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**Sen. Snowe**

# Political

**P11**

# intimidation

**-Snowe fights back**

# Liberia seeks re-election to IMO Council

**P11**



**-Comm. Neto Zaza Lighe launches campaign**

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# Continental News

## Ex-DR Congo president returns from self-imposed exile, party says

Former Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila is back in the country for the first time in two years, having arrived in the rebel-held

power to President Félix Tshisekedi in 2019, but they later fell out. Speaking to the BBC, a Goma youth leader for Kabila's People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD),

A similar message was shared by another spokesperson, Willy Ngoma. The Congolese authorities accuse Kabila of war crimes and treason, alleging there is a "substantial body of documents, testimony and material facts" that link the former leader to the M23.

In a now-deleted YouTube video released on Friday, Kabila called the Congolese government a "dictatorship", and said there was a "decline of democracy" in the country.

Congolese government spokesperson, Patrick Muyaya, rejected Kabila's allegations, saying he had "nothing to offer the country". Fighting between the Congolese army and the M23 first broke out in 2012 and ended in a peace deal the following year. But in 2021 the group took up arms again, saying the promises made in the deal had been broken. Since the beginning of this year, the M23 has made major advances in the mineral-rich east, including taking Goma in January.

The conflict has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians in the last few months.

Kabila has been living outside the country, in South Africa, for the past two years. At the beginning of last month he said he would be returning to help find a solution to the conflict. BBC



Joseph Kabila, 53, was the country's leader from 2001 to 2019

eastern city of Goma, spokespeople for the rebels as well as a youth leader from his party have said.

Kabila's arrival comes after senators stripped him of his immunity over alleged support for the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group which has been fighting the Congolese army.

Kabila, who has previously denied links with the rebel group, recently decried the justice system, alleging it was "exploited for political ends".

The 53-year-old led DR Congo for 18 years, after succeeding his father Laurent, who was shot dead in 2001. He handed

confirmed earlier reports from the M23 that Kabila had arrived in Goma.

"Kabila should be allowed full access to the country. For us it is like a father has returned to his children," Innocent Mirimo told BBC Swahili.

Last month, the PPRD was banned by the authorities in the capital, Kinshasa, who accused of having an "ambiguous attitude" towards the capture of Congolese territory by the M23.

In a message on X, rebel spokesperson Lawrence Kanyuka welcomed Kabila to Goma saying: "We wish him a pleasant stay in the liberated areas."

## Ghana temporarily shuts embassy in US over alleged visa scandal

Ghana's Foreign Affairs Minister has announced that the country has temporarily closed its embassy in the US capital amid an investigation into an alleged visa scam. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa said the embassy will be shut following the "damning findings" of an audit team he put together to investigate alleged corruption at the Washington diplomatic mission. The statement added that the closure would last "a few days" until a "restructuring and systems overhaul" is finalised. According to Ablakwa, a locally recruited staff member and "collaborators" were allegedly involved in a "fraudulent" scheme whereby they extracted money from visa and passport applicants. It is alleged that the scheme consisted of creating an unauthorised link on the embassy's website to redirect visa and passport applicants to a private firm where they were

"charged extra for multiple services" without the knowledge of the foreign ministry. Ablakwa added that the staff member "kept the entire proceeds" in their private account, and that the scheme had been going on for five years. Applicants seeking visas were charged unapproved fees ranging from almost \$30 (£22) to \$60 by the private firm. "This conduct has been reported to the attorney-general for possible prosecution

and retrieval of funds obtained through fraudulent schemes," Ablakwa added. As a result, foreign ministry staff in Washington "have been recalled home" and "all locally recruited staff at the embassy have been suspended", Ablakwa said.

"President [John] Mahama's government will continue to demonstrate zero tolerance for corruption, naked conflict of interest and blatant abuse of office." BBC



Locally recruited staff at the embassy have been suspended, according to Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa

## Ugandan army accuses German envoy of 'subversive activities'

Uganda's army has known as Operation Wealth announced the Creation.

suspension of all Gen Saleh held a private meeting military cooperation with with European Union (EU) Germany after accusing its diplomats last week, where ambassador, Mathias Schauer - Germany's ambassador Schauer, of being involved in to Uganda since 2020 - raised "subversive activities" and of concerns about the army chief's being "wholly unqualified" to controversial tweets, and the be in the East African state. "reputational damage" it was The army did not back up its causing to Uganda, local media claim but its decision signals reported.

a sharp deterioration in Gen Kainerugaba hit back with a relations between the two post on Sunday, saying he was nations. Rejecting the "having issues" with the German accusations, a German ambassador "that has to do with foreign ministry him as a person".

spokesperson called them "He is wholly unqualified to be in "absurd and without any Uganda. It has nothing to do with merit", the Reuters news the great German people. Whom agency reports. I admire a lot," he posted. In a

The highly unusual attack on separate statement, army Schauer came after he spokesman Col Chris Magezi said reportedly raised concerns Uganda was suspending with about army chief Gen immediate effect all defence Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is and military cooperation with the president's son, at a Germany because of "credible meeting last week. On X intelligence reports" that



Army chief Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba is known for his controversial posts on social media platform X

recently, the general Schauer was involved in threatened to behead "subversive activities".

opposition leader Robert "The suspension will remain in Kyagulanyi, popularly known force until the full resolution of as Bobi Wine. the matter of the Ambassador's

Gen Kainerugaba also involvement with pseudo boasted about torturing political-military forces Wine's bodyguard after operating in the country against the Ugandan government," the

Rights groups have long statement added, without giving accused the Ugandan evidence to substantiate its government of targeting the claims.

opposition, especially in the On its website, Germany's run-up to elections. embassy in Uganda said that

Wine is expected to run bilateral trade between the two against President Yoweri nations was worth around \$335m Museveni, who has been in (£247m) in 2024, and their power for nearly four relationship was based on decades, in an election due "stability and trust".

next year. It did not give details of military Museveni's critics allege that cooperation between the two the government is run by a nations.

family dynasty - his wife, Uganda is heavily involved in Janet Museveni is the peacekeeping operations, minister of education, and including in Somalia where it is his brother, Gen Salim Saleh, helping to fight armed Islamist is the chief coordinator of a groups trying to overthrow the government programme government. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## Govt. should fully investigate the subversion allegation

The Government of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe of Bomi County are trading salvo over alleged subversion of the state. The Boakai Administration accuses Senator Snowe, who heads the security committee of the ECOWAS Parliament, of vowing to use his connections in the regional body to ensure that President Boakai fails, but Snowe denies.

A government statement issued in Monrovia over the weekend, says Mr. Snowe declared that he would “do everything possible including using his connections in ECOWAS to make the Boakai-led government to fail, even if it means discouraging foreign direct investment to Liberia and making the country ungovernable and unstable until he, Snowe, becomes President of Liberia.”

This is serious! It needs full investigation to establish veracity of the allegation or else, it could cast a negative image not only on Senator Snowe, but the ECOOWAS Parliament and perhaps the Government of Liberia itself, because news of instability of any level has a potential to drive away investors and much needed dollars.

