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Widow of the late Sen. Johnson being consoled by Vice President Koung and family members

PYJ Polytechnic University faces closure?

GC dismisses over seventy employees



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Continental News

Tanzanian priest - and government critic - brutally attacked

A prominent Tanzanian Catholic priest and government critic has been violently attacked amid rising political tensions ahead of elections due in

bleeding and calling for help, moments after individuals were seen fleeing the scene.The police say they have detained a suspect, while investigations continue.

pay the price for standing up for justice and fulfilling our duties to the country".Political tension is increasing in Tanzania ahead of the general elections, with rights groups raising concerns over shrinking civic space, accountability, and justice.

Opposition Chadema party vice-chairman John Heche said the incident was bad "news for the country".Lobby group Legal and Human Rights Centre also condemned the "heinous attack" that portrayed a "bad image" for the country.Fr Kitima has frequently criticised government policies and is widely known in Tanzania for his bold stance on democratic reforms and human rights.

The assault, which has alarmed faith leaders and the civil society, comes days after the Catholic Church called for the government to heed calls for electoral reform - a key opposition demand.

Leaders of Christian churches, whose followers make up 60% of the population, have become increasingly outspoken on justice and governance issues.BBC



Fr Charles Kitima has been an outspoken critic of the government

October.Fr Charles Kitima, who had attended an all-day religious meeting, was ambushed by two people at night in a canteen restroom near his residence in Dar es Salaam.According to the police, he was hit on the head with a blunt object and was later admitted to hospital, where he is in a stable condition.

Eyewitnesses said Fr Kitima had been seen talking to several people before the attack, and was later found

The attack on Fr Kitima, who is the secretary-general of the Catholic bishops' organisation, Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), has been widely condemned.Boniface Mwabukusi, president of the Tanganyika Law Society, who visited the priest in hospital, said it had been "a brutal attack with the intent to take his life".Posting on X, Mwabukusi said Fr Kitima had a message for Tanzanians that "we should not be afraid to

DR Congo seeks to remove ex-President Kabila's immunity

The authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo are seeking to lift former President Joseph Kabila's immunity from prosecution after accusing him of backing rebels in the east. There was a "substantial body of documents, testimony and material facts" linking Kabila to the M23 armed group, Justice Minister Constant Mutamba said on Wednesday. The M23 currently controls parts of the mineral-rich east of the country after making significant advances earlier this year.Kabila, 53, has not commented on the accusations but has in the past denied any connection with the insurgents.He led DR Congo for 18 years, after succeeding his father Laurent, who was shot dead in 2001. Joseph Kabila was just 29 at the time.

After stepping down, he was given the title of "senator for life", which gives him legal immunity.

In order to pursue a legal case,

DR Congo's military prosecutor has asked the senate to overturn this.

Kabila has been living outside the country, in South Africa, for the past two years. But at the beginning of last month he said he would be returning to help find a solution to the conflict in the east.A few weeks later, there were reports that the former president had come back and was in Goma, one of the cities captured by the M23.But these were denied by his

political party, the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD).

Last month, the authorities banned the PPRD because of its "ambiguous attitude" to the occupation of Congolese territory by the M23.Justice Minister Mutamba, who last month ordered the seizure of Kabila's assets, said the former president should return to the country and "face justice... and present his defence".



Joseph Kabila has previously denied having any links to the M23 rebels

Kenyan MP shot dead in 'targeted' attack in Nairobi

A Kenyan member of parliament has been shot dead in the streets of the capital Nairobi by gunmen on a motorcycle in a suspected assassination.Police said the attackers had been trailing Charles Ong'ondo Were's vehicle before one of them got off the motorbike and shot him at close range."The nature of this crime appears to be both targeted and predetermined," police spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga said in a statement.The opposition MP had two months ago complained about threats to his life, local media reported.After the shooting on late Wednesday, his driver and bodyguard, both unhurt, managed to rush the injured MP to Nairobi Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.The attack happened along Ngong

investigations and justice.

Parliament Speaker Moses Wetang'ula described the MP as a "fearless and distinguished" legislator, calling his shooting "devastating".The motive for his killing is still not clear but the soft-spoken legislator had publicly claimed some "hired goons" were plotting to assassinate him, attributing the plot to local politics.In February, he expressed concern over growing violence and unrest during public events in the Kasipul constituency in western Kenya which he represented.

"When you hear I have been killed, Kasipul will not be the same again. But I know they won't kill me because I have the Bible in my phone and another one under my pillow," Were said at the time.

On Thursday, homicide detectives visited the scene with Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen saying that "investigations have advanced".Were was serving his second term in parliament as a



Forensics experts have been examining Charles Ong'ondo Were's vehicle

Road near a busy roundabout often manned by traffic police and well secured with cameras.Shortly after the shooting, senior police commanders and detectives visited the scene and investigations are under way, police said.

President William Ruto has ordered police to conduct a thorough investigation into the attack, adding: "Those responsible must be held to account."

Fellow legislators who visited the scene on Wednesday night expressed shock and outrage at the killing and called for swift

member of the Orange Democratic Movement, led by veteran politician Raila Odinga.In his statement, Odinga condemned the killing, saying the legislator was "mercilessly and in cold blood, gunned down by an assassin"."We have lost a gallant son of the soil!" Odinga added.

Odinga lost to President Ruto in the 2022 election and rejected the results due to alleged irregularities.The former prime minister has since struck a political deal with Ruto which saw some opposition members join cabinet in what is referred as the "broad-based government" - which Were supported.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 Paul De Grauwe

The Quick and Easy Way to Put Trump in His Place

LONDON - Donald Trump’s tariff chaos has already offered some valuable lessons about both the US economy and Trump himself. By applying these lessons to their tariff responses, countries can sharply undercut Trump’s ability to bully and coerce them.

One lesson is that the US economy is more fragile than expected, owing to the strong link between the real economy and financial markets. Fears about future troubles in trade and production quickly spilled over into equity, bond, and currency markets. The US financial system’s central weakness is that large downturns in the stock market can force highly leveraged, largely unregulated hedge funds to scramble for liquidity, leading to massive fire sales of assets, particularly government bonds. It is this potential for panic that makes the US economy more vulnerable than others.

A second lesson is that Trump’s bombast belies a fundamental weakness. When his tariffs threatened his billionaire friends’ business interests, he yielded.

The question now is how other countries can exploit these two weaknesses. Certainly, the answer is not to travel to Washington with one’s hat in hand - as representatives from around 75 countries reportedly have done. This is not only degrading, but also ineffective, because it boosts Trump’s own sense of power and allows him to play various countries off one another. Moreover, when Trump smells weakness, he tends to add more onerous conditions to any deal. Even worse, such deals are not even worth the paper they’re written on.

