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Eroding free speech at CSA

--Joe Kai threatens employees with dismissal if they speak ill of government

Bar President receives damning backlash



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Continental News

SADC begins withdrawal of its peacekeeping forces from DR Congo

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) began on Tuesday the withdrawal of its peacekeeping forces from the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through Rwanda. Local media sources in Rwanda reported seeing SADC forces moving several trucks of soldiers and equipment from

Goma in North Kivu province through Rwanda. Reports indicate that the convoy will travel to Chato in north-western Tanzania before repatriation to various countries. “Our orders say by May 30, everyone and everything needs to be out of Goma and on its way. It was chaos over the weekend, but nobody is complaining because we're finally going home,” one

soldier is reported as saying. Rwanda had agreed in April to give safe passage to the SADC forces. The force of several thousand peacekeeping troops from South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania had been sent to eastern Congo by the SADC in 2023 to help the Congolese government pacify a mineral-rich region plagued by various insurgencies. The SADC military mission had suffered heavy losses in the previous months, with around a dozen soldiers from South Africa, Malawi, and Tanzania killed as the M23 rebels seized control of Goma. Their termination came after losing about 17 soldiers to the rebels in the DRC. The rebels have said they want to take their fight to the far-off capital, Kinshasa, while Congo's president has called for a massive military mobilization to resist the rebellion.



A young girl standing with members of the Zambia National Army follow the proceedings at the Zambia air force base where the SADC Military stand

Thousands of people rally in support of Burkina Faso's transitional president

Thousands of people rallied in Burkina Faso's capital, Ougadougou, on Wednesday in support of transitional President Captain Ibrahim Traoré. With placards in hand and whistles blowing, they were angry over remarks made by the head of United States' military in Africa, General Michaël Langley. Earlier this month, he accused Traoré of using the country's mining resources to benefit the junta instead of the people. Burkinabé musician, Ocibi Joan, who came to the protest said Langley and especially “the predators” should stop lying.

“Burkina Faso is not against anyone, but we will no longer tolerate looting. The general is a liar. We own it, we use it whenever we want, and sell it to whomever we want,” he said. Demonstrator Haroun Sawadogo said that “if they want to eliminate Captain Traoré, they should eliminate the people first”. “What we experienced in the 1987 [assassination] will not be repeated. What happened to Captain Sankara will not happen to Captain Traoré. We will go all the way to defend our President.” The rally comes days after the military authorities said they'd uncovered what they described as a “plot” to overthrow the

government. Several members of parliament attended the gathering including Prime Minister Jean Emmanuel Ouédraogo. He told the crowd that the time had come to “never again kneel before the world”. “May the people of Burkina Faso free themselves once and for all, and may the people of the Sahel free themselves permanently,” he said. The demonstrators came from across the country in what was the biggest show of support for the junta since Traore seized power in a September 2022 coup.

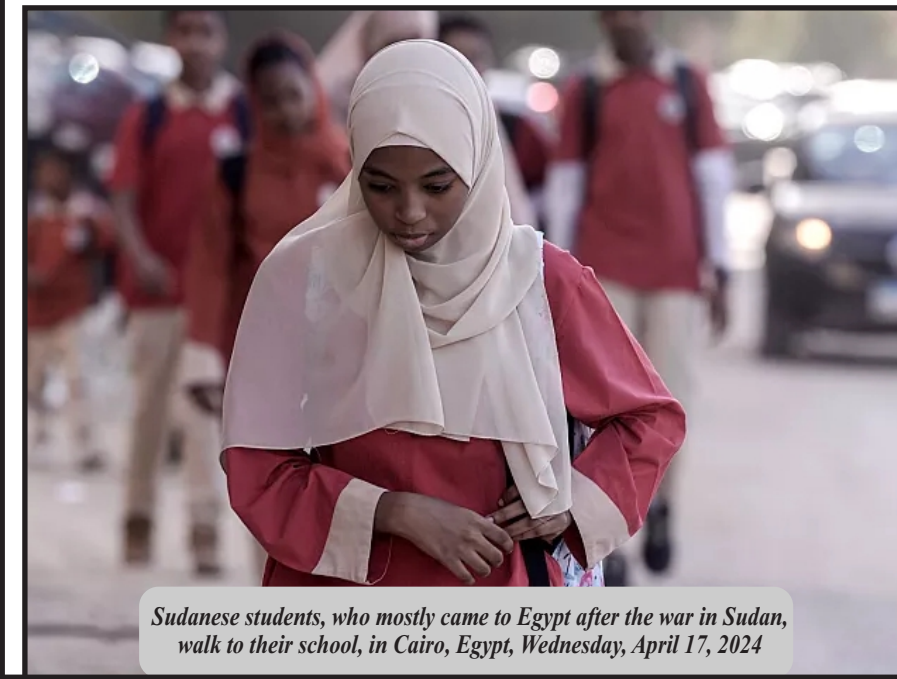


Burkina Faso coup leader Captain Ibrahim Traore, 15 October 2022

Thousands displaced by Sudan war return home from Egypt

Tens of thousands of Sudanese driven from their homes by conflict are now returning, despite war still raging in some parts of the country. They set off on the journey, even though they don't know what they'll find in their homeland, wrecked and still embroiled in a two-year-old war. But they are hoping for some stability after the military recaptured the capital Khartoum and other areas

Hundreds of Sudanese take the two or three buses each day for southern Egypt, the first leg in the journey home. According to the International Organization for Migration, some 123,000 Sudanese returned from Egypt since the start of the year, including nearly 50,000 so far in April, double the month before. It estimates that some 400,000 internally displaced Sudanese have gone back to their homes in the Khartoum area, neighbouring Gezira province and southeast Sennar province.



Sudanese students, who mostly came to Egypt after the war in Sudan, walk to their school, in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, April 17, 2024

from its rival, the Rapid Support Forces. Nearly 13 million people fled their homes, with some 4 million streaming into neighbouring countries and the rest sheltering elsewhere in Sudan. A relatively small portion of the refugees are returning so far, but the numbers are accelerating. Some 1.5 million Sudanese fled to Egypt during the war, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In Cairo, travel agency coordinator Walid Abu el-Seid says there has been a noticeable uptick in travellers booking trips back to Sudan.

But many of the returnees are finding their neighbourhoods shattered left shattered by fighting, often with no electricity and scarce food, water and services. Still, Huzafa Al-Mubarak was determined to go back. About to board a bus in Egypt's capital Cairo, he insisted that there were "no fears in Khartoum... It is safe and secure." The battle for power between the military and Rapid Support Forces caused one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. At least 20,000 people were killed, according to the United Nations, though the figure is likely higher. Aid remains limited and the scale of needs far exceeds available resources, according to UNHCR officials.

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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 Ngairé Woods

Treading the Trump Tightrope at the IMF and the World Bank

OXFORD – The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are in a difficult position. Established to uphold global rules and support development, they are now caught between an aggressively nationalist America – their largest shareholder – and the rest of the world. If their leaders speak truth to power, they risk US President Donald Trump's wrath. If they don't, they risk their own legitimacy.

The challenge of walking this tightrope was evident at last week's Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. The IMF's mandate is to stand guard over countries' exchange rates and policies that affect global financial stability. This involves “calling out” those whose actions will impoverish their neighbors. So far, the Fund has not named the United States as its main rule-breaker. But ahead of the Spring Meetings, IMF Managing Director [Kristalina Georgieva responded](#) to the Trump administration's unpredictable behavior by acknowledging the “off the charts” uncertainty caused by US tariffs, reiterating the need for central-bank independence, and urging countries to avoid “self-inflicted injuries.”

In early April, World Bank President [Ajay Banga emphasized](#) the Bank's focus on its core mandate: driving development and reducing poverty. For several decades, the World Bank has supported efforts – particularly infrastructure investments – to lift millions of people out of poverty. But Trump's dismantling of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has decimated programs that enabled the Bank's work. Instead of addressing this issue at the Spring Meetings, Banga focused on job creation amid rising unemployment worldwide. The Bank has also begun promoting nuclear and technology-agnostic energy solutions to appeal to a US administration that is allergic to climate action.

How the IMF and the World Bank approach the Trump administration will determine their effectiveness. The first 100 days of Trump's second term offer insights into the strategy they should pursue.

First, they could [be targeted](#) and should plan accordingly. Trump's takeover of Washington's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts shows that no organization is safe – some of America's largest NGOs and philanthropies are already preparing for funding cuts. Moreover, the IMF and the World Bank are mentioned in Project 2025, the conservative blueprint for Trump's second presidency published by the Heritage Foundation, and included in the 180-day review of US involvement in international organizations that Trump [ordered](#) on February 4. True, the team overseeing the review has been [dismissed](#), throwing the process into disarray. But that may not be an obstacle, given the administration's propensity to act without restraint.

