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# The New Dawn

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# Koffa, others indictment imminent

# Boakai, Mittal inaugurates \$1.8bn investment

**P11**



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# Continental News

## Rwanda quits ECCAS amid tensions with DRC

It's the end of the road for Rwanda and ECCAS: Kigali announced its departure from the organisation meant to promote economic cooperation in Central Africa on Saturday, the same day as the latest ECCAS summit. "Rwanda deplores the instrumentalisation of the Economic Community of Central African States by the DRC," began the [statement published](#) by the Rwandan government. "This deviation has come to light once more today in the context of the 26th Summit in

Malabo, where Rwanda's right to the rotational presidency, as laid down in article 6 of the treaty, was deliberately ignored to impose the diktat of the DRC," the statement read. While Rwanda was set to take the rotational presidency of the organisation for the coming year during the summit on Saturday, officials from the DRC allegedly claimed that they would be unable to attend a summit taking place in Rwanda. In light of the tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, the presidency was eventually conferred to Equatorial Guinea,

which has already presided over the organisation for the past year. Tensions between Rwanda and its neighbour DRC are still running high following months of military clashes between DRC forces and the Rwandan-backed M23 militia in eastern Congo. ECCAS was up to now made up of eleven member states, including Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad.

## Zimbabwe to cull 50 elephants, distribute meat to locals

Elephants are a national treasure and tourism magnet in Zimbabwe. But the population of the majestic creatures has grown too numerous in recent years. Many of the country's national parks and reserves are out of capacity - at Savé Valley Conservancy, the number of elephants exceeds three times the sustainable population level. Faced with the increasing pressure on natural resources, Zimbabwe has now decided to cull 50 elephants at Savé Valley Conservancy. The animals' meat will then be

distributed to the local population near the reserve. Zimbabwe previously tried to tackle the problem by relocating several hundred animals to other parks or using GPS tracking schemes to monitor the elephant population and warn locals when herds came too close to their villages. Last year, Zimbabwe killed 200 elephants when a drought struck the country and led to food shortages. This year, the number of elephants to be culled remains at 50 - for now.



Rwanda's President Paul Kagame gives a press conference at Kigali Convention Centre in Kigali, Rwanda, Monday, April 8, 2024.



A Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority ranger carries a dart gun for elephants in the Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

## Burundians vote to elect lawmakers and local leaders

Burundi held legislative and local elections on Thursday, 5 June 2025. More than six million registered voters cast ballots to elect members of parliament and communal councilors. According to the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), 14,156 polling stations were established nationwide and abroad. This includes 14,103 stations across the country and 53 stations opened in the diaspora and peacekeeping missions, serving 6,013,498 registered voters. At several polling stations visited early Thursday, long queues of voters had already formed — a sign of civic engagement, even as the country faces worsening economic conditions. The vote comes during a deepening socio-economic crisis marked by fuel shortages, soaring inflation, and scarcities in basic goods such as sugar and foreign currency. "They should stay close to us to understand our problems because we are voting for them, hoping they will help us," said Sylvana Nizigiyimana, a voter from Giheta.

Fuel shortages were on everyone's mind. Joséphine Inabigega, a native of Gitega, believes resolving the issue must be a priority for the new leaders. Many voters expressed hope that new leaders would prioritize urgent national concerns. "They must find us fuel because when it's available, we can move around, and the country functions better. We ask them to do everything possible to solve this fuel issue," said Joséphine Inabigega, a voter. President Evariste Ndayishimiye also participated by voting at a school in his home village. He emphasized the patriotic duty of voting and called on elected officials to serve the nation faithfully. "Burundians are usually proud to vote; they enjoy it — it's patriotic. Anyone who doesn't like elections doesn't wish for a good future for the country. The winners must work for the good of everyone," said President Ndayishimiye. This election marks the beginning of a new administrative structure, with Burundi now reorganized into five provinces and 42 communes. As a result, the number of parliamentary seats will decrease from 123 to 103 in the next legislature.

## Nigerians struggle to afford rams for Eid celebrations as inflation soars

As Muslims across Nigeria prepare for Eid al-Adha, the rising cost of living is casting a shadow over celebrations. The price of rams - central to the festival's traditional animal sacrifice - has surged dramatically, leaving many families struggling to keep up. The traditional ram market in Kara, Ogun State, typically a vibrant hub of activity, is facing an unprecedented slowdown; ram prices have doubled — and in some cases tripled — compared to last year. "The ram that I bought personally around, let's say, 200,000 naira (127 US dollars) last year; this year, we start negotiating from 600,000 naira (380 US dollars)," said Abiodun, a Nigerian visiting from London. For many, the cherished tradition of sacrificing a ram

during Eid al-Adha, a powerful act of faith and gratitude, is now slipping out of reach. Jaji Kaligini, a veteran ram seller in Kara, said he was deeply worried over low sales this year. "Everyone is suffering, and we don't know what to do," he said. As the Eid festivities draw

near, there's a growing concern that the high cost of living will dampen the celebratory spirit as what was once a proud family ritual becomes a financial burden few can bear. Since 2023, President Bola Tinubu's fiscal policies have triggered the worst cost of living crisis fuelling inflation rate of more than 23%



A boy sells rams ahead of Eid Al-Adha celebrations at Kara market in Ogun South west Nigeria, Tuesday, June 3, 2025



Voters line up to cast their votes in the Burundian legislative elections at Musama Primary School, in Gitega, Burundi, Thursday, June 5, 2025



# EDITORIAL

# We welcome intervention in the rubber sector

The Government of Liberia has taken a noticeable step to regulate prices in the rubber sector in the country effective this June, thanks to intervention by President Joseph Boakai.

This paper gathered that President Boakai has constituted the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee headed by the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure fair pricing in the rubber sector.

We think this is an applaudable action because rubber farmers across the country have complained of bad pricing for too long that has cheated them of the actual benefit of their labor.

For too long farmers in the country have been subjected to being price takers, which put them in a very disadvantageous position at the hands of Firestone Plantations in Harbel, Margibi County and the Liberia Agriculture Company in Grand Bassa County, respectively, the major firms here.

These two foreign companies have always offered low prices, leaving farmers, who are restricted to sell only at home, with no choice despite advocating to be allowed to sell to buyers of their choice outside the country.

Because of persistent low prices, local farmers across the country have never benefited from their crops despite toiling in their rain and the sun, day and night in cultivating their farms.

It is our hope that this time around, the latest intervention by the government thru the President will bring long desired relief to rubber farmers in the country.

According to a resolution from the meeting, the Government of Liberia's decision was triggered by numerous complaints from rubber farmers in the country about unfair pricing in the rubber sector. The latest move comes after a series of meetings among members of the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee during which a scenario for determining a fair monthly price of rubber was unanimously agreed upon, from several scenarios presented by a technical sub-committee.

The Ministry of Agriculture is quoted as saying “The committee has resolved that the monthly price of rubber will be derived from an average of the daily prices of one ton of rubber for the preceding month posted on the Singapore Commodity Exchange, applying a 58 percent dry rubber content to get the actual, from which the production cost is deducted, and the resultant amount be used to calculate 10 percent profit margin for the processor.”

We hope this will become sincerely turning point for our local farmers in getting worth for their production.