Besides, it borders on question of trust with the regional Parliamentary body which Liberia is a member, and where Snowe serves as a senior official, representing the entire region.

Senator Snowe unequivocally and categorically rejects and condemns the allegations as entirely baseless, malicious, and politically motivated. “This irresponsible and reckless statement”, he reacts, “amounts to nothing less than an implicit accusation of treason, one of the gravest charges under our Constitution that I do not take lightly.”

The exchanges between the Administration and the Senator that are being published in the media is creating panic in the public and unnecessary tension in the country.

The government was not categorical in stating clearly where Snowe allegedly made the statement, while the onus is on the Bomi County Senator, who recently declared his intention to vie for the Presidency come 2029, on the ticket of the National Patriotic Party, to exonerate himself from the allegations.

This is why we are calling for thorough investigation of the allegation to get to the bottom for the sake of the state, because subversion of the state is a serious offense that is in fact, non-bailable in court.

Rather than just making the allegations, we believe strongly that it will be in the best interest of the government to launch a full investigation, as Senator Snowe is calling for, involving ECOWAS, the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), and the European Union (EU) to lay this issue to rest.

A government that walks in harmony with its members achieves much in terms of political and social cohesion for sustainable development and economic growth, instead of being at one another's throats for political power that cannot be exercised in chaos.

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**PRESS**

# COMMENTARY

By Jean Kaseya

## A Plan to End Malaria in Africa

ADDIS ABABA - Despite being preventable and curable, malaria has continued to claim African lives. In 2023, the continent accounted for around 95% of the 597,000 deaths from malaria worldwide, 76% of which were children under the age of five.

But eliminating this scourge, which impedes development goals and realization of the African Union's Agenda 2063, is within reach. Nine AU member countries - Algeria, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, the Seychelles, and Tunisia - have become malaria-free, owing to sustained political commitment and well-targeted public investment in primary health care and disease surveillance and case management. African countries with a higher malaria burden should heed their example.

Algeria, for example, invested in effective vector control through indoor residual spraying, universal health-care access for malaria diagnosis and treatment, and rapid outbreak-response mechanisms.

Cabo Verde's strategic malaria-elimination plan involved a multisectoral approach, whereby the government worked closely with local communities and international organizations. Egypt's multipronged strategy included, among other things, robust training programs for primary health workers. Implementing these coordinated interventions required the political will and, crucially, increased domestic financing.

Overall, Africa's efforts to control malaria - particularly through the use of insecticide-treated nets, indoor spraying, and seasonal chemoprevention (which involves giving children a monthly course of antimalarial medicines) - have driven a notable decline in malaria deaths on the continent, from 805,000 in 2000 to 569,000 in 2023. (The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the emergence of partial resistance to the well-established malaria medicine artemisinin, caused a brief uptick, to 598,000, in 2020.)

But these gains are fragile, particularly as new mosquito variants emerge, insecticide resistance grows, climate change worsens, humanitarian crises become more frequent, and, perhaps most importantly, the global malaria-funding gap widens. In 2023, only \$4 billion was mobilized for malaria elimination, far below the \$8.3 billion annual target, and a slight drop from the \$4.1 billion raised in 2022. The problem is even more acute in Africa, where external health aid has declined by a whopping 70% between 2021 and 2025.

Moreover, most African countries devote less than 10% of their national budgets to the health sector - well below the 15% target set by the 2001 Abuja Declaration.

Given the uncertain future of foreign aid, African governments must recognize malaria as a development priority and invest more in efforts to control and eliminate it. That means leveraging untapped resources, including the more than \$95 billion in annual remittances from the African diaspora. Innovative financing instruments such as diaspora bonds could support the continent's public-health agenda. Solidarity levies on tobacco, alcohol, mobile transactions, and airline tickets could also generate billions of dollars for health services. And scaling up national health-insurance schemes will be required to expand access to malaria prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Blended finance can unlock private capital for malaria-related research and development, as well as local manufacturing of therapeutics. With Africa's health-care market projected to be worth \$259 billion by 2030, policymakers should capitalize on this opportunity to create effective public-private partnerships, advance last-mile delivery solutions, and improve surveillance and vector control.

This would be an investment in Africa's present and future, because every dollar spent on malaria control and elimination generates a remarkable return of \$36 in economic growth. A malaria-free population is more likely to access education and contribute to the continent's socioeconomic development. And let me be clear: investing in the fight to end malaria is not only a health and economic imperative; it is an act of justice. The disease disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable Africans, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

Last year, I joined health ministers from 11 AU member countries with high malaria burdens in committing to accelerate efforts to reduce deaths from the disease. As part of the declaration, we agreed that “no one should die from malaria given the tools and systems available.”

The task now is to take concrete action. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (of which I am Director-General) is ready to help develop a continental strategy for ending malaria in Africa by 2040. By making smart investments, implementing well-targeted policies, and deepening collaboration, we can ensure that all African countries become malaria-free within the coming generation.



OP-ED

By Paola Subacchi

# US Fiscal Irresponsibility Is Everyone’s Problem

PARIS - As Donald Trump’s “big, beautiful” tax bill heads to the US Senate, investors everywhere are growing increasingly uneasy. On May 16, the credit-rating agency Moody’s downgraded US sovereign debt from its long-held triple-A status to Aa1 - following similar decisions by Standard & Poor’s (in 2011) and Fitch Ratings (2023). Given the sheer volume of US debt - which now stands at \$36 trillion, or 124% of GDP - and rising interest costs, these institutions have concluded that US debt metrics are no longer in line with those of similarly rated sovereigns.

That means America is no longer part of the elite group of ultra-safe borrowers: countries like Germany, Switzerland, and Singapore. Instead, it has been demoted to the second tier, alongside Austria and Finland. Members of this group remain highly creditworthy, with minimal risk of default; but they are not as bulletproof as the top-rated countries.

Although US debt is still fundamentally safe, the growing alarm over the Trump administration’s aggressive fiscal stance - which centers on massive deficit-financed tax cuts, unsupported by adequate fiscal space - is not baseless. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the tax bill that the House of Representatives just passed (by a single vote) would add \$2.5 trillion to the primary deficit (which excludes interest payments on current debt) over the next decade, adding \$3.1 trillion to public debt. Thus, Moody’s projects the US debt-to-GDP ratio to hit 134% by 2035.

But like the global trade war that Trump launched in April, the fate of his fiscal agenda is written on the Treasury market’s walls. Unlike the stock market, where volatility can be attributed to investor jitters over bloated valuations, turmoil in the bond market is deadly serious. If it lasts, it can have far-reaching consequences for a state’s day-to-day functioning, not to mention its broader effects on the global economy.

One major concern is the interplay between rising US debt and the cost of servicing it, now that higher interest rates (since 2022) have significantly increased federal borrowing costs. In 2024, interest payments reached \$881 billion, making them one of the largest components of the US federal budget - even surpassing spending on defense and Medicare.

Without meaningful fiscal consolidation (spending cuts or higher revenues from tax increases), managing this burden would require both strong economic growth and stable inflation. Yet both outcomes seem unlikely, given the Trump administration’s erratic, unpredictable, ineffective, and destabilizing approach to policymaking.

