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**P11**









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# Continental News

## Capoeira transforms lives in Nairobi's Kibera

The beat of the atabaque drum echoes through the streets of Kibera. It's accompanied by the twang of the berimbau and is the soundtrack to this rhythmic dance display. Here in one of Africa's largest slums, on the outskirts of Kenyan capital Nairobi, capoeira is taking root. The Afro-Brazilian martial art that blends elements of dance, music, acrobatics and combat. Inside the circle, two bodies sway, dodge and leap with power and grace. The mestre leads with songs, others echo in vibrant chants and melodies. "The roots of capoeira come from Angola and Congo and it was established by the enslaved Africans who were brought from that region of central west Africa to Brazil,"

explains Salim Rollins, the founder of Capoeira Angola Centre in Kibera. "It was a form of resistance of using martial forms that are from Africa as a form of resistance to the institution of slavery and the oppression that these different ethnic groups experienced." Rollins, popularly known by his students as Mestre Salim, founded Capoeira Angola Centre in this area of Nairobi where he trains local children and adults.

Nasri Babu, a 25-year-old capoeirista, started learning in 2019. He says it's a good way to manage the stresses in his life. "From the community I come from, there is a lot going on and capoeira has always played a big part like a therapy thing, it has always been like a therapy to me," he says. In the late 19th and early

20th centuries, Brazilian authorities outlawed capoeira as it became associated with vagrancy and street gangs. In the 1930s, capoeira was developed into a structured system, called Capoeira Regional, which incorporated traditional movements with new techniques and emphasized self-defence, helping to legitimize Capoeira as a respected martial art.

"It has also helped me with self awareness, self discipline and it has also helped with self defence," says Beckham Otieno, an 18-year-old capoeirista. "When somebody attacks me, I know how to use the capoeira moves. I can't be damaged because capoeira helps me with those skills and I apply them in the streets," In 2014, UNESCO declared Capoeira Circle an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, acknowledging its significance as a symbol of resistance, identity, cultural expression and unity.

"There's also a ritual element that's really important within capoeira," adds Rollins. "You see, we practice in a circle, and you see there's call-and-response songs. So, that's the idea of creating an energy within that circle and also sort of feeding and contributing to the two practitioners." Movement and discipline, being embraced by a new generation of Kenyans.



Capoeira in Angola

## New post for Togo leader could see him rule for life

The Togolese leader, Faure Gnassingbé, has been sworn in as "President of the Council of Ministers" - a new post which is the highest office in the government's executive branch and has no official term limits.

This follows constitutional reform that ended presidential elections, and introduced a parliamentary system.

The opposition said the change was in order to allow President Gnassingbé to stay in power indefinitely.

His family has ruled the country for 58 years - Faure Gnassingbé took over in 2005 from his father, Gnassingbé Eyadéma, who had ruled for almost four decades.

This latest change results from a new constitution approved by lawmakers last

year, labelled by critics and opposition figures as an "institutional coup d'état".

Gnassingbé's government had paused some of the changes following huge backlash, but has moved ahead with his new role.

Togo's municipal elections in July will be the first under the new constitution, [which has replaced the presidential system with a parliamentary one](#).

In theory, the role of president of the republic is now only an honorary title, but analysts say Gnassingbé's power is more entrenched than ever with his new post of council president.

His party, the Union for the Republic, won a huge majority in last year's parliamentary election, taking of 108 out of 113 seats in the National Assembly.



Faure Gnassingbé's family has ruled Togo for 58 years and his new role has no term limits

## Gabon's military leader announces he will run for president

Almost two years after he led a coup to end more than five decades of Bongo dynasty rule, Gabon's military leader Brice Oligui Nguema has announced he will run in April's presidential elections.

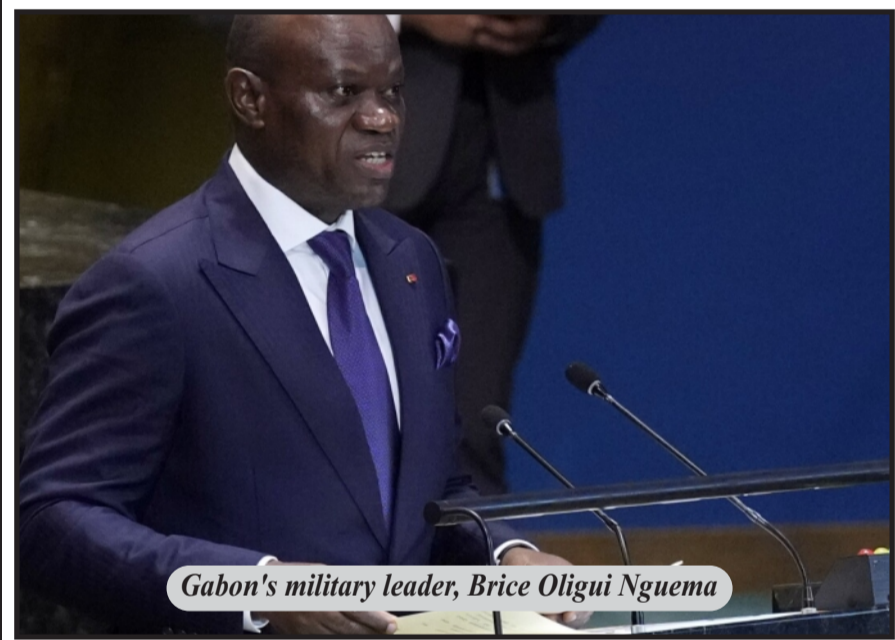
After the ouster of President Ali Bongo in August 2023, Nguema had vowed to give power back to civilians following a transitional period.

Given the green light in January by the transitional Parliament, a new electoral code enables members of the military and

magistrates to run in elections. Nguema made the announcement at a speech in Gabon's capital. The 50 year old said his vision for the nation was a "Gabon rising from the ashes", as he called on the crowd to get behind his candidacy.

To throw his hat in the ring for the role, the former head of the presidential guard will have to abandon his current role at least temporarily, according to Facebook page Infos CTRI officiel.

"If he's not elected, he will return to the barracks," the page added. Elections in Gabon are due on April 12th.



Gabon's military leader, Brice Oligui Nguema

## Zimbabwe VP Meets Vatican Envoy

Zimbabwe's Vice President, the Catholic Constantino Chiwenga, met with the Vatican's foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, in Rome on Saturday.

The two discussed Zimbabwe's political and socio-economic challenges, as well as ways to

strengthen cooperation with the Catholic Church—particularly in education and healthcare.

According to the Vatican, the meeting also touched on regional and global issues, with both sides emphasizing the importance of dialogue and reconciliation between communities.



Zimbabwe VP Chiwenga meets Vatican's top diplomat for talks

# EDITORIAL

## National Bar and Supreme Court must ceasefire

A clear divide is emerging in the Liberian Judiciary, with action and counter-action between the Liberian National Bar Association and the Supreme Court of Liberia. Following the Bar's recent public criticism of the Supreme Court's ruling into the leadership crisis at the House of Representatives, the Court has retaliated by boycotting a Law Day celebration organized by the Bar.

The entire bench of the Supreme Court of Liberia was visibly absent from Friday's Law Day commemoration held by the Bar, where Her Honor, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, had been invited to speak. Unfortunately, neither did Her Honor, Chief Justice Yuoh nor any member of the bench show up, in what seems a complete snub of the Bar.

It was a national occasion reserved for members of the legal profession, including lawyers, judges, law school students, Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Chief Justice or a designee. But the highest echelon of the Liberian Justice System and Final Arbiter of justice distanced itself, right before the eyes of international partners.

It took former Chief Justice, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott, to save the day by delivering the key note speech, strongly rebuking the LNBA President's public condemnation of the Supreme Court. "Whether we like it or not, we must respect the opinion of the Supreme Court," Cllr. Scott said, and emphasized, "When the Court speaks, it is final!"

She warned against politicizing legal institutions and cautioned the Bar against stepping into political territory under the guise of legal advocacy. "You don't reject or disrespect the Court's decision," she emphasized. "The law clearly states that no lawyer shall do anything to undermine the integrity of the Court."

This is occurring at a time the High Court faces politic maneuvering to cast doubts on its recent opinion rendered on the controversy surrounding the Speakership of the House of Representatives, where the Executive, backed by group of lawmakers, who styled themselves "Majority Bloc", illegally removed Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, replacing him by a ruling party lawmaker, Richard Nagbe Koon that Court does not recognize as Speaker.

