today, we have been able to produce almost 20,000 students and that is remarkable."

He reminded the graduates that the idea of being a "light" extends beyond politics.

Mr. Kamara highlighted a major recent achievement: NVTI was named Best Vocational Institution in Africa at the Business Executive Excellence Awards in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

At least 285 students graduated in various disciplines, including, Auto Mechanic, Computer Hardware, Computer Software, Electricity, Pastry & Catering, Graphic Design and Masonry. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

MoA dedicates Model Piggery Farm

fully utilized. Through strategic partnerships like this, the Ministry of Agriculture is transforming rural economies, creating jobs, and advancing food security for all Liberians.

The project aligns with Liberia's broader goals of strengthening its agricultural sector and reducing reliance

on food imports. It also underscores the government's commitment to empowering local communities with tools and knowledge necessary for sustainable economic growth.

With the dedication of the modern facility, Liberia takes another step forward in building a resilient, self-

sufficient agricultural sector capable of supporting future generations. Editing by Jonathan Browne

JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



8TH DAY JURY SITTING
MARCH TERM, 2025
MARCH 24, A. D. 2025
00014458

BEFORE HIS HON.:.....GEORGE W. SMITH.....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE
IN RE: THE PETITION OF BUZMEL JOHNSON, PETITIONER, OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, CLLR LAWRENCE YEAKULA, PRAYS THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME, TO BE REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS "AWESOME BUZMEL SUMO."

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

Whereas, the Petitioner, Buzmel Johnson, by and thru his legal Counsel, Cllr. Lawrence Yeakula filed a Petition before this Honorable Court requesting this court to order the Change of his name from Buzmel Johnson to "Awesome Buzmel Sumo."

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name as requested for to this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true family name and render his identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations as requested for by law in these proceedings, the Court observes that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of his name as proposed by him.

Whereas, the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that the Petitioner was born on the 4th day of August A. D. 2006, in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, and that he was born unto the union of Mr. Buzu Sumo and Madam Meleter M. Tyes, all of the Republic of Liberia; and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his identity more firmly, and being satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREED as follows:

That the Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Buzmel Johnson, be change to Awesome Buzmel Sumo, beginning this 24TH day of March A. D. 2025, and that all documents signed in the name of the Petitioner prior to this decree remained valid.

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

GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS IN OPEN COURT, THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH A. D. 2025

COURT SEAL:

HIS HON. GEORGE W. SMITH
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
SISTE ABREX CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 11491-11492 PAGE(S) 00014458

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Français

Cummings exhorte Boakai à respecter la décision de la Cour suprême

L'ancien candidat à la présidence et leader politique du Alternative National Congress (ANC), M. Alexander Cummings, a rejoint les nombreuses voix appelant le président Joseph Boakai à se

Ancien cadre dirigeant de Coca-Cola, M. Cummings a rappelé que la loi est claire : « 37 voix sont nécessaires pour élire, 49 pour destituer », précisant qu'il n'existe aucune ambiguïté possible.

Sur sa page officielle, il a soutenu que le « bloc

« S'ils parviennent à obtenir les voix nécessaires, ils doivent respecter la procédure et destituer le Président de la Chambre conformément aux règles. S'ils souhaitent véritablement le faire, ils doivent suivre les voies légales, au lieu de tenter de contourner les règlements. Il n'est pas trop tard pour agir dans ce sens », a affirmé M. Cummings.

Il a également souligné que le Président de la Chambre, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, ne bénéficie manifestement plus d'un soutien politique majoritaire à la Chambre des représentants. Selon lui, il s'agit d'un problème politique que le président Boakai aurait dû résoudre en facilitant un dialogue. « Là encore, il n'est pas trop tard. Le Président de la Chambre semble disposé à engager des discussions, mais "le bloc", encouragé par les actions du président,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



conformer à la récente décision de la Cour suprême concernant le différend à la Chambre des représentants.

majoritaire » ne dispose pas du nombre requis, rendant ainsi leurs actions – ainsi que le soutien de l'Exécutif à celles-ci – juridiquement infondées.

Les partisans de Koffa sèment le chaos au Capitole

Moins de 24 heures après la décision de la Cour suprême, des partisans du président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa, ont vandalisé la salle de conférence du Capitole, déchirant notamment le portrait du représentant Richard Nagbe Koon, qui se présente comme le "Président du Régime". Parmi eux, le représentant Yekeh Kolubah, qui, le jeudi 24 avril 2025, a été filmé entrant dans la salle de conférence de la Chambre, retirant un portrait de Richard Koon avant de le jeter violemment au sol.