Second, policymakers must bat away non-credible threats. When Mark Carney became Canadian prime minister in March, after Justin Trudeau stepped down, he [insisted](#) in his first conversation with Trump that the US president recognize Canada's sovereignty (Trump also addressed Carney as “Prime Minister,” whereas he had often referred to Trudeau as “Governor”). It helped that Trump's bluster about annexing Canada

lacked political backing in Washington, much less a feasible plan.

The situation is somewhat murkier for the IMF and the World Bank. At the Spring Meetings, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [criticized](#) both institutions, but said the US would maintain its leadership role and expand its global influence. Other countries must now decide the extent to which they are prepared to let one shareholder unilaterally determine the future of institutions that rely on their financial contributions and participation.

Third, no institution is alone. Whether and how the IMF and the World Bank accede to Trump's demands will affect the ecosystem in which they operate. US law firms that capitulated to Trump, who wielded the threat of [illegal executive orders](#), may have ensured their own survival, but they have eroded the US legal system's legitimacy. The same goes for Columbia University, whose acquiescence to government oversight has [undermined](#) academic freedom.

The IMF's ability to achieve its objectives depends on the confidence of central bankers and policymakers worldwide, and maintaining it requires accurate reporting on the global economy. The World Bank, for its part, relies on thousands of firms and community organizations throughout the developing world, and its approach to infrastructure and energy projects sets standards for others to follow.

Fourth, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky discovered, Trump puts a premium on personal relationships. But the right response is not capitulation. Both Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer have been able to maintain a working relationship with Trump by employing flattery and avoiding concrete commitments. This is new terrain for the IMF and World Bank, whose leaders are used to working with the US Departments of State and the Treasury, as well as Congress. Now, the IMF's managing director and the Bank's president must take a much more active role in relationship management with the White House.

Beyond the Trump administration, the IMF and the World Bank must remember their other stakeholders in the US: the American people. For example, support by [religious organizations](#) for debt relief for the poorest countries in the 1990s enabled the IMF and the World Bank to act on the issue.

The Trump administration shut down USAID despite agency officials' [warnings](#) that one million children will go untreated for severe malnutrition, up to 166,000 people will die from malaria, and 200,000 more children will be paralyzed by polio over the next decade. But many Americans support foreign aid, and [more than half](#) give to charity each year, often to help the poorest in [other countries](#). Moreover, [one-quarter](#) take the time to volunteer, and [some 240,000](#) have served in the Peace Corps since 1961.

As the heads of the IMF and the World Bank steer these institutions into the future, they must strike a delicate balance between confronting and conceding to the White House. But staying on Trump's good side is not enough to pursue their missions: they must also be mindful of the world within and outside of America.

Ngairé Woods is Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford.

OP-ED

By Otaviano Canuto & Sabrina Emran

Africa's Minerals Will Shape the Future of Global Power

RABAT/WASHINGTON, DC – The clean-energy transition has fueled the global race for critical minerals, transforming elements like lithium, cobalt, and rare earths into strategic assets. At the center of this emerging resource war is the escalating rivalry between China and the United States, both of which are keenly aware that controlling mineral supply chains is essential to technological dominance. Critical minerals – especially lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese, and graphite – are [essential](#) to sectors like semiconductors, electric-vehicle batteries, renewable energy, and defense. Rare earths, for example, are vital for the permanent magnets used in wind turbines and EV motors, while the power grids that sustain modern economies rely on huge quantities of aluminum and copper. The [geopolitical importance](#) of critical minerals has surged in recent years, driven not only by their role in the green transition but also by the increasing fragility of concentrated supply chains. China currently [dominates](#) global mineral processing, refining more than 60% of the world's lithium, 85% of its rare-earth elements, and 95% of its manganese. This dominance has created new strategic vulnerabilities. A prime example is China's recent [export restrictions](#) on gallium and germanium, which show how critical inputs can be weaponized by great powers to gain a technological edge. Ultimately, the green transition's trajectory will depend not only on where mineral deposits are located but also on how governments adapt. As countries shift away from fossil fuels, they risk replacing one form of resource insecurity with another unless they confront the complex dynamics of mineral supply and demand. Yet much of the current debate focuses on expanding supply, overlooking potential efficiency gains, as well as advances in recycling and material substitution. Importantly, China's resource dominance is not the result of vast mineral reserves but of strategic foresight. Although it controls only a fraction of the world's minerals, China has spent decades bolstering its processing capabilities through targeted industrial policies, enabling it to control key stages of the global manufacturing pipeline. As a result, technology has emerged as the central axis of geopolitical realignment. While the US maintains a competitive edge in advanced semiconductor design and manufacturing equipment, China dominates clean-energy supply chains, from solar panels to batteries. But the US remains fully import-dependent for 15 critical minerals – including gallium and rare earths – and [more than 50%](#) dependent for another 34. Given that China is the primary supplier of nearly half of these minerals, it is clear that America's resource dependence poses a strategic threat to key sectors, including semiconductor production, defense, and clean energy. Recognizing these growing vulnerabilities, former US President [Joe Biden](#) signed the 2022 [CHIPS and Science Act](#) to boost semiconductor manufacturing. President Donald Trump's administration is currently pursuing an even more domestically oriented approach aimed at [accelerating](#) the extraction of critical minerals while [streamlining](#) the permitting process for mining projects on federal land. But mineral security cannot be achieved through domestic production alone, which is why the Biden administration joined allies like Australia, Canada, and the European Union to establish the [Minerals Security Partnership](#) – an initiative aimed at “friendshoring” mineral production. Trump, by contrast, has adopted a more assertive approach, threatening to acquire Greenland “[one way or another](#)” and attempting to [pressure](#) Ukraine into a critical-mineral deal. The scramble for critical minerals could have profound geopolitical implications, as resource-rich developing countries find themselves courted by both the US and China. At the same time, global industries face the prospect of fragmented supply chains divided along geopolitical lines. Africa, home to [roughly 30%](#) of known mineral reserves – including 85% of the world's manganese and 80% of its platinum and chromium – has emerged as a focal point of resource competition. This is especially true for countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which holds an estimated 70% of global cobalt reserves, and platinum-rich South Africa. Yet the disconnect between Africa's vast resource wealth and its limited economic development remains striking. Many African economies like the DRC rely heavily on raw-material exports, having failed to invest meaningfully in value-added processing. Consequently, Sub-Saharan economies capture, on average, [just 40%](#) of the potential revenue from their natural resources – a gap that reflects a deeper systemic failure to unlock the full economic potential of these assets. Bauxite is a case in point illustrating the vast economic opportunities lost due to the continued export of unprocessed commodities. While raw bauxite ore sells for roughly [\\$92 per ton](#), its refined form – aluminum – fetches around [\\$2,438 per ton](#). Despite its dominant share of global cobalt reserves, the DRC remains heavily dependent on raw-material exports. This overreliance, combined with a lack of vertical integration and economic diversification, leaves the country vulnerable to sharp downturns if global cobalt prices fall for an extended period. Delivering mutual benefits for mineral-rich African countries and the global industries that depend on their resources requires moving away from the exploitative models that have long shaped the global economy – and the US is uniquely positioned to offer such an alternative. To do so, it must champion an “[E3](#)” [framework](#): economically feasible, environmentally sustainable, and ethically grounded. In addition to technological innovation, America's critical-mineral policy should be guided by ethical engagement and infrastructure development. The [Lobito Corridor](#) – a US-backed project that aims to renovate the railway connecting Angola to land-locked cobalt and copper mines in the DRC and Zambia – demonstrates how strategic mineral development can generate value for local economies by supporting in-country processing rather than relying solely on raw exports. Encouragingly, the US has [signaled](#) its willingness to engage with mineral-rich Sub-Saharan countries. But the limited presence of US private-sector mining operations in the region, together with the rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape, underscores the need for an innovative, strategic approach focused on long-term value creation and mutually beneficial partnerships. *Otaviano Canuto, a former vice president and executive director of the World Bank, executive director of the International Monetary Fund, vice president of the Inter-American Development Bank, and deputy minister of finance of Brazil, is a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South. Sabrina Emran is an economist at the Policy Center for the New South.*