It is saddening and quite unfortunate that the bodies clothed with authority to protect and interpret the law of the land would be in so deep disagreement and distance apart, as a result of clear political maneuvering.

But then we are not so surprise. This is what the Executive, purely obsessed with wielding political power, had wanted all along – to have its way in judicial matters for selfish interest, while playing lip-service to respect for the rule of law.

Rather than constitutionally enforcing the ruling of the Supreme Court by restoring the amenities of Speaker Koffa, as the legitimate Speaker of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, President Joseph Boakai has made it clear that the ruling from the High Court is not enforceable, and therefore, the matter remains unresolved.

We call on both the Bar and the Supreme Court to avoid a tit for tat scenario over this situation, because this is the aim of politicians. We urge both sides to see the compelling need to uphold the sanctity of the legal profession and the Constitution of Liberia, come what may, by ceasing any further action against each other, and allow posterity to judge which side truly is in support of the rule of law, the Judiciary or the Executive.

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# COMMENTARY

By Rita Maria El Zaghloul

## Accelerating Our Ocean's Protection

WASHINGTON, DC – Since 1971, the ocean has absorbed more than [90%](#) of the excess heat caused by human-generated climate change, pushing it to the brink of collapse. The fact that the world is currently experiencing the [largest coral-bleaching event](#) on record is a warning sign of the dangers ahead. In fact, without urgent action, the ocean will soon cross a tipping point, threatening the extinction of marine life and millions of livelihoods.

Fish are a key source of protein for [about 3.3 billion people](#). More than [270 million workers](#) are employed in the tourism sector, making it one of the world's largest industries, with seaside holiday destinations, such as the Bahamas and Seychelles, having a particularly high concentration of workers in tourism. Coral reefs alone provide goods and services valued at roughly [\\$2.7 trillion](#) per year. Biodiversity collapse and climate-related disasters could cost [trillions of dollars in lost productive capacity](#), and have wide-reaching consequences for public health, economic stability, and global security.

The international community has started to recognize the growing threats posed by ocean warming and acidification. The 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) adopted the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), which sets the ambitious target of conserving at least 30% of the world's land and seas by 2030, with a focus on areas that offer important ecosystem services. This "30-by-30" pledge reflects scientific consensus on the minimum level of protection needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. But efforts to meet this target have so far fallen far short: only [17.6% of land and 8.4% of seas](#) are currently protected, with the latter increasing by just 0.5% since COP15.

Increased investment in marine conservation would bring profound benefits: healthy oceans support resilient economies and communities by strengthening food and water security and generating sustainable livelihoods. Without marine reserves, overfishing and other unsustainable extraction practices will continue to escalate, potentially leading to the collapse of fish stocks and the industries that depend on them. Moreover, pollution – from oil spills to industrial and plastic waste – will destroy marine habitats, creating a negative feedback loop.

One of the best ways to protect these ecosystems is by establishing and maintaining marine protected areas (MPAs) – often called the "national parks of the sea." Indigenous peoples and coastal communities, in particular, should participate in the management and governance of MPAs. Their knowledge, cultural connections to nature, and

traditional practices are essential to preserve biodiversity and ecological connectivity.

Many countries lack the governance frameworks and financial resources to create or enforce MPAs. The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC, of which I am director) can help here. This intergovernmental group of 120 countries, co-chaired by Costa Rica and France (with the United Kingdom as the oceans champion), was created to support member countries in their efforts to achieve the 30-by-30 target. The HAC has developed tools, expertise, and partnerships to help governments identify their needs, access resources, and implement effective solutions, whether through peer-to-peer exchanges, capacity-building workshops, or other avenues.

These efforts to mobilize new commitments and maintain momentum toward the 30-by-30 target are starting to bear fruit. Portugal approved legislation to create the [largest MPA network in the North Atlantic Ocean](#), covering 287,000 square kilometers (111,000 square miles) – approximately 30% of the ocean surrounding the Azores. The Dominican Republic became the [first Caribbean country](#) to achieve the 30%-protection target by designating a new MPA and expanding an existing sanctuary. And Australia has protected [more than half of its ocean area](#) by expanding two already-existing marine reserves around Heard Island and McDonald Islands. Other HAC members must follow their lead.

Of course, developing countries often lack the capacity to mobilize domestic resources. To address this problem, we just launched the [rapid deployment mechanism](#), which offers small grants for the development and implementation of 30-by-30 plans, at the Our Ocean Conference in Busan, Korea. This mechanism will provide seed funding to HAC members to fast-track the establishment of new MPAs, enhance existing ones, and galvanize political support for ocean conservation.

Human well-being depends on a healthy ocean, and safeguarding at least 30% of this critical ecosystem is the minimum requirement for ensuring a thriving future for people and planet alike. As we kick off a year of high-level decision-making on marine conservation, with this week's Our Ocean Conference and both the United Nations Ocean Conference and the Blue Economy and Finance Forum in June, we must remember that preserving the world's seas for current and future generations is our collective responsibility. Part of that responsibility is providing a lifeline for those countries that have the will, but not the resources, to act.

**Rita Maria El Zaghloul is Director of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.**

OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

Pope Francis and the Soul of Economics

CAMBRIDGE – Pope Francis redefined the papacy in profound ways. As the leader of the Catholic Church, he worked to make it more inclusive of women and the LGBTQ+ community. As the first Latin American pontiff, he became a voice for the Global South. And by taking his name – and inspiration – from St. Francis of Assisi, he positioned himself as a champion of the poor and marginalized.

One of the most surprising – and often-overlooked – aspects of Francis's 12-year papacy was his emergence as an incisive economic visionary. In a world where economics is dominated by models, markets, and metrics, Francis insisted on a different standard: a moral one.

Throughout his papacy, Francis consistently challenged the assumptions of today's prevailing economic orthodoxy. In his 2013 exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (“The Joy of the Gospel”), he issued a stinging rebuke of what he called “an economy of exclusion and inequality” – a system that, as he put it, “kills.”

Unlike many critics of capitalism, however, Francis did not call for its outright rejection. He adopted a more pragmatic approach, urging economic thinkers to ask deeper, more fundamental questions: What sort of markets do we want? Who should govern them, and to what end? His was a call to rethink not just our economic policies, but also the priorities that shape them.

In his 2015 encyclical [Laudato Si](#) (“Praise Be to You”), Francis went further, integrating ecological and economic critiques into a unified moral vision. Climate degradation, he argued, is not merely a “negative externality” to be managed; it is the inevitable outcome of an economy that commodifies nature and marginalizes the poor. Viewed through this lens, economics and ecology are not separate academic fields but intertwined arenas of moral responsibility. “The earth herself,” he wrote, “is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor.”

At the 2020 [Economy of Francesco](#) summit, Francis brought together young economists and entrepreneurs to imagine a new economy rooted in solidarity, justice, and ecological stewardship. His message was unequivocal: it is no longer enough to patch up the old system – a moral re-founding is needed.

Francis's views stood in stark contrast to the neoclassical assumptions that have long dominated economic policymaking. Neoclassical economics treats individuals as isolated utility maximizers, markets as largely self-correcting, and growth as an unalloyed good. Poverty, inequality, and environmental damage are seen, if at all, as technical problems at the margins of an otherwise efficient system.

Francis recognized a more profound threat: economics had ceased to be a tool for advancing human prosperity and had become an ideology that corrodes solidarity and encourages indifference. In theological terms, what he diagnosed was not mere inefficiency or imbalance but *sin*: structural sin, embedded in the systems we take for granted.

Francis's critique is striking precisely because it comes from outside the technocratic priesthood of academic economics. While he did not propose marginal tax rates or carbon-pricing mechanisms, he was returning economics to its foundations in moral philosophy and placing himself within a humanist tradition deeply rooted in the history of economic thought. That tradition is exemplified by Nobel laureate economists such as [Joseph Stiglitz](#), who has exposed how information asymmetries distort market “efficiency,” and [Amartya Sen](#), who has argued that development should focus on expanding human capabilities rather than GDP. It also includes [Dani Rodrik](#), who has advocated re-embedding markets within democratic governance, and [Thomas Piketty](#), who has laid bare the structural dynamics of wealth concentration.

Even Adam Smith, widely regarded as the father of free markets, would have found echoes of his thinking in Francis's project. In his 1759 book [The Theory of Moral Sentiments](#), Smith warned that economic life must be grounded in sympathy, justice, and norms of civic trust.