A far better strategy is to exert maximum pressure on the US economy, which will then reveal its fundamental weaknesses, scare Trump’s billionaire friends, and ultimately force him to blink (again). This can be achieved by rejecting any negotiation and pursuing proportional acts of retaliation. If enough countries adopt such an approach, America will find itself isolated. Since the US represents only 15% of world trade, those representing the remaining 85% have everything to gain by coordinating their response.

Some economists dispute the wisdom of retaliation. The standard free-trade argument holds that, since tariffs hurt the country that applies them, others should not follow the aggressor down the path of self-harm. But this argument fails to account for the political economy of retaliatory tariffs. By imposing reciprocal tariffs on US goods, countries can harm the US export sector, thereby creating a domestic lobby for ending the aggression. In the absence of such a countervailing force, the lobby for import substitution (industries producing goods that the country currently imports) in the US will have Trump’s ear.

A version of this political-economy argument featured prominently in successive trade negotiations throughout the postwar period. In negotiating tariff reductions, countries used a reciprocity argument: We will reduce our own tariffs if others around the negotiating table do the same. In doing so, they created a domestic lobby of exporters favoring tariff reductions, and helped to overcome opposition from the import-substitution sector. This approach was highly successful in reducing tariffs worldwide, and there is no reason why it shouldn’t be equally successful today.

A policy of joint retaliatory countermeasures would maximize the pressure on strategic export-reliant sectors such as high-tech and the digital services industries, thus increasing the probability of successful domestic opposition to Trump’s tariff policy. It also would maximize the harm done to the US production and trading system, thus rattling financial markets - the key factor that made Trump blink the first time.

Of course, it is one thing to formulate a principled argument for why countermeasures should be applied, but quite another thing to organize such a response. There is a classic collective-action problem here, because few countries are willing to stick their necks out and invite a harsh, punitive reaction. But once enough countries sign on to the effort, the Trump administration’s ability to mete out such punishments will vanish. After all, the cost that the US would have to absorb to punish the entire world would be prohibitive.

By contrast, if other countries fail to cooperate, they are effectively handing Trump a stick with which to beat them. Why should a country representing 15% of global trade be able to bully the other 85% into submission?

To solve this collective-action problem, we need political leadership. China has already shown the way with its reciprocal tariffs on US goods. If the European Union were to join it, there would be two leaders big enough to harm the US significantly, and others would have an incentive to join the coalition. In doing so, they would further isolate the Trump administration, maximizing the damage to the US economy and minimizing the damage to the rest of the world. Then Trump would blink again.

Paul De Grauwe is Chair of European Political Economy for the European Institute at the London School of Economics.



Dear Father:

They say everybody just on my man back ooh. Can you imagine since ley man went and put him mouth on ley people at ley Palava Hut, him life has not been easy. They say da whatin him do?

Father, ley man say why ley elder them at ley Palava Hut mon say, ley thin ley chief them from ley Traditional Council doing ay wrong. Him say da bad example there so. Him say, how they will talk da kina thin, when ley Rebel them pass ley ingredients for ley Village cake, da ley elder them are eating their own-no noise.

Him say, if they say it leh da, den they mon bring their owner cake back, since ley Rebel them who fixed it na have ley right to fix it.

Hmm, my son, ley thing your friend talky small sense inside oo.

Yes, oo Father, my learned friend say da bad example ley people from ley Palava Hut na set so. Him say why they mon say all ley thing them ley rebel chief them doing at tey Traditional Council bad, den they mon bring their share of ley cake back. Da ley fire ley man put in ley hole so oo. Um, my son, you sure nathin behind this whole thin here.

Aah, Father my name ooh. Bor I hear say small money bisnay inside oo. You say whatin!

Aah, Father, da ley reason il na wan talk for ooh. You know dis whole wahala here da so, so money bisnay inside. Ehn you remember da chief from ley borough -“You eat, I eat” and ley other one I will see what to do.” Hmm, ley people them.

Yes, oo Father, ehn da them there they just chopping our village money leh da. All ley noise on da Hill, particularly to da Traditional Council there da so, so money bisnay.

Father, ley people money bisnay too strong leh goat peppe. And all da thing den they doing so ley suffering da inside dis village here ay na easy. Da small thin!

Yes, ooh Father, ay na easy in dis village here ooh, da only God manning us here oo. Imagine, people work no money to take pay.

Hmm, den you can just imaingey ley people den who na doing nathin, just sitting down home. So, da whatin ley Oldman doing na?

Father, da small fuel ley Papay putting inside ley fire. Ay na small fuel oo. All ley thing den ley Oldman used to be talking against, da ley thin dem him doin. In fact, even worse things. Bor da who dem advising him so?

Father, who know to him? Him gat so, so him children around him, no good advice. They just want for their pockets and their girlfriend dem.

Bor we inside, ehn we say, we na wan short man, we side good, good. We just pray for God to continue manning us oo-ay na easy.



LONDON - It has been almost nine years since the UK Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which I chaired, published its final recommendations. Since then, I have occasionally checked in on the progress made toward our 29 specific proposals and consistently ended up disappointed. Despite the attention our work received at the time, very few of our suggestions have been implemented.

In conducting the review, my team and I drew on our diverse past experiences and sources of expertise to address both the supply and the demand side of the problem - namely, the lack of effective treatments or alternatives, both on the market and in the development pipeline, and the excessive use of current antibiotics. As I have noted before, raising funds to develop novel antibiotics through “push incentives” (support for basic research) has had some success. But beyond one promising UK initiative, there has been little progress toward introducing stronger “pull incentives” (rewards) for pharmaceutical companies, and there has been almost no action on our other supply-boosting recommendations.

In terms of reducing demand, one big victory is the reduced use of antimicrobials in agriculture in some parts of the world. This partly reflects shifting consumer preferences in favor of antibiotic-free foods; but it also follows from policies that are similar or even identical to what we recommended.

As an economist, I always considered our most important recommendation to be the one pushing for affordable rapid diagnostics. This technological solution is key to ensuring that those who are ill get the right treatment, but also that antimicrobials are not applied unnecessarily. Permanently reducing the demand for antimicrobials is one of the most important steps we can take.

Yet very little has happened in this area, despite the rapid development and diffusion of relevant technologies like AI. Why is this? One big issue, most likely, is that the cost of diagnosis still exceeds the cost of simply prescribing an antibiotic. While the proper use of diagnostics would deliver substantial benefits by slowing the spread of AMR, this is a positive externality that is not captured in the current market.