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OPINION

By Alberto Alemanno

The Trump Boomerang Effect

PARIS – US President Donald Trump's first 100 days in office stand out as one of the most volatile periods in American history – arguably the most turbulent in peacetime. And the consequences continue to reverberate far beyond the United States, as demonstrated by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's [federal election victory](#) following a campaign defined by sharp opposition to Trump's agenda. For European countries and other long-standing US allies, the start of Trump's second term has posed a direct challenge to the foundational pillars of the transatlantic alliance – security, defense, trade, and shared democratic values – all of which Trump views as negotiable. The European Union, long dependent on the US security umbrella, has found itself facing threats of trade wars and relentless attacks from Trump and his allies – most notably Vice President J.D. Vance and the ubiquitous (though [perhaps fading](#)) tech billionaire Elon Musk. But instead of wallowing in despair over the fraying security alliance, these provocations have fostered an unexpected sense of purpose and unity in Europe. I call this the “Trump Boomerang Effect.” Paradoxically, Trump's attempts to weaken America's allies – whether Canada, Mexico, Australia, Denmark, or the EU – have energized them politically and encouraged them to become more self-reliant. Trump's ham-fisted effort to extract concessions has instead reinforced their national resolve and solidarity. The fallout has also [hurt](#) the popularity of Trump-aligned cheerleaders worldwide, from Canadian Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre (who lost the parliamentary seat he had held for over 20 years) to Australia's Peter Dutton, '[Greenlands self-proclaimed Trump protégé](#)' Jorgen Boassen, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Perhaps most strikingly, Trump's campaign to undermine Europe has prompted political leaders to display a surprising degree of courage and confront long-standing challenges. By trying to bully the EU, he has inadvertently empowered member states to achieve goals that once seemed unattainable through internal negotiations alone. As a result, Europe has emerged as a beacon of economic and political stability, attracting capital inflows and US-based researchers considering relocation. Meanwhile, far-right leaders across the continent – with the notable exception of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni – have seen their popularity decline due to their association with Trump, offsetting the boost that Trump's re-election gave figures like Orbán. Vance's [insulting speech](#) at the Munich Security Conference in February was one of the clearest manifestations of the Trump Boomerang Effect. In response, incoming German Chancellor [Friedrich Merz](#) broke with his country's Atlanticist tradition to [declare](#) a second *Zeitenwende* (“epochal change”) – a paradigm shift aimed at meeting the demands of a rapidly changing global landscape. Merz's new strategic doctrine, endorsed by French President [Emmanuel Macron](#) and others, aims to reduce Europe's dependence on the US. It includes a historic shift in fiscal policy, exempting defense spending above 1% of GDP from Germany's constitutional debt brake. This adjustment is set to unlock substantial new resources for both military expenditures and broader infrastructure investment. Trump's actions have also rekindled the Franco-German alliance – historically, the EU's engine of economic growth – which will reshape the bloc's political trajectory. France and Germany now have a shared purpose: to achieve strategic independence from the US and bolster Europe's geopolitical resilience against its unpredictable and untrustworthy president. This, in turn, has led to an unexpected rapprochement between the EU and the United Kingdom. While post-Brexit Britain remains formally free to align with either the US or the EU, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has clearly sided with Europe. These developments are paving the way for deeper European integration, with far-reaching implications for regional security and economic prosperity. One key initiative involves financing increased defense spending through joint borrowing – a strategy pioneered by the [NextGenerationEU fund](#), the bloc's COVID-19 recovery program. Moreover, the push for deeper defense integration may soon extend into the broader economy. Over the past year, separate reports by former Italian Prime Ministers [Mario Draghi](#) and [Enrico Letta](#) have highlighted Europe's [lagging innovation](#) and productivity compared to the US, calling for a [stronger and more unified single market](#) in financial services, energy, and digital technologies.

At the core of the EU's emerging strategy for reigniting economic dynamism is the creation of a Capital Markets Union, now rebranded as the Savings and Investment Union. The goal is to give firms easier [access to pan-European financing](#) and repatriate Europe's substantial savings surplus – much of which currently flows into US markets – while maintaining financial stability. Trump's disruptive economic policies are already accelerating this shift. The Trump Boomerang Effect appears to be driving a profound transformation, underpinned by renewed confidence in the European project. Europeans today are experiencing a degree of unity and common purpose not seen in decades. Even previously staunch Euroskeptics now speak in pan-European terms. Meloni, for example, has deferred to the EU in negotiating with Trump, recognizing that the bloc is responsible for trade policy and also better positioned than any individual member state to confront the US effectively. It remains to be seen whether Europe's political leaders will be able to capitalize on these favorable circumstances to achieve genuine EU independence and strategic autonomy. Given the scale of Trump's assault on the continent, they at least appear to understand that their actions will be judged not only by their own constituents but by people across Europe. This new form of pan-European political accountability may end up making Europe – not America – great again.

Alberto Alemanno, Professor of European Union Law at HEC Paris and visiting professor at the College of Europe in Bruges and Natolin, is Founder of The Good Lobby and one of the leading voices on the democratization of the European Union. He was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, Social Innovation Thought Leader by the Schwab Foundation on Social Entrepreneurship, Ashoka fellow, European Young Leader by Friends of Europe, and one of the 40 most powerful influencers in the European Union by Politico Europe. He is the author of many books, including [Lobbying for Change: Find Your Voice to Create a Better Society](#) (Icon Books, 2017).

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Liberia: 2025 household income and expenditure survey launched

Monrovia, April 30, 2025 – The Government of Liberia, through the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) in collaboration with the World Bank, has officially launched the 2025 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). The HIES will collect critical data to inform evidence-based policy decisions and improve socioeconomic planning.

This survey, which is being conducted across Liberia's 15 counties, will gather key information on household income,

aimed at strengthening statistical capacity and improving the quality and comparability of data across several West African countries. HISWA reinforces a shared commitment to strengthening data systems and enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of the national development strategy.

“As the Government implements the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, the 2025 HIES will provide vital baseline data to measure progress, target interventions, and deepen our understanding of poverty, employment, and well-being across the

serves as a crucial instrument for identifying the challenges households face and developing targeted policies to reduce poverty, address inequality, and promote inclusive economic growth,” said **Rose Mungai, World Bank Senior Poverty Economist for Liberia.**

The HIES is conducted in line with international best practices and adheres to rigorous data collection methodologies to ensure accuracy and representativeness. Previous surveys were paper-based but this survey uses Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) data collection method

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expenditure, food security, health, education, and employment, among other socio-economic indicators. The results will provide policymakers, development partners, civil society, and researchers with valuable insights into the living conditions of Liberia's population.

“The launch of the household survey marks a significant step forward in our support for evidence-based policymaking and sustainable development in Liberia,” said **Georgia Wallen, World Bank Liberia Country Manager.** *“Access to high-quality data is an enabler for planning, decision-making, and action.”*

This initiative is supported by the World Bank Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa (HISWA) project, a regional initiative

country,” said **Hon. Richard F. Ngafuan, Director-General, Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services.**

“This survey is more than numbers - it reflects how Liberians live, work, and strive. It offers decision-makers the insight needed to govern wisely. I commend the World Bank for its support through the HISWA Project, which continues to bolster Liberia's statistical foundation and development agenda.”

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) urges all selected households to participate in the survey, assuring respondents that all information collected will remain strictly confidential and will only be used for statistical purposes.

“Emphasizing the importance of reliable data in driving sustainable development, this survey

where interviewers use tablets to record responses during face-to-face interviews. It enhances data accuracy, reduces errors, and allows for real-time data validation and transmission.

Trained field teams will visit randomly selected households to conduct face-to-face interviews using structured questionnaires and digital data collection tools. In 2016, Liberia conducted its first-ever Household Income and Expenditure Survey, a landmark step in strengthening evidence-based policymaking. Now, nearly a decade later, the country stands at the threshold of commencing the second round of the HIES, a powerful tool to shape policies that truly reflect the experiences of our people.

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Liberia and U.S. Health Partners to launch prostate Cancer Research Program

A new initiative to institutionalize research on prostate cancer in Liberia is expected to kick off here with both Liberian and American institutions.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia: May 1, 2025 - A group of Liberian and American medical institutions have come together to conduct biomedical research on prostate cancer in Liberia.

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, the Monrovia School

research initiative aimed at advancing prostate cancer research in Liberia and across West Africa.

The announcement was made on Tuesday at the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing, when Mr. Matthew Woloka Jr., a leader from the Heart Foundation and one of the

local hospitals in providing hands-on training and mentorship in advance biomedical research to help build a stronger healthcare system in Liberia.

"In addition to this research component," he said, "this initiative aims to enhance surgical and clinical care in several ways, such as expanding neurological surgical services, providing mentorship and specialized training, and launching a service learning program that will provide earning opportunities for students, faculty, and staff in the diaspora to come back and engage with Liberia firsthand, to gain cultural and hands-on sanitary experience, and also deliver in country training to empower Liberia's future through medical professionals, giving them the tools needed to provide high quality education and central care across the country."

of Medicine, and the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine at the University of Liberia, are working in partnership with the Morehouse School of Medicine and the Heart Foundation, to launch a new biomedical

head of the initiative, said the program will also train young doctors and medical students, help improve surgeries, and encourage Liberians living abroad to come back and support

Accordingly, He says this initiative is more than just healthcare, because it's focus on healthcare, tourism, culture, and education, bringing people

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Pres. Boakai reaffirms commitment to establish WECC

-Renews Executive Order No. 131

In the face of ongoing debate over his commitment to the rule of law, President Boakai has renewed Executive Order 131 reaffirming his administrations' commitment to the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Executive Mansion, Monrovia— President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. has officially renewed Executive Order No. 131, now Executive Order No. 148, reaffirming his Administration's commitment to establishing the Office of War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia. This renewal ensures the continued operation of the Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court (OWECC-L), which was initially created on May 2, 2024, to spearhead the process of justice and reconciliation for atrocities committed during Liberia's civil conflicts.