The quest for a moral economy also animates the work of scholars like economist Samuel Bowles, who [argues](#) that well-designed incentives and institutions can encourage pro-social behavior. But where Bowles sees economics as a behavioral system to be redesigned, Francis viewed it as a moral system in need of redemption.

Unlike neoclassical economists, Francis was not merely concerned with fostering social cooperation; he was concerned with the formation of souls. For him, the stakes were not the success of markets but the survival of dignity, solidarity, and creation itself. This was not moralism for its own sake; it was a reminder that economic life always entails moral choices, whether we acknowledge them or not.

Every budget, tax policy, and trade regime reflects a set of values. Francis refused to let those values remain hidden. Some economists [bristle](#) at this intrusion, insisting that the strength of economics lies in its value neutrality and ability to provide a rational – rather than sentimental – basis for hard choices. But that stance itself reflects a choice to protect the status quo rather than question it. Francis's intervention revealed that the claim to neutrality is, in fact, a form of moral abdication.

At a time when neoclassical models increasingly struggle to explain or contain the crises facing humanity – rampant inequality, climate breakdown, political instability, and the rise of populism – Francis's message feels especially urgent. It speaks directly to the spiritual ailments at the heart of our failing economies. While he did not present an alternative model in spreadsheets or regression tables (the kind of economic language that often alienates ordinary people), he offered something more intuitive: the capacity for moral imagination.

Most importantly, Francis was not an enemy of economics. He was its custodian, reminding its practitioners of their forgotten calling: to serve the common good. Economists would do well to heed his message. If a 2,000-year-old institution like the Catholic Church can change, so can an economic consensus that has prevailed for only a few decades.

Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law and cognition.

OPINION

By Alfredo Giron

The Business Case for a Sustainable Blue Economy

GENEVA – The ocean economy supports millions and underpins some of the world's most critical industries. From maritime shipping, which carries [80% of global trade](#), to the undersea fiber-optic cables that transmit [95% of international data](#), the ocean is deeply embedded in our societies and daily lives. According to one projection, ocean-based industries could generate [more than \\$3 trillion](#) annually by 2030. But the ocean is far more than an economic engine. It's also the planet's largest natural climate regulator, absorbing [nearly 30%](#) of carbon dioxide emissions, capturing [90% of excess heat](#), and storing [50 times more carbon](#) than the atmosphere. And yet the ocean's capacity to provide these vital services is now [nearing a tipping point](#).

The case for investing in sustainable solutions has never been stronger, and doing so offers a unique opportunity to unlock financial flows at scale. After all, today's ocean economy represents a multi-trillion-dollar investment frontier, spanning multiple sectors that depend on a healthy marine environment: renewable energy, coastal infrastructure, ports, maritime transport, sustainable fisheries, and aquaculture. The cost of inaction is simply too high and is increasing.

But these opportunities remain largely untapped. Although the sustainable blue economy is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years to over [\\$3.2 trillion by 2030](#), a [substantial funding gap](#) continues to hinder sustainable ocean-related development and innovation.

As extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and shifting coastlines increasingly disrupt coastal areas and key industries, this shortfall poses a grave threat to both climate resilience and long-term economic growth.

Between 2012 and 2022, [just \\$13 billion](#) was invested in ocean sustainability, mostly from official development assistance and philanthropic sources. This reflects the widespread perception that ocean-based ventures are more risk than reward, with investors frequently pointing to regulatory uncertainty, fragmented markets, and a shortage of bankable projects.

To unlock the full potential of a sustainable ocean economy, policymakers and business leaders must focus on three key priorities. First, they must recognize the ocean as a high-growth investment opportunity.

Blue finance has traditionally focused on conservation and restoration efforts, which are necessary but insufficient to drive the systemic change needed to safeguard ocean health. Achieving such change will require recognizing that large-scale projects can, in addition to providing financial returns, help build climate resilience and promote inclusive economic growth. Scalable, commercially viable projects span sectors such as renewable energy, shipping, coastal infrastructure, large-scale aquaculture, and ports.

Second, attracting private capital requires de-risking ocean investments. Developers and industrial stakeholders must work closely with multilateral development banks, insurers, and philanthropies to reduce perceived risks through concessional financing and first-loss guarantees, thereby reducing capital costs and encouraging private-sector participation.

Third, the pipeline of bankable ocean-based projects must be expanded. While developers often point to a lack of funding, one of the main obstacles to capital deployment is the limited availability of mature, scalable projects. Bridging this gap will require coordinated action across borders and industries.

Governments, investors, and business leaders must work together to establish supportive regulatory frameworks, form public-private partnerships, and facilitate targeted investments that can bring viable, high-impact ventures to market.

The main challenge for emerging and developing economies across the Global South is addressing investors' concerns about regulatory and policy uncertainty, currency volatility, underdeveloped capital markets, and inadequate financial infrastructure.

Alongside technology transfers and knowledge-sharing, these economies must embrace nature-positive approaches to ocean-based industries and infrastructure development.

The offshore wind sector offers a promising model. For example, innovations such as Shanghai Electric Wind Power's [recyclable wind turbine blades](#) demonstrate how integrating capital, cutting-edge technologies, and shared expertise can drive progress.

These efforts can be complemented by developing policies such as Costa Rica's National Decarbonization Plan, which aims to transition the country to 100% renewable energy [by 2050](#). With strict biodiversity and land-use protection measures in place, it has since 2019 unlocked more than [\\$3 billion](#) to finance investments in renewable infrastructure.

By protecting marine ecosystems and incorporating social and environmental resilience into their investment models, ocean-based industries can also deliver long-term value to local communities.

For example, the Port of Singapore's [investments](#) in zero-emission fuel bunkering and the Port of Antwerp-Bruges' efforts to bolster ecological infrastructure show that sustainability and economic vitality can go hand in hand. The World Economic Forum's efforts to accelerate the transition to [Nature and People Positive Ports](#) will further reinforce this work.

The next five years will be pivotal. Two upcoming events – the [United Nations Ocean Conference](#) and the [Blue Economy and Finance Forum](#) in June – will provide investors, development banks, and policymakers with a platform to advance innovative investment mechanisms, foster cross-sector partnerships, and align financial strategies with the long-term vision of a thriving, sustainable ocean economy.

Admittedly, this is a moment of unprecedented risk. But it is also a moment of unmatched opportunity. By aligning capital flows with ocean regeneration, we can bring about the systemic change needed to build a resilient blue economy that protects marine ecosystems, empowers communities, and provides broad-based prosperity for future generations.

Alfredo Giron is Head of Ocean at the World Economic Forum.



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](mailto:jero.mendscole@robairport.com)**

**Telephone: +231 (0)770 555 009**

Electronic submission is acceptable to:

**[jero.mendscole@robairport.com](mailto:jero.mendscole@robairport.com)**  
**and**  
**[jbllibo@investliberia.gov.lr](mailto:jbllibo@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.

# Death Announcement



**Sunrise: November 14, 1952**

**Sunset: April 26, 2025**

With heavy hearts, the Stewart, Cooper, Richards and Logan families announce the passing of Margo M. Stewart. This sad event occurred on April 26, 2025, at John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital.

She was well known for her love of family, friends and everyone she came in contact with. She worked and lived a fulfilling life. She gave generously and positively impacted many, many lives throughout her lifetime.

Miss. Stewart, also affectionately known as “Mommie”, “Grandma Margo”, “Aunt Margo”, and “Sister”, is survived by her children Alvin M. Cooper and Fred D. Richards; her grandchildren, Margo A. Sandy, Ivy Chelsea Richards, Jeremiah Cooper, and Fredasa D. Richards; and a host of beloved nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends in and out of Liberia.

**HOMEGOING CELEBRATION**

**Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Candlelight Vigil

Venue: S. K. D Boulevard (Deceased Home)

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Removal: 09:00am Samuel A. Striker Funeral Home

Wake: 10:00am – 11:00am

Funeral Service: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Martha Tubman Memorial United Methodist Church

Weaver Avenue, Paynesville City

Montserrado, Liberia

**CONTACTS**

Marilyn T. Logan +231 886-510-991

Alvin M. Cooper +231 886-588-647/ 777-001-304

Fred D. Richards +231 886-529-254 / 777-917-196

**TRIBUTES:** The family is accepting tributes from family and friends of the late Miss. Margo M. Stewart. Based on the length of the tributes, these may be read during the Candlelight Vigil celebration or printed in the service program. Kindly keep tribute to a 5-10 sentence limit and send by email to [Funeraltributes72@gmail.com](mailto:Funeraltributes72@gmail.com)

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Piah trade blames

**\* Says Liberia Media is weak because media owners refuse to support PUL**

**Information Ministry boss criticized media owners and Executives here over the weekend for what he described as their nonchalant approach towards the Press Union of Liberia.**

Monrovia, Liberia: when elections are approaching, Liberia's Minister of a trend he believes undermines Information, Cultural the growth and strength of the Affairs and Tourism, Jerolimek media in Liberia.