Pharmaceutical companies and others would remedy this market failure by simply allowing for a significant rise in the price of antimicrobials, arguing that this would incentivize the industry to research useful new drugs. But such proposals ignore the fact that many people across advanced, middle-, and low-income economies would not be able to afford high-priced drugs. A higher price point would discriminate according to a patient’s means, when what we actually want is to discriminate according to their medical needs.

Thus, our own recommendation was for developed countries to legislate bans against prescriptions of antimicrobials in the absence of rapid diagnostics, and for global stakeholders to create stronger incentives for the development and use of such tests in low- and middle-income countries. One of our chief influences was Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance’s successful Advance Market Commitment (AMC) model to promote vaccines across the developing world.

Another complication is that diagnostics can differ markedly depending on the disease in question. Thus, some have been approaching the problem through the lens of specific illnesses, such as gonorrhea - where treatment-resistance is a rapidly growing issue - strep throat, or sepsis, specifically in newborns. Current estimates show that 400,000 to 700,000 babies die every year from sepsis either because they needed antibiotics but didn’t receive them, or because they received them unnecessarily. In either case, the root problem is an absence of diagnostic tools.

Recognizing that accessible diagnostic tools for neonatal sepsis would be transformational, a host of researchers - including some who helped shape Gavi’s model - have come together to develop an AMC for such technologies. They estimate that if a diagnostic test was widely used, 100,000 babies’ lives could be saved every year, and antibiotic use among this patient population would fall by 20%.

I remain honored to have served as the chair of the Review on AMR. But the job is far from finished. Over the next 18 months, those of us working on the issue will be publishing new papers on the new AMC, how it should be financed, and which organization or organizations are best positioned to oversee it. A breakthrough in diagnostics could well trigger a powerful chain reaction to contain the wider AMR threat.

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Republic of Liberia
LIBERIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)
for Transaction Advisory Services for Airport Development
through Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Liberia Aviation Authority (LAA) invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified Transaction Advisors to provide advisory services for the development and expansion of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The RIA is a key infrastructure asset in Liberia, serving as the primary international airport. The LAA intends to develop and expand the airport to enhance its capacity, efficiency, and passenger experience. The project will involve upgrading airport infrastructure, expanding terminal buildings, and implementing modern airport management systems.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The scope of work is divided into three phases to be executed intermittently, namely:

Phase I: Project Structuring

- i. Review the available airport master plan and develop a PPP project structure, including risk allocation and revenue models
- ii. Conduct financial modeling and valuation of the project
- iii. Conduct market sounding to gauge interest from potential bidders

Phase II: Develop Transaction Documents

- i. Prepare and submit Request for Proposals (RFP) and Bid documents to the client, and
- ii. Support the client in managing the bidding process, including responding to bidder queries and conducting pre-bid meetings
- iii. Prepare PPP agreement, Concession agreement, and other project agreements
- iv. Ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and international best practices, and
- v. Participate in carrying out the due diligence process

Phase III: Negotiation and Financial Closure

- i. Support the client with negotiating key terms of the PPP agreement with the selected bidder, and
- ii. Ensure successful financial closure of the Project

4. REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Proven experience in advising on PPP transactions in the aviation sector
- 2. Strong understanding of PPP structures, risk allocation, and financial modeling
- 3. Ability to manage complex transactions and negotiate with stakeholders
- 4. Experience in working with governments and private sector entities

5. EOI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested Transaction Advisors should submit their EOIs, including:

- 1. Company profile and relevant experience
- 2. Description of the proposed approach and methodology
- 3. Team composition and key personnel profiles
- 4. Relevant project experience and case studies

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

EOIs will be evaluated based on:

- 1. Relevant experience and expertise
- 2. Understanding of the project and proposed approach
- 3. Team composition and qualifications
- 4. Relevant project experience and case studies

7. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

EOIs should be submitted by **June 12, 2025** to:

Mr. Jero H. Mends-Cole
Managing Director
Roberts International Airport, Harbel, Liberia
Email: jero.mendscole@robairport.com

Telephone: +231 (0)770 555 009

Electronic submission is acceptable to:

jero.mendscole@robairport.com
and
jblibo@investliberia.gov.lr

8. NEXT STEPS

The Shortlisted Transaction Advisors will be invited to submit detailed proposals, including a financial proposal and a detailed methodology.

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).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

No resignation yet

Embattled House Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa says he is yet to reach a decision about his future at the House of Representative. “We are still negotiating, if the negotiation succeeds, I will resign, if not, I will keep



Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

holding up,” Embattled Speaker Koffa told the New Dawn, while reacting to news about his resignation.

He said these negotiations are back channel, discussions and no decision has been made about his resignation, while dispelling rumours.

An hour after his conversation

with the New Dawn Embattled House Speaker Koffa posted this on his social media platform: “I have become aware of statements circulating on social and other media platforms that make insinuations regarding my position as Speaker of the House

resolving disputes, including the current impasse within the legislature. The Supreme Court’s recent ruling has definitively resolved this matter, and I fully respect and uphold its decision.

In light of this, I am actively engaging in consultations with stakeholders across the country, including my colleagues from all sides in the legislature, regarding my transition from the position and to determine the appropriate path forward. I commit to keeping the public

informed as these discussions progress. In the meantime, I urge all citizens to refrain from amplifying unsubstantiated claims that risk fostering unnecessary confusion or division.”

The Supreme Court of Liberia last week granted embattled Speaker Koffa’s Bill of Information while mandating and ordering the majority bloc of “Regime Speaker” Richard N. Koon to respect the Court’s ruling and act accordingly.

Delivering the Court’s opinion on Wednesday, April 23, 2025,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

LNBA president receives more lashes

The President of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Cllr. Bonor M. Varmah finds himself at the center of escalating criticism from his professional colleagues. The controversy originates from his statement condemning the Supreme Court’s ruling on the recent House impasse, which many have considered unilateral and contrary to the established protocols of the LNBA. The issue has sparked debates over the independence and governance of the association, drawing significant reactions from legal professionals across the country.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, May 2, 2025: The latest wave of condemnation comes from the Montserrado County Bar Association, one of Liberia’s oldest and most respected County Bars.

Following a convened meeting on Thursday May 1, 2025, members of the Montserrado County Bar issued a firm warning to Cllr. Varmah, urging him to desist from making unilateral statements that they believe undermine the independence and integrity of the LNBA.

Their reaction underscores the broader dissatisfaction with the manner in which the statement was handled and communicated.