S'adressant aux employés du Capitole, le représentant Malvin Cole a indiqué que les chefs de service avaient reçu pour consigne de la part du président Koffa de ne prendre d'instructions d'aucun membre du bloc majoritaire et d'agir en conséquence.

Ces incidents surviennent alors que, la veille, M. Koffa avait publiquement prôné la réconciliation entre les parlementaires, à

la suite de la décision de la Cour suprême qui l'a confirmé comme président légitime de la 55 législature.

Après l'arrêt de la Cour, M. Koffa avait annoncé son intention de tendre la main au vice-président de la Chambre, Thomas Fallah, ainsi qu'au représentant Richard Koon, en vue de constituer un comité conjoint de réconciliation et de transition destiné à restaurer l'harmonie et la pleine fonctionnalité au sein de l'Assemblée nationale.

"Je suis conscient que la réconciliation et le progrès nécessitent parfois des sacrifices ultimes", avait-il déclaré. "Je suis prêt à assumer

ce coût pour montrer à la nation comment les démocraties se construisent."

Le représentant du district n°9 de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, a justifié son geste de vandalisme en affirmant que M. Koon n'étant pas le président légitime, son portrait ne devait figurer nulle part au sein du Capitole.

Pour rappel, mercredi, la Cour suprême du Liberia a jugé que toute session du bloc majoritaire se tenant sans le président Koffa était "inconstitutionnelle, non autorisée et illégale".



Éditorial

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

Par Raghuram Rajan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Français

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Cummings exhorte Boakai à respecter

refuse tout dialogue », a-t-il regretté. La semaine dernière, la Cour suprême a fait droit à la requête d'information déposée par le Président de la Chambre, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, et a ordonné au bloc majoritaire, dirigé par le "Président de régime" Richard N. Koon, de respecter et d'appliquer la décision de la Cour.

Dans son avis rendu le mercredi 23 avril 2025, la Présidente de la Cour suprême, l'Honorable Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh, a confirmé la décision initiale du 6 décembre 2024, qualifiant la tentative de destitution de M. Koffa par le Bloc majoritaire d'ultra vires — un terme juridique latin désignant un acte accompli sans l'autorité légale requise. Après une lecture complète des arguments présentés par les parties, la Cour a statué que, même si certains acteurs cherchaient à obtenir des clarifications sur l'avis rendu en décembre, ils devaient respecter l'État de droit en attendant.

M. Cummings a cependant déploré que les questions juridiques et politiques soient volontairement mélangées, compliquant ainsi la résolution de la crise : « Ces deux aspects doivent être traités séparément pour permettre d'avancer. En attendant, nous donnons une image de désorganisation sur la scène internationale, et le président apparaît indécis, voire faible. »

Selon lui, le président Boakai aurait dû prendre l'initiative de favoriser une solution claire en affirmant sans ambiguïté son engagement à respecter la décision de la Cour suprême. « Ce n'a pas été le cas », a-t-il critiqué.

Il a conclu en déclarant : « Il existe encore une opportunité de résoudre cette crise sur les plans politique et juridique, et j'espère que des discussions sont en cours en coulisses. Cela serait dans l'intérêt supérieur de notre pays. Ne pas respecter l'État de droit n'est PAS une option. »

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Moins de 24 heures après la décision de la Cour suprême, des partisans du président de la Chambre des représentants, J. Fonati Koffa, ont vandalisé la salle de conférence du Capitole, déchirant notamment le portrait du représentant Richard Nagbe Koon, qui se présente comme le "Président du Régime".

Parmi eux, le représentant Yekeh Kolubah, qui, le jeudi 24 avril 2025, a été filmé entrant dans la salle de conférence de la Chambre, retirant un portrait de Richard Koon avant de le jeter violemment au sol.

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Ces incidents surviennent alors que, la veille, M. Koffa avait publiquement prôné la réconciliation entre les parlementaires, à la suite de la décision de la Cour suprême qui l'a confirmé comme président légitime de la 55^e législature.