Matthew Piah, says the “The Liberian media is weak country's media landscape because its principal actors, remains weak because media including media executives and owners and executives have managers, refuse to support the failed to actively support the activities of the PUL,” Minister Press Union of Liberia(PUL). Piah stated. “This lack of Speaking Saturday at the consistent engagement is Monrovia City Hall during the contributing significantly to the commemoration of the 32nd weakness we are seeing in our anniversary of World Press media today.” Freedom Day, Minister Piah He called on media owners not noted that media executives only to be journalist as they are, only engage with the Union but to also actively participate in



Mini. Matthew Piah

*By: Kruah Thompson*

the journalism profession by standing with the PUL and helping to improve the sector.

According to him, relying solely on young journalists and the leadership of the Union to carry the burden is not enough.

“Media owners must be journalists themselves. They must be involved, not just during election time, but throughout the year, to help lift the image of journalism in Liberia,” he said.

Despite his criticism, Minister Piah also highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to ensure a free and independent press in the country. He emphasized that the government recognizes the media as a cornerstone of democracy.

“Even though the media is weak, this government is taking substantial steps to allow the press to be free from intimidation, muzzling, and strangulation,” he assured. “We know that without a free and independent media; Liberia's democratic nature will be incomplete.”

Meanwhile, the Minister Piah remarks come at a time when media practitioners continue to grapple with challenges such as limited resources, and poor working conditions. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

# Office of War Crimes applauds Boakai

**The Head of the Office of War and Economic Crimes Court hails President Boakai for his commitment to establishing the court for Liberia.**

*By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh*

Monrovia, Liberia, crimes victims, as part of the May 5, 2025 - The government's rule of law Office of the War initiative.

and Economic Crimes Court ”In our country today, we still (OWECC) here hails President experience war-mongering, Joseph Nyuma Boakai for his threats of violence, and in resolve in establishing the court reality, violence that reminds us to prosecute those who bear of the atrocities and sufferings greater responsibility from the from our civil crises and unless, Liberian Civil War. and until they are dealt with

Last week, the President uncompromisingly, our country renewed Executive Order No. may never enjoy stable peace 131 to No.148, strengthening and justice for all”, Cllr Barbu straight mandate and cautioned.

establishment of the Court. He mentioned threats of security Addressing a news conference from would-be War Crimes at the Office of War and candidates and numerous Economic Crimes in Monrovia challenges, but maintained that on Friday, May 2, 2025, their pursuit remains resilience.

Executive Director, Cllr. Dr. “We remain resilience and I can Jallah Barbu, stressed that assure that under my leadership, President Boakai's Executive this court will be fully Order# 148 as the institution functioning by November 2026,



prepares to execute its even though, importantly, we mandate.

Cllr. Barbu noted that the Security, of ourselves, our President's move is in the right investigators and prosecutors, as direction, and it demonstrates there are threats of those who see his explicit confidence in the themselves as candidates of war Office to execute the task of are increasing their reactions.”

having alleged perpetrators of Cllr. Barbu disclosed that the war and economic crimes to Office has begun developing have their day in court. training manual for

“I respectfully avail myself of investigators, prosecutors, and this opportunity to thank needs a minimum of US\$30 President Joseph Nyuma million for its establishment.

Boakai, Sr., for his bold, “We are now working on decisive and unrelenting drive prosecutors as well as aimed at fighting impunity, developing program that will re-abuse of human rights, and enforce this mandate. We can violations of the law”, Cllr. also assure you that we have Barbu said. adequate funding, at least from

He said when established, the government perspective, but Court will address atrocities need the support of International committed and enormous partners”, he added.

sufferings Liberians were Meanwhile, the Government of subjected to during the war, Liberia has already allotted ensuring accountability and US\$2 Million for establishment healing of wounds. of the Office of War Crimes,

He maintained that the with US\$500,000 being President's action is a disbursed quarterly. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# LNBA accuses Justice Minister Tweh

**-of aiding and abetting unauthorized practice of law**

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia has been accused of supporting unauthorized legal practice in the country.**

*By Stephen G. Fellajuah*

Monrovia, Liberia, stated. “They directly violate May 5, 2025 - The Title 17 of the Judiciary Law Liberian National and Rule 5 of the Rules of Bar Association (LNBA) Court. Such practices not accuses Liberia's Minister of only undermine the integrity Justice and Attorney General, and professionalism of our Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh, of justice system, but also erode aiding and abetting the public confidence in the rule unauthorized practice of law, of law.”

a serious allegation that has Cllr. Varmah emphasized that stirred debate within the appointing unqualified country's legal community. individuals to positions During the national legally reserved for licensed observance of Law Day on professionals diminishes the Friday, May 2, 2025, LNBA value of legal education and President, Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, condemned the recent appointment of unlicensed individuals as City Solicitors under the Ministry of Justice.

He also criticized some magistrates and judges for allegedly allowing non-lawyers to practice in Liberian courts, terming the trend a dangerous breach of both legal ethics and national laws.

“These actions constitute a clear case of aiding and abetting the unauthorized practice of law.” Cllr. Varmah

lowers standard of legal service delivery across the country.

He stressed that legal roles must be filled only by persons, who meet the qualifications set by law.

“Allowing unqualified individuals to occupy these positions devalues our legal institutions.” “It sends the wrong message to trained lawyers and law students, and weakens public trust in the justice system.”

The LNBA President called on the Ministry of Justice to immediately cease the unlawful appointments and to demonstrate leadership by upholding ethical and legal standards.

“We urge the Ministry to prioritize the recruitment of recent law school graduate s, many

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Starts from page 6 **LNBA accuses Justice Minister Tweh**

of whom are well-trained, qualified, and actively seeking placements,” he suggested, adding “Employing these young legal professionals will not only address unemployment among new graduates, but also strengthen the credibility and quality of legal representation and adjudication across the country.” This year's Law Day was held under the theme: “Justice, Accountability, and Inclusion: Building a Stronger Liberia Under the Rule of Law.” The event

was commemorated at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town and brought together members of the Bar, judiciary officials, civil society organizations, international partners, the security sector, and student representatives. The occasion began with a symbolic parade from the SOS Clinic, and served as a national reflection on the country's legal and democratic values. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## **OHIAL Unites Stakeholders to Boost National Health Resilience.**

*By Edwin N Khakie*  
**O**ne Health in Action-Liberia (OHIAL) successfully concluded a key stakeholders' meeting over the weekend, bringing together government officials, health experts, and development partners to strengthen Liberia's integrated health approach. Gbarnga, Bong County, May 5, 2025 — The meeting, held in Gbarnga, focused on

Executive Director, D. work being done here,” Mr. Alexson Barpeen, outlined the Mianah said. “OHIAL's organization's mission and the proactive approach is a model urgency of unified action. we can replicate across the country. Collaboration is not is not just a concept, it is a an option; it is essential if we movement,” Mr. Barpeen are to prevent pandemics and declared. “We believe that true protect our environment.” health security comes from Bong County Administrator recognizing the connection Mr. Sam Elliott expressed between people, animals, and strong support for the the environment. Through initiative, emphasizing the education, policy, and critical role of integrated grassroots engagement, we health efforts in community aim to build a more prepared development.



advancing collaboration and resilient Liberia.” Delivering the keynote between human, animal, and environmental health sectors address, Mr. Advertus Nyan — a model known as the One Mianah, Coordinator of the Health approach — to tackle Liberia One Health Platform, current challenges and build praised OHIAL's leadership resilience against future health and stressed the importance of threats. national collaboration. Opening the session, OHIAL's “I am truly inspired by the

“The integration of human, animal, and environmental health is vital to preventing future outbreaks and promoting sustainable development. Bong County fully supports OHIAL in its goal to build healthier communities,” Mr. Elliott noted. Also in attendance were Mr. Asa Chon, Country Director of ForumCIV Liberia; Dr. Jefferson Saybay, Bong County Health Officer; and Mr. Emmanuel Diabolo, a key member of OHIAL's Board of Directors. Their presence underscored the broad commitment to strengthening Liberia's health systems. The meeting concluded with a joint pledge from stakeholders to enhance partnerships, implement practical One Health strategies, and ensure that communities across Liberia benefit from a holistic and sustainable health approach.