During a press conference held to address this matter, Senior Cllr. Pearl Brown Bull, speaking on behalf of the Board of Advisors of the Montserrado County Bar, outlined critical concerns regarding the procedural

process through which the statement was made.

Cllr. Bull emphasized that the Constitution of the LNBA mandates that any official statement representing the association should be approved by the Executive Council, which comprises the presidents of all fifteen county bars along with the elected officials of the LNBA. She pointed out that this

constitutional requirement within the LNBA had been grossly overlooked in the latest instance, thereby calling into question the legitimacy of the statement issued by Cllr. Varmah. The unilateral action by Cllr. Varmah has sparked deeper concerns about governance and collaboration within the association.

Legal practitioners have voiced apprehensions that such actions could erode the democratic foundations of the LNBA and compromise its role as a representative body.

The controversy surrounding Cllr. Varmah’s

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Sapo National Park beset by illegal mining

Sapo National Park in Sinoe County, southeast Liberia, faces threats from illegal miners and other activities, County Superintendent, Peter Wleh Nyensuah alarms.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Sinoe, Liberia, May 2, 2025 - Sinoe County Superintendent Peter Wleh Nyensuah, has tearfully sent out a passionate plea for intervention to save the Sapo National Park, Liberia’s largest and only national rainforest reserve, describing current state of the park as “a very damaging mood.”

The emotional appeal followed his recent county-wide tour, during which he witnessed the scale of illegal activities and environmental destruction plaguing the once-pristine wilderness. From illegal gold mining operations to poaching and unchecked encroachment,

generations. “This park is not just a patch of forest,” Nyensuah emphasized. “It is a global treasure, a climate safeguard, and a sacred trust for future generations.”

The urgency of Nyensuah’s plea was further underscored by a recent tragedy that sent shockwaves through the region. According to unconfirmed reports, at least twelve people are feared trapped in a collapsed mining pit located deep within the park’s interior, Sinoe County, Southeast of Liberia. The individuals had allegedly defied multiple warnings to vacate the protected area.

According to report, local



the park is quickly losing its status as a sanctuary for some of West Africa’s rarest species.

Speaking with reporters, Superintendent Nyensuah lamented, “This is the one and only reserved part of Liberia, and it is falling apart before our eyes”, and cautioned, “If we don’t act now, we will lose it forever.” Spanning more than 1,800 square kilometers, Sapo National Park is Liberia’s oldest protected area and one of the most ecologically rich regions in West Africa. It is home to hundreds of plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth, including endangered forest elephants and the elusive pygmy hippopotamus. But its remoteness and lack of consistent enforcement have made it a prime target for illegal mining, hunting, and logging. These human pressures are rapidly destroying habitats, polluting rivers, and displacing both wildlife and indigenous communities that have lived in harmony with the forest for

authorities say the incident highlights the lawlessness and danger that have become commonplace inside Sapo National Park, where illegal operators are now acting with apparent impunity.

“This is no longer just about the forest,” an environmentalist said on condition of anonymity. “It’s about human life, national security, and the future of our environment.”

Superintendent Nyensuah is calling on President Joseph Boakai, lawmakers, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and international partners to intervene urgently. His proposed measures include deployment of military-backed security forces to patrol the park and expel illegal occupants.

He also wants an immediate investigation into the collapsed mining pit and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from page 6

No resignation yet

Chief Justice, Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay 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.

However, since the ruling the House impasse remained unresolved. The situation worsens by President Joseph Boakai’s declaration that he will work with the constitutional quorum.

The president’s comment has received several interpretations with many lawyers and opposition figures describing it as a complete disrespect for the rule of law and the Highest Court of the land.

The ruling which has also been interpreted differently has also witnessed disagreement among members of the Liberian Bar Association, with members distancing themselves from a

statement issued by its President Cllr. Bonor M. Varmah, who has come under 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 in the matter.

In the LNBA’s President statement which has received serious backlashes here from Professional colleagues, Cllr. Varmah disagrees with the Supreme Court’s ruling describing it as a dangerous precedent. Cllr. Varmah said the court’s decision could erode public trust in the country’s governance and potentially paralyze government operations.

However, he was criticised for his unilaterally issuing the statement without consulting members of the Bar’s Executive, which comprises presidents of the 15 counties bar. Editing and reporting by Othello B. Garblah.

Starts from page 6

LNBA president receives more lashes

statement reverberates greater transparency and President of the beyond the immediate adherence to constitutional Montserrado County Bar, confines of the LNBA. It brings directives within the and former Associate to light broader issues of association. Justice Cllr. Philip A.Z. leadership, accountability, Sources informed this paper Banks, head of the Advisory and the delicate balance that some members of the Board. between personal opinions LNBA voiced their concerns as Observers say their and institutional to while their critical views presence at the press representation. expressed in a subsequent conference signifies the Cllr. Varmah holds a pivotal meeting held to address Cllr. gravity of the situation. role in shaping public Varmah’s statement was not Meanwhile, this paper perception of Liberia’s legal part of a press release issued gathered that the Maryland community. His actions, thereafter. They equated that County Bar were also therefore, carry weight not to window dressing of the preparing to issue a press only within professional issue. statement as it relates to circles but also among the The Montserrado Bar’s press Cllr. Varmah’s statement. - general populace. conference was held in the Edited by Othello B. Critics of Cllr. Varmah presence of prominent figures Garblah. highlighted the need for such as Cllr. Samuel Y. Cooper,

Starts from page 6

Sapo National Park

prosecution of those responsible, including deployment of trained forest rangers equipped to enforce conservation laws.

Sustainable development initiatives to support local communities with alternative livelihoods such as eco-tourism, agriculture, and education programs.

He also stressed a need for national education campaign to rekindle environmental awareness and responsibility among Liberians.

While Nyensuah’s emotional breakdown may have unfolded quietly in the forested heart of Sinoe, its message has the power to echo across the entire nation and beyond. His tears reflect not only grief but a profound love for country, nature, and the generations to come.

Environmentalists and civil society groups have echoed his call, urging the government to treat the situation in Sapo as a national emergency.

“We stand with Superintendent Nyensuah,” said Amelia Togbah, director of the Liberian Environmental Alliance. “Sapo is not just dying, it is crying for help. And if we do not listen, history will not forgive us.”