The renewal comes amid calls from local and international human rights organizations urging the Liberian Government to maintain momentum in addressing the legacy of impunity. The OWECC-L, under the leadership of Executive Director Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu, has been instrumental in laying the groundwork for the court's establishment, despite facing challenges such as funding constraints and administrative hurdles.

The renewed Executive Order reinforces the OWECC-L's responsibilities, including: conducting comprehensive research and consultations to design a model for the Special War Crimes Court that aligns with international standards; drafting legislation for the establishment of a National Anti-Corruption Court to address corruption cases linked to the civil war and subsequent periods; engaging with international partners to secure funding and technical assistance necessary for the courts' establishment and operation; and recommending the

scope, jurisdiction, and operational framework of the proposed courts.

According to the Executive Mansion, President Boakai's decision to renew Executive Order No. 131 now Executive Order No. 148 underscores his Administration's dedication to upholding the rule of law and addressing past injustices.

The Government acknowledges the importance of transparency, adequate resourcing, and international collaboration in successfully establishing the War and Economic Crimes Court.

The President reaffirms his commitment to supporting the OWECC-L in its mission to bring justice to victims and foster national reconciliation. - Press release.



LNP sends demonstrators to court

(Monrovia, Liberia, April 30, 2025) Several individuals arrested for their involvement in a violent demonstration at the University of Liberia's (UL) main campus on April 28, 2025, have been sent to court for prosecution.

The protest caused major disruptions, including blocking the main street along the Capital By-Pass and damaging a marked police vehicle with license plate #RL-307.

Those arrested, charged, and sent to court are Daniel S., Deema, Kalifa Kanneh, Archi Sougah, Frank D. Jackson, Christopher Dugbe, Isaac William, and Musa A. Kermokai.

The individuals were charged with multiple crimes including criminal conspiracy, recklessly endangering another person, rioting, criminal mischief, failure to disperse, disorderly conduct, obstructing highway and other public passages, following an investigation.

Police authorities said these

charges violate various provisions of the Revised Penal Law of the Republic of Liberia, specifically Chapter 10, Section 10.4; Chapter 14, Subchapter B, Section 14.23; Chapter 15, Subchapter A, Section 15.5; and Chapter 17, Sections 17.1, 17.3, and 17.7.

Police further stated that efforts are ongoing to identify additional suspects, who will face charges once identified.

According to the police, upon arrival at the scene to restore order, their officers came under attack as some students threw stones and glass bottles, further escalating the violence.

The Liberia National Police remains dedicated to maintaining peace and order. The public is encouraged to respect the rule of law and address grievances through peaceful dialogue. -Press release.



Senator Moye blasts BOCA leadership

Bong County Senator Prince Moye appears to have drawn the line with some leaders of the Christian Community in Bong County, describing the former as "paid agents."

By Edwin N. Khakie

celebrations without interference."

GBARNGA, Bong County — The senator further alleged that Bong County Senator Prince Moye has launched a politically motivated, calling for scathing attack on the leadership of BOCA to remain free from political influence and agendas.

Association (BOCA), branding them as "real paid agents" amid a growing dispute over his recent coronation as the "godfather" of the county.

Senator Moye's remarks come in response to BOCA's public dissociation from the Prophetic Call Like-Minded Pastors, the group that bestowed the honorary title on him earlier this month.

BOCA President Rev. Obediah Canmue, in a statement issued on March 29, clarified that the title was conferred by an independent group of pastors and that the association had no involvement. He also stressed that the term "godfather" has no biblical basis and reaffirmed BOCA's commitment to collective leadership principles within the Christian community.

Appearing on Radio Gbarnga's popular weekend program "Let's Find Out" (96.5MHz), Moye defended the autonomy of churches to honor individuals as they deem appropriate. He argued that BOCA's mandate is to promote coordination, peace, and unity among churches, not to dictate which figures they may recognize.

"BOCA should know its role and where its limits lie," Moye asserted. "If BOCA does not understand this, then I am confused. Churches have the right to honor anyone during events like Father of the Year



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Liberia and U.S. Health Partners to launch

together to build a better future for Liberia.

"This initiative is more than just healthcare, but rather it is about building a more sustainable partnership between Liberian and American institutions in collaboration with research and service in health, academic development, and laying a foundation for the future. Together, we can build a healthcare system that is innovative, inclusive, and globally respected," he emphasized.

The initiative is led by Dr. James Adama Sirleaf and Mr. Matthew Woloka Jr. Other team members include Dr. Edward Lee, a scientist; Mr.

R.A. Stanley, a biospecialist; and Dr. John McGill, a top urologist from the U.S.

Dr. Lean Brunner from New Jersey also joined the team. She said plastic cancer affects Black men more often and at younger ages, and she is committed to helping change that.

According to her, they will be working to unlock the causes of why the disease only affect the black and to create treatments to save.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information and other partners have promised to support the program and help make it successful. *Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

Female students urged to embrace STEM education

Liberian female students encouraged to pursue STEM education

Monrovia, Liberia, May 1, 2025, The Liberia Information Technology Students Union, in partnership with Starz College of Science and Technology and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority has jointly mobilized and inspired over one hundred Liberian youths, especially females on the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics or STEM study.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the New Dawn Newspaper on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Mr. Sekou Kamara, President of LITSU expressed gratitude and appreciation to the two institutions for partnering with them to lead the robust charge.

He urged government to invest more into STEM education as a priority in order to attract more Liberian students, especially females.

According to him, robust awareness is intended to address the country's future problems within context of STEM, adding that the world has moved to immense digital economy, a transformation that is being used to curtail corruption and other misapplication.

"So, we want to thank our partners for joining us in leading

this charge. We have decided to do that to speak to the young people about the importance of STEM because most of our kids are not interested and that is the only way that Liberia's problems can be addressed in the future. We need to move and embrace the digital economic transformation to meet up with the global world", Mr. Kamara stressed.

He disclosed that the Liberia Information Technology Students Union (LITSU), collaborated with Starz College of Science & Technology University and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority in commemorating International Girls in ICT Day 2025, with an inspiring and action-packed celebration.

He said the event brought

together more than 100 exceptional young women from ten distinguished high schools across Liberia, including J. J. Roberts High School, A.M. Fofana High School, Liberia Islamic Unity Foundation High School, United Dawah Ummah High School, Seventh Day Adventist High School, Haywood Mission High School, George E. Simmonds High School, Pentecost Foundation High School, Lutheran International High School, and Len Millar High School.

Each institution was represented by ten ambitious students who have passion for innovation and technology.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Grand Kru unveils several projects

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Barclayville, Liberia, May 1, 2025 – The administration of Grand Kru County has unveiled several ongoing projects being funded by the Government of Liberia through the County Development Fund.

The projects include renovation of the Superintendent Compound, County Administrative Building, Barclayville City Hall, Completion of Parluken Administrative Building, Completion of Norkia Clinic in Jora and Completion of a Youth Center in Barclayville.

Others include Construction of 8 new hand pumps and Rehabilitation of 16 hand pumps in eight (8) districts, and layout of Barclayville City.

Grand Kru County Development Officer, Joe Sekpeh, said these development initiatives are aimed at enhancing community welfare and improving infrastructures of the county, adding that the County Administration is working within an estimated budget of \$186,000 received from the government through the Ministry of Finance, Development and Planning, as County Development Fund added to the total brought forward from previous administration, including \$40,000 and 21,000,000 Liberian Dollars.

Speaking to the New Dawn via telephone on Tuesday, April 30, 2025, Mr. Sekpeh applauded President Joseph N. Boakai for exerting a strong commitment in supporting development in Grand Kru and the entire Southeastern

region of Liberia.

He disclosed that central government through the County Administration has put up a bid for rehabilitation of additional roads in the county, including Buah-to-Greenville, Sinoe County Road and Buah-to-Kaweanken, River Gee County respectively to address lack of farm to market road in the region.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Maryland Youths call on lawmakers to respect rule of law

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland, Liberia, May 1, 2025 – Amidst their refusal to adhere to the Supreme Court's ruling, youths of Maryland County are calling on their lawmakers to immediately comply with the High Court's opinion by recognizing the legitimacy of Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

Youths under the umbrella Maryland Youth Association through the leader Melvin T. Weah, threatened to react strongly of the

them."

According to Weah, actions of Representatives P. Mike Jurry of Maryland County electoral district#1, Anthony F. Williams of district#2 and Austin B. Talyor of district#3 must reflect integrity, responsibility, and a commitment to preserving the peace and unity they have collectively worked to build.

He continued that the only way to better the country is for Maryland County lawmakers to join their colleagues who are respecters of



county lawmakers failed to uphold the Supreme Court's ruling, which they said is a threat to democratic foundation of Liberia.