## **Government endorses Climate Change Action Plan**

*Launches Sustainable Drive to Cut Greenhouse Emissions. By Edwin N. Khakie*

**M**onrovia — The Government of Liberia, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with backing from international partners, on Thursday convened a one-day consultative workshop to validate the nation's updated Climate Change Action Plan. The event marked a critical step in revising Liberia's Nationally Determined Contributions

to 2030. The workshop drew a broad spectrum of participants, including climate justice activists, environmental experts, consultants, and government officials. Stakeholders from Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bomi, and Gbarpolu Counties were also represented, reflecting nationwide engagement. Arthur R.M. Becker, Director of Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the EPA, noted



(NDC) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The updated plan comes in response to a recent UN report that invalidated Liberia's previous NDC 3.0 following its second renewal in 2020, citing the need for revisions every five years. Liberia's revised Climate Change Action Plan targets key sectors including energy, waste, transport, agriculture, and forestry. For the first time, it will also integrate additional sectors such as industry, health, coastal zones, and fisheries, underscoring the nation's strengthened commitment to environmental sustainability. Liberia, which joined the global climate fight in November 2002, continues to implement strategies aimed at ensuring climate resilience and sustainable development. The new climate framework will guide national actions from 2025

that if validated, the five-year action plan will tackle climate challenges head-on while delivering solutions across the country. He emphasized that the framework will drive sustainable initiatives, prioritize critical interventions, and implement policy measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The consultative exercise reaffirmed Liberia's commitment to aligning its climate policies with the goals of the UNFCCC and the country's own national development agenda, known as the ARREST AGENDA. The workshop was supported by key international partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UK Government, Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

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Français

L'université polytechnique PYJ menacée de fermeture ?

Cinq mois après le décès du sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, plusieurs établissements qu'il avait fondés dans le comté de Nimba semblent confrontés à un risque de fermeture. Parmi eux figurent l'Université Polytechnique PYJ située à

officielle quant à la suspension des activités. L'université, autrefois animée, voit désormais ses étudiants se tourner vers d'autres établissements pour poursuivre leur formation. Des millions de dollars auraient été dépensés pour les funérailles du sénateur à Ganta, une partie

institutions. Plusieurs habitants de Nimba interrogés expriment leur inquiétude face à cette incertitude prolongée. Certains citoyens endeuillés ont déploré l'inaction des autorités locales, en particulier du vice-président Jeremiah Koung, chef du parti MDR fondé par le défunt sénateur, pour faire revivre les établissements laissés à l'abandon.

Lors de l'élection sénatoriale partielle récemment organisée pour combler le siège vacant, le vice-président Koung, la superintendante du comté Kou Meapeh Gono et d'autres personnalités locales ont exhorté les citoyens à préserver l'héritage du sénateur Johnson. Pourtant, peu d'initiatives concrètes ont été entreprises depuis.

Lors des funérailles officielles du sénateur à Ganta, auxquelles ont assisté le président Joseph Boakai, l'ancien président George Weah ainsi que plusieurs personnalités politiques et législateurs, le président de l'Université PYJ,



Ganta, la station radio Voice of Faith, ainsi qu'une entreprise d'eau minérale. Lors d'une récente visite sur les lieux, notre correspondant n'a obtenu aucune explication

significative provenant du fonds de développement social, selon des sources locales. À ce jour, aucune indication ne permet de savoir quand, ou si, les services reprendront dans ces

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

La Commission de Gouvernance du Libéria licencie plus de soixante-dix employés

La Commission de Gouvernance du Libéria (GC) a mis fin au contrat de plus de soixante-dix employés, recrutés entre le 1er juillet 2021 et le 31 décembre 2023, sous l'administration de la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC). Selon une note interne datée du 30 avril 2025, émise par le département des ressources humaines et signée par le président par intérim de la GC, le Dr Alaric K. Tokpa, cette décision découle des mesures de conformité prises suite aux résultats d'un audit interne approfondi et d'un rapport de vérification des diplômes couvrant la période mentionnée. La Commission justifie cette mesure par les conclusions tirées de l'Audit Query et du Rapport de vérification des qualifications, lesquels ont révélé d'importants manquements, notamment un processus de recrutement non compétitif, en contradiction avec le manuel du personnel de la GC (Section 9.1) et les dispositions de l'Acte fondateur de 2007 (Partie IV, Section 4.1.8). « En réponse aux constats figurant dans la catégorie 'Recrutement non compétitif', un comité de sélection sera mis en place pour garantir un processus de recrutement transparent et basé sur le mérite.

Les personnes concernées devront soumettre une nouvelle candidature pour conserver leur poste. Les fonctions vacantes seront publiées conformément aux descriptions de poste établies par la Commission », précise le mémo interne. La période de re-candidature a été fixée du 1er au 15 mai 2025. La GC insiste sur le fait que cette initiative vise à renforcer la transparence, l'équité et l'efficacité institutionnelle. Elle invite les anciens employés à participer activement à ce processus afin de se conformer aux normes de recrutement en vigueur. Dans une lettre adressée individuellement aux employés concernés, la Commission, par la voix du Dr Tokpa, a formellement notifié de la nécessité de re-postuler : « Je vous informe que cette décision

découle directement des résultats de l'audit mené par la Commission Générale d'Audit (GAC) et du rapport interne de vérification des qualifications. L'audit a mis en évidence des irrégularités dans le processus de recrutement. Par conséquent, la Commission va engager une procédure concurrentielle conforme à ses règles internes », lit-on dans la correspondance. Le Dr Tokpa conclut en appelant à la compréhension et à la coopération de toutes les parties : « Nous sommes conscients que cette annonce peut surprendre. Cependant, nous comptons sur votre professionnalisme afin que cette réforme améliore la responsabilité et l'intégrité au sein de la Commission de Gouvernance. »



Éditorial

Accélérer la protection de nos océans

Par Rita Maria El Zaghloul

WASHINGTON, DC – Depuis 1971, l'océan a absorbé plus de [90%](#) de l'excès de chaleur causé par le changement climatique d'origine humaine, le poussant au bord de l'effondrement. Le fait que le monde connaisse actuellement le [plus grand épisode de blanchiment de coraux](#) jamais enregistré est un signe avant-coureur des dangers qui nous guettent. En fait, si l'on n'agit pas d'urgence, l'océan franchira bientôt un point de basculement, menaçant d'extinction la vie marine et des millions de moyens de subsistance. Le poisson est une source essentielle de protéines pour [environ 3,3 milliards de personnes](#). Plus de [270 millions de personnes](#) sont employées dans le secteur du tourisme, ce qui en fait l'une des plus grandes industries au monde. Les destinations de vacances en bord de mer, comme les Bahamas et les Seychelles, ont une concentration particulièrement élevée de travailleurs dans le secteur du tourisme. Les récifs coralliens fournissent à eux seuls des biens et des services d'une valeur d'environ [2 700 milliards de dollars](#) par an. L'effondrement de la biodiversité et les catastrophes liées au climat pourraient coûter des [milliards de milliards de dollars en perte de capacité de production](#) et avoir des conséquences considérables sur la santé publique, la stabilité économique et la sécurité mondiale.

La communauté internationale a commencé à reconnaître les menaces croissantes que représentent le réchauffement et l'acidification des océans. La conférence des Nations unies sur la biodiversité de 2022 (COP15) a adopté le [cadre mondial pour la biodiversité de Kunming-Montréal](#), qui fixe l'objectif ambitieux de conserver au moins 30 % des terres et des mers du monde d'ici à 2030, en mettant l'accent sur les zones qui offrent d'importants services écosystémiques. Cet engagement « 30 par 30 » reflète le consensus scientifique sur le niveau minimum de protection nécessaire pour stopper et inverser la perte de biodiversité. Mais les efforts déployés pour atteindre cet objectif sont loin d'être suffisants : seuls [17,6% des terres et 8,4% des mers](#) sont actuellement protégés, ce dernier chiffre n'ayant augmenté que de 0,5 % depuis la COP15.

L'augmentation des investissements dans la conservation marine apporterait des avantages considérables : des océans sains soutiennent des économies et des communautés résilientes en renforçant la sécurité alimentaire et hydrique et en générant des moyens de subsistance durables. Sans réserves marines, la surpêche et d'autres pratiques d'extraction non durables continueront à s'intensifier, ce qui pourrait entraîner l'effondrement des stocks de poissons et des industries qui en dépendent. En outre, la pollution – des marées noires aux déchets industriels et plastiques – détruira les habitats marins, créant ainsi une boucle de rétroaction négative.