As Liberia grapples with challenges ranging from economic recovery to governance, the fate of Sapo National Park is becoming a symbol of the nation’s broader struggle to balance development with sustainability. Editing by Jonathan Browne

STAND condemns Executive overreach

-Says EPS threats and ul student arrests constitute egregious violations of constitutional rights and democratic norms

The Solidarity & Trust for a same right. “This double New Day (STAND) says it standard is not only unequivocally condemns the indefensible—it is corrosive to outrageous and irresponsible the democratic fabric of our statement issued by the Director nation.” Lamented.

of the Executive Protection Furthermore, STAND argued that Service (EPS), Sam Gaye, the timing of this threat—on the threatening to revoke state- eve of the July 17th “WE THE provided security protection for PEOPLE” protest—exposes it as a any former official who allegedly calculated attempt to suppress “advocates” protest “against the mass civic participation and Republic.” intimidate both activists and

“This politically charged threat sympathizers. Such acts it says (issued under the guise of national directly violates Article 15 of the security) is a blatant abuse of the Liberian Constitution, which discretion and a direct assault on declares:

Liberia’s constitutional “Every person shall have the guarantees of free expression, right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, STAND said in a being fully responsible for the press statement issued Thursday abuse thereof. This right shall May1.. not be curtailed, restrained or

It said using this discretionary limited by government...”

power as a weapon of political “We categorically reject the retribution is unprecedented, dangerous narrative that unlawful in spirit, and profoundly dissent, or peaceful protest dangerous, adding that it sends a equates to rebellion. To conflate chilling message that civic activism with treason is to



constitutional rights can be weaponize the state against its selectively honored—or own citizens and dismantle the denied—based on loyalty to the pillars of democracy under the sitting regime. pretence of preserving order.

STAND added that such conduct STAND will not be silenced. The sets a perilous precedent, Liberian people will not be allowing future administrations to bullied. The EPS must justify persecution under the immediately withdraw this pretext of “security concerns” inflammatory statement and whenever political opposition reaffirm its neutrality as a emerges. national security

The group argued that this threat institution—not a partisan attack was issued shortly after public dog of the Executive Mansion,” remarks by former Vice President the group added.

Jewel Howard-Taylor, who Meanwhile, STAND has expressed concerns over Liberia’s condemned the arrests of President Joseph N. Boakai. students of University of Liberia

“The hypocrisy is glaring President Students and SUP Leadership Boakai,” STAND said adding, “as STAND stated that it finds it former Vice President, and equally disturbing the ongoing Standard Bearer of the Unity harassment, arrests, and abuse Party, (you) openly supported the targeting students and student leaders of the University of June 7, 2019, protest against the Liberia, particularly those affiliated with the Student being protected by State Security Unification Party (SUP). These students, acting within their rights, are being punished for demanding better educational said June 7 protest. conditions and speaking out on

The civil society group said it is matters pertinent to their ironical, that now President Boakai presides over a security academic interests, they group apparatus threatening former said. officials for exercising that very

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Libéria : Le directeur de la fonction publique menace de licencier les agents critiques envers le gouvernement

Le directeur général de l'Agence de la Fonction Publique (CSA), Josiah F. Joekai Jr., a averti les fonctionnaires qu'ils s'exposent à des sanctions, voire au licenciement, s'ils tiennent des propos irrespectueux ou

Libéria (LACRA), M. Joekai a déclaré que la CSA n'hésitera pas à appliquer les mesures prévues dans les statuts de la fonction publique en cas de comportement jugé inapproprié.

« Nous avons besoin d'employés respectueux - envers eux-mêmes, envers leurs collègues,

la suite d'un mouvement de protestation mené par les employés de la LACRA, qui ont exigé mardi la transparence sur les revenus générés entre avril 2023 et mars 2024. Les protestataires ont également accusé leur directeur général, Christopher Sankolo, de mauvaise gestion et de corruption, appelant à une intervention immédiate du président Joseph Boakai. Réagissant à cette mobilisation, M. Joekai a condamné ce qu'il qualifie de comportement irrespectueux à l'égard des autorités et a mis en garde les agents contre toute tentative de discréditer le gouvernement.

« Nous ne pouvons tolérer des fonctionnaires qui répandent des mensonges et de la désinformation pour saper l'image du gouvernement qu'ils sont censés servir. Il n'existe

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



diffamatoires à l'encontre du gouvernement.

S'exprimant mardi lors d'un événement officiel à l'Autorité de Régulation des Produits Agricoles du

leurs supérieurs hiérarchiques, et envers le pays tout entier. Ceux qui ne respectent pas ces principes seront exclus », a-t-il affirmé.

Cette déclaration intervient à

Le président de l'Ordre des avocats vivement critiqué pour ses propos sur la Cour suprême

Le président de l'Ordre national des avocats du Libéria (LNBA), Me Bonor M. Varmah, fait face à une vague de critiques virulentes de la part de plusieurs juristes influents du pays, après avoir publiquement désapprouvé une décision de la Cour suprême concernant la crise de leadership à la Chambre des représentants.

Dans une déclaration émise récemment, Me Varmah a remis en cause l'arrêt rendu par la Cour suprême, décision qui a suscité de nombreuses réactions au sein de la communauté juridique. Plusieurs avocats de renom, don't les conseillers juridiques Augustin Chea, Jonathan Massaquoi et Arthur T. Johnson, ont dénoncé des propos jugés irresponsables, contraires à l'éthique et susceptibles de discréditer la plus haute instance judiciaire du pays.

Ces avocats estiment que les commentaires de Me Varmah portent atteinte à l'indépendance de la justice et violent la règle

du sub judge, interdisant toute déclaration publique sur une affaire en cours d'examen par les tribunaux. Ils demandent que des poursuites pour outrage à la Cour soient envisagées contre lui.

Le sénateur du comté de Sinoe et président du Comité judiciaire du Sénat, Me Augustine S. Chea, a exprimé sa désapprobation via sa page Facebook officielle, déclarant qu'il avait "baissé la tête de honte pour sa profession". Il reproche au président de l'Ordre d'avoir repris les arguments avancés par le "Bloc majoritaire" à la Chambre,

notamment en ce qui concerne la légitimité du budget adopté en l'absence du président contesté de la Chambre, Jonathan Fonati Koffa.

Selon Me Chea, le raisonnement de l'Ordre selon lequel les paiements effectués par l'État sur la base du budget adopté légitiment le "Bloc majoritaire" et son président est juridiquement erroné. Il souligne que l'arrêt de la Cour qualifiant certaines actions de "non conformes à la Constitution"

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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

Libéria : Le directeur de la fonction

Starts from page 8

aucune politique qui nous oblige à garder de tels individus en poste », a-t-il insisté. Il a également évoqué le cas de neuf employés de la Mairie de Monrovia (MCC), qui ont été licenciés en août 2024 pour avoir critiqué le gouvernement sur les réseaux sociaux.