In a statement, Melvin stressed, "Following the rule of law is not an option", and called on lawmakers to immediately act accordingly by returning under the leadership of Speaker Koffa and do the right thing.

Mr. Weah emphasized that respect for the Rule of Law leads to forward march of any nation.

"We, Maryland Youth Association-MYA, call on our honorable lawmakers in the House of Representatives to desist from the engagement of the divisive speakership tussles that threaten to undermine the peace, stability, and progress of our county and nation", the statement reads.

He said at this critical juncture in Liberia's democratic journey, it is imperative that elected representatives prioritize the rule of law, national interest, and the welfare of the Liberian people above personal ambition or political affiliation, especially after a legal verdict from the Supreme Court of Liberia.

The MYA president maintained that the speakership of the House must be pursued through legal, transparent, and constitutional means, not through conflict, coercion, or manipulation.

"We have come to remind our lawmakers that they carry the hopes and aspirations of the people of Maryland County and Liberia at large, as such, the future and direction of the youth depend on

the rule of law and to also focus on legislative duties that will uphold constitutional order and allow due process to determine leadership within the House of Representatives.

"Our lawmakers shouldn't trade peace for power. Let us build a nation where leadership is earned through service, not struggle", he pleaded.

Though Representatives Williams and Jurry have not officially responded to the Supreme Court's ruling, Representative Taylor of district#3 posted on his official Facebook page that he stands on the side of good governance, which is in support of call from the county youths.

In a Facebook post over the weekend, the lawmaker pointed out that respect for the rule of law, an unbiased dispensing of justice, probity, integrity, transparency and accountability must be the hallmark of the governing system.

"Our nation should not keep revolving in a vicious circle of corruption, misappropriation of public funds and an ardent disregard for the rule of law. The negative trend of yesteryears will not be tolerated in today's public space", Taylor wrote.

He stressed that Liberians must be given an opportunity to finally break-free from the shackles of poverty and the public space should engender an enabling environment for economic growth, prosperity and dignity for all. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

« Nous ne permettrons pas à ceux qui battent les tambours de guerre d'imposer leur volonté » – Le ministre de l'Information répond à l'ancienne vice-présidente Taylor

MONROVIA – Le ministre de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme du Liberia, Jerolimick Mathew Piah, a fermement réagi aux récentes déclarations de l'ancienne vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor, affirmant que le gouvernement ne tolérera

qualifié les propos de Mme Taylor de dangereux et inacceptables, soulignant que le Liberia a parcouru un long chemin sur la voie de la démocratie et qu'un retour à la violence n'est pas envisageable. « Nous ne permettrons pas à ceux qui battent les tambours de guerre d'imposer leur volonté », a-t-il déclaré. « Il y a un gouvernement en place, don't la responsabilité

d'un rassemblement politique réunissant plusieurs leaders de l'opposition, notamment ceux du Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), du Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE), et de la Coalition for the Management of Change (CMC).

Au cours de cette réunion, l'ancienne vice-présidente a mis en garde le président Joseph Boakai, lui demandant de respecter l'État de droit après la décision de la Cour suprême confirmant Fonati Koffa comme président légitime de la Chambre des représentants. Elle aurait laissé entendre que le non-respect de cette décision pourrait entraîner des troubles : « Le pays risque de basculer dans le chaos si le président Boakai ne respecte pas l'arrêt de la Cour suprême », a-t-elle déclaré.

Le ministre Piah a dénoncé ces propos, les qualifiant de menaces voilées et d'incitation à la violence. « Les Libériens ont

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

aucun discours ou action visant à déstabiliser le pays ou à compromettre les acquis de la paix et de la démocratie. Lors d'un point de presse tenu mardi au ministère, M. Piah a

première est de protéger les vies et les biens. Toute tentative de semer le chaos sera confrontée à toute la rigueur de la loi. » Cette sortie intervient après des propos tenus par Mme Taylor lors

Précédent dangereux : le Barreau national conteste la décision de la Cour suprême

Le Barreau national du Libéria (LNBA) a exprimé une vive préoccupation face à la récente décision de la Cour suprême concernant le différend lié à la direction de la Chambre des représentants, dénonçant ce qu'il qualifie de « précédent dangereux » susceptible de fragiliser la gouvernance et la stabilité institutionnelle du pays.

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le 29 avril 2025 au siège du LNBA à Monrovia, le président de l'institution, le conseiller Bornor M. Varmah, a critiqué la décision rendue par la Cour le 23 avril dans le cadre d'une requête en information introduite par le président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa. Il a averti que, si cette décision n'est pas revue, elle pourrait invalider le budget national 2025 adopté en l'absence du Speaker Koffa, compromettant ainsi le paiement des salaires, la fourniture de biens et services, et d'autres décaissements gouvernementaux.

« Cette décision pourrait équivaloir à une subversion criminelle du gouvernement », a déclaré Me Varmah. « La Cour doit agir rapidement

pour revenir sur cette décision, qui risque sinon d'ouvrir la voie à une ingérence judiciaire dans les affaires strictement politiques. » La controverse trouve son origine dans une décision du 6 décembre 2024, où la Cour avait estimé que toute session ou action législative menée en violation des articles 33 et 49 de la Constitution était ultra vires – c'est-à-dire au-delà des pouvoirs légaux. Par la suite, le président Koffa avait sollicité des éclaircissements à travers une requête en information, ce qui a conduit à un nouvel avis de la Cour le 23 avril 2025. Celui-ci a réaffirmé Koffa comme président légitime et déclaré inconstitutionnelles les sessions

tenues sans lui, malgré sa présence sur le terrain du Capitole.

Le LNBA conteste vigoureusement cette interprétation, estimant que la Cour a abusé de l'usage de la requête en information, un instrument censé clarifier un jugement existant et non réintroduire des questions constitutionnelles fondamentales.

Selon Me Varmah, cette démarche viole également le principe de la question politique, qui interdit au pouvoir judiciaire d'intervenir dans les domaines relevant

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Min. Jerolimick Mathew Piah

Éditorial

L'exercice d'équilibrisme du FMI et de la Banque mondiale face à Donald Trump

OXFORD – Le Fonds monétaire international et la Banque mondiale sont en position délicate. Créées pour faire respecter les règles mondiales et soutenir le développement, ces institutions sont aujourd'hui prises en étau entre une Amérique au nationalisme agressif – leur principal actionnaire – et le reste du monde. Si leurs dirigeants exposent la vérité à la Maison-Blanche, ils risquent de subir la colère du président américain Donald Trump. S'ils ne le font pas, leur propre légitimité pourrait être mise à mal.

La difficulté de cet exercice d'équilibrisme a pu être observée la semaine dernière, lors des réunions de printemps du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale. Le FMI a pour mandat de surveiller les taux de change entre monnaies nationales, ainsi que les politiques susceptibles d'impacter la stabilité financière mondiale, ce qui implique de « dénoncer » les mesures prises par un État lorsqu'elles risquent d'appauvrir ses voisins. Pour l'heure, le Fonds ne désigne pas les États-Unis comme un contrevenant majeur. Avant les réunions de printemps, la directrice générale du Fonds monétaire international, [Kristalina Georgieva](#), a néanmoins [réagi](#) au comportement imprévisible de l'administration Trump, en évoquant l'incertitude « sans précédent » provoquée par les droits de douane américains, rappelant la nécessité d'une indépendance des banques centrales, et invitant les États à éviter de « s'infliger des blessures à eux-mêmes ».

Au début du mois d'avril, le président de la Banque mondiale, [Ajay Banga](#), a [rappelé](#) en quoi consistait le principal mandat de l'institution : favoriser le développement, et faire reculer la pauvreté. Depuis plusieurs décennies, la Banque mondiale soutient des efforts – en particulier les investissements dans les infrastructures – qui ont permis à des millions de personnes de s'extraire de la pauvreté. Malheureusement, le démantèlement par Trump de l'Agence américaine pour le développement international (USAID) a décimé les programmes qui sous-tendaient les travaux de la Banque. Mais plutôt que d'aborder cette question lors des réunions de printemps, Banga s'est concentré sur le sujet de la création d'emplois, dans un contexte de progression du chômage à travers le monde. La Banque a également commencé à promouvoir des solutions énergétiques nucléaires et technologiquement neutres, dans l'espoir qu'elles séduisent une administration américaine allergique à l'action climatique.

La manière dont le FMI et la Banque mondiale composeront avec l'administration Trump déterminera leur efficacité. Les 100 premiers jours du second mandat de Trump offrent un aperçu de la stratégie qu'il leur faut adopter.