Another concern stems from the widespread perception of Treasury bills as the world’s preeminent safe asset. No other currency boasts a market as large or as liquid. International investors, especially managers of official reserves, have long regarded Treasuries as the cornerstone of financial security. The previously unquestioned confidence in Treasuries reflected trust in US institutions, governance, and rule of law. But Trump’s unsound, inconsistent decision-making has quickly eroded that trust (another factor in Moody’s decision to downgrade).

International demand for Treasuries underpins the dollar’s dominance and grants the United States an unparalleled advantage in global finance. By keeping interest rates low, the greenback’s primacy has afforded the US far more fiscal space compared to other advanced economies, allowing the federal government to run persistent budget deficits - 6.4% of GDP in 2024 - without alarming creditors. But if confidence in Treasuries, and thus in the dollar, falters, investors may demand a premium for holding US debt, implying higher borrowing costs. In fact, long-term Treasury yields - representing what the US must pay you to hold its debt - have already risen, with the 30-year yield climbing above 5% in response to the proposed tax bill.

True, we should be careful not to interpret rising yields as an unambiguous sign of investors’ dwindling confidence in the safety of US debt; overall demand has proven resilient. And yet, investors are beginning to price in greater risk and to consider diversification. European and Chinese monetary authorities will be watching these new trends closely, given their own ambitions to expand their respective currencies’ international footprints.

The upshot is that the dollar and dollar-denominated financial instruments are not only domestic matters for the US government. They are global issues that affect everyone. By undermining confidence in the currency that serves as the world’s primary medium of exchange, unit of account, and store of value, Trump and congressional Republicans could unleash widespread financial instability. As borrowing costs rise even more, developing countries that rely on dollar-denominated debt would be among the hardest hit (as always).

In an interconnected global economy - even one trending toward fragmentation - the US government’s actions have profound international repercussions. But convincing Trump to care about the risks reflected in the latest fiscal measures may be the most difficult task of all.

OPINION

By Carl Bildt

# Farewell, America

STOCKHOLM - Are we heading into an era when the United States simply matters less? This question may sound odd, considering that America remains the world’s leading military and technological power, reserve-currency issuer, and anchor of the global financial system. But with the US having chosen to retreat from its global role, it will gradually lose much of the power and influence that it now takes for granted.

To be sure, America’s power and influence has already waned. For decades after World War II, the US could shape the global system to serve its own purposes; and during the brief “unipolar” moment that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union, its status was unrivaled. But other powers have since grown in stature and are pursuing global ambitions. While China is the most obvious example, Europe, too, is seeking the unity required to assert itself as a serious global player, and many middle powers want to raise their profiles as well.

This is the context in which President Donald Trump has hastened America’s retreat. While no one is surprised to see an “America First” administration ditching global responsibilities, the sheer pace of the change has been remarkable. Already, a growing void is opening up within the world order.

Clearly, trade is central to Trump’s thinking. Failing to understand that it can benefit all who engage in it, he sees only a zero-sum game that America has been losing. Never mind that this belief flies in the face of basic economics (and common sense); Trump simply cannot get over the fact that the US imports more goods than it exports.

No one - not even Trump - knows what will come from the global trade war that America launched on “Liberation Day” (April 2). But one thing already seems certain: America’s role in the global economy will decline as trading with it (let alone trusting it) becomes more difficult.

In fact, while the US is a significant trading power, trade as a share of its GDP does not reach the level of China or the European Union. China is the top trading partner to around 120 countries, and the EU to around 80, whereas America is number one for only 20 or so countries. And now that Trump has imposed or threatened sweeping tariffs against friends and foes alike, the US position is bound to decline further.

America’s absence will be even more obvious in the realm of multinational cooperation - both within and outside the United Nations system. Now that Trump has withdrawn the US from the World Health Organization, China has stepped forward as the WHO’s single largest financial contributor. Others will also have to assume greater responsibility for international humanitarian efforts - which have long depended on US funding and are already rapidly receding - and for the fight against climate change.

While Trump issues threats to take over the Panama Canal, Canada, and Greenland, US diplomacy is in retreat more broadly. Administration officials claim that Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine is “Joe Biden’s war,” and they initially responded to the dangerous flare-up between India and Pakistan by declaring it none of America’s business. Trump’s recent trip to the Middle East was almost exclusively about securing business, investment, and arms deals. Beyond making bizarre statements about turning Gaza into a resort, he has basically ignored the Israeli Palestinian question, leaving Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu free to pursue whatever policy he wants.

Withdrawal can be dangerous, though. What if the US had continued to do nothing to encourage a ceasefire between India and Pakistan? Even Trump, who is commendably averse to war, seems to recognize the logic of pursuing a new nuclear deal vis-à-vis Iran, lest Netanyahu get the war that he has long sought.

But these isolated cases of diplomacy are the exceptions that prove the rule - and Trump still might walk away from them. The US retreat is underway, and until other responsible actors assume some of the roles it played, some state and nonstate actors will exploit the situation for their own advantage, thus creating more global instability.

The EU is an obvious candidate to fill the void left by the US. It has a unique opportunity to strengthen its own position in what will be a less US-centric trading system. For example, linking up with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership could pay major dividends, as would a new trade agreement with India.

China, for its part, will probably step up more within the UN system. A rebalancing of power there is necessary, and probably inevitable, and it could accelerate under the banner of boosting the influence of the Global South. But given China’s weight within the global economy, its own role in managing various global challenges will undoubtedly grow.

Thus, it will matter immensely how the Sino-European relationship evolves. Had Chinese President Xi Jinping not lent political and economic support to Russia these past three years, the path forward would be clearer. But though the situation is complicated, China could still change course if it wanted to.

Another big unknown is how NATO will adapt as US military resources return home from Europe and the Middle East (or are shifted toward East Asia). Trump’s proposal to build a “Golden Dome” of layered domestic defense systems is a perfect symbol of an isolationist America. Outside the dome, in the post-American world, the future is up for grabs.

Carl Bildt is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.





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GATEWAY TO LIBERIA’S ECONOMY

## Request For Proposal (RFP) | May 26, 2025

**Title: Consultancy Services for a Business and Investment Strategy Targeting the Middle East and Southeast Asia**

**RFP Number:** RFP NO. NPA/LCS/003/2025

**Issue Date:** May 26, 2025 | **Closing Date:** June 27, 2025

### BACKGROUND

The National Port Authority of Liberia is the principal gateway of Liberia and plays a crucial and strategic role in boosting the nation’s economy and development. The NPA facilitates the country's international trade and drives its economic development. The National Port Authority, as the largest and most active port, serves as a vital hub for imports and exports, supporting key sectors such as agriculture, mining, and industry. Alongside Monrovia, are the Ports of Buchanan which contributes to regional connectivity and trade facilitation. Each port has its unique role in enhancing Liberia's competitiveness and linking it to global supply chains.

The National Port Authority is seeking to engage an experienced individual consultant to develop and implement a comprehensive **Business and Investment Strategy** aimed at attracting investment from Middle Eastern and Southern Asia countries. This initiative supports our broader goal of enhancing foreign direct investment (FDI) and fostering strategic economic partnerships.

### Purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP)

The National Port Authority is launching this RFP to solicit competitive proposals and select an individual consultant (hereto referred to as “Service Provider” or “Consultant”) to enter into a contract. The selection process aims to ensure that the final selected Service Provider or Consultant is of the highest caliber professionally, technically and ethically to implement and execute the necessary service.

The National Port Authority now invites qualified individuals, or consortia to submit proposals for developing and implementing a **Business and Investment Strategy** for the National Port Authority, targeting the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The objective of the assignment is to engage a consultant to develop a well-researched, persuasive, and actionable **proposal** for a Business and Investment Strategy to mobilize funding, policy support, and stakeholder engagement. The proposal should identify strategic directions, investment opportunities, and mechanisms to engage investors from these regions.

All interested eligible individuals may obtain copy of the **Request for Proposal (RFP) Document** from the Procurement Department of the National Port Authority, beginning **May 27, 2025, Mondays through Fridays at 9:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M**, when a non-refundable fee of **USD 51.50** is paid to NPA’s ECO Bank USD Account. The Account Title and Number are: **National Port Authority; 6100225392**.

## Submission and Opening of Proposals

### Submission of the Proposal

All interested individuals participating in this Request for Proposal are requested to submit their proposals to the address mentioned below no later than **27 June 2025, 14:00:00 hours (2:00 p.m. o’clock)** hereinafter referred to as “the closing date and time”).

**Proposals received after the closing date and time will be rejected.** All proposals and supporting documents must be submitted in hard copy and also accompanied by a soft copy placed on a USB drive (ensure that the document placed on the USB is in PDF format) on or before the closing date and time stipulated below.

The Executive Director for Procurement  
The Procurement Department  
National Port Authority- Bushrod Island

Email: [info.procurement@npa.gov.lr](mailto:info.procurement@npa.gov.lr) : Contact Number:+231886501319/770777242

Please adhere to the following instructions, unless otherwise provided in the relevant Bid Documents. The Submission must be drafted in **English** and contain:

A **Technical Proposal** and supporting documentation, with clear and concise description of your proposed actions to execute the Scope of Work/Terms of Reference and Deliverables. The Technical Proposal **should include all supporting documentation, CVs, and company profile) for successful delivery.**

- A **Financial Proposal**
- **All the supporting documentation** in relation to the evaluation criteria.
- Proposals must be submitted in **two separate Envelopes**.
- The Technical Proposal must be named **RFP NO. NPA/LCS/003/2025 - TECHNICAL Proposal**.
- The Financial Proposal must be named **RFP NO. NPA/LCS/003/2025 - FINANCIAL Proposal**.
- All financial information must **ONLY** be included in the Financial Proposal. No Financial proposals, quotes or any other related financial information should appear in the Technical Proposal.
- Proposals which do not comply with these requirements, e.g. combining the financial and technical proposals in one submission or submitted in any way, other than outlined above, will be rejected.

**Late submissions shall be rejected. Non-compliance with the above requirements regarding the presentation of the RFP may lead to the exclusion from the RFP process for this contract.**

The proposal must be valid for the period of **120 days** from the deadline of proposals. The bidder shall provide a statement confirming the period of validity of its proposal when submitting the required documents for this RFP.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
MANAGEMENT



# Liberia seeks re-election to IMO Council

**-Comm. Neto Zaza Lighe launches campaign**

decision-making at the very helm of the IMO.”

The Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the Liberia Maritime Authority Cllr. Neto Zaza Lighe, says Liberia’s bid for re-election to Category A of the International Maritime Organization Council is not just a campaign, but a reaffirmation of the country’s deep commitment to the principles and mission of the IMO.

“For over 70 years, Liberia has remained a steadfast partner in shaping global maritime policy. From safety to sustainability, from innovation to inclusion – we have championed progress in every tide and every tide of change”, he says, and notes that as technology transforms ship design, construction, propulsion, manning, communication and navigation, Liberia has not just kept pace, but also led.

Speaking at the official launch of the country’s campaign for re-election to IMO Council for 2026-2027 in England, Commissioner Lighe noted that today, the Liberian Shipping Registry is ranked among the largest and most respected in the world, which is not merely a product of innovation, but a force that has driven change, fostered efficiency, and elevated safety across international waters.

“Since becoming a founding member of the IMO in 1949, Liberia has played a pivotal role in the development of maritime laws, policies, and practices that benefit not just flag states – but humanity.”

He continues that as custodians of one of the-largest ship registry in the world, Liberia recognizes that global influence demands global responsibility.

“And so, we come to you with humility and strength, asking for your support and your vote. Re-electing Liberia to Category ‘A’ means reinforcing a voice that has always spoken for safety, sustainability, and shared growth. It means ensuring balanced, inclusive

The Liberian Maritime Commissioner assures that as the 34th Regular Assembly Session of the IMO is scheduled later this year, Liberia stands ready to honor its reciprocal commitments, saying “We do not take lightly the bonds of trust we have built over the years – and we are committed to walking with you in mutual support, shared goals, and united vision.”

He adds that together, through communication, cooperation, and coordination, the Liberia Maritime Authority can navigate toward a future where maritime development is safe, secure, green, and equitable.



“As we enjoy the serenity of the Thames this evening, let us be reminded of what unites us: one sea, one mission, one destiny. I look forward to engaging with you – state by state, leader

by leader – as we build a stronger maritime world together”, Commissioner Lighe stresses and quotes former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as saying: “A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor”, while calling for a sail forward with skill, purpose, and unity.

The launch was attended by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Liberia’s Permanent Representative to the IMO, Ambassador Robert Wilmot Kpadeh, Liberia’s Ambassador to the Court of St. James, United Kingdom, Genevieve Kennedy, and the Inspector General of Police of the Republic Liberia, Gregory Coleman, among others.



# Maritime Commissioner launches Liberia's campaign for IMO Council Category A Seat in Pictures





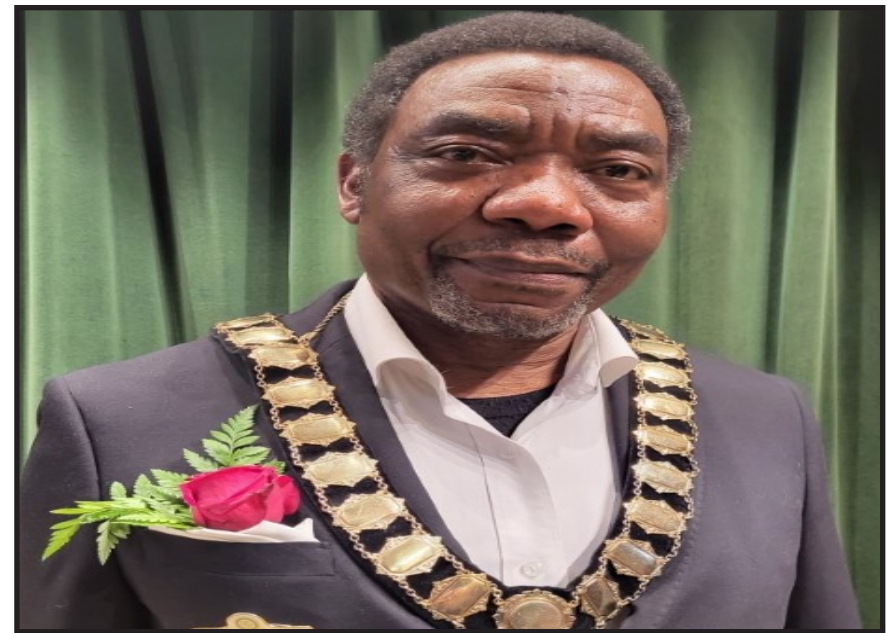
# Français

## Un Libérien entre dans l'histoire au Royaume-Uni. Il est Élu maire dans le Hertsmere

Hertsmere (Royaume-Uni), le 23 mai 2025 – Le Conseiller municipal et Ambassadeur Alpha Bird Collins, d'origine libérienne, vient d'inscrire son nom dans l'histoire politique locale du Royaume-Uni en devenant, pour la première fois, maire à la fois de la ville d'Elstree and Borehamwood et du