« Bien que le gouvernement ait la responsabilité de créer des emplois, il est tout aussi de notre devoir de garantir la discipline et la décence au sein de la fonction publique », a-t-il précisé.

Concernant la situation à la LACRA, le directeur général de la CSA a annoncé qu’une enquête serait ouverte sur les plaintes des employés protestataires. Toutefois, il a averti que si les accusations ne sont pas fondées sur des preuves concrètes, des mesures disciplinaires seraient prises, conformément au règlement intérieur de la fonction publique.

« Ce ne sont pas des choses à dire à la légère.

Si les faits sont documentés, nous les examinerons. Mais si ce n’est pas le cas, les sanctions prévues s’appliqueront », a-t-il ajouté.

Dans la foulée, M. Joekai a ordonné au directeur général de la LACRA, Christopher Sankolo, de soumettre une plainte officielle contre les employés contestataires, afin de permettre l’ouverture d’une enquête.

Prenant également la parole, la présidente du conseil d’administration de la LACRA, l’ancienne députée Josephine George Francis, a exhorté les employés à valoriser leur emploi.

« Des milliers de jeunes sont au chômage. Dans le marché de Red Light, des femmes, des garçons et des hommes luttent chaque jour dans l’économie informelle pour survivre. Si vous avez un emploi à la LACRA, tenez-y fermement, car beaucoup d’autres sont compétents et prêts à prendre votre place », a-t-elle lancé.

Starts from page 8

- qualifiées d’ultra vires - n’a jamais visé directement le président Koffa. Il poursuit en expliquant que c’est justement pour lever cette ambiguïté que M. Koffa a sollicité un éclaircissement de l’arrêt initial. À cet effet, la Cour a utilisé le terme “inconstitutionnel”, qui, selon Me Chea, a la même portée juridique que ultra vires, exprimée de manière plus explicite.

Par ailleurs, Me Chea critique l’affirmation du président de l’Ordre selon laquelle l’exécution des décisions de la Cour dépendrait de la “volonté politique”, insinuant ainsi que le pouvoir exécutif pourrait choisir d’ignorer une décision judiciaire. Il qualifie une telle position de “dangereuse” pour l’État de droit.

De son côté, Me Arthur T. Johnson, avocat pénaliste reconnu, accuse Me Varmah d’avoir publiquement sapé l’autorité de la Cour suprême - une première dans l’histoire du Barreau, selon lui.

L’ancien directeur exécutif

du Bureau pour les crimes de guerre et économiques, Me Jonathan Massaquoi, a également condamné la prise de position du président de l’Ordre. Dans une déclaration datée du 30 avril 2025, il rappelle que la règle du sub judice, en droit libérien, interdit aux professionnels du droit de commenter publiquement une affaire encore pendante devant les tribunaux.

Il affirme que la déclaration de l’Ordre, en date du 28 avril, sur l’opinion rendue par la Cour suprême concernant une requête introduite par le président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa, constitue une atteinte directe à la procédure judiciaire, à l’impartialité de la Cour et à l’indépendance du pouvoir judiciaire garantie par les articles 21(h) et 65 de la Constitution de 1986.

Lors d’une conférence de presse tenue le 29 avril au siège du Barreau à Monrovia, Me Varmah a pourtant maintenu sa position. Il a averti que si la Cour ne revenait pas sur sa décision,

le budget national adopté sans la présence du président Koffa pourrait être déclaré nul, rendant toutes les dépenses exécutées sur cette base illégales.

“Le maintien de cette décision risque de déstabiliser l’État et d’établir un précédent dangereux en matière d’ingérence judiciaire dans les affaires politiques”, a-t-il affirmé.

Pour rappel, dans un arrêt rendu le 6 décembre 2024, la Cour suprême avait déclaré que “toute séance ou action des membres de la législature ne respectant pas les articles 33 et 49 de la Constitution est ultra vires” - c’est-à-dire hors du cadre légal prévu par la Constitution.

Le Barreau estime pour sa part que la Cour a abusivement utilisé une requête en information pour revenir sur une affaire déjà tranchée, alors que ce mécanisme devrait uniquement permettre de clarifier une décision existante, et non d’en rendre une nouvelle.

Le sénateur Dopoh demande des éclaircissements sur le budget du pouvoir judiciaire



Le sénateur Francis S. Dopoh du comté de River Gee appelle à un examen urgent du budget alloué au pouvoir judiciaire, à la suite d’une décision controversée de la Cour suprême qualifiant d’illégales les actions entreprises par le bloc majoritaire en vue de destituer le président de la Chambre des représentants, Jonathan Fonati Koffa.

Selon le sénateur Dopoh, l’arrêt rendu par la Cour

Le Libéria et des partenaires américains lancent un programme de recherche sur le cancer de la prostate

Un partenariat novateur entre des institutions médicales libériennes et américaines a été annoncé pour lancer un programme de recherche biomédicale sur le cancer de la prostate au Libéria, dans le but de renforcer les capacités locales en matière de soins, de formation et de recherche.

Le Centre hospitalier John F. Kennedy, la Faculté de médecine A.M. Dogliotti de l’Université du Libéria et l’École de médecine de Monrovia s’associent à la Morehouse School of Medicine (États-Unis) et à la Heart Foundation pour mettre en œuvre cette initiative ambitieuse, qui vise également à étendre son impact à l’ensemble de l’Afrique de l’Ouest.

L’annonce officielle a été faite ce mardi lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l’Information. M. Matthew Woloka Jr., représentant de la Heart Foundation et l’un des principaux responsables du programme, a précisé que l’initiative visera non seulement à mener des recherches sur le cancer de la prostate, mais aussi à renforcer les compétences chirurgicales et à encadrer de jeunes médecins et étudiants en médecine.

« En plus de la composante recherche, cette initiative ambitionne d’améliorer les soins chirurgicaux et cliniques à travers l’expansion des services de neurochirurgie, la mise en place d’un programme de mentorat et de formation spécialisée, ainsi que le lancement d’un programme d’apprentissage par le service. Ce dernier permettra aux professionnels de santé de la diaspora libérienne de revenir transmettre leurs compétences sur le terrain, tout en acquérant une expérience sanitaire et culturelle directe », a-t-il expliqué.

Selon M. Woloka, ce projet dépasse le simple cadre médical. Il vise également à promouvoir le tourisme, la culture, et l’éducation, dans une optique de partenariat durable entre institutions libériennes et américaines.



suprême le 23 avril 2025, au lieu de résoudre la crise institutionnelle actuelle, a plutôt exacerbé les tensions au sein de la Chambre basse du Parlement, tout en soulevant de sérieuses inquiétudes quant à l’indépendance du pouvoir judiciaire et au bon fonctionnement des institutions.