Premièrement, ces deux institutions ne sont elles-mêmes [pas à labri](#) d'éventuelles attaques, et doivent se préparer en conséquence. La prise de contrôle par Trump du John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts de Washington démontre que n'importe quelle organisation peut devenir une cible – certaines des plus grandes ONG et entités de bienfaisance aux États-Unis anticipant d'ores et déjà des réductions de financement. Par ailleurs, le FMI et la Banque mondiale sont mentionnés dans le Projet 2025, la feuille de route conservatrice de la seconde présidence Trump, rendue par l'Heritage Foundation, et figurent dans le rapport [commandé](#) par Trump le 4 février, sous 180 jours, concernant l'implication des États-Unis dans les organisations internationales. Bien que l'équipe en charge de ce rapport ait été [dissoute](#), ce qui a désorganisé le processus, il ne faut pas nécessairement y voir un obstacle à sa publication, compte tenu de la propension de l'administration Trump à agir sans retenue.

Deuxièmement, il est nécessaire que les dirigeants politiques fassent abstraction des menaces absurdes. Lorsque Mark Carney est devenu Premier ministre du Canada au mois de mars, après la démission de Justin Trudeau, il a [insisté](#) lors de sa première conversation avec Trump pour que le président américain reconnaisse la souveraineté du Canada (Trump s'est adressé à Carney en tant que « Premier ministre », alors qu'il avait souvent qualifié Trudeau de « gouverneur »). Le fait que les déclarations fracassantes de Trump sur l'annexion du Canada n'aient pas recueilli de soutien politique à Washington, et encore moins fait l'objet de plans concrets, s'est révélé utile à cet égard.

Tandis que les dirigeants du FMI et de la Banque mondiale orientent ces institutions vers l'avenir, il leur faut établir un équilibre subtil entre confrontation et concession vis-à-vis de la Maison-Blanche. S'attirer les bonnes grâces de Trump ne leur suffira pas néanmoins pour accomplir leur mission : toutes deux doivent également tenir compte du monde à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur des États-Unis.

Ngairé Woods est doyenne de la Blavatnik School of Government de l'Université d'Oxford.

Français

Starts from page 8 « Nous ne permettrons pas à ceux qui

le droit de s'exprimer sur les affaires nationales, mais personne n'a le droit de menacer la paix et la sécurité du pays », a-t-il affirmé. « L'époque où l'on déclenchait des violences pour des raisons politiques est révolue. »

Il a également critiqué Mme Taylor pour avoir, selon lui, tiré profit des conflits et des fonctions publiques. « Cela fait près de 30 ans qu'elle vit aux frais de l'État. À peine un an après avoir quitté ses fonctions, elle semble déjà incapable de s'adapter et se livre à des discours incendiaires », a-t-il déploré.

Dans une attaque cinglante, M. Piah a évoqué le passé de Mme Taylor, rappelant qu'elle fut l'épouse de l'ancien président Charles Taylor, condamné à 50 ans de prison pour crimes de guerre. « À cause de votre mari, des milliers de nos concitoyens ont été déplacés et d'innombrables vies ont été perdues », a-t-il déclaré. « Vous ne pouvez pas vous dissocier de

cette histoire. »

Le ministre a ajouté que Mme Taylor n'était pas simplement l'épouse d'un chef de guerre, mais également l'une de ses principales conseillères, impliquée activement dans son régime.

Enfin, M. Piah a exhorté les Libériens à ne pas se laisser manipuler par ceux qui, en cas de conflit, seraient les premiers à fuir. « Ceux qui profèrent aujourd'hui des menaces de violence seront les premiers à monter dans les avions pour s'enfuir si le pays sombre à nouveau dans le conflit. Ne soutenez rien qui puisse conduire à la mort ou à l'anarchie », a-t-il mis en garde.

Il a conclu en appelant les citoyens à la paix, à la discipline et au respect de la loi, tout en assurant que le gouvernement reste déterminé à préserver l'ordre, la démocratie et la stabilité. « En aucune circonstance, nous ne permettrons à ceux qui battent les tambours de guerre de réussir. »

Starts from page 8 **Précédent dangereux : le Barreau national**

exclusivement des branches politiques de l'État.

« Cette décision marque une intrusion inacceptable dans les prérogatives du pouvoir législatif », affirme-t-il. « Elle menace l'équilibre des pouvoirs en transformant la Cour en arbitre de conflits politiques internes. »

Il soutient en outre que la Constitution offre une certaine souplesse en matière de fonctionnement législatif. L'article 33 permet en effet la tenue des sessions dès lors qu'un quorum est atteint, tandis que l'article 49 encadre l'élection et la destitution du Speaker. Il ajoute qu'il ne suffit pas que le Speaker soit physiquement présent sur les lieux, mais qu'il doit être « dûment installé parmi ses pairs et prêt à exercer ses fonctions

constitutionnelles ».

« Considérer que sa simple présence invalide toute autre session est une mauvaise interprétation des pratiques parlementaires », insiste-t-il.

Tout en rejetant la décision de la Cour suprême, le LNBA appelle à une résolution pacifique de la crise. Il propose la création d'un comité indépendant de médiation, composé d'anciens présidents de la Cour suprême, de membres du LNBA, du Conseil interreligieux et d'acteurs de la société civile.

« Le moment est venu pour une médiation responsable », conclut Me Varmah. « Ce blocage, s'il persiste, pourrait gravement nuire à notre gouvernance démocratique. Tous les acteurs doivent revenir à la table des

discussions dans un esprit de bonne foi. »

Le Barreau national réaffirme enfin son attachement à l'état de droit et à la préservation des institutions démocratiques libériennes. « Nous resterons les gardiens du cadre constitutionnel de notre nation. Mais nous devons empêcher toute instrumentalisation de la justice à des fins politiques. La santé de notre République repose sur une gouvernance équilibrée, le respect mutuel et l'intégrité institutionnelle. »

Cette position du LNBA ouvre la voie à un débat national sur les limites du pouvoir judiciaire et la nécessité pressante d'un consensus politique pour surmonter les défis constitutionnels actuels du pays.

Monrovia sans nids-de-poule d'ici décembre, promet le ministère des Travaux publics

Margibi, Libéria, le 30 avril 2025 – Le gouvernement libérien, par le biais du ministère des Travaux publics, s'engage à éliminer tous les nids-de-poule dans la capitale Monrovia d'ici décembre 2025, dans le but de fluidifier la circulation et améliorer les infrastructures routières urbaines.

L'annonce a été faite par le ministre adjoint à

l'Administration, M. A. Samuka (AAID), en particulier en ce qui concerne la connectivité routière. Il a fièrement affirmé : « Au centre-ville de Monrovia, nous veillerons à ce qu'il n'y ait plus de nids-de-poule avant la fin de cette année. Pour ceux qui suivent les actualités, j'ai signé vendredi dernier le premier contrat. Nous avons commencé les travaux de réfection. »

M. Dunnoh a mis en avant les efforts du gouvernement dans le cadre de l'Agenda ARREST pour un développement inclusif

soutenu, a-t-il ajouté. Évoquant les progrès réalisés à l'échelle nationale, le ministre adjoint a indiqué que près de 445,5 kilomètres de routes sont actuellement en chantier à travers le pays.

Originaire de Margibi, il a souligné que le comté bénéficie à lui seul de 65,7 kilomètres de routes en cours de construction dans le cadre de l'agenda du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

Il a insisté sur le fait que le gouvernement privilégie désormais des chaussées en béton, plus durables que celles en asphalte promises par l'administration précédente. À Kakata, il a promis que la poussière appartiendra bientôt au passé grâce à 8,7 kilomètres de routes en construction, couvrant notamment BWI à Vai Town, la route VIP, les anciennes et nouvelles routes de la 14e rue, la route de l'administration, les routes de l'église catholique et baptiste, ainsi que celle du marché du manioc.

Par ailleurs, 40 kilomètres de route reliant Tappita (Nimba) à Toe's Town (Grand Gedeh) sont en phase de finalisation de procédure de passation des marchés et attendent validation de la Banque mondiale via un rapport de biodiversité.



Brig. Gen. George "Dutch" Dietrich in talks with Liberia's Chief of Staff Brigadier General Davidson Fayiah Forleh

Le caucus parlementaire de Margibi rejette la proposition de sièges réservés exclusivement aux femmes

Deux membres influents du caucus parlementaire du comté de Margibi, le représentant du district électoral n°2, Ivar Kokulo Jones, et le sénateur Nathaniel Falo McGill, ont fermement rejeté une proposition visant à réserver deux sièges électoraux du comté exclusivement aux femmes lors des élections.

La recommandation a été faite par Friday Edwin Cruiser, coordinateur local du Conseil national de la société civile du Liberia, lors d'une cérémonie d'installation des responsables de la Margibi Women Alliance for Peace and Development (MARWAPD), qui s'est tenue le samedi 26 avril 2025 à l'église Kakata Philadelphia.

L'événement a réuni plusieurs personnalités, dont les sénateurs James Emmanuel Nuquay et Nathaniel McGill, le président du caucus parlementaire du comté, Ivar Kokulo Jones et son épouse, le représentant du district n°5 Clarence G. Gahr, l'ancien sénateur David Mentongar, ainsi que la superintendante du comté, Victoria Wolobah Duncan. Les nouvelles responsables de la MARWAPD ont été officiellement installées par Mme Vivian McGill, épouse du sénateur McGill.