L'un des meilleurs moyens de protéger ces écosystèmes est d'établir et de maintenir des aires marines protégées (AMP), souvent appelées « parcs nationaux de la mer ». Les peuples autochtones et les communautés côtières, en particulier, devraient participer à la gestion et à la gouvernance des AMP. Leurs connaissances, leurs liens culturels avec la nature et leurs pratiques traditionnelles sont essentiels pour préserver la biodiversité et la connectivité écologique. De nombreux pays ne disposent pas des cadres de gouvernance et des ressources financières nécessaires pour créer ou faire respecter les AMP. La *High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People* (HAC, dont je suis la directrice) peut apporter une aide à cet égard. Ce groupe intergouvernemental de 120 pays, coprésidé par le Costa Rica et la France (le Royaume-Uni étant le champion des océans), a été créé pour soutenir les pays membres dans leurs efforts pour atteindre l'objectif « 30 par 30 ». La HAC a développé des outils, une expertise et des partenariats pour aider les gouvernements à identifier leurs besoins, à accéder aux ressources et à mettre en œuvre des solutions efficaces, que ce soit par le biais d'échanges entre pairs, d'ateliers de renforcement des capacités ou d'autres moyens.

Ces efforts visant à mobiliser de nouveaux engagements et à maintenir l'élan vers l'objectif des 30 ans et plus commencent à porter leurs fruits. Le Portugal a approuvé une législation visant à créer le [plus grand réseau d'AMP de l'Atlantique Nord](#), couvrant 287 000 kilomètres carrés, soit environ 30 % de l'océan entourant les Açores. La République dominicaine est devenue le [premier pays des Caraïbes](#) à atteindre l'objectif de protection de 30 % en désignant une nouvelle AMP et en agrandissant un sanctuaire existant. Enfin, l'Australie a protégé [plus de la moitié de sa zone océanique](#) en agrandissant deux réserves marines déjà existantes autour de l'île Heard et des îles McDonald. Les autres membres de la HAC doivent suivre leur exemple.

Bien entendu, les pays en développement n'ont souvent pas la capacité de mobiliser des ressources nationales. Pour remédier à ce problème, nous venons de lancer le [mécanisme de déploiement rapide](#), qui offre de petites subventions pour l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de plans 30 par 30, lors de la conférence *Our Ocean* qui s'est tenue à Busan, en Corée. Ce mécanisme fournira un financement de départ aux membres du HAC pour accélérer la création de nouvelles AMP, améliorer celles qui existent déjà et galvaniser le soutien politique en faveur de la conservation des océans.

Le bien-être de l'humanité dépend de la santé des océans, et la sauvegarde d'au moins 30 % de cet écosystème essentiel est le minimum requis pour garantir un avenir prospère aux hommes et à la planète. Alors que nous entamons une année de prise de décision à haut niveau sur la conservation marine, avec la conférence *Our Ocean* de cette semaine, la conférence des Nations unies sur les océans et le forum sur l'économie et la finance bleues en juin, nous devons nous rappeler que la préservation des mers du monde pour les générations actuelles et futures relève de notre responsabilité collective. Une partie de cette responsabilité consiste à fournir une bouée de sauvetage aux pays qui ont la volonté, mais pas les ressources, d'agir.

Rita Maria El Zaghloul est directrice de la *High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People*.

# Français

## Starts from page 8 L'université polytechnique

Roland D. Yormie, avait exprimé sa déception quant au silence des autorités. Il avait appelé le gouvernement et les citoyens à soutenir l'université afin qu'elle reste fonctionnelle. Depuis cet appel, aucune réponse formelle n'a été apportée, ni par les autorités locales ni par la vice-présidence.

Les habitants du quartier LPRC ont également exprimé leur préoccupation face à la fermeture de

la radio Voice of Faith, fondée par le défunt évangéliste devenu homme politique.

Contacté, M. Yogie Sumo Jr., président par intérim de l'Université PYJ et gendre du sénateur Johnson, a promis de répondre à la demande du *New Dawn* dès son retour dans le comté. La superintendante Kou Meapeh Gono, pour sa part, n'a pas répondu à nos appels.

## Jeety Rubber et SRC lancent les travaux d'une clinique ophtalmologique ultramoderne à Weala

Dans le cadre de ses engagements humanitaires et de sa responsabilité sociétale, l'homme d'affaires indien Upjit Singh Sachdeva a procédé, à travers ses entreprises Jeety Rubber LLC et Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC), au lancement officiel des travaux de construction d'une clinique ophtalmologique moderne à Weala, dans le comté de Margibi.

Ce projet sanitaire d'envergure, dont l'achèvement est prévu pour le troisième trimestre de 2025, vise à améliorer significativement l'accès aux soins oculaires en milieu rural. La future infrastructure comprendra deux blocs opératoires entièrement équipés, une salle de dépistage numérique avec auto-réfracteurs et caméras du fond de l'œil, plusieurs salles de consultation ainsi qu'un laboratoire intégré pour la délivrance de lunettes et d'aides visuelles adaptées.

« Cette clinique constitue l'un de nos engagements les plus forts en faveur du bien-être des habitants du comté de Margibi », ont déclaré les responsables de Jeety Rubber et SRC dans un communiqué conjoint. « En plus de créer des opportunités économiques, il est crucial d'investir dans la santé de nos communautés, afin que chacun puisse apprendre, travailler et prendre soin de sa famille. »

La clinique ne servira pas uniquement les habitants de Weala, mais s'adressera à l'ensemble de la population du comté de Margibi. Elle offrira gratuitement des dépistages, diagnostics et interventions chirurgicales pour remédier aux coûts élevés et aux difficultés logistiques qui empêchent de nombreux

patients d'accéder aux soins à Monrovia.

Cette initiative fait suite à une campagne pilote de soins oculaires lancée en 2024 par Jeety Rubber et SRC. Plus de 400 résidents y avaient reçu des traitements pour des affections mineures, ainsi que des consultations, lunettes et médicaments gratuits. Plus de 100 personnes souffrant de cécité partielle – principalement causée par des cataractes ou un glaucome – avaient été référées au Centre ophtalmologique JFK de Monrovia, avec une prise en charge totale assurée par les deux entreprises.

D'après l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), environ 1,3 % de la population libérienne est atteinte de maladies oculaires, et plus de 5 % vivent avec une déficience visuelle modérée à sévère. Les cataractes, qui troublent le cristallin, et le glaucome, qui endommagent le nerf optique, figurent parmi les principales causes de cécité évitable dans le pays.

« Le succès de notre campagne l'année dernière a été un véritable déclic », ont ajouté les entreprises. « Trop de personnes vivaient dans

l'ombre à cause de pathologies qu'on aurait pu prévenir. Cette clinique n'est pas simplement un bâtiment, c'est un symbole d'espoir. »

Une fois opérationnelle, la structure sera la première du genre en dehors du comté de Montserrado à proposer des services ophtalmologiques gratuits et complets, marquant une avancée majeure pour la santé visuelle en milieu rural au Libéria.

Dans une autre initiative humanitaire, Jeety Rubber et SRC ont également entamé la construction d'un puits profond dans la prison centrale de Kakata, confrontée depuis longtemps à de graves pénuries d'eau. Les entreprises se sont engagées à fournir 30 sacs de riz par mois pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire des plus de 300 détenus.

« Quelle que soit leur situation, chaque détenu mérite d'être traité avec dignité », ont souligné les entreprises. « C'est notre façon d'apporter du soutien aux franges les plus vulnérables de notre société. »

Par ces actions concrètes, Jeety Rubber et SRC s'affirment non seulement comme des acteurs économiques majeurs du comté de Margibi, mais aussi comme des modèles de responsabilité sociétale d'entreprise.



## Aucune démission officielle du président de la Chambre des représentants, Fonati Koffa

Le président contesté de la Chambre des représentants du Liberia, Me J. Fonati Koffa, a déclaré qu'il n'avait pas encore pris de décision définitive quant à une éventuelle démission de son poste, malgré les rumeurs persistantes.

« Nous sommes encore en négociation. Si les discussions aboutissent, je démissionnerai. Dans le cas contraire, je continuerai à exercer mes fonctions », a confié Me Koffa au *New Dawn*, en réaction aux spéculations sur son départ imminent.