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# COMMENTARY

*By Chris Patten*

## Can Democracy Re-Emerge From the Populist Shadows?

**L**ONDON — After nearly a decade dominated by populist politics, the United Kingdom and the European Union could be set to change course. Although overly cautious, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's overtures toward European allies are a welcome first step on what is likely to be a long path out of Brexit's shadow.

Since leaving the European Union – its largest market and closest political ally – five years ago, the UK has become increasingly aware of its true place in the world – arguably the country's most encouraging political development in years. With the US abandoning multilateralism, Starmer's Labour government is working to rebuild relationships with allies such as Germany, France, Italy, and the Netherlands.

Starmer, a naturally cautious politician, can hardly be accused of moving too quickly or seeking power for its own sake. But his efforts to strengthen the UK's trading relationship with the EU, deepen security cooperation with key European powers (particularly in support of Ukraine), and re-engage with democratic allies around the world signal an ambitious objective: restoring Britain's place at the heart of the Western alliance.

The clearest example of this shift is the [joint statement](#) by the UK, France, and Canada denouncing Israel's “wholly disproportionate” actions in Gaza and the West Bank, which, they warned, “risk breaching international humanitarian law.” At the same time, they reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of Hamas's attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, and called for the immediate release of all remaining Israeli hostages.

All three countries find themselves increasingly sidelined and pressured by US President Donald Trump's administration. But Trump's authoritarian and erratic behavior is being widely shunned. Globally, opposition to Trump has become an effective electoral strategy, enabling responsible parties across the political spectrum in countries like Canada and Australia to win elections despite unfavorable early polling (though a populist endorsed by Trump narrowly won Poland's recent presidential election).

Trump's presidency has unleashed chaos within international institutions. Over the past three months, his administration has launched a deliberate effort to dismantle the multilateral order and subvert the core values upheld by every US president since the end of World War II. Unlike Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan, who promoted international cooperation and sought to make the US – in the words of former Secretary of State [Madeleine Albright](#) – an “[indispensable](#)” partner for democracies worldwide, Trump tends to treat allies as adversaries and vice versa.

His deference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's repressive regime is a case in point. Trump has repeatedly gone out of his way to excuse or downplay Putin's invasion of Ukraine and blatant violations of international law, including assassinations of political opponents abroad. In fact, Trump and the billionaire property developers [shaping his foreign policy](#) appear to have more sympathy for Putin than for traditional US allies, let alone for Ukraine, which Russia aims to exterminate as an

independent nation-state.

This “might is right” worldview is also evident in Trump’s economic agenda, which centers on tariffs and massive spending cuts, and has pushed the US economy to the brink of recession. Fortunately, [chainsaw-waving](#) billionaire Elon Musk has [stepped away](#) from his role at the Department of Government Efficiency, though not before recklessly gutting numerous programs designed to support low-income households and vulnerable populations around the world.

The consequences extend far beyond US borders, as Trump's relentless barrage of threats and incoherent tariff announcements has destabilized the global economy and jeopardized America's long-term prosperity. These actions have also played directly into China's hands, undermining American credibility on the world stage.

Meanwhile, Trump's anti-immigration agenda has eroded America's capacity for innovation and strengthened China's position in the AI race. Rather than seeking to boost the US economy's global competitiveness, Trump has turned his ire inward, launching an unprecedented attack on elite universities and targeting some of the world's leading scientists, many of whom are outspoken critics of his agenda.

But recent developments suggest there are grounds for cautious optimism even in the US. Although Trump has shown little regard for the rule of law, the courts may yet prove to be an effective check on his unlawful actions. This is especially true in the case of his sweeping tariffs, which [require](#) Congressional approval and cannot be imposed unilaterally by the president.

Perhaps resilient institutions and engaged citizens can bring this turbulent chapter of American history to a close. Future generations may look back on it with the same disbelief and shame that surround the McCarthy era of the 1950s and the Palmer Raids of the early 1920s. As with McCarthyism, many Americans are already asking: "How did we let that happen?" The rest of the world, watching anxiously, is asking the same question.

So, what can those of us outside the US do? For now, the answer seems clear. Liberal democracies must take the lead, building on the emerging partnership between Starmer, French President [Emmanuel Macron](#), and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. Encouragingly, a growing coalition – from Australia and Japan to central Europe – is committed to upholding World Trade Organization rules.

This alliance should serve as a foundation for economic cooperation that fosters stability, peace, and shared prosperity. Other countries that wish to join should be welcomed. Those that do not will eventually discover that “might is right” is not a sustainable geopolitical or economic strategy. Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Putin may continue to posture and jeopardize their countries' futures with reckless policies. The rest of us have serious work to do.

*Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong and a former EU commissioner for external affairs, is a former chancellor of the University of Oxford and the author of [The Hong Kong Diaries](#) (Allen Lane, 2022).*



# OP-ED

By Rola Dashti, Claver Gatete, and Mahmoud Mohieldin

## Rethinking Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

BEIRUT/ADDIS ABABA/CAIRO – As the climate crisis escalates, the European Union and the United Kingdom are moving forward with their [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#), promoting it as a [landmark tool](#) linking trade and climate policy. But the CBAM's ambitious aims are now meeting a growing backlash.

The CBAM puts a price on the carbon content of emissions-intensive imports like steel, aluminum, and cement. The goal is to reinforce the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) and create a level playing field between domestic and foreign producers, thereby incentivizing greener production practices worldwide.

Despite the European Parliament's [support for recent proposals](#) to simplify the CBAM, its current design and pace of implementation risk undermining its legitimacy. Rather than advancing a fair and equitable energy transition, it could stoke trade tensions and fuel economic fragmentation, exacerbate inequality, and deliver only limited climate benefits.

The transition phase, which began in October 2023, requires importers to report carbon dioxide emissions associated with their goods, but does not require them to pay. That will change in January 2027, when the CBAM's levies on carbon-intensive imports take effect.

Most countries in the Global South – particularly major exporters to the EU – are unprepared for this shift, because they lack the technical capacity to track and report embedded CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the institutional infrastructure to verify them, and the fiscal space to absorb the costs of compliance. These are some of the symptoms of a deeply unequal global system in which the burdens of climate action have not been fairly distributed.

However commendable the CBAM's stated goals may be, its inherent asymmetries must not be overlooked. Applying a uniform carbon-pricing regime to countries with vastly different capacities undermines the principle of a just energy transition and erodes the legitimacy of global climate action by placing a disproportionate burden on those least responsible for the crisis. Many developing economies are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and struggling with rising public debt, in addition to being acutely vulnerable to climate shocks. Now, they are expected to comply with EU and UK standards despite lacking access to robust emissions data systems, clean technologies, regulatory infrastructure, and adequate climate finance.

Compounding the problem, revenues generated through the CBAM will be directed to the budgets of the EU and the UK rather than to international climate finance or support for affected countries. This design flaw reinforces the perception that the CBAM is not a genuine effort to advance global climate goals but an instrument of trade protectionism. Many countries, particularly outside Europe, have voiced such concerns, viewing the mechanism as a unilateral trade measure cloaked in green rhetoric.

The geopolitical consequences could be dire. The CBAM has emerged at a time of fraying multilateralism and escalating trade tensions. Without broader participation and tangible support for affected exporters, it risks fueling economic fragmentation and undermining global trust – just when international climate cooperation is most critical and official development assistance is being slashed.

But the CBAM is not beyond repair. With thoughtful reforms, it can evolve from a rigid policy tool into a catalyst for an equitable climate transition. To achieve this, the EU and the UK should consider postponing the start of financial enforcement until at least 2028, thereby giving developing countries time to prepare and adapt.