Prenant la parole au nom du Conseil de la société civile, M. Cruiser a proposé :

« Nous avons cinq districts. Honorables sénateurs, est-ce possible d'en réserver deux à nos femmes ? Ainsi, à chaque élection, elles pourraient concourir uniquement dans ces deux districts. Cela permettrait à Margibi de servir d'exemple pour le reste du pays, d'autant plus que le projet de loi sur la parité des genres est resté lettre morte. »

Il a indiqué que sa suggestion s'appuyait sur les discours encourageants prononcés plus tôt par les sénateurs McGill et Nuquay en faveur d'un plus grand soutien aux femmes dans le comté.



(L-R) Sen. McGill, Friday Cruiser and Rep. Jones

Il a aussi mentionné 85 kilomètres de route entre Toe's Town et Zwedru, près de la frontière avec la Côte d'Ivoire, dont les travaux de pavage devraient commencer en novembre, ainsi que 48,5 kilomètres entre Zwedru et John David Town en discussion avec la Banque africaine de développement.

Enfin, le gouvernement discute de la sélection d'un entrepreneur pour les 61,5 kilomètres entre John David Town, Putubo et Kiloken, tandis que la levée de la suspension de l'entrepreneur chargé du tronçon Kilebo–Fish Town (20 km) a été confirmée. Quant au tronçon Ganta–Saclepea, le paiement en suspens a été réglé et le prestataire est désormais en mesure de stabiliser et paver la route.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Land Crises in Liberia

By Naneka A. Hoffman

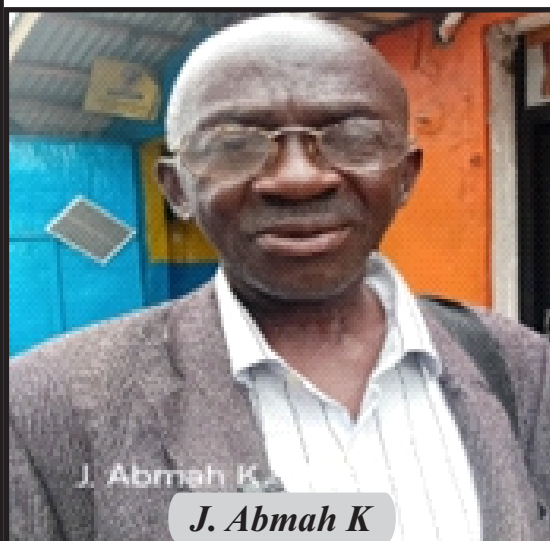
Liberia is confronted diverse land crises across the country, leading citizens to resort to violence and taking of lives. The NEW DAWN randomly asked some residents of Monrovia how they think government should address the countless land issues to promote peaceful co-existence and unity. Read their views, a compiled below.



Borlebo Karpah

“My recommendation is that government should take all land crises in the country and set up a team

from the Liberia Land Authority to carry out demarcations in all the places that have crises, because that is the only way they would be resolved. Like in my own case in Rive Gee, we have a crisis - the boundary between Maryland County and Rive Gee County has been in crisis; it all left with government to go there and do demarcation to call both parties and do the demarcation and resolve the problem, because the government knows demarcations of places.”

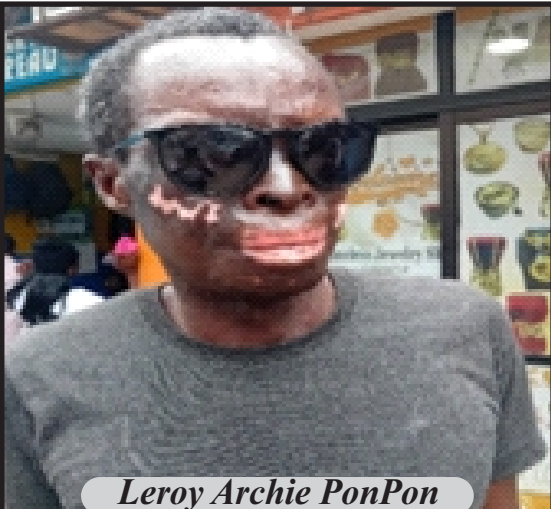


J. Abmah K

“The issue of Land has to do with rule of law. The rule of Law in Land matter is that whenever a title is

made in a court proceeding, there should be no delay in giving the result, regarding who is in rightful possession of the title, because there are lots of false titles when it comes to deed. But judges can know who owns that property, then they can keep that law, and try to delay the case because somebody is dealing with them, when it comes to cash. The measure the government needs to put in place is to advise judges that when land issue comes, the title should be given to the rightful owner; other than that, the crisis will continue.”

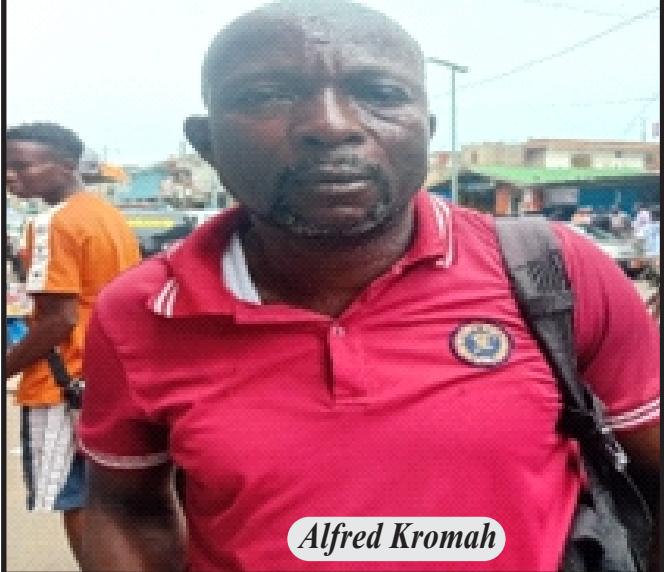
“What the government has been able to do was to break up the Civil Law Court in terms of the Circuit Court A, B and C, to be able to solve civil matters and be able to exclusively deal with particular issues. The issue of civil ejection with respect to land, is a very important, because most of the civil courts should respect the Supreme Court. So, what government has to do now is arbitration; the Land Authority must come up to re-demarcate and investigate properly. We need investigation and recalling of original land deeds, so we can have the arbitration to be



Leroy Archie PonPon

able to deal with the issue of over selling of land; government must be able to resolve and call all parties with original deeds.”

“The government should enforce the land law to avoid land dispute, like for example, the current one at the CDC headquarters; the guy that owns the place went to court to get his property that CDC get but, the government is not enforcing the law on it.”



Alfred Kromah

“The government should send people in communities to get views on the land issue ask what step should be tak to settle land issues in communities and counties. Secondly, the government should prosecute all those who are in the habit of selling one land to two persons. Lastly, government should enforce the land law.”

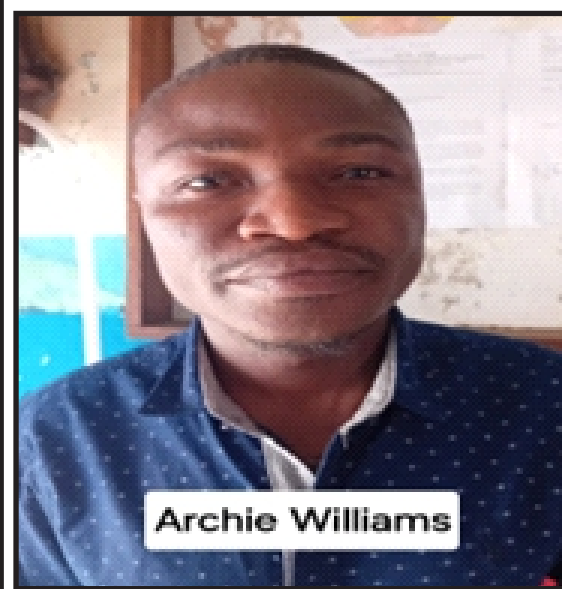


Stephen Dunbar

“If you look at our land crises, they started way back. What I think the government should do is

to put mechanisms in place. Government should punish those guys, who are in the habit of selling one land to two or four persons, and at the end of the day, the individual with cash advantage takes the land, so government has to take serious step against these people. The government should take actions against people, who sell land to four to five persons. They should bear full weight of the law, because there are laws, but the government refuses to implement these laws.

Land Authority has the law; let them implement the law.”



Archie Williams

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Illustration of a person holding a newspaper with headlines like 'New Dawn reports ECOWAS raises red-flag', 'Uncertainty about over schools', and 'Nephew butchered uncle'.