Il a précisé que ces discussions se déroulent par des canaux officiels et qu'aucune conclusion n'a encore été arrêtée. Il a également rejeté les rumeurs faisant état d'une décision déjà prise.



Moins d'une heure après son entretien avec le *New Dawn*, Me Koffa a publié un message sur ses réseaux sociaux, déclarant :

« Je suis au courant des déclarations qui circulent sur les réseaux sociaux et autres plateformes médiatiques, insinuant des informations sur ma position en tant que président de la Chambre des représentants. Je suis touché par les marques de solidarité exprimées à mon égard ainsi qu'à l'égard de l'institution que je représente.

J'ai toujours affirmé que les lois de notre nation doivent demeurer la base ultime pour résoudre les différends, y compris le blocage actuel au sein du corps législatif. L'arrêt récent de la Cour suprême a tranché définitivement la question, et je respecte pleinement cette décision.

En conséquence, je mène des consultations avec diverses parties prenantes à travers le pays, y compris mes collègues des différentes tendances politiques, pour envisager une transition et déterminer la voie appropriée à suivre. Je m'engage à tenir le public informé au fur et à mesure de l'évolution de ces discussions.

En attendant, j'appelle tous les citoyens à éviter de relayer des informations non vérifiées, susceptibles de provoquer confusion et divisions inutiles. »

La Cour suprême du Liberia a, la semaine dernière, donné raison à Me Koffa en acceptant sa requête d'information, et a ordonné au groupe parlementaire majoritaire dirigé par Richard N. Koon de respecter l'arrêt rendu. Dans son opinion délivrée le 23 avril 2025, la Présidente de la Cour, Son Honneur Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh, a réaffirmé la décision rendue le 6 décembre 2024, qualifiant la tentative de destitution de Koffa d'**ultra vires**, c'est-à-dire effectuée sans l'autorité légale requise.

Malgré cette décision, le conflit interne à la Chambre reste irrésolu. La situation s'est tendue davantage après que le président Joseph Boakai a déclaré qu'il continuerait à gouverner avec le « quorum constitutionnel », une remarque interprétée par certains juristes et membres de l'opposition comme un mépris manifeste envers la Cour suprême.

L'arrêt de la Cour a également semé la discorde au sein de l'Association du barreau libérien (LNBA), dont plusieurs membres se sont désolidarisés d'une déclaration controversée émise par son président, Me Bonor M. Varmah. Ce dernier a été la cible de critiques virulentes de la part de plusieurs avocats, qui demandent désormais qu'il soit poursuivi pour outrage à la Cour, arguant qu'il a violé les normes éthiques de la profession et terni l'image de la plus haute instance judiciaire du pays.

Dans son communiqué, Me Varmah exprimait son désaccord avec la décision de la Cour, la qualifiant de « précédent dangereux » susceptible d'éroder la confiance du public dans la gouvernance nationale et de paralyser le fonctionnement des institutions. Il lui est reproché d'avoir publié ce texte sans l'aval des autres membres de l'exécutif de l'Association, notamment les présidents des barreaux des 15 comtés.

FEATURE

ARTICLE

Boakai launches poultry farm worth US\$26M

President Boakai is championing a campaign to boost agriculture and reduce dependency on food importation.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, May 5, 2025 - Liberia is poised for a major breakthrough in the agricultural sector, as President Joseph Nyuma Boakai leads a campaign to revive food production and reduce import dependency in the country. On Friday, May 2, 2025, President Boakai leader made a visit to Careyburg District, Rural Montserrado County, where he inspected ongoing construction of a US\$26 million chicken poultry project, a national initiative

poultry production and a potential exporter in the West African region. “This project is still in its early stages, but it is a groundbreaking investment by the Liberian government. It aims to position Liberia not just as self-sufficient in poultry production, but as a potential exporter in the West African region”, Presidential Press Secretary Fofana said. She noted that the poultry facility, which is referred to as the Liberia Poultry Project, is 100% Liberian-owned, disclosing that it is funded by a loan secured from various sources.

The poultry project, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, is a bold step toward President Boakai's Agenda that focuses on Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism, as the acronym ARREST Agenda - puts agriculture at the heart of the President's priority for national development. “This is a clear demonstration of the President's vision to use agriculture as a tool for sustainable development. We are moving away from handouts to productivity. Liberia has the soil, the people, and now the leadership will to transform agriculture.” In recent years, Liberia's agricultural sector has struggled due to low investment, limited



expected to change the economic landscape of Liberia. The project, which is being funded through a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Ministry of Agriculture, with oversight from the Ministry of State, spans across 50 acres of land. It is a key component of the President's ARREST Agenda, with a special focus on agricultural revitalization, rural empowerment, and food self-sufficiency. Liberia currently spends millions of dollars annually on importation of eggs, chickens, and fertilizers, all of which could soon be locally produced through this investment. At full completion, it is anticipated that the poultry facility will produce over 2,000 eggs daily, drastically reducing Liberia's reliance on imported eggs and poultry products. Meanwhile, during the tour, Presidential Press Secretary, Atty. Kula Fofana, described the project as a groundbreaking investment which aims to position Liberia as self-sufficient in

She added that the project reflects a deliberate move by the Boakai Administration to invest in homegrown solutions that address food insecurity and youth unemployment. Atty. Fofana underscored the broader economic implications of the poultry project. “This project will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, especially for young people in the surrounding communities. From poultry farming to feed production, packaging, distribution, and even fertilizer processing; there are numerous value chains that this initiative will activate.” The Presidential Press Secretary further disclosed that government is working with the “Agriculture Turnkey Project”, a strategic implementing partner to ensure that Liberians are at the forefront of all operational aspects. “Our employees and contractors are Liberians. This is not just an agricultural project; it is an economic stimulus package.” Local businesses are expected to benefit from contracts and service provisions to the project, while farmers will have access to local supplies of fertilizer, another component of the facility.

mechanization, and lack of access to markets. With this new facility, pundits believe that not only will food production increase, but local farmers will gain confidence to scale up their own production efforts. Meanwhile, residents of Careysburg and nearby areas have welcomed the project with open arms, describing it as a “blessing” to the district. Many believe it will reduce rural poverty, discourage youth migration to the city, and stimulate economic activity in the once-quiet district. While Atty. Fofana did not give a specific timeline for completion, she assured the press that the project is progressing steadily and will be rolled out in phases. “We are not just building a poultry house; we are building hope, resilience, and a future where Liberia feeds itself and exports to others,” she said. As President Boakai continues to lead with his development-oriented agenda, the US\$26 million poultry project in Careyburg seems to be a strong symbol of the government's resolve to lift Liberia out of economic fragility into a an era of prosperity, driven by agriculture. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Supreme Court snubs Bar

*In what appears to be an emerging divide within the judicial system, the Supreme Court of Liberia has boycotted celebration of Law Day here, organized by the Liberian National Bar Association after the Bar recently criticized the High Court's ruling.*

By **Stephen G. Fellajuah**, Monrovia, Liberia, May 5, 2025 - In an unexpected move that underscores growing tension within the legal system here, Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia, including Her Honor, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, have been notably absent from this year's Law Day celebration organized by the

to recent public criticism by the LNBA of the Supreme Court's ruling or clarification on a Bill of Information filed earlier by Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. The High Court recognized Speaker Koffa as the legitimate Speaker of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature despite a government-backed majority bloc of the House elected Representative Richard Nagbe Koon as speaker.



Supreme court of Liberia

Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA). The absence of the full bench, which has been traditionally present and accorded a special role during the annual legal observance, was particularly striking, as Chief Justice Yuoh was scheduled to have delivered the official Law Day message. No formal explanation was provided regarding the High Court's decision to boycott the event. Held under the theme “Justice, Accountability, and Inclusion: Building a Stronger Liberia Under the Rule of Law,” the 2025 Law Day program took place at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town on Friday, May 2. The occasion brought together legal professionals, government officials, civil society actors, international partners, members of the security forces, and students. While Law Day is traditionally a celebration of the resilience and impact of law and lawyers worldwide, this year's event took on a sharply political tone, owing

The controversy centers on the Supreme Court's December 6, 2024 ruling, which declared that any legislative sitting or action not in conformity with Articles 33 and 49 of the Constitution is ultra vires (beyond legal authority). In an April 23, 2025 opinion, the Court reaffirmed that Speaker Koffa is the legitimate presiding officer of the House of Representatives and invalidated sessions held without his presence, despite his availability. But the Liberian Bar, through its President, Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, condemned the ruling, arguing that the Supreme Court overstepped its bounds by using a Bill of Information, a procedural tool intended only to clarify, not to re-litigate a matter, to issue a second substantive opinion. Cllr. Varmah warned that if the ruling is not reconsidered, it could cast doubt on the legitimacy of the 2025 National Budget and potentially nullify government transactions, payments, and salaries, a situation he described as a possible “criminal subversion of the government.”