This pause must be anchored in a strategic partnership framework that directs resources toward establishing emission-tracking systems, strengthening regulatory capacity, developing carbon-credit markets, and accelerating green industrial investment in climate-vulnerable economies.

Moreover, a portion of CBAM revenues should be allocated to international climate partnerships. This would make the mechanism more equitable, build trust with developing countries, and ensure that carbon pricing serves as an incentive rather than a penalty. Most importantly, the CBAM must not be framed as a final destination, but as a step toward a more coordinated and inclusive carbon-pricing framework. Mutual recognition of national systems, policy flexibility, and transitional thresholds could help prevent fragmentation and promote international alignment.

While the EU and the UK have both the capacity and the influence to help shape global standards, climate leadership demands more than bold policy ambitions; it requires solidarity, partnership, and the recognition of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Rather than simply decarbonizing imports through a transactional approach, policymakers must focus on facilitating low-carbon development.

That goal cannot be achieved through border measures alone. If rushed, the CBAM could become just another divisive international levy. But if recalibrated through a constructive and pragmatic process grounded in trust-building, it has the potential to serve as a unifying platform for international climate cooperation.

The fight against climate change will not be won through exclusion. A sustainable future depends on building systems that bring others along. A well-designed CBAM could play a vital role in that effort.

*Rola Dashti is Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Claver Gatete is Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Co-Chair of the Expert Group on Debt, is a former Minister of Investment of Egypt (2004-10), former Senior Vice President of the World Bank Group, and former Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.*

# OPINION

By Wavel Ramkalawan

## The Ocean Is Not Just a Carbon Sink

VICTORIA – Next week, governments and civil-society organizations from around the world will gather in Nice, France, for the United Nations Ocean Conference. The third such meeting since 2017, the UNOC comes at a time when countries are also finalizing their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (decarbonization plans) as required under the Paris climate agreement.

The timing is fitting, because changes in our oceans have become a familiar barometer for the severity of the climate crisis.

Vibrant, technicolor coral reefs, once bursting with life, are being bleached ghostly pale by warming, acidic waters. Island populations, such as the inhabitants of the largest of Panama's Carti Islands, are being forced to abandon their homes in the face of rising sea levels. And many coastal communities, often some of the poorest in the world, are being ravaged by increasingly severe cyclones.

As the ones on the front line, small island developing states are also leading sources of climate innovation. We have become test beds for solutions that can guide action globally. From our perspective, the ocean is not just a symptom of a changing climate, but also a major part of the solution.

The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (of which the Seychelles is a member) [estimates](#) that some 35% of the emissions reductions needed by 2050 could come from the ocean. Most of this potential lies in industrial sectors – from decarbonized shipping to marine-based renewable energy. But the protection and restoration of certain “blue carbon ecosystems” – mangroves, seagrasses, saltmarshes – can also measurably contribute to climate-change mitigation efforts.

In our own 2021 NDC, the Seychelles committed to mapping and subsequently protecting all seagrasses across our exclusive economic zone – an area totaling [1.3 million square kilometers](#) (503,000 square miles) – by 2030. Now, I am proud to say that we have already met that goal, protecting over 99% of our seagrass meadows five years ahead of schedule. In doing so, we have set a benchmark for ocean-climate leadership. Other countries across the Western Indian Ocean are now undertaking similar work and outlining their own ambitions for the 2025 NDC updates.

In addition to serving as a measurable source of carbon storage, these ecosystems are some of the most effective and cost-efficient forms of natural infrastructure available for stabilizing shorelines and buffering storms. They provide a vital first line of defense for islanders and coastal dwellers, absorbing wave energy, filtering water, and preventing erosion. And they also underpin the blue economy on which billions of livelihoods depend.

In fact, seagrasses alone “provide valuable habitat to over ['one-fifth of the worlds 25 largest fisheries](#),” including many species that are key to local food security and incomes. Healthy coastal ecosystems mean healthier economies, more resilient communities, and greater long-term stability. With healthy mangroves and seagrasses, frontline communities are far more resilient and better able to adapt to climate change.

Our experience offers important lessons. While the ocean has long been described as the planet's greatest “carbon sink,” that is a dated construct. The ocean has indeed absorbed most anthropogenic heat and carbon dioxide emissions since the start of industrialization. But its capacity to do so is not unlimited. There is no magic “plug hole” where heat and carbon simply disappear. Depicting the ocean this way risks obscuring the tangible, place-based role of marine ecosystems in supporting many communities' cultures, diets, identities, and survival. For Seychellois, seagrass meadows are far more important as a habitat for the rabbitfish that sustain artisanal fishers, or as a source of food and shelter for the turtles that attract so many tourists, than they are as carbon sinks.

Reducing the value of three-quarters of our planet to the singular role of carbon sink overlooks the ocean's vast contributions to food security, cultural identity, and economic resilience. This narrow framing reinforces the inequities baked into how we assess, govern, and invest in planetary systems.

Ultimately, industrial marine sectors and natural ecosystems are underused tools in addressing climate change and other development needs. As world leaders gather in Nice and prepare for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Belém (COP30), they can take inspiration from the Seychelles in championing ocean-based climate action.

We must not treat the ocean as an afterthought or a technical fix, but rather as a central pillar of the climate agenda. The ocean's role as a “carbon sink” has bought us precious time, but at a huge cost in terms of its vibrancy and abundance. For the long-term health of people and the planet, preserving ocean health is essential.

*Wavel Ramkalawan is President of the Republic of Seychelles.*





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

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

Phase II: Develop Transaction Documents

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

Phase III: Negotiation and Financial Closure

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

4. REQUIREMENTS

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

5. EOI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested Transaction Advisors should submit their EOIs, including:

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

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

EOIs will be evaluated based on:

- Relevant experience and expertise
- Understanding of the project and proposed approach
- Team composition and qualifications
- 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

[jblibo@investliberia.gov.lr](mailto:jblibo@investliberia.gov.lr)

8. NEXT STEPS

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

The General Auditing Commission

Old Executive Mansion Building  
Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia

Invitation for Bids for the  
Procurement of Laptop Computers  
IFB N0/GAC/NCB/008/2025

- The General Auditing Commission has received commitment in the Government of Liberia's Approved National Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (January-December) and intends to apply part of it towards the procurement of Laptop Computers.
- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of Laptop Computers.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) enshrined in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) as amended and restated in 2010.
- Schedule of Requirement:

No.	Description	Quantity
1.	Laptop Computers	10pcs

- Qualification requirements are:
  - Article of Incorporation
  - Valid Tax Clearance
  - Valid Business Registration Certificate
  - Past performance records- including the names, email addresses, and contact numbers of at least three clients.
  - PPCC vendors registration form.
- All interested, eligible bidders may obtain a copy of the Bidding Documents from the Procurement Unit at the address indicated below. A copy of the bidding document will be available from **June 9, 2025, to July 8, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** daily.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration** in the format indicated in this document.
- Sealed Bids must be delivered to the Procurement Unit not later than **10:00 a.m. on July 8, 2025**. Late bids will be rejected and returned to the Bidders unopened.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who choose to attend or their representatives on **July 8, 2025, @ 11:00 a.m.** in the 2nd-floor conference room of the GAC.