Après l'arrêt de la Cour, M. Koffa avait annoncé son

intention de tendre la main au vice-président de la Chambre, Thomas Fallah, ainsi qu'au représentant Richard Koon, en vue de constituer un comité conjoint de réconciliation et de transition destiné à restaurer l'harmonie et la pleine fonctionnalité au sein de l'Assemblée nationale.

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Pour rappel, mercredi, la Cour suprême du Liberia a jugé que toute session du bloc majoritaire se tenant sans le président Koffa était "inconstitutionnelle, non autorisée et illégale". Selon la présidente de la Cour suprême, l'honorable Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh, le tribunal réaffirme son arrêt du 6 décembre 2024, déclarant que toutes les actions menées par le bloc majoritaire sont "ultra vires" et donc illégales.



La Banque centrale du Liberia rejoint le programme RAMP de la Banque mondiale

La Banque mondiale a annoncé l'adhésion de la Banque centrale du Liberia (CBL) au programme Reserve Advisory & Management Partnership (RAMP). Le Liberia rejoint ainsi cette initiative mondiale par l'intermédiaire d'un fonds fiduciaire multidonateurs administré par le Groupe de la Banque mondiale, visant à promouvoir une gestion efficace des actifs publics dans les pays à faible revenu, fragiles ou affectés par des conflits.

Des représentants de la Banque centrale du Liberia et de la Banque mondiale ont signé un accord d'assistance technique à Washington, D.C., formalisant ce partenariat. Créé à la fin de l'année 2023, le fonds fiduciaire permet à RAMP de proposer l'expertise de la Banque mondiale en gestion des actifs publics aux pays qui, autrement, feraient face à des obstacles pour y accéder.

« Nous sommes honorés d'accueillir la Banque centrale du Liberia au sein du programme RAMP, » a déclaré Jorge Familiar,

vice-président et trésorier de la Banque mondiale. « Cette adhésion illustre la demande croissante d'un soutien de qualité en gestion d'actifs et confirme le rôle de la Banque mondiale en tant que partenaire de confiance pour les gestionnaires d'actifs publics. Grâce au soutien de nos partenaires de développement à travers le fonds fiduciaire, nous pouvons étendre les avantages du programme aux pays qui en ont le plus besoin. »

De son côté, M. Henry F. Saamoi, gouverneur exécutif et président du Conseil des gouverneurs de la

La Banque mondiale promet un soutien de 490 millions de dollars à l'agenda ARREST du Liberia

La Banque mondiale a annoncé son engagement à appuyer l'agenda de développement du Liberia à travers son nouveau Cadre de Partenariat-Pays (CPF), pour un montant de 490 millions de dollars américains.

Ce nouveau Cadre, qui sera soumis à l'approbation du Conseil d'administration de la Banque mondiale d'ici la fin du mois, prévoit un soutien renforcé dans plusieurs secteurs stratégiques, notamment l'énergie — avec pour objectif d'accroître l'accès à l'électricité de 33 % à 75 % afin de réduire les coûts et d'améliorer l'accès pour la population —, l'éducation, l'agro-industrie, la transformation numérique, entre autres.



L'annonce de cet engagement financier a été faite par le vice-président de la Banque mondiale, M. Ousmane Diagana, lors d'une réunion avec la délégation libérienne conduite par le ministre des Finances, M. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan.

En marge des Réunions de printemps du FMI et de la Banque mondiale, et dans le prolongement des récents échanges à Koweït, M. Ngafuan et sa délégation ont également rencontré M. Sultan Al-Marshad, Directeur général du Fonds saoudien pour le développement. À cette occasion, le Fonds a confirmé son intention de rejoindre les bailleurs arabes, notamment le Koweït, pour financer la construction du tronçon Salayea-Voinjama du projet routier Gbarnga-Mendikorma.

Par ailleurs, le ministre libérien des Finances, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a été élu aujourd'hui à l'unanimité président du Comité permanent du Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) chargé des conditions de service des élus de la BAD pour la période 2025-2026. Le Comité est composé de représentants du Gabon, de la Corée, de l'Irlande, de la Guinée-Bissau et du Liberia.