a rejoint le groupe indépendant *Hertsmere First*, composé de trois conseillers municipaux sans affiliation partisane. Le 14 mai 2025, le conseil du district de Hertsmere a procédé à l'élection du nouveau maire. Le conseiller Marc Amron, membre du groupe *Hertsmere First*, a proposé la candidature de M. Collins. Fait remarquable, la

en raison de la popularité croissante de M. Collins, ce dernier a été élu à l'unanimité, sans opposition. Il s'agit d'une première dans l'histoire du district de Hertsmere : un conseiller indépendant en poste devient simultanément maire de la ville et du district. Le maire Collins détient désormais deux chaînes de fonctions symbolisant ses mandats. En tant que maire d'Elstree and Borehamwood, il représente une population de 47 000 habitants. Son mandat au niveau du district de Hertsmere, quant à lui, couvre plus de 200 000 personnes. Cependant, selon le protocole en vigueur, M. Collins devra céder ses fonctions de maire de la ville afin de se consacrer pleinement à ses nouvelles responsabilités à l'échelle du district, qui couvre un territoire plus vaste et complexe. Interrogé par notre rédaction sur cette réussite inédite, le maire Collins a déclaré avec émotion : « Dieu l'a fait pour moi ! J'ai préparé le terrain, semé les graines, fourni les efforts, et j'ai attendu l'intervention divine. Aujourd'hui, je récolte les fruits de ce travail, pour moi-même et pour notre grande nation, le Liberia. » Cette double élection marque un tournant et une source d'inspiration pour la diaspora africaine en Europe.



district de Hertsmere. Initialement élu sous l'étiquette du Parti travailliste (Labour), le maire Collins a récemment quitté cette formation politique pour des raisons non rendues publiques. Il

proposition a été appuyée par la cheffe de l'opposition conservatrice, la conseillère Lynette Sullivan. Aucun candidat alternatif n'ayant été présenté par la coalition Labour – Libéraux-Démocrates, probablement

## Le Liberia accueille ses deux premiers pilotes maritimes formés localement

Le Liberia célèbre une étape historique dans son développement maritime avec l'intégration officielle de deux capitaines libériens, Sam Jabbah et William Lassanah, en tant que tout premiers pilotes maritimes et capitaines de remorqueur formés localement. Les deux officiers ont été remis à l'Autorité Portuaire Nationale (NPA) lors d'une cérémonie officielle en présence des responsables de l'APM Terminals Liberia et de Svitzer. Les deux capitaines ont présenté leurs licences professionnelles au directeur général de la NPA, M. Sekou A. M. Dukuly, après avoir suivi avec succès des formations de haut niveau à l'Université Maritime Régionale d'Accra, au Ghana. Lors de la remise, Jan Buijze, directeur général d'APM Terminals Liberia, a exprimé la fierté de l'entreprise face aux accomplissements des deux Libériens, saluant leur détermination et la qualité de leur parcours, qui selon lui, font honneur à la nation. Sam Jabbah a bénéficié d'une formation internationale

approfondie, notamment à l'Académie maritime sud-africaine au Cap, au Maritime Professional Training à Fort Lauderdale (États-Unis), au Falck Safety Services à Houston (Texas), ainsi qu'à l'École canarienne de navigation et de sécurité maritime à Tenerife, en Espagne. De son côté, William Lassanah a suivi une formation avancée à Bahreïn, couronnée par l'obtention d'une licence de "Master near coastal line", représentant une qualification de haut niveau dans le domaine maritime. Cedric Guiraud, directeur général de Svitzer, a quant à lui souligné que cette étape est capitale pour la politique de libéranisation des services maritimes. Selon lui,

former des Libériens à ces fonctions stratégiques est essentiel au renforcement des capacités nationales dans un secteur clé. En recevant officiellement les deux capitaines, M. Sekou Dukuly, directeur général de la NPA, a salué leur « effort remarquable pour placer le Liberia sur la carte maritime internationale ». Il a déclaré que cette réussite marque « le début d'un nouveau chapitre dans la transformation du secteur maritime libérien ». M. Dukuly a rappelé que l'expansion des échanges commerciaux du Liberia nécessite un renforcement par

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



## Éditorial

### L'inconstance du gouvernement libérien sur la gestion du chemin de fer soulève de vives inquiétudes

La décision du gouvernement du Libéria de revenir sur la communication du Comité interministériel des concessions (IMCC), qui réaffirmait ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) comme opérateur-utilisateur du chemin de fer Yekepa-Buchanan, est non seulement préoccupante, mais soulève également de sérieuses interrogations quant à l'engagement du pays à respecter ses contrats et à protéger les investissements légitimes.

La décision initiale de l'IMCC reposait sur des principes de logique, de légalité et sur les intérêts à long terme du développement du Libéria. Après plus de sept années de négociations entre le gouvernement libérien et AML, un cadre solide - les Principes d'exploitation du système ferroviaire (RSOP) - a été intégré dans la Troisième modification de l'Accord de développement minier (MDA) d'AML.

Ce cadre établit un système ferroviaire à accès partagé, régulé par l'État, tout en maintenant AML dans son rôle d'opérateur-utilisateur selon un modèle sans profit ni perte. Il prévoit également la création d'un comité de gestion conjoint, un droit de regard étatique à travers des audits, ainsi que le pouvoir de révoquer AML en cas de manquement à ses obligations.

Cette structure est parfaitement conforme à l'esprit du Décret exécutif n°136, qui vise à instaurer un système ferroviaire à usage multiple au Libéria. Ce même décret reconnaît explicitement la validité des engagements préexistants, tel que le MDA d'AML, sans chercher à les annuler.

La ligne ferroviaire Yekepa-Buchanan dépasse le simple rôle d'infrastructure : elle constitue l'épine dorsale de l'industrie du minerai de fer du Libéria. ArcelorMittal Liberia y a investi plus de 800 millions de dollars pour sa réhabilitation et son expansion. L'entreprise est présente dans le pays depuis près de vingt ans, emploie plus de 7 000 Libériens, participe activement au développement communautaire, et contribue régulièrement aux recettes publiques.