- The address referred to is: **The procurement Unit**

General Auditing Commission  
Old Executive Mansion,  
Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia  
Tel: 0886779413/0770979437

Prepared by:

Musa C. Kamara

Manager, Procurement Unit  
Secretary/Procurement Committee

Approved by:

Hon. Foday G. Niazolu, FCCA, CPA(LIB)

, Deputy Auditor General/Administration  
Chairman/Procurement Committee

## Bong County: EPA, UNDP wrap up environmental governance workshop

By Edwin N. Khakie County, brought together initiative is a cornerstone of Gbarnga, Bong members of the County the EPA's strategy to County – June 9, Environment Committees strengthen community-2025 – The from both Bong and level enforcement and Environmental Protection Gbarpolu Counties under promote grassroots Agency of Liberia (EPA), the theme: “Environment participation in with support from the Protection Management: environmental decision-United Nations Taking Environmental making. Development Programme Governance to the People.” The EPA's decentralization (UNDP) through its Energy Designed as part of the plan, launched in 2024 as and Environment Project, EPA's ongoing part of its 100-day has successfully concluded decentralization efforts, the deliverables, has already a two-day environmental workshop focused on seen the establishment of governance workshop equipping local regional EPA offices in aimed at building local stakeholders with the tools, Grand Cape Mount, capacity to address pressing knowledge, and strategies Gbarpolu, Montserrado, environmental challenges needed to respond to and Rivercess Counties. in Liberia. environmental threats such According to officials, new The workshop, held from as illegal mining, pollution, offices are expected to June 6–7 in Gbarnga, Bong and climate change. The

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF LIBERIA  
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECT  
THROUGH THE UNITED NATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
PRESENTS A TWO-DAY:

CAPACITY BUILDING  
TRAINING WORKSHOP

THEME:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT:  
TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE TO THE PEOPLE

6TH - 7TH  
JUNE 2025 | ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING,  
GBARNGA, BONG COUNTY



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# "Police had nothing on Me"

— Rep. Foko Says, Calls Koon's Arrest a Witch Hunt *By Kruah Thomson*

*"Police Had Nothing on Me" — Rep. Foko Calls Ex-Speaker Koffa's arrest a daylight witch hunt*

Monrovia, Liberia: 2024, fire that gutted parts of Montserrado County the Capitol Building. District #9 Rep. Foko, speaking to Representative, Frank Saah reporters shortly after his Foko, described the arrest of release on Friday, stated that the former Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Liberia National Police (LNP) Koffa and several of his was unable to provide any colleagues as daylight witch evidence linking him to the hunt, while declaring the that arson incident that heavily the police had nothing on him. damaged the Joint Chambers



He publicly declared himself a and sections of the House of free man following his release Representatives. from police questioning in "They had nothing on me," relation to the December 18, Rep. Foko asserted. "This was

my second invitation, and all the questions they asked me were the same from my first appearance. There is no proof that I was involved in anything, so they told me I could go home, and they would call me again if necessary." The lawmaker, who has come under public scrutiny since a video surfaced shortly after the fire showing him making what some interpreted as incriminating remarks, maintained his innocence and labeled the investigation as politically motivated. He went on to condemn the recent arrest and detention of former Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, describing it as "a broad daylight witch hunt" orchestrated by the ruling Unity Party led government against certain official of the CDC. "Former Speaker Koffa is a peaceful and respected national figure," Foko said. "To invite and detain him for something he knows nothing about is shameful. It shows how this government is targeting opposition figures especially

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

# Liberia: Police IG talks tough

*-As tension rises* *Police IG: "We Will Not Allow Fear or Threats to Reverse Our Gains"*

*By: Kruah Thompson*

MONROVIA, LIBERIA: Inspector General of Police, Gregory O. W. Coleman, has issued a stern warning to individuals circulating messages of unrest and inciting violence on social media, declaring that the Liberia National Police (LNP) will not tolerate actions aimed at destabilizing the nation. In an official statement posted on his Facebook page, IG Coleman emphasized that the police remain "vigilant, professional, and committed to protecting all citizens without bias or favor." His remarks come in the wake of mounting tensions following



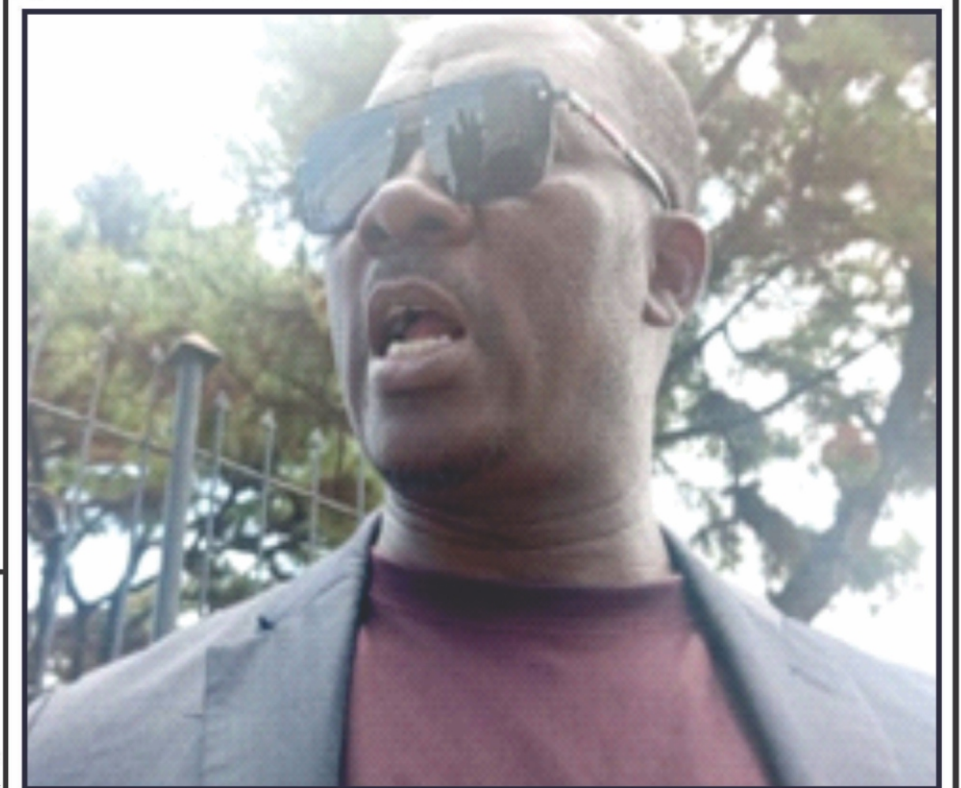
Building, an incident he described as having "deeply shaken our democratic institutions and threatened national stability." "On Friday, June 6, 2025, I addressed the nation with the findings of our investigation," the Inspector General stated. "These findings are not assumptions or opinions they are based on verified evidence and guided by the law." He disclosed that the probe revealed a coordinated plan "executed with intent to destroy a national symbol and undermine the peace we all strive to preserve." Coleman confirmed that those charged in connection with the attack include both private citizens and sitting lawmakers. "This is a difficult but necessary truth," he said. "Our duty is not to individuals or institutions, but to the law and the Liberian people." According to the IG, charges have been brought under the Revised Penal Code of Liberia, including arson, criminal conspiracy, and other related offenses, and the suspects will face legal proceedings in accordance with the country's judicial process. "Let me be clear: this is not a political battle. This is a matter