His comments sparked both internal backlash and public debate, with critics accusing the Bar of undermining the judiciary. However, addressing the Law Day celebration, former Chief Justice, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott strongly rebuked the LNBA President's public condemnation of the Supreme Court. “Whether we like it or not, we must respect the opinion of the Supreme Court,” she said. “When the Court speaks, it is final.” Describing herself as an “elder of the land,” Cllr. Scott warned against politicizing legal institutions and cautioned the Bar against stepping into political territory under the guise of legal advocacy. “You don't reject or disrespect the Court's decision,” she emphasized. “The law clearly states that no lawyer shall do anything to undermine the integrity of the Court.” She urged the LNBA leadership to act with sobriety and conscience, noting the significance of the role it plays in a fragile democracy. In remarks earlier, Cllr. Varmah reaffirmed the Bar's commitment to legal aid, access to justice, and democratic governance. Despite the controversy, he maintained that the Bar must continue to speak out in defense of the rule of law. “Let us reaffirm that no one is above the law, and that a fair and inclusive justice system is not a privilege, but a right for all,” he said, adding “Democracy is not merely about elections; it is about institutions, accountability, and, above all, justice.” The Supreme Court's absence and the exchange of criticisms between senior members of the legal fraternity have ignited broader conversations about the independence of legal institutions, the ethical limits of professional associations, and fragility of democratic norms in post-conflict Liberia. As Law Day traditionally serves as a moment of unity and reaffirmation of legal principles, this year's discord suggests deeper fractures within the nation's justice sector, fractures that may require more than ceremonial gestures to mend.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Bong Supt. faces lawsuit

*Bong County is on the brink of a political firestorm as Aaron V.G. Juakollie, Executive Director of the Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), threatens to sue Superintendent Hawa Loleyah Norris and the entire Local Government Council over what he calls a "blatant misuse" of public funds.*

By **Edwin N. Khakie**

Gbarnga, Bong County, May 5, 2025: Juakollie has vowed to haul Norris and council members before the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarnga if they move forward with plans to spend US\$280,000—money allocated from the county's development budget—on renovating the Presidential Palace. The controversial decision, quietly approved by the Bong County Local Government Council, has

sparked outrage among local citizens and activists who claim the project serves political elites, not the people. “This is nothing short of daylight robbery,” Juakollie declared during a broadcast on May 2, 2025, on a local radio station. “We will not allow these so-called leaders to loot our county development funds to polish up a palace that has nothing to do with the needs of ordinary Bongese.” Juakollie, a seasoned human rights advocate, slammed Superintendent

Norris and Aaron Sackie-Fenlah, Chairperson of the local government council, accusing them of conspiring to divert public resources for personal political gain. “The Presidential Palace is the responsibility of the national Executive, not the struggling citizens of Bong County. If President Joseph Nyumah Boakai wants it renovated, let him use state funds — not hijack our money earmarked for schools, clinics, and roads,” Juakollie charged.

Starts from Back page

# ArcelorMittal Liberia's mining

Bong, and Grand Bassa Counties. not just growing they are helping With the full backing of its global redefine Liberia's role in global parent company and the confidence of iron ore markets and anchoring the Liberian government, sustainable economic growth for ArcelorMittal Liberia's operations are the country.

He further hinted at mobilizing mass productivity and capacity through two protests and civil disobedience if the main programs: Crop and animal authorities refuse to back down. “We production, to increase food crops, cash are prepared to shut this county down. If crops, and vegetable production they think they can get away with this, through inclusive agricultural value chains. they are dead wrong.” “The plan also is intended to increase cattle, sheep, goat, poultry, meat, and It can be recalled in November of 2024, twenty-five priority projects captured egg production, along with constructing storage facilities for agricultural produce,” the plan indicates. The priority projects are meant to address key developmental challenges in the region. For agricultural productive capacity, the agenda focuses on facilitating Led by County Superintendent Hawa Loleyah Norris and County Council cooperative development, and Chairman Aaron Sackie-Fenlah, these projects are aligned with the Local Government Act of 2018, emphasizing decentralized governance and participatory planning. It also includes establishing multi-mechanized farms in Sanoyea, Kpaai, The four-year strategic plan addresses major developmental challenges within the county and aligns with Liberia's Zota, Kokoyah, and Konowalala and enhancing extension services. national development frameworks, including Vision 2030. Pillar Two: Infrastructure Development This pillar prioritizes infrastructure and Grouped under Economic Transformation, Infrastructure standards. It includes constructing, Development, Rule of Law, and Human rehabilitating, and maintaining primary, Capital Development, the projects aim secondary, feeder, and farm-to-market to enhance agriculture, improve roads and bridges. infrastructure, ensure security and The plan also is meant to expand justice, and boost health and education affordable electricity distribution to services. The projects were presented at underserved businesses and a workshop organized by the Liberian communities and implement the government, with support from the Regional Emergency Solar Power international partners. Intervention Reset. Other aspects of the plan include There are no priority projects under providing low-cost housing for Pillar 4 (Sustainable Environment) and residents, modernizing and Pillar 5 (Anti-Corruption and rehabilitating water and sewer infrastructure and services, and conducting countywide sanitation Governance). mapping. The county agenda was submitted at a two-day workshop organized by the government, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Pillar Three: Rule of Law The Rule of Law pillar focuses on the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with security and justice to ensure the safety support from the United Nations and the and protection of residents. The plan Government of Sweden. includes recruiting and deploying The validation of the priority projects underscored the importance of additional security and justice per



Hawa Loleyah Norris

inclusive dialogue and collaboration in sonnel, ensuring swift and fair shaping Bong County's development adjudication of cases, including trajectory, organizers noted. enforcing rape laws across all districts. The government's commitment to It also calls for the construction, decentralization and local development renovation, and equipping of facilities was reaffirmed during the workshop, for security agencies, including the emphasizing the empowerment of local police, immigration, AFL, LDEA, fire leaders and the engagement of citizens service, and judiciary administration in prioritizing their community's needs. across all 14 administrative districts. The ARREST Agenda was highlighted as Liberia's fourth medium-term This pillar focuses on health and development plan, focusing on education to improve the well-being sustainable economic growth in and learning outcomes of residents. alignment with global development Under health, the plan includes standards. expanding and modernizing public Pillar One: Economic Transformation healthcare facilities, strengthening Under the priority sector of agriculture, diagnostic capacity, and ensuring the agenda seeks to enhance consistent medical supplies.

## ArcelorMittal Liberia's mining operations hit record highs

**-As company pushes expansion drive**

ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) is entering a defining phase in its operations, with its mining performance surging to new records and a major expansion project staying firmly on track, findings revealed. Monrovia, Liberia, May 5, 2025---The development reflects the broader strategic momentum of its parent company, ArcelorMittal,

standout performer within the Group's mining segment. According to the report, the Liberia operation is processing well with production and shipments, supporting the company's ability to deliver higher and more stable profit margins even amid global market pressures. The global steel giant sees AML's ongoing expansion project, aimed at tripling iron

budget."

The company anticipates commissioning its full 15Mt concentrator capacity by mid-2025, with a target to reach the full 20Mt run-rate by the end of the year.

The expansion is not only a technical milestone it is also expected to drive substantial economic gains.

Beyond the production numbers, the earnings report reaffirmed ArcelorMittal's strategic commitment to Liberia as a key growth frontier. The company highlighted Liberia alongside major projects in the United States and India as part of its priority investments for 2025.

This decision secures the foundation for AML's long-term expansion and has been welcomed by community leaders and industry observers as a boost to investor confidence and job security.

While AML's expansion is primarily industrial, its ripple effects are deeply socioeconomic. The company continues to invest in local hiring, training programs, and infrastructure improvements in its host communities in Nimba,

ore production capacity from the current 5 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes per year as a cornerstone of its investment. The project is reportedly progressing "on time and on

operations has made a



(L-R) An Executive of AML with AML CEO

which continues to invest heavily in growth while maintaining a strong financial position globally.

The first three months in 2025, the Liberian iron ore

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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