Il souligne que cette décision remet en cause l’ensemble des actions législatives entreprises, y compris l’adoption du budget national, et qu’elle pourrait compromettre la stabilité des institutions de la République.

« Soyons clairs : le budget du pouvoir judiciaire, adopté par la Législature, a été promulgué conformément à la loi et aux procédures établies. Cette légalité a d’ailleurs été réaffirmée par le président de la Cour suprême lors de la rentrée judiciaire en mars dernier, sans qu’aucune

objection n’ait été soulevée concernant sa constitutionnalité », a déclaré le sénateur Dopoh.

Il estime qu’une interprétation judiciaire rétroactive visant à invalider ce processus risque de paralyser les institutions de justice et de saper le fondement même de l’État de droit. Il a averti que le fonctionnement du pouvoir judiciaire dépend non seulement du cadre juridique, mais aussi du soutien budgétaire de la Législature, et que remettre en cause la légalité de son financement porte atteinte à sa stabilité et à sa capacité à rendre justice efficacement.

Le sénateur Dopoh appelle donc ses collègues parlementaires à convoquer une session extraordinaire sans délai pour apporter des clarifications sur la situation, dans le respect des principes de la séparation des pouvoirs et des rôles dévolus à chaque

FEATURE ARTICLE

Africa's economic growth showing resilience

WASHINGTON, April 23, 2025 – Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is showing some resilience despite uncertainty in the global economy and restricted fiscal space. Regional growth is expected to reach 3.5% in 2025 and further accelerate to 4.3% in 2026-2027. This growth is mainly due to increased private

Countries rich in resources and those facing fragility, conflict and violence are growing more slowly than more diversified economies, and the region is struggling to create enough good jobs for its young population.

“There is a growing gap between people's aspirations for good jobs and

policy changes will materialize and evolve over time, African economies have the option to liberalize and diversify their markets, including leveraging the African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to boost regional trade, to expand economic activity and provide jobs for young people.



consumption and investments as inflation cools down and currencies stabilize. The median inflation rate in the region declined from 7.1% in 2023 to 4.5% in 2024.

However, growth is still not strong enough to significantly reduce poverty and meet people's aspirations – a core concern of the 31st edition of Africa's Pulse, which focuses on [Improving Governance and Delivering for People in Africa](#). Real income per capita in 2025 is expected to be approximately 2% below its most recent peak in 2015.

functioning public services and often sub-optimal markets and institutions,” said Andrew Dabalen, World Bank Chief Economist for the Africa Region. *“Urgent reforms, backed by more competition, transparency and accountability, will be key to attract private investments, increase public revenue, and create more economic opportunity for millions of Africans entering the workforce each year.”*

Sub-Saharan Africa faces heightened uncertainty due to changes in trade dynamics, regional conflict, and climate change affecting people and crops. While the direct and indirect impacts of

The report provides policy recommendations for African governments to maintain growth and rebuild trust in a volatile context. Faced with high debt and declining global aid, countries can seize the opportunity to increase the efficiency of government spending to provide better access to essential services like health, education, water and electricity. This would strengthen the relationship between governments and taxpayers. Improved public services, a fair tax system, stronger accountability and clear market rules will also help businesses compete, grow, and create jobs. -Dispatch.

GC dismisses over seventy employees

Liberia's Governance Commission, or GC, has terminated the employment of over seventy employees of the commission.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, May 2, 2025: The affected employees were employed between the period



July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2023, during the administration of the Coalition for Democratic Change government (CDC). According to an internal memo of the GC dated April 30, 2025, issued by the Human Resources Department and approved under the signature of its acting Chairperson, Dr. Alaric K. Tokpa, the said action is in keeping with the Compliance Actions Following Comprehensive Audit Query (July 1, 2021-December 31, 2023) and Credential Verification Report. The GC stated that following it's the comprehensive Audit Query covering the period July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2023, the Commission's employees Handbook (section 9.1) and the Credential Verification Report, it was prompted to take the action. "In response to the findings under the 'Non-competitive Recruitment Process' category, a vetting or recruitment committee will be established. This committee will oversee a transparent and competitive recruitment process for individuals flagged under this category.

Starts from Back page

to-severe visual impairment. Cataracts, which cloud the eye's natural lens, and glaucoma, which damages the optic nerve, are the two leading causes of preventable blindness in the country. "The success of last year's outreach truly opened our eyes," the companies added. "Far too many people were living with preventable blindness simply because they lacked access to basic eye care. This clinic is not just a building; it's a beacon of hope for so many." Once completed, the clinic will be the first outside Montserrado County to offer comprehensive free eye-care services, positioning it as a potential game-changer for rural eye health in Liberia. In a separate humanitarian initiative, Jeety

Employees within this category will be required to reapply for their positions through this competitive process. Positions will be

advertised in accordance with the GC job descriptions," the GC said in its internal Memo. However, the commission encouraged affected employees to take advantage of the reapplication process, which started on May 1, 2025, and ends on May 15, 2025. "This measure is necessary to address staff recruitment identified in the Audit Query and Credential Verification Report, ensuring alignment with the Governance Commission 2007 Act (Part IV: Section 4.1.8), the GC 2014 Employees Handbook (section 9.1), and the GC Job descriptions. We count on your cooperation and understanding as we undertake these necessary steps to enhance transparency, accountability, and operational excellence. Further details regarding implementing these actions will be shared in subsequent communications," the Memo concluded. Meanwhile, in keeping with this mandate, the GC on April 30, 2025, in a letter to the employees Subject: Notification to Reapply Through Competitive Recruitment Process, asked

the affected employees to reapply for their positions. "I write to notify you of an important update regarding your current position at the Governance Commission. This is in strict adherence to findings from the Audit Query, July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2023, conducted by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) and Credential Verification Report of the Governance Commission (GC). The Audit Query highlighted discrepancies in staff recruitment as a result of the "Non-competitive Recruitment Exercise of Employees." Thus, as part of the GC corrective actions, the Commission will establish a vetting/recruitment committee to oversee a competitive recruitment exercise," the letter quoted Dr. Alaric K. Tokpa. The Governance Commission Chairperson urged the dismissed employees that under these circumstances, they are advised to apply for a position that will be advertised in accordance with the GC Job descriptions and the GC Employees Handbook (section 9.1) through the upcoming competitive recruitment process to ensure fairness, transparency, and compliance with established policies. "The timeline for this process starts from May 1, 2025, and ends on May 15, 2025. We understand this may be an unexpected development. We, however, appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to enhance accountability and operational integrity within the Governance Commission. Sincerely, Alaric K. Tokpa, Acting Chair, GC," he concluded. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Jeety Rubber and SRC break grounds

Rubber and SRC have also commenced construction of a deep borehole water well at the Kakata Central Prison, which has long suffered from severe water shortages. The companies have pledged to provide 30 bags of rice monthly to ensure food security for the prison's 300-plus inmates. "Regardless of their circumstances, every prisoner deserves to be treated with dignity," the companies stated. "This is just our way of supporting and uplifting the vulnerable segments of our society." Together, these initiatives underscore Jeety Rubber and SRC's growing role as not just major economic contributors in Margibi County, but also as leaders in corporate social responsibility. Editing by Jonathan Browne

PYJ Polytechnic University faces closure?