# Liberia Human Rights defenders urges restraint in Koffa Case

*A human rights defender has called on citizens to allow the law to take its course in the ongoing Capitol Building fire investigation involving former Speaker Koffa and others.*

*By: Kruah Thompson*

Monrovia, Liberia: The National Secretary General of the National Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia, Rights and Justice Campaigner, and Ambassador at the Human Rights Measurement Initiative Adama K. Dempster is calling on all Liberians to remain calm and allow the law to take its course in the case involving Speaker Fonati Koffa and several ongoing case involving Speaker Koffa. However, he called on the police to present clear evidence in court and not rely on public opinions or assumptions. "Assumptions are not facts. Only what can be proven in court matters," he explained. Accordingly, He asked the public to give the police time to do their job properly. "Let's wait and see what the investigation shows. If the police have real evidence, it should be



other lawmakers. taken to court and tested there," he Dempster made the call after former added. Speaker Koffa and five other Also, he reminded everyone that no lawmakers were taken in on Friday one is above the law, "not even June 6, 2025, by the Liberia National government officials. If the law Police for questioning about the requires them to answer questions, recent fire at the Capitol Building. they should," he said. Me. Dempster who came to witness Dempster ended by saying he trusts the process told reporters that being the police to handle the case properly called by the police for questioning but warned that any weak or false evidence will be challenged in court. every country where the law works, "I trust the police to handle this people can be called in to answer matter with credibility. Any questions. That doesn't mean they evidence that is not factual will be committed a crime," he said, further challenged in court, as it should be," cautioning all Liberians against he concluded. making premature judgments, Meanwhile, the case continues to stressing that such judgments should draw national attention, with many be based on police evidence and the waiting to see how the legal process court's decision, which can inform will unfold, as Koffa has been sent the public's opinion. behind bars at the Monrovia Central He added that it is too early to Prison. -Edited by Othello B. conclude who is at fault in the Garblah.

The New Dawn logo with the tagline "TRULY INDEPENDENT" and the website URL "https://thenewdawnliberia.com".

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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## Starts from page 6 "Police had nothing on Me"

CDC members.” Rep. Foko also expressed frustration with the manner in which the police are conducting their investigation, claiming a lack of transparency and fairness.

On June 7, 2025, Rep. Foko, along with five others including former Speaker Koffa, Dixon Siebo, Jacob Debe, Abu Kamara, and Priscilla Cooper were invited to appear before the LNP as part of the ongoing probe into the early morning fire that engulfed the Capitol Building six months earlier.

During his interaction with the press, Foko emphasized that while he respects the right of the police to summon individuals for questioning, he strongly believes the exercise has been hijacked for political gain.

“I won't kneel or bow to political pressure,” he stated firmly. “We were elected to represent the people, and I will continue to speak out for what is right.”

Foko also lashed out at the government, accusing it of corruption and bad governance.

He referenced the president's properties including a luxury vehicle and a duplex under construction in Lofa County, suggesting that attempts are being made to use his personal wealth to smear his character.

“I will never insult anyone, but I won't keep quiet when wrong is being done to the Liberian people,” he said. “I'm ready to stand up for what is right, even if it costs me my life.”

In a final remark, Rep. Foko sent a clear message to President Boakai and his administration saying that “We will not sleep on you. We will remain awake and vigilant, speaking against corruption, killings, and dictatorship.”

He concluded by assuring the Liberian people of his commitment to holding the current government accountable.

“This regime will be exposed. The abuses, the misconduct, and the human rights violations, they will all be brought to light,” Foko declared.

- Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

## Starts from page 6 Liberia: Police IG talks tough

of justice,” Coleman stressed. “The law does not see colors or party lines, it sees facts, and it demands accountability.” he wrote

However The police chief further warned individuals using social media to spread fear or incite violence to desist, reminding the public of Liberia's painful history and the sacrifices made to secure peace.

“Liberia has paid a heavy price for peace, and we will not allow fear, threats, or incitement to reverse our gains,” he said.

In closing, IG Coleman urged all Liberians, regardless of political affiliation, to remain calm and respect the judicial process.

“We are stronger when we resolve our differences through dialogue, not destruction,” he added. “Liberia will not fall. Liberia will rise stronger, united, and determined to defend democracy. May peace continue to reign in our country.”

## Starts from page 5 Bong County: EPA, UNDP wrap up

open in Grand Kru and River Gee Counties this year.

EPA Executive Director, Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo, addressed participants at the workshop's opening, calling on all Liberians to take an active role in environmental protection. “Solving Liberia's environmental challenges is not a one-man job. Environmental issues are the concern of every Liberian. We must all take ownership,” Dr. Yarkpawolo said.

He attributed many of the country's environmental problems to harmful human activities, particularly illegal mining, which he said has been polluting rivers and damaging ecosystems. “This is not just a national crisis—it is a global concern. What we are witnessing is climate change in real time,” he emphasized.

Dr. Yarkpawolo explained that the EPA's decentralization push aims to ensure rapid and localized responses to environmental emergencies. “When something happens in a community, people on the ground should be able to act quickly. That's why building local capacity is so important,” he added.

Bong County Superintendent Madam Hawa Loleyah Norris welcomed participants to the county and expressed her administration's full support for the EPA's efforts. “In Bong, we take environmental matters seriously. Our doors remain open to the EPA and all partners working to protect our environment,” she said.

Also in attendance was Gbarpolu County Senator Botoe Kanneh, who lauded the EPA and UNDP for prioritizing local engagement. She raised concerns about the severe environmental damage caused by illegal mining in her county. “Too many rivers in Gbarpolu are being destroyed. We need stronger action and more support,” she pleaded. She also assured the EPA of her caucus's commitment to collaborating on future environmental initiatives.

Representing the UNDP, Ms. Josephine Mongor, Finance and Administrative Associate, praised the EPA's leadership in expanding environmental governance across Liberia. “This is not just a reform—it is a bold commitment to inclusive environmental management,” Mongor said.

She applauded the involvement of women, youth, traditional leaders, and local authorities in the workshop, noting that such inclusivity is essential for lasting progress. “Environmental challenges affect all of us. The best solutions come from working together as communities, institutions, and partners,” she added.

Mongor reaffirmed UNDP's continued support for the EPA's decentralization program and the broader mission of sustainable development in Liberia.

As the workshop concluded, participants expressed confidence in their ability to return to their respective counties better equipped to address environmental issues. The EPA emphasized that the establishment and training of County Environment Committees are critical steps toward enforcing environmental laws and raising public awareness at the local level.

The agency reiterated its commitment to ensuring that all 15 counties in Liberia are empowered to manage natural resources responsibly and respond proactively to environmental challenges. “We are committed to building a cleaner, safer, and more resilient Liberia for future generations,” said Dr. Yarkpawolo.

The conclusion of the workshop marks another milestone in Liberia's environmental journey—one that increasingly puts power and responsibility into the hands of local communities.

## Former CDC-USA Youth Chairman condemns arrests of Kofa others

-Calls for democratic accountability.

By Edwin N. Khakie

Monrovia, Liberia – June 9, 2025--The former Youth Chairman of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) USA

chapter comprised of Virginia, Washington, and Maryland, Royal

Prince Jlakon, has condemned what he describes as arbitrary and unjustified arrests of former Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa and three other lawmakers currently held at Monrovia Central Prison.