Revenir aujourd'hui sur la décision qui reconnaissait le rôle historique et contractuel d'AML, au profit d'une entreprise étrangère encore peu éprouvée, Ivahoe Atlantic, serait une grave erreur. Ce choix envoie un mauvais signal aux investisseurs actuels et potentiels. Il accorde un avantage indu à Ivahoe et donne l'image d'un Libéria prêt à renier ses engagements pour satisfaire des intérêts politiques ou des pressions extérieures.

Même la Guinée voisine, dans son accord avec SMFG, reconnaît que l'accès à travers le Libéria demeure temporaire et incertain. Pourtant, le Libéria semble disposé à sacrifier ses propres intérêts et sa crédibilité pour soutenir l'agenda minier d'un autre pays.

Ce revirement n'est pas qu'une simple erreur de politique publique. Il ébranle l'état de droit et sape la confiance des investisseurs. Or, la Constitution du Libéria oblige l'État à honorer ses contrats, et le MDA signé avec AML reste juridiquement contraignant. Si le gouvernement estime ne plus pouvoir accepter AML comme opérateur ferroviaire, la seule voie légitime et honorable serait de renégocier l'accord de manière consensuelle - non de l'annuler unilatéralement.

Le rôle d'AML comme opérateur-utilisateur n'empêche en rien l'accès d'autres entreprises à la voie ferrée. Les RSOP garantissent justement un accès équitable, basé sur les coûts, sous supervision étatique rigoureuse - la définition même d'un modèle multi-utilisateur.

Au lieu de pénaliser AML, le Libéria devrait valoriser et renforcer son partenariat avec une entreprise qui a démontré un engagement durable envers la croissance du pays. Privilégier un acteur étranger sans antécédents solides au détriment d'un investisseur éprouvé risque de compromettre les opérations actuelles et de dissuader tout investissement futur.

Si le Libéria souhaite construire un climat d'investissement prospère et respecté, il doit commencer par honorer ses propres engagements. Le gouvernement doit reconsidérer sa décision et soutenir la position avisée et bénéfique de l'IMCC en maintenant AML comme opérateur-utilisateur dans le cadre légal, éprouvé et transparent de la Troisième modification de l'accord et des RSOP.

Le Libéria doit choisir le principe avant la politique, car l'avenir de son économie et la crédibilité de la nation en dépendent.



# Français

## Starts from page 8 Le Liberia accueille ses deux 25 cas actifs de Mpox confirmés au Liberia

lèle des compétences locales. Il a notamment mis en avant le rôle stratégique du Port autonome de Monrovia, principal hub logistique du pays, essentiel tant pour l'importation de biens vitaux que pour l'exportation des ressources nationales. Il a insisté sur la nécessité d'un développement continu des ressources humaines pour répondre aux normes internationales et maintenir la compétitivité du port à l'échelle mondiale. Enfin, le directeur de la NPA a affirmé que le

président Joseph Nyuma Boakai accorde une grande importance à la montée en compétence des acteurs du secteur, estimant que l'acquisition du savoir et l'intégration des technologies sont cruciales pour positionner durablement le Liberia sur l'échiquier maritime mondial.

« Le parcours de Sam Jabbah et William Lassanah ouvre la voie à toute une génération de jeunes Libériens désireux de s'engager dans les métiers de la mer », a conclu M. Dukuly.

## Le Liberia intensifie sa campagne pour un siège au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU

Le Liberia a renforcé sa campagne diplomatique à l'échelle mondiale en vue d'obtenir un siège non permanent au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies (CSNU). À l'approche du scrutin prévu pour juin, lors de la 79e session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies à New York, le pays mobilise d'importantes personnalités pour rallier davantage de soutiens.

Parmi les figures de proue de cette offensive diplomatique figurent l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, envoyée spéciale dans le cadre de cette mission, ainsi que d'autres anciens ministres des Affaires étrangères, mobilisés à travers le monde.

Lors d'un point de presse tenu le jeudi 22 mai 2025 au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, le vice-ministre des Affaires juridiques au ministère des Affaires étrangères, Cllr. Jeddi M. Armah, a fait le point sur l'état d'avancement de la campagne libérienne.

Selon lui, si le Liberia est élu, il entamera son mandat de deux ans en janvier 2026 en tant que membre non permanent du Conseil de sécurité. Il a précisé que cette ambition s'inscrit dans un vaste plan de repositionnement du Liberia sur la scène internationale, à travers une diplomatie active et bien structurée.

M. Armah a indiqué que cette campagne est dirigée par la ministre des Affaires étrangères, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, en étroite collaboration avec l'ambassadeur du Liberia auprès des Nations unies, M. Lewis G. Brown. Celui-ci bénéficie du soutien stratégique d'une équipe composée de quatre anciens

ministres des Affaires étrangères, qui travaillent en coordination avec la présidence pour porter les messages clés de la candidature libérienne.

Dans le cadre de cette mobilisation, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf s'est rendue récemment au Soudan pour transmettre un message spécial de soutien. L'ancien chef de la diplomatie, Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, se trouve actuellement en Guinée pour rencontrer le président du Gabon, accompagné de l'assistant ministre Sorrie Kabbah Jones.

Par ailleurs, l'ex-ministre Gbehzohngar Findley conduit des missions en Croatie et aux Comores, porteur de lettres officielles du président libérien. Le Dr Abraham Jan, quant à lui, est à Bruxelles pour participer au Sommet de l'Union africaine, où il sollicite des soutiens bilatéraux en faveur de la candidature du Liberia.

« Nous avons mené une campagne coordonnée avec professionnalisme. Notre niveau de confiance est élevé, et nous croyons fermement en notre victoire », a déclaré M.

Armah, soulignant qu'aucun pays ne s'est officiellement opposé à la candidature du Liberia, ce qui renforce encore leur optimisme.

Il a rappelé que le Liberia, fondateur de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine (OUA) et de l'Union africaine (UA), ambitionne aujourd'hui de réaffirmer sa place dans les instances internationales, en capitalisant sur son riche héritage diplomatique.

« Cette victoire ne sera pas seulement celle du Liberia, mais aussi celle de l'Afrique et de tous les pays engagés pour la paix et la coopération internationale », a-t-il ajouté.

L'élection des membres non permanents du Conseil de sécurité aura lieu en juin 2025, à une date encore à confirmer. Cinq sièges sont à pourvoir : deux pour le Groupe africain, un pour le Groupe Asie-Pacifique, un pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, et un pour le Groupe des États d'Europe orientale. Les membres élus entameront leur mandat le 1er janvier 2026.

Le Liberia est candidat pour l'un des deux sièges réservés à l'Afrique et bénéficie du soutien actif de la CEDEAO et d'autres partenaires régionaux.



Le National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) a annoncé ce jeudi la présence de 25 cas actifs de Mpox (anciennement appelée variole du singe) sur le territoire libérien.

S'exprimant lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, le directeur général du NPHIL, le Dr Chris Nyan, a indiqué qu'entre janvier 2024 et le 22 mai 2025, 102 cas confirmés en laboratoire ont été recensés dans le pays.