Banque centrale du Liberia, a affirmé : « Rejoindre le programme RAMP de la Banque mondiale constitue une avancée majeure pour le Liberia. Ce partenariat renforcera nos capacités à gérer efficacement les actifs publics, garantissant stabilité et croissance. Nous nous engageons à appliquer les meilleures pratiques en matière de gestion des réserves au bénéfice du peuple libérien. »

Georgia Wallen, directrice-pays de la Banque mondiale pour le Liberia, a salué cette collaboration : « Nous sommes fiers d'accompagner la Banque centrale du Liberia dans le renforcement de ses capacités institutionnelles et de sa résilience financière. Cette coopération illustre notre engagement commun pour une gestion robuste des réserves publiques, pierre angulaire du développement. »

Le programme Reserve Advisory & Management Partnership (RAMP) de la Banque mondiale propose des services de conseil, de formation des cadres et de gestion d'actifs au sein d'un réseau mondial de gestionnaires d'actifs publics. Créé en 2001, il

contribue à plusieurs Objectifs de développement durable, notamment l'éducation de qualité, le travail décent et la croissance économique, l'action pour le climat, le renforcement des institutions et les partenariats pour le développement. RAMP aide les banques centrales à répondre aux chocs économiques, soutient les fonds souverains dans la protection des richesses intergénérationnelles et accompagne les fonds de pension publics pour garantir les paiements futurs. A ce jour, le programme a conseillé plus de 100 institutions publiques et formé plus de 10 000 professionnels à travers le monde.

Depuis le début des années 1980, la Banque mondiale conseille ses membres sur la gestion des actifs. Aujourd'hui, les banques centrales et autres gestionnaires publics administrent plus de 40 000 milliards de dollars d'actifs dans le monde, soulignant ainsi l'importance stratégique de la gestion rigoureuse des réserves pour la stabilité du système financier mondial.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: President Boakai's statement about criticism

By Naneka Hoffman

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

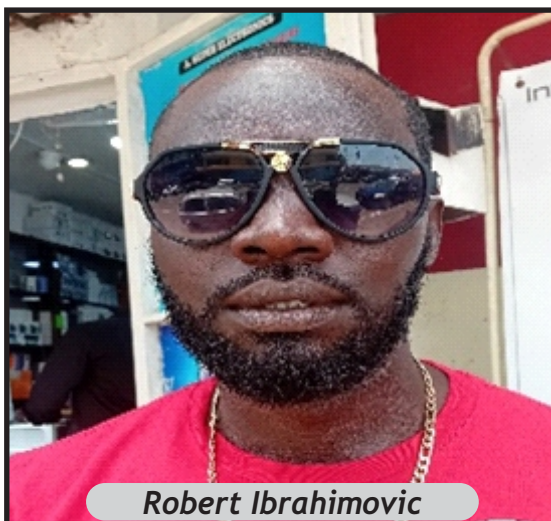


Samuel K.J. Pokai

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

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

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



Robert Ibrahimovic

the basis of criticism."

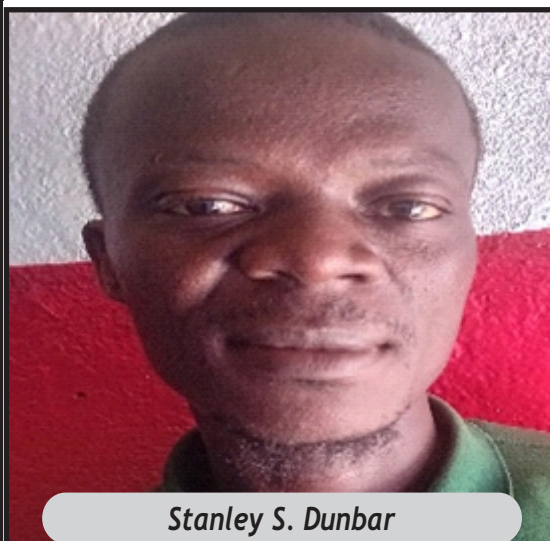


Rudolph G. Gborkeh

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

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

the basis of criticism."



Stanley S. Dunbar

"It is not too strange to me, to hear that statement from President Joseph N. Boakai, because I know that type of man. We elected him to power to represent the Liberian

people, so when you hear him making that statement, he is a man, who respects democracy. So the freedom of expression he will allow that to happen among our people, so that all Liberians can live in peace and harmony. When it comes to journalists coming with issues against the government, we accept it because in life, if you don't accept criticism, you will not live a better life, so you need to accept criticism in order to live a better life. Joseph N. Boakai is always willing to learn from his critics whatever suggestion his critics will bring up, he will work along with them."