In a public statement, Jlakon criticized the government's handling of political opposition, labeling the actions as disturbing and undemocratic, and warned that they pose a serious threat to Liberia's

He revealed that allegations against public officials must be addressed through a transparent and impartial judicial process, untainted by political interference or coercion.

"The peace and stability of our country are paramount," he noted.

Jlakon also issued a direct appeal to the CDC, the party he once served, and other political actors to acknowledge the gravity of the situation and take meaningful steps to defend democratic norms and safeguard civil liberties.

He urged the CDC and all other political parties in Liberia to recognize the current realities and take decisive measures to safeguard the nation and its democratic institutions, adding that "failure to



democratic institutions. According to Jlakon, civil society groups, international observers, and local communities are concerned about the escalating wave of arrests and legal actions targeting opposition members,

Many believe that these developments are part of a wider strategy to stifle criticism and dismantle alternative political options.

"The ongoing practice of accusing political opponents appears to be a deliberate strategy to prolong their detention," Jlakon stated. "This behavior erodes public confidence in our legal and governance institutions."

He expressed concern that these tactics could undermine democratic progress and violate the constitutional rights of Liberian citizens.

Jlakon emphasized that any allegations against public officials, regardless of political affiliation, must be investigated and adjudicated through transparent, impartial, and politically independent judicial processes.

act will allow the government to continue its current practices."

Jlakon reiterated his commitment to peaceful democratic engagement and urged restraint from all political actors in the Country.

He warned that the loss of democratic principles could jeopardize national stability and revert the progress made since the end of Liberia's civil conflict.

"To preserve our nation's democratic gains, we must exercise restraint, adhere to lawful conduct, and remain committed to upholding justice," he stressed.

International human rights organizations and watchdog groups have begun to take notice, calling for greater transparency and accountability in Liberia's political and judiciary systems.

As the country faces a tense and evolving political landscape, voices such as Jlakon's point out the urgent need for inclusive governance, respect for civil liberties, and recommitment to the democratic ideals enshrined in Liberia's Constitution.



# Français

## Le Liberia échappe à la restriction de voyage américaine – mais pour combien de temps ?

Le président des États-Unis, Donald Trump, a signé une proclamation interdisant l'entrée sur le territoire américain aux ressortissants de 12 pays, invoquant des préoccupations liées à la sécurité nationale, a annoncé la Maison Blanche. Le Liberia, initialement

nations visées par cette nouvelle interdiction de voyage. Toutefois, au vu du nombre croissant de refus de visas essuyés par les Libériens ces dernières années, certains observateurs s'interrogent sur la durée pendant laquelle le pays pourra encore éviter une inclusion officielle sur la liste noire.

les médias locaux et internationaux. Ce document classait les pays concernés en trois catégories selon leur niveau de risque sécuritaire et l'efficacité de leurs gouvernements respectifs. Selon cette classification :

- 11 pays figuraient dans la catégorie « rouge », synonyme d'interdiction totale d'entrée sur le territoire américain ;
- 10 autres étaient classés « orange », ce qui impliquait des restrictions partielles ;
- 22 pays, dont le Liberia, étaient listés dans la catégorie « jaune », avec un délai de 60 jours pour corriger les déficiences identifiées sous peine d'interdiction de voyage. Bien que l'authenticité de cette liste ait été contestée, les autorités libériennes avaient déclaré prendre l'affaire très au sérieux.

Mercredi dernier, l'administration Trump a officiellement interdit l'entrée aux ressortissants de 12 pays, dont 7 africains : l'Afghanistan, la Birmanie, le Tchad, le Congo-Brazzaville

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mentionné dans une liste provisoire de 22 pays classés dans la catégorie « jaune » en raison de déficiences en matière de sécurité, ne figure finalement pas parmi les

En mars dernier, une liste confidentielle, supposément élaborée par des diplomates et agents de sécurité américains pour restreindre l'accès aux citoyens de 43 pays, dont le Liberia, a fuité dans

## ArcelorMittal inaugure un concentrateur de minerai de fer de classe mondiale au Liberia

La société ArcelorMittal Liberia a inauguré le tout premier concentrateur de minerai de fer de classe mondiale du pays, marquant une étape décisive dans la mise en œuvre de la Phase II de son plan d'expansion. Cet investissement représente un tournant stratégique pour l'industrie minière libérienne. La cérémonie s'est tenue le jeudi 5 juin 2025 à Tokadeh, dans le comté de Nimba, en présence du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Ce dernier a invité l'ensemble des Libériens, notamment ceux vivant dans les zones de concession, à accueillir favorablement cet investissement porteur d'espoir pour l'avenir du pays. « C'est un moment de fierté nationale. Il témoigne de la confiance placée dans le potentiel et l'avenir du Liberia », a déclaré le président Boakai, remerciant ArcelorMittal ainsi que les communautés locales pour leur soutien constant.

Après une coupe de ruban symbolique, le président a assisté à une démonstration technique du nouveau concentrateur. L'événement a rassemblé plusieurs personnalités, dont des

représentants du gouvernement, des membres du corps diplomatique, des autorités locales et des employés d'ArcelorMittal. Le président exécutif du groupe ArcelorMittal, Lakshmi Mittal, a présenté les progrès réalisés par l'entreprise et son plan d'affaires. Il a souligné que l'investissement total au Liberia dépasse désormais 3 milliards de dollars, saluant la coopération étroite avec le gouvernement libérien. « Aucun autre investisseur n'a démontré un engagement aussi fort que celui d'ArcelorMittal », a affirmé Mittal, exprimant sa confiance dans le leadership du président Boakai et dans l'avenir économique du pays. La mise en service de cette installation industrielle marque une

première : la production locale de concentré de minerai de fer à haute teneur. Ce développement place le Liberia dans une position plus compétitive sur le marché mondial.

Dans le cadre de la Phase II de l'expansion, d'un montant de 3 milliards de dollars, ArcelorMittal prévoit de quadrupler sa production annuelle, passant de 5 millions à 20 millions de tonnes. Cette phase créera plus de 5 000 emplois dans le secteur de la construction et 1 200 postes permanents, un apport considérable dans un pays où le chômage reste élevé.

Les recettes publiques devraient égaler

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## Éditorial

### La doctrine Trump

NEW YORK – En à peine quatre mois de deuxième administration du président américain Donald Trump, les premiers signes d'une doctrine en matière de politique étrangère apparaissent d'ores et déjà. Comme bien d'autres aspects de la présidence Trump 2.0, cette doctrine marque une rupture majeure par rapport au passé.

Les doctrines jouent un rôle de premier plan dans la politique étrangère américaine. À travers la doctrine Monroe formulée en 1823, les États-Unis ont affirmé qu'ils s'imposeraient comme la puissance prééminente sur le continent américain, et qu'ils empêcheraient tout autre pays d'établir des positions stratégiques concurrentes dans la région. De même, au début de la guerre froide, la doctrine Truman a promis un soutien des États-Unis à tous les pays qui lutteraient contre le communisme et la stratégie de subversion soviétique. Plus récemment, la doctrine Carter a énoncé que les États-Unis ne resteraient pas spectateurs si une force extérieure cherchait à prendre le contrôle de la région du golfe Persique, riche en pétrole. La doctrine Reagan a promis assistance aux mouvements et pays opposés au communisme. Celle de George W. Bush, axée sur la liberté, a notamment adressé le message selon lequel ni les terroristes, ni ceux qui les protégeraient ne seraient à l'abri d'une intervention armée.