Parmi eux, 77 patients sont rétablis, tandis que les 25 autres sont actuellement pris en charge et suivis par les services de santé publique.

Le Dr Nyan a rappelé qu'à un moment donné, le Liberia comptait entre



65 et 68 cas actifs, tous traités avec succès. À la fin de l'année 2024, aucun cas n'était enregistré, et la situation semblait maîtrisée.

Cependant, à la suite des fêtes de Noël, de nouvelles infections ont été signalées dès janvier 2025, sous forme de cas sporadiques. Une légère recrudescence a été observée en avril, mais grâce à une préparation adéquate, les autorités sanitaires ont pu réagir rapidement et mener plusieurs campagnes de sensibilisation.

« Grâce à cette sensibilisation, les citoyens ont commencé à se présenter d'eux-mêmes dans nos centres, certains amenant leurs enfants pour des examens médicaux », a rapporté le Dr Nyan. « Ils nous montraient les éruptions cutanées de leurs enfants, se demandant s'il s'agissait des symptômes évoqués à la radio. »

Début mai, 12 cas suspects ont été soumis à des tests. Trois cas se sont révélés positifs, auxquels s'est ajouté un quatrième peu après. Une surveillance accrue a ensuite permis d'identifier plus de dix nouveaux cas confirmés, portant le total de cas actifs à 25.

Le Dr Nyan a précisé que la présente flambée épidémique de Mpox a été déclarée urgence de santé publique nationale et régionale en 2024 par l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) et le Centre africain de contrôle et de prévention des maladies (Africa CDC).

Il a également rappelé que le Liberia avait déjà fait face à des cas de Mpox entre 2020 et 2021, et que ce virus, identifié pour la première fois en 1970, a été signalé dès 1858 en République démocratique du Congo. Depuis, il s'est propagé dans plusieurs pays d'Afrique, notamment en Afrique de l'Ouest et en Afrique centrale.

« Lorsque j'ai pris la tête du NPHIL, c'était quelques jours seulement après la déclaration de l'épidémie par l'OMS et Africa CDC. Le premier cas de 2024 avait été détecté à Sanniquellie, dans le comté de Nimba », a-t-il précisé.

Depuis lors, l'institut a mené une vaste campagne d'information à travers les médias et en langues locales, en veillant à ne pas susciter de panique. La stratégie de réponse consiste, selon lui, à anticiper l'évolution de la maladie plutôt qu'à y réagir passivement.

Le NPHIL procède actuellement à des analyses différentielles pour distinguer la Mpox d'autres virus similaires, tels que la varicelle ou la vaccine. Une fois qu'un cas est confirmé en laboratoire, il est automatiquement intégré aux statistiques officielles.

« Nous évaluons la gravité de chaque cas. Les formes bénignes sont traitées à domicile, tandis que les cas graves sont orientés vers des centres d'isolement spécialisés », a déclaré le Dr Nyan. Parmi ces structures, il a cité le centre rénové de Sky Base à Monrovia, ainsi que d'autres à Ganta et dans plusieurs régions du pays.

Dans le cadre des efforts de coopération transfrontalière, une mission du NPHIL s'est récemment rendue à la frontière avec la Sierra Leone afin de renforcer la collaboration régionale. Le Dr Nyan a précisé que le Liberia est actuellement confronté à la forme Mpox de type 1, tandis que la Sierra Leone combat une forme de type 2.

En conclusion, il a exhorté la population à rester calme, à adopter des mesures d'hygiène rigoureuses, et à signaler tout symptôme suspect aux structures sanitaires les plus proches.

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Ministry of Justice launches BCR Middle-Level Management Training in Bong

**By Edwin N. Khakie**  
Gbarnga, Bong County - In a major step toward strengthening Liberia's correctional system, the Ministry of Justice on Monday officially launched the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) Middle-Level Management Training in Bong County. The training targets supervisors and administrators from various correctional facilities nationwide, achieving a humane and secure correctional environment. The training reflects the government's commitment to decentralizing training and coordination of security sector personnel in central Liberia. Its selection for this training initiative reflects the government's commitment to decentralizing



of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) Middle-Level Management Training Program at the Gbarnga Regional Hub in Bong County. The launch event brought together senior officials from the Ministry of Justice, international development partners, county authorities, and representatives from various security institutions. The training initiative is designed to enhance professionalism, leadership, and operational efficiency among mid-level correctional officers across the country. Delivering the keynote address, Assistant Minister of Justice for Corrections and Rehabilitation, Atty. Gabriel F. Ndupellar, underscored the importance of investing in human capital to improve Liberia's justice sector. "This program is an investment in the human resource potential of our corrections system," Atty. Ndupellar said. "Equipping our mid-level managers with the necessary skills and leadership competencies is key to Participants will undergo a rigorous course covering leadership and ethics, inmate management, human rights, conflict resolution, and facility security protocols. The training is being facilitated by both local and international corrections experts. The initiative is supported by key development partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Carter Center, both of which have long-standing commitments to justice sector reform in Liberia. Bong County Finance Officer Silas Tokpah, who attended the ceremony, welcomed the program and commended the Ministry of Justice for choosing Gbarnga as the regional hub. "This training will not only benefit the corrections system but also help strengthen justice delivery in Bong and surrounding counties," he stated. The Gbarnga Regional Hub, developed under Liberia's broader Justice and Security architecture, serves public services and building local capacity. Participants expressed optimism about the training and its potential impact. Officer Martha Tamba of the Zwedru Correctional Facility described the program as a unique opportunity. "This is a rare chance to sharpen our skills and better serve our country. I'm grateful for the knowledge we will gain here," she said. The Middle-Level Management Training will run for several weeks and conclude with a formal graduation ceremony. Plans are already underway to roll out similar capacity-building programs for junior officers and senior management, further reinforcing the Bureau's institutional development. As Liberia continues its post-conflict recovery and institutional reform, initiatives like the BCR training in Gbarnga represent meaningful progress toward a more professional, accountable, and human-rights-oriented correctional system.

*Starts from Back page*  
**Govt. unable to develop Liberia**  
He said by any standard, that better roads, adding that if amount cannot even properly government patches a few run Cuttington University in areas along the road, citizens Bong County. He wonders when should be grateful to God. government will even reach to He underscored that until the somewhere like Sanoyea with government redefines and

*Starts from page 11*  
**Liberia seeks re-election to IMO Council**  
trust we have built over the years – and we are committed to walking with you in mutual support, shared goals, and united vision." He adds that together, through communication, cooperation, and coordination, the Liberia Maritime Authority can navigate toward a future where maritime development is safe, secure, green, and equitable. "As we enjoy the serenity of the Thames this evening, let us be reminded of what unites us: one sea, one mission, one destiny. I look forward to engaging with you – state by state, leader by leader – as we build a stronger maritime world together", Commissioner Lighe stresses and quotes former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as saying: "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor", while calling for a sail forward with skill, purpose, and unity. The launch was attended by the

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Make reconciliation your cardinal focus