Eroding free speech at CSA

The Director General of the Civil Servant Agency has begun threatening civil servants who exercise their free speech with dismissals.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
The Director-General of the Civil Service Agency (CSA), Josiah F. Joekai Jr., has threatened to dismiss vocal Civil servants here without fear.

According to Joekai, the CSA will not condom acts of disorderly conduct, and

employees of the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC), who were allegedly illegally dismissed in August 2024, against freedom of speech.

“When few employees of MCC took to social media and spread lies about the government, we took action and dismissed them.

We cannot have employees denigrating the image of the government, and be protected, and in as much the government has the



will not resist firing unbecoming conduct, disrespectful civil servants in keeping with job policies, under the Civil Service Standing Order, an act that led to the establishment of the Liberian Civil Service.

“We have to have employees who are respectful, respect for each other, respect for their leaders, respectful of themselves, and people that our country can rely on,” he said during an unveiling program at LACRA on Tuesday.

He said civil servants who do not fall in line and act contrary will be booted out.

The CSA Boss, warning comes following protest by workers of the Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), who rampaged the entity primacy on Tuesday, demanding accountability of revenues generated by the administration from April 2023 to March 2024.

The aggrieved LACRA employees also cited corruption and lack of leadership skills under Director- General, Christopher Sankolo, calling for President Joseph Boakai, immediate intervention.

But speaking at the occasion, CSA Boss Joekai warned the LACRA employees, cautioning them not to be disrespectful to their leaders, and denigrate the government they served.

“We cannot have employees spreading lies, disinformation, undermining, and denigrating the image of this government.

“Where you will sit, spread lies and destroy the very government they serve, and there is no policy that says we must keep them, no,” he argued rhetorically.

Joekai reiterated in his warning to Civil servants, referencing the nine

social responsibility to the economic needs of the people, to provide jobs, but we will not condom disorderly conducts, it is unacceptable in keeping with our laws and policies.

And we will penalize employees, without fear, in keeping with the Civil Service Standing order, and I, as Director-General of the CSA, will ensure there is decency in the Civil Service of Liberia.” He said.

At the same time, CSA Director Joekai vows to investigate and dismiss the employees of LACRA, who protested the leadership of Christopher Sankolo, during the ceremony if facts are not shown in their complaints.

“The things that are said here, are not things people should just say loosely,” Joekai said adding, “I’m not saying they are not facts, but when they are documented- We will look into it, and make sure, they are speaking the facts, otherwise, the situation will be treated base on the provisions of the standing order that guides all of us.”

He immediately instructed LACRA Boss Sankolo to Submit a formal communication complaining the protesting staff for onward investigation.

Also speaking briefly, LACRA- Board Chairperson and former Representative Josephine George Francis cautioned employees to value their jobs.

She urged them to desist from unwarranted claims, only because of self- interest, but to work hard in ordinance.

“You know we have thousands of Youths that are unemployed, but when walking through, Red Light market, I see hundreds of Women, boys, and men selling just to survive.

Even though they are in the informal sector, but they wake up every day to get ends meet, but for those of you, who have job at LACRA, you better hold it strong, because there are lot of people out there, who are competent, and willing come to LACRA,” she cautioned. - **Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

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Sen. Dopoh wants clarity

on the legitimacy of the national budgeting process, which could severely disrupt court operations and delay justice for the Liberian people.

“Accordingly, I am calling on my fellow legislators to convene without delay to address this critical constitutional issue. We must clarify the status of the Judiciary's budget in a way that honors the principles of separation of powers and the roles assigned to each branch of government under our Constitution.” He emphasized they must resolve any

disagreements between the Judiciary and Legislature with transparency, accountability, and a strong commitment to preserving democratic governance. Sen. Dopoh noted that it is now time for decisive legislative action, constructive dialogue, and a united commitment to national stability, saying “Let us act in the best interest of our nation and its people to uphold the Constitution and strengthen public confidence in Liberia's governance.” **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Bar President receives damning backlash

The President of the National Bar receives public backlash for speaking against the Supreme Court Ruling on the leadership impasse in the House of Representatives here.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, May 1, 2025 - A day after issuing a statement, criticizing the Supreme Court Ruling on the leadership impasse at the House of Representatives, the President of the Liberian National Bar Association, Cllr. Bonor M. Varmah suffers verbal attack from top lawyers here. The lawyers are calling for contempt charges to be slammed against the LNBA President, for violating ethical standards, undermining and denigrating the Supreme Court on its ruling involving embattled Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa and Representative Richard N. Koon of the Majority bloc. The experienced senior lawyers described Cllr. Varmah's statement against the Supreme Court as flawed, misguided, deeply troubling, and inconsistent with ethical responsibilities of the Bar in safeguarding the rule of law. They note that the LNBA's role in promoting

He continues that the LNBA also disclosed that the Supreme Court issued a second opinion and judgment in the same constitutionality case, instead of just clarifying its ultra vires ruling, but used "unconstitutional" for the Majority Bloc, with no reference to Speaker Koffa. But, Cllr. Chea argues that the ultra vires ruling didn't apply to Speaker Koffa, noting that the ruling was rather misinterpreted to suit the very position that the LNBA President Varmah is espousing. "And it's because of the misinterpretation that Speaker Koffa asked the Court to clarify its ruling. So, instead of using the same ultra vires, which they couldn't comprehend, the Court used another word that has similar or the same meaning, "unconstitutional." Straightforward! The exercise of powers beyond that provided by the Constitution is ultra vires, meaning outside the constitutional powers or authority. And the exercise of



legal discourse is commendable; however, its public commentary on issues currently awaiting re-argument before the Supreme Court raises significant concerns about contempt and the potential violation of the sub-judice rule. This conduct undermines the integrity and independence of the judicial process. Cllr. Agustin Chea, Senate Judicial Committee Chairperson, Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi, Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson and several others frown on Cllr. Varmah, for kicking against the Supreme Court's ruling. Sinoe County Senator, Cllr. Augustine S. Chea, in a response to the National Bar via his official Facebook page, said he bowed his head in shame for his profession, while arguing that the President of the Bar, Cllr. Varmah made similar arguments of the "Majority Bloc" and others with the same logic: According to him, the LNBA noted that the Supreme Court and others have received and are receiving payments from the budget passed by the "Majority Bloc" and signed by Rep. Koon; therefore, that legitimizes the "Majority Bloc," and Rep. Koon as Speaker.

powers not in accordance with or authorized by the Constitution is unconstitutional. Isn't that the same language put differently, for clarity?" He asked. Furthermore, responding to the LNBA's assertion that the enforcement of the Supreme Court's decisions "depends on political goodwill", Cllr. Chea wonders if the Bar President is saying that the Executive has the discretion whether or not to enforce decisions of the Supreme Court; in this instance, that Fonati Koffa is the legitimate Speaker and should be recognized as such. "How a speaker is elected is a 'political question." The President of the lawyers is telling us that there are no constitutional standards for the election of a speaker. Uhm! Doesn't Article 49 speak to that? Any quorum can conduct business or sessions of the House of Representatives. What does Article 49 say about who should preside if there's a quorum to hold sessions or conduct business? Using that faulty reasoning, the VP or any officer of the Bar can convene meetings of the Bar without the President or his approval, when the President is present or not incapacitated, if the VP or that other officer has a quorum.

Senator Francis S. Dopoh of Riverge County is calling for a review of budget of the Judiciary in the wake of ruling by the Supreme Court, terming all actions of the Majority Bloc to remove Speaker Koffa as illegal.

Monrovia, Liberia,
May 1, 2025 - River
Gee County
Senator, Francis S. Dopoh, is

but also raised serious concerns about the functioning and independence of the Judiciary. He said this matter requires urgent attention and a collective

operated in the second quarter of its fiscal year, adding that such a declaration raises significant concerns about the separation of powers and the integrity of the legislative procedures.

“Let me be clear: the Judiciary’s budget, passed by the Legislature, was enacted in full compliance with the law and established procedures. This was affirmed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the Court’s opening session in March of this year. At that time, no issues were raised regarding the constitutionality of the budget. Therefore, any subsequent judicial interpretation that seeks to retroactively invalidate this process must be reconsidered carefully especially when it risks paralyzing the institutions tasked with upholding justice,” the Senator argued.

Dopoh added that the Judiciary relies on both the legal framework and financial support provided by the Legislature to function effectively, and declaring its budget unconstitutional threatens to undermine this foundation and casts doubt

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



seeking an immediate clarification and resolution on budget of the Judiciary, which the Supreme Court has deemed illegal and unconstitutional.

Senator Dopoh said the Supreme Court's ruling of April 23, 2025, has not only deepened the ongoing crisis in the House of Representatives,

effort to address the ambiguity surrounding the national budgetary process.

The April 23 ruling from the Supreme Court of Liberia declared all legislative actions, including the passage of the National Budget unconstitutional and illegal.

He said this decision comes despite the Judiciary has already

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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE', and a magazine titled 'New Dawn Sports' with the headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections'. The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern against a blue background.