Point comme entre ces doctrines, elles font toutes savoir à différents destinataires quels sont les intérêts fondamentaux des États-Unis, et ce que le pays est prêt à faire pour les promouvoir. Les doctrines visent à rassurer amis et alliés, à dissuader ennemis réels ou potentiels, à galvaniser les agences en charge des questions de sécurité nationale, ainsi qu'à informer les citoyens.

Non formulée explicitement par Trump, une nouvelle doctrine américaine émerge pourtant actuellement, que l'on pourrait qualifier de doctrine des « yeux fermés », du « rien vu, rien entendu », ou du « cela ne nous regarde pas ». Quelle qu'en soit l'appellation, cette doctrine semble énoncer que les États-Unis ne chercheront plus à influencer ni à réagir à la manière dont les autres pays se comporteront à l'intérieur de leurs propres frontières. C'est ainsi que l'administration américaine s'est abstenue de condamner l'arrestation arbitraire d'un opposant politique de premier plan par le président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les manœuvres répétées du Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu pour affaiblir le pouvoir judiciaire dans son pays, ou encore la manière dont le Premier ministre hongrois de longue date, Viktor Orbán, ne cesse de malmenier les institutions démocratiques en Hongrie. De même, Trump dénonce certes la politique étrangère du président russe Vladimir Poutine, ainsi que la politique économique du dirigeant chinois Xi Jinping, mais ne s'indigne en aucun cas de la répression que mènent l'un et l'autre contre leur propre population. L'administration Trump a par ailleurs décidé d'affaiblir voire de démanteler bon nombre des instruments – Voice of America, Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international, ou encore Dotation nationale pour la démocratie – employés depuis longtemps pour promouvoir la société civile et les mouvements démocratiques à travers le monde.

Ce qui se rapproche le plus d'une [formulation](#) publique de cette nouvelle doctrine a eu lieu en Arabie saoudite, le 13 mai dernier. Trump a en effet exprimé son admiration pour ce qu'il décrit comme une formidable transformation du Royaume, ajoutant que cette évolution n'était pas le fruit des efforts « d'interventionnistes occidentaux [...] qui vous donnent des leçons sur la manière de vivre et de gouverner vos propres affaires [...] Ces dernières années, trop de présidents américains ont considéré à tort qu'il était de notre devoir de sonder les âmes des dirigeants étrangers, et d'user de la politique américaine pour absoudre ou non leurs péchés ».

Les agissements de Trump, notamment sa recherche d'accords commerciaux avec plusieurs gouvernements autoritaires du Golfe et d'ailleurs, soulignent le poids de cette déclaration. À la différence de Reagan, de Carter, de Bush, de Barack Obama et de [Joe Biden](#), Trump adresse ici clairement le message selon lequel les États-Unis n'ont plus l'intention de défendre les droits de l'homme et la démocratie, de condamner les méfaits de dirigeants étrangers autoritaires, ni de faire pression pour la libération d'opposants politiques.

Cette doctrine du « rien vu, rien entendu » évite certes aux États-Unis une dérive caractéristique de la présidence Bush, durant laquelle le zèle dans la propagation de la démocratie avait conduit à une invasion irréfléchie et coûteuse de l'Irak. Elle facilite par ailleurs pour les États-Unis un travail constructif auprès de gouvernements appliquant chez eux des politiques qui, en temps normal, constitueraient un obstacle aux relations commerciales ou à la coopération sur des questions bilatérales, régionales ou mondiales essentielles.

Ce sont néanmoins les retombées négatives de cette approche qui l'emportent. La doctrine Trump accroît la probabilité que les gouvernements engagés sur cette voie redoublent d'efforts de répression intérieure et de subversion de la démocratie – régime politique caractérisé par davantage de liberté pour les individus, mais également par des marchés libres, soutenus par l'État de droit, et par une politique étrangère généralement moins agressive. La promotion de la démocratie est par conséquent bénéfique pour les investisseurs américains, et limite le risque que l'Amérique s'enlise à l'étranger dans des conflits coûteux ou prolongés.

*Richard Haass, président émérite du Conseil des relations étrangères, conseiller principal chez Centerview Partners, et chercheur universitaire émérite à l'Université de New York, est l'auteur de la newsletter hebdomadaire Substack [Home & Away](#).*



# Français

## Starts from page 8 ArcelorMittal inaugure un concentrateur de

bénéficier de cette croissance. Les paiements annuels versés par l'entreprise au gouvernement passeront de 35 millions à 125 millions de dollars, renforçant la capacité de l'État à financer son développement.

En parallèle, des travaux de modernisation de 800 millions de dollars sont en cours sur la ligne ferroviaire lourde de 243 kilomètres reliant Yekepa au port de Buchanan. Cette ligne, rénovée selon les standards américains, permettra d'augmenter le volume de transport de minerai, tout en améliorant la connectivité et les échanges commerciaux dans la région.

Par ailleurs, ArcelorMittal investit dans la formation et le développement du capital humain. L'entreprise a réhabilité plusieurs écoles, soutenu des initiatives éducatives, et propose une formation accréditée gratuite via son programme des jeunes professionnels.

Dernièrement, 236 jeunes Libériens ont été recrutés pour travailler au concentrateur, dont 108

en tant qu'opérateurs stagiaires et 128 diplômés de l'Académie de formation ArcelorMittal Liberia – une preuve de l'engagement de l'entreprise en faveur du développement local.

Depuis le début de ses opérations en 2005, ArcelorMittal est devenu le principal investisseur étranger et employeur privé du Liberia. Grâce à ses contributions fiscales constantes, ses projets d'infrastructure et ses partenariats communautaires, la société joue un rôle clé dans la reconstruction et la croissance du pays.

L'inauguration du concentrateur symbolise bien plus qu'une avancée technologique. Elle raconte une histoire de résilience nationale, de coopération public-privé, et de vision partagée. Elle incarne ce qu'il est possible d'accomplir lorsque l'ambition rencontre les opportunités.

Le 5 juin, à l'aube sur Yekepa, c'est bien plus qu'un équipement industriel qui s'est illuminé : c'est l'espoir d'un peuple et l'élan d'un pays prêt à écrire une nouvelle page de son histoire.

## Starts from page 8 Le Liberia échappe à la restriction de voyage

e, la Guinée équatoriale, l'Érythrée, Haïti, l'Iran, la Libye, la Somalie, le Soudan et le Yémen.

Des restrictions partielles ont également été imposées à la Sierra Leone, au Togo et au Burundi, cités comme représentant un risque sécuritaire pour les États-Unis.

La proclamation entrera en vigueur le lundi 9 juin, selon la Maison Blanche.

Dans un communiqué publié à la suite de cette décision, la Commission de l'Union africaine (UA) a exprimé ses vives préoccupations. Si elle reconnaît le droit souverain de chaque pays à

protéger ses frontières, elle appelle les États-Unis à appliquer ces mesures de manière équilibrée, fondée sur des preuves tangibles et respectueuse du partenariat de longue date entre l'Afrique et les États-Unis.

« La Commission reste préoccupée par les répercussions potentielles de ces mesures sur les échanges humains, la coopération universitaire, les relations commerciales et les liens diplomatiques qui se sont construits patiemment au fil des décennies », indique le communiqué.

## Des autorités locales formées au partage des recettes publiques à Bong

Dans le cadre de l'engagement du Liberia en faveur de la décentralisation fiscale, des autorités locales et parties prenantes ont participé à un atelier de deux jours à Gbarnga sur la mise en œuvre de la *Loi sur le Partage des Recettes Publiques*.