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



Alfred Kromah



Akoi Kessellie

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

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Concession tug-of-war

As negotiations continue behind closed doors over Liberia’s critical railway infrastructure, analysts and policymakers warn that this is more than a corporate or concession tug-of-war, it is a test of Liberia’s economic sovereignty. The outcome will determine whether the country prioritizes long-term national interests or yields to foreign pressure for short-term gain.

Monrovia, April 29, 2025: A deepening dispute now threatens to unravel the progress made



on Liberia’s Yekepa-to-Buchanan railway, a vital economic artery. At the heart of the conflict are two main issues: High Power Exploration (HPX) and its subsidiary, Ivanhoe Liberia, reportedly refusing to recognize ArcelorMittal Liberia’s (AML) continued role as railway operator, and HPX’s insistence on appointing an independent operator of its choosing. The Government of Liberia’s third-party Multi-user policy, introduced to expand access to rail and port infrastructure, initially received widespread support. It was envisioned as a way to open additional revenue streams and increase economic activity. AML, which has operated and maintained the railway for nearly 20 years, publicly backs the policy and acknowledges the benefits of broader usage by other mining companies. However, government insiders and economic analysts argue that HPX’s demand for a new operator would unfairly disadvantage AML, which retains legal rights under its Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) to operate the railway. Since taking over Liberia’s war-damaged infrastructure in 2005, AML has invested over \$800 million in rehabilitating and upgrading the 243-kilometer rail line to U.S. heavy-haul standards. This railway is essential for the transport of bulk commodities and the development of Liberia’s mining economy. Upgrades have included replacing wooden sleepers with steel ties, repairing bridges, acquiring nine GE locomotives, and adding 500 Progress Rail-equipped wagons. By 2025, the line will handle five ore trains daily,

each with up to 120 wagons. All nine rail loops are being extended, and a Wabtec rail control system is being installed to improve efficiency and safety. AML has also undertaken the construction of new sidings and level crossings, and reinforced the Buchanan yard with rock fill, all fully funded by the company. By contrast, HPX has not invested in Liberia’s rail infrastructure. Its primary objective is to transport ore from Guinea through Liberia to Buchanan Port. However, HPX still lacks full authorization from the Guinean government, which is currently investing over \$18 billion in its own internal rail system. Given HPX’s lack of investment and local mining operations, its push to control Liberia’s railway infrastructure is increasingly being seen as both economically risky and politically questionable. Government officials familiar with the negotiations argue that replacing AML as operator is not in Liberia’s best interest. They highlight AML’s support for equitable third-party access, its creation of over 7,000 jobs, substantial tax contributions, and ongoing investments in mining-affected communities. “It would be reckless to burden ourselves with the cost of hiring and maintaining an expensive independent rail operator just to appease a company whose only contribution is moving ore from another country,” said a senior Liberian economic official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Another economist added, “With declining U.S. aid and budget constraints, Liberia must prioritize sustainable economic policies, not the convenience of foreign entities.” The issue also raises concerns over cost and efficiency. Hiring

a new operator, as HPX proposes, could result in higher operational expenses during a period of fiscal tightening. Analysts point to the case of APM Terminals, where independent port operation resulted in lower-than-expected state revenues. A similar outcome with the railway could severely harm Liberia’s economy. Importantly, Liberia’s Multi-user framework is not a recent policy shift. The principle was embedded in AML’s MDA as early as 2006 and ratified by the Legislature in 2007, reflecting a longstanding national strategy. Despite claims to the contrary, AML has shown a consistent willingness to cooperate. In 2010, it held talks with BHP Billiton, then owner of SMFG, now under HPX, regarding a potential cross-border mining venture. These discussions fell apart largely due to valuation disagreements and Guinea’s decision to partner with Rio Tinto on the Trans-Guinean Railway project. Another attempt at collaboration came in 2013 with Sable Mining, which sought access to the railway. Talks began in good faith but collapsed when Sable failed to meet technical requirements. The company soon faced a corruption scandal, the Ebola outbreak, and collapsing iron ore prices, factors that derailed progress unrelated to AML. In 2019, limited efforts to facilitate Guinean ore transit through Liberia resulted in a modest agreement allowing a maximum of 5 million tons per year, far from transformative in terms of national infrastructure revenue. Throughout, AML has upheld its commitment to government oversight, transparency, and fair third-party access, while firmly defending its contractual right to operate the infrastructure it rebuilt. The economic stakes of HPX’s demand are significant. Handing control to a new operator would add costs, complicate logistics, and potentially repel future investors. More critically, it could weaken one of Liberia’s most reliable sources of national income. At this point, the government stands at a defining crossroads: uphold a strategic partnership with the company that restored its post-war infrastructure and embraces shared access or gamble its economic future on the demands of a foreign newcomer with no financial stake in the nation’s recovery. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Boakai under pressure