Five months after his home-going, several institutions owned by the late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson in Nimba County seem to face closure.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Ganta, Liberia, May 2, 2025 - Barely five months following the death of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson in November 2024, several properties of the late senator and evangelist, including his PYJ Polytechnic University in Ganta, Voice of Faith Radio, and a mineral water company, are currently closed to the public. There has been no reason provided when the NEW DAWN Nimba Correspondent visited the facilities recently. Students of the polytechnic are migrating from the institution to other facilities to receive their education. Millions of dollars were spent on his funeral in Ganta, with huge amount of said money coming from social development fund. Our correspondent, who toured the facilities, says there is no indication how soon the university and other business facilities will resume services to the public.

During the recent Nimba County Senatorial By-election to fill the seat left behind by the late senator, Vice President Koun, Superintendent Kou Meapeh Gono, and other prominent Nimbaians were seen campaigning, calling on citizens, particularly from the county, not to allow the legacy of the late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson to diminish by his death. During the late senator's funeral service in Ganta, which was attended by President Joseph Boakai, former President George Weah and other former and current officials, including lawmakers and senators, the president of the PYJ Polytechnic University, Roland D. Yormie, expressed disappointment and urged government and Liberians to ensure that the university is functional but since then, there has been no response from the government, including local authorities and Vice President Koun. Residents of LPRC Community



Widow of the late Sen. Johnson being consoled by Vice President Koun and family members

Several Nimbaians, who spoke with this paper, said that there no sign has been shown how soon these facilities will re-open for normal activities. Some grieving citizens lamented that there seems to be no plan by the County administration, including Vice President Jeremiah Koun, political leader of the late Senator PYJ's MDR party to get the three institutions functional again in the shortest time possible.

also expressed concern over closure of the Voice of Faith Radio owned by the late Evangelist-turned politician. When contacted, the widow of the late Senator PYJ and the Acting President of the PYJ Polytechnic University, Mr. Yogie Sumo, Jr., promised to respond to the New Dawn's inquiry when he returns to the county, but Superintendent Kou Meapeh Gono did not answer calls. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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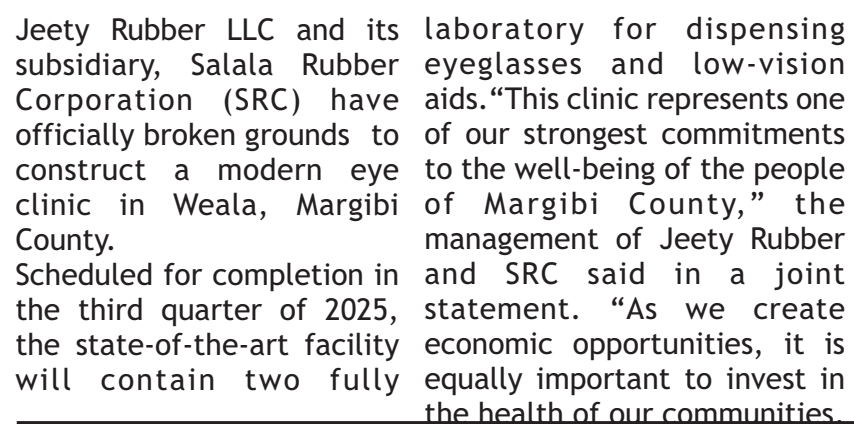
In continuation of his humanitarian gesture and fulfilment of corporate social responsibility, Indian businessman Upjit Singh Sachdeva, breaks grounds for a state-of-the-art eye clinic here.

ensuring that every individual has the ability to learn, work, and care for their families.”

The clinic aims to serve not just residents of Weala, but the entire Margibi County, offering free screenings, diagnostics, and surgeries to reduce the high costs and logistical barriers many faces when traveling to Monrovia for basic eye care. The project follows a 2024 pilot eye-care outreach campaign by Jeety Rubber and SRC, which revealed widespread unmet needs. More than 400 residents were treated for minor eye conditions and given free consultations, glasses, and medication. Over 100 individuals were diagnosed with partial blindness, primarily caused by cataracts and glaucoma, and referred to the JFK Eye Center in Monrovia, with all expenses covered by the companies.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.3% of Liberia's population suffers from eye disease, and more than 5% live with moderate-

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



laboratory for dispensing eyeglasses and low-vision aids. "This clinic represents one of our strongest commitments to the well-being of the people of Margibi County," the management of Jeety Rubber and SRC said in a joint statement. "As we create economic opportunities, it is equally important to invest in the health of our communities."


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PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE

New Dawn Sports
DAS raises red-flag
 Police investigate a Newbold fire

New Dawn
Uncertainty hangs over schools
 As authorities weigh options over crash by Nephew butchered uncle

A person's hands are shown placing a large, open book or portfolio onto the glass bed of a large-format photocopier. The copier has a control panel with a small screen and several buttons. The background is a bright blue sky. The text "WE DO PHOTOCOPY" is overlaid in large, bold, red letters with a white outline.

A photograph showing two large, dark-colored Heidelberg printing machines in a workshop setting. The machine on the left is a smaller model, while the one on the right is a larger, more complex unit. Both machines have various components, including rollers, frames, and control panels. The text "2 Colors Heidelberg Machines" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, yellow font with a black outline.

A hand holding a pen, about to press a button labeled 'PRESS' on a colorful, abstract background. The background features vibrant, splashing colors like pink, yellow, and blue, suggesting a creative or dynamic environment.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline "New Dawn", a calendar titled "New Dawn CALENDAR" with a grid of dates, a brochure titled "New Dawn BROCHURE" with a yellow circular graphic, and a magazine titled "New Dawn" with a headline "J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections". The publications are overlapping and set against a background of colorful, abstract brushstrokes in shades of blue, green, and yellow.