L'atelier, organisé par le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement (MFPD), la Commission de Gouvernance (GC), et l'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA), avec l'appui du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), a réuni des représentants des comtés de Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Lofa et River Cess, sous le thème « Renforcer la participation citoyenne à la décentralisation fiscale ».

Prenant la parole à l'ouverture, le Commissaire de la Commission de Gouvernance, Maître Stanley S. Kparkillen, a souligné l'importance de cet échange dans la mise en œuvre des objectifs fixés par la Loi sur la gouvernance locale de 2018.

« Alors que le ministère des Affaires intérieures évolue vers un ministère de la Gouvernance locale, il est impératif de mettre en place un cadre structurel solide. Un mécanisme de partage des recettes fonctionnel

en constitue un pilier fondamental », a-t-il déclaré. Il a salué la collaboration entre les institutions nationales et le soutien du PNUD, exprimant son espoir de voir émerger de cet atelier des solutions concrètes, clarifiant les rôles des administrations locales, des conseils de comté et de l'Autorité fiscale dans la gestion des ressources publiques.

Les discussions se sont notamment penchées sur les exigences techniques, les besoins en personnel et les standards de fonctionnement des trésoreries de comté à créer, qui formeront la colonne vertébrale du nouveau système de partage des revenus.

Sam K. Flomo, chargé de la gestion financière au MFPD, a rappelé que l'objectif principal de

l'initiative est de renforcer les capacités des dirigeants locaux en matière de gestion transparente, légale et efficace des ressources des comtés.

« Ce processus marque le début d'un transfert progressif du pouvoir fiscal du gouvernement central vers les comtés, donnant aux autorités locales les moyens de collecter et gérer leurs revenus », a-t-il affirmé.

James A. Jaber, Commissaire adjoint chargé de la division des taxes foncières à la LRA, a abondé dans le même sens en soulignant que le partage des recettes est un élément central de la décentralisation budgétaire. œuvre du mécanisme de partage des recettes à travers les comtés du pays, marquant une avancée notable dans le processus de décentralisation du Liberia.



## L'Association du Barreau plaide pour la relance du programme d'échange international à l'Université du Libéria

L'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria (LNBA) a appelé à la relance du programme d'échange international à l'Université du Libéria (UL), notamment à travers la réactivation de partenariats comme celui qui existait auparavant avec la faculté de droit de l'Université de l'Indiana. Cette collaboration avait permis la formation de plusieurs avocats libériens, revenus au pays pour contribuer de manière significative à l'enseignement juridique et au développement national.

La LNBA a également insisté sur la nécessité de préserver et de renforcer l'autonomie partielle de la faculté de droit, en lui permettant



notamment de rechercher de manière indépendante des financements et de gérer ses ressources, tout en restant soumise à une supervision administrative de l'université.

Cette position a été exprimée lors d'une visite de courtoisie effectuée récemment par la direction de la LNBA, conduite par son président national, Maître Bomor M. Varmah, auprès de la nouvelle présidente de l'Université du Libéria, Dr Layli Maparyan, récemment nommée par le Président de la République, Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

Dans un communiqué publié le mercredi 4 juin 2025, la LNBA a félicité la Dr Maparyan pour sa nomination et lui a adressé ses vœux de réussite dans l'accomplissement de son mandat à la tête de la principale institution d'enseignement supérieur du pays, à un moment jugé critique de son histoire.

L'Association a réaffirmé son soutien indéfectible à la nouvelle présidence de l'UL et a salué l'engagement de la Dr Maparyan à transformer l'université en un centre d'excellence et d'innovation.

La LNBA a également félicité l'administration universitaire pour les mesures disciplinaires prises récemment à l'encontre des pratiques académiques frauduleuses, notamment la suspension et le renvoi d'étudiants et de membres du personnel impliqués dans des comportements contraires à l'éthique. Elle a qualifié ces actions de pas courageux vers la restauration de l'intégrité académique.

Par ailleurs, la LNBA s'est réjouie de l'invitation de l'université à participer au comité de sélection du futur doyen de la faculté de droit, qualifiant cette sollicitation d'honneur. L'Association s'est engagée à désigner ses représentants au sein du comité dans les prochains jours.

En réponse, la Présidente de l'UL a exprimé sa gratitude à l'endroit de la LNBA pour sa visite et son appui, réaffirmant sa volonté de repositionner l'université afin de répondre aux standards internationaux.

Elle a reconnu l'ampleur des défis à relever et a exprimé sa détermination à les affronter avec célérité et rigueur. « Elle a mis en lumière les efforts en cours pour résoudre les problèmes chroniques tels que l'accès fiable à l'eau et à l'électricité, la réhabilitation des bâtiments existants et la construction de nouvelles infrastructures pour accueillir une population étudiante en constante croissance », peut-on lire dans le communiqué.

La présidente a également salué l'offre de collaboration de la LNBA, notamment en ce qui concerne la faculté de droit, et a indiqué qu'elle continuerait à solliciter l'expertise technique et les conseils de l'Association lorsque nécessaire.

La LNBA, pour sa part, dit aspirer à un partenariat solide et productif avec la direction de l'Université du Libéria, dans le but de promouvoir une éducation de qualité, de préserver les standards académiques et de favoriser l'excellence juridique dans le pays.



# FEATURE ARTICLE

## The Power of Career Orientation for Liberia's Young People: A Path Towards Social and Economic Emancipation: Emancipate the Young People's Minds from Noisemaking to Critical Sensemaking Thinking:

*BY: Austin S Fallah-  
A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:*

In a nation like Liberia, where the scars of civil upheavals still loom over the collective consciousness, the potential of its young people holds the key to unlocking a future rife with possibility and progress. Career orientation is pivotal in shaping this potential, steering young individuals away from idleness and unruly behaviors and toward meaningful contributions to society. The wisdom of King Solomon resonates profoundly with Liberia's reality when he notes in Proverbs 16:27-29, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." Today, far too many of Liberia's young people find themselves in idleness, entangled in a web of distractions and noise that renders them susceptible to manipulation, chaos, and hooliganism. Liberians must channel their energy towards career-oriented initiatives to foster their development into positive contributors to the nation's social and economic dynamics. To understand the urgency of this issue, the nation must confront the stark reality that disengaged young individuals are fertile ground for chaos, noisemaking, and hooliganism. Throughout Liberia's recent history, it has become painfully evident how young people's idleness facilitated the encroachment of warmongers and other malicious influences. These actors preyed upon the vulnerable, exploiting their ignorance and leading them into complex cycles of violence and disillusionment. As a direct outcome, many of the nation's young people are today stigmatized as "Zogos," a term often used derogatorily to describe those caught in despair and delinquency, reflecting a larger societal refusal to engage positively. To foster a new narrative, Liberians must actively engage young people in career-oriented programs that teach skills and impart the importance of personal agency and responsibility. While establishing universities in every county is good, the government must not negate the fact that career counselling centers in districts and towns around the nation can also serve as a vital resource for informed, educated, and contributing young people for a better Liberia. Such initiatives could guide multiple sectors, including technology, agriculture, and the arts. By familiarizing young people with diverse career opportunities, Liberia can ignite their passions and inspire their ambition. Moreover, technology presents a particularly promising avenue for career orientation. In a global economy that has become increasingly digital