**-Former lawmakers urges Speaker Koon**

**By Lewis S. Teh**  
behalf of the group, Atty. S. Josen Fahn, president of the Association of Elected and Serve Legislators Association of Elected and Serve Legislators of Liberia has cautioned House Speaker Richard N. Koon, to consider reconciliation as a cardinal focus, House of Representatives, that something, they believe will help drive his agenda smoothly. "We the Association of Elected and Serve Legislators further call on Speaker Koon to see reconciliation as a cardinal focus He said as a result of this decision, in driving his agenda in the House", they said. Rep. Koon of Montserrado County District #11, defeated Rep. Musa Hassan Bility of Nimba County as Speaker of the 55th District#7 43-26 votes recently, following the resignation of former Speaker J. Fonati Kofa. Prior to his election, Koon illegally served as speaker of the Majority Bloc, and presided over the House's affairs for six months. However, the Supreme Court later



declared his leadership and all Former Elected Legislators of actions taken under his gavel Liberia are obliged to illegal. wholeheartedly congratulate Speaker Richard N. Koon, for his former Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, preferment after undergoing enormous challenges, and it is our seat for Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah and took his place on the floor. He was subsequently nominated and elected as Speaker. His victory not only solidifies his political grip on the House but also legally confirms his status as Speaker and second in line to the Presidency. Koon's primary challenge now is to unify a deeply divided legislature, which has been marred by months of acrimony and legislative paralysis. But reacting to Koon's election for the leadership, for your time, over the weekend, the group of Ex-lawmakers says if the House of Representatives should go back to you on behalf of the Liberian normality, the newly elected people", the Ex-lawmakers said. Speaker should muster the courage to unify that body and bring everyone together. Reading a special statement on



# Political intimidation

Bomi County Senator Edwin M. Snowe says statement issued by the Government over the weekend accusing him of subversive plans against the Boakai administration is tantamount to “political intimidation.” “Such an accusation is not only wholly unfounded and defamatory but also constitutes a serious affront to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and the constitutional safeguards that protect all citizens of our Republic,” he roared.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia’s peace, something members frown upon. Sen. Snowe was said to have been advised to apologize to President Boakai or risk expulsion. Meanwhile, a source close to President



Sen. Snowe

Reconciliation Committee at the Liberian Senate stated that he is deeply concerned about the allegations, saying they were falsely attributed to him. The under-fire Snowe is now seeking the intervention of the Senate, ECOWAS, UN and all relevant bilateral and multilateral organizations and partners in the ongoing standoff with the Boakai administration. In a statement issued on Saturday, May 24, the Government alleges that Sen. Snowe, also a member of the ECOWAS Parliament, vowed to use his connection within the regional body to ensure the failure of the Boakai regime. Sources close to the situation said the statement attributed to the Bomi County Senator was allegedly made on the floor of the ECOWAS Parliament. The source said Sen. Snowe alleged subversive comments against the Boakai regime took many of his colleagues aback.

The alleged attribution, one source explained, has the propensity to threaten

Boakai informed this paper Sunday night that Sen. Snowe, upon the advice of his colleagues, allegedly took with him Sen. Pro-temp Nyonblee Karngbe-Lawrence and Speaker Richard Koon to apologize to the President.

However, after prostrating before President Boakai, instead of issuing an official press release to detail what transpired, only photographs of the four officials were release on social media, with details behind the photograph and purpose of the visit unexplained.

Thus, the government’s statement which condemned the alleged plan of Sen. Snowe quoted Snowe as declaring he would “do everything possible including using his connections in ECOWAS to make the Boakai-led government to fail, even if it means discouraging foreign direct investment to Liberia and making the country ungovernable and unstable until he, Snowe, becomes President of Liberia”.

But Sen. Snowe insists that

the allegations against him by the Government was fabricated.

According to him, the government statement was issued while he was on official assignment in the Kingdom of Sweden as part of a mission of the ECOWAS Parliament.

The Liberian lawmaker added that the timing and content of the accusations are not only inappropriate, but also reflective of a disturbing and deliberate attempt to damage his reputation and cast aspersions on his integrity as a statesman, representative of the Liberian people and a responsible member of the opposition. He further contended that the act by the government further sets a dangerous and unacceptable precedent, one that threatens the very fabric of Liberia democracy and the fundamental rights of every Liberian, particularly those who exercise their legitimate right to speak truth to power. Senator Snowe lamented that it is increasingly evident that this development forms part of a calculated

and malicious s m e a r campaign, designed to discredit, intimidate, and silence him and other critical voices of the opposition in the national discourse.

Meanwhile, Sen. Snowe, described the government of Liberia allegation against him as unfounded, and malicious, while rejecting any plan to subvert the government or destabilize the administration.

# Liberia seeks re-election to IMO Council

The Commissioner and Chief policies, and practices that benefit Executive Officer of the not just flag states — but Liberia Maritime Authority humanity.” He continues that as Cllr. Neto Zaza Lighe, says Liberia’s custodians of one of the-largest bid for re-election to Category A of ship registry in the world, Liberia the International Maritime recognizes that global influence Organization Council is not just a demands global responsibility. campaign, but a reaffirmation of “And so, we come to you with the country’s deep commitment to humility and strength, asking for the principles and mission of the your support and your vote. Re-IMO. electing Liberia to Category ‘A’

“For over 70 years, Liberia has means reinforcing a voice that has remained a steadfast partner in always spoken for safety, shaping global maritime policy. sustainability, and shared growth. From safety to sustainability, from It means ensuring balanced, innovation to inclusion — we have inclusive decision-making at the championed progress in every tide very helm of the IMO.”

and every tide of change”, he says, The Liberian Maritime and notes that as technology Commissioner assures that as the transforms ship design, construction, propulsion, manning, communication and navigation, Liberia has not just kept pace, but also led.

Speaking at the official launch of the country’s campaign for re-election to IMO Council for 2026-2027 in England, Commissioner Lighe noted that today, the Liberian Shipping Registry is ranked among the largest and most respected in the world, which is not merely a product of innovation, but a force that has driven change, fostered efficiency, 34th Regular Assembly Session of and elevated safety across the IMO is scheduled later this year, international waters. Liberia stands ready to honor its

“Since becoming a founding reciprocal commitments, saying member of the IMO in 1949, Liberia “We do not take lightly the bonds has played a pivotal role in the of development of maritime laws,



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

## JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



BEFORE HIS HONOR:.....SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR .....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF JAMAH NAH PAYE PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE CHANGED, REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS “JAMAH NAH GAYE”

0013247

### COURT’S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner filed a Petition requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name JAMAH NAH PAYE to “JAMAH NAH GAYE”

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her true family name and render her identity more explicit and absolute.

After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of her name proposed by her is therefore it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on MARCH 27, 1983 IN BOMI COUNTY, Republic of Liberia, unto the union of MR. EDMOND GAYE AND MRS. JUMAH GAYE and that the Change of her name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish her just traditional identity more firmly, and being satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREED as follows:

That the Petitioner having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name JAMAH NAH PAYE be changed to JAMAH NAH GAYE” beginning this 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY of JANUARY A.D. 2025. THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within(10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF January A.D. 2025

COURT SEAL:

S.R. Dunbar  
SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 01 - 2025 PAGE(S) 22, 3247

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