Three political parties call on President Boakai to resolve the current impasse in the House of Representatives by doing business with Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, instead.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 29, 2025 - President Joseph Boakai is under immense pressure to enforce ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Liberia by doing business with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, J. Fonati Koffa. The latest call comes from several aligning political parties. Three opposition parties, including the Liberia People's Democratic Party (LPDP), the National Patriotic Party (NPP) and the People's Unification Party (PUP) are calling on President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to lead efforts in resolving the ongoing impasse in the House of Representatives. The parties express deep concerns over the prolonged crisis at the 55th Legislature regarding the Speakership position, despite intervention by the Supreme Court of Liberia.



Addressing a news conference in Monrovia on Monday, April 28, 2025, the parties condemn threats of chaos, while urging President Boakai to lead efforts to resolving the House crisis. “Our Attention is particularly drawn to utterances by some opposition political parties that tend to threaten our peace. We must remind these parties that

Liberians are wary of conflict. To those of you championing instability against the Republic, be reminded that you are not living in Liberia alone. We are here too. We will defeat you and the motherland will remain”, LPDP Chairman Kollie said. Reading the statement on behalf of the political parties, Secretary- General of the LPDP, L. Moses Kiyeen Kwehai, said President Boakai must play a pivotal role to ensure that the issue at the Capitol building is resolved. “To the Boakai’s Government, Liberia needs reconciliation; we call your here to voice our concerns about what is happening in the Legislature - Atty. George S. Mulbah, National Chairman of the NPP added. Meanwhile, the NPP is the party of former Vice President Madam Jewel

Howard Taylor, that is now a breakaway member of the former ruling CDC along with the LPDP. More than 20 opposition parties along with the ruling Unity Party condemn the threats in separate press conferences here. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from Back page

Jeety celebrates birthday with inmates

workers of Jeety Rubber LLC and its subsidiary, the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC), as well as local marketers, schoolchildren, and motorcycle riders, also received hot meals and various forms of support. At the Monrovia Central Prison alone, 1,549 inmates were fed during the celebration, underscoring the scale and impact of Jeety’s ongoing humanitarian outreach. Jeety’s acts of kindness have earned him widespread admiration in

Liberia, where he is celebrated not only for his success in business but also for his unwavering dedication to social causes. His birthday celebrations served as another reminder of the power of giving and the difference one individual can make through compassion and consistency. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Jeety celebrates birthday with inmates at Monrovia Central Prison

Inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison have dined with Indian businessman, Upjit Singh Sachdeva, as he celebrates his birthday here.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, April 29, 2025 - As part of his birthday celebrations, Indian business tycoon, Upjit Singh Sachdeva, popularly

Jeety and his team visited the prison facility recently where they served hundreds of inmates' nutritious meals. The event formed part of a series of activities aimed at celebrating his birthday by

celebrate than by sharing love and kindness with my brothers and sisters here," he said. "Everyone deserves a second chance and dignity, regardless of where they are."

Beyond the prison walls, Jeety also spent part of his birthday festivities identifying with disadvantaged youths across Monrovia. He distributed food packages, school supplies, and other essential items to several vulnerable communities, reaffirming his commitment to youth empowerment and community upliftment.

The Monrovia Central Prison Superintendent, Col. Roosevelt Varney, praised Jeety's continued support, noting that his efforts bring hope and humanity to those who often feel forgotten by society.

As part of the birthday outreach, similar gestures were extended to the Kakata Central Prison, where 154 inmates were served hot meals.

Additionally, over 2,500



known as Jeety, extended a hand of compassion to inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison, offering them hot meals and words of encouragement.

In a heartfelt gesture that has become a hallmark of his humanitarian efforts,

giving back to the less fortunate in society.

Speaking during the outreach, Jeety emphasized the importance of compassion, rehabilitation, and hope. "Today is a special day for me, and I believe there is no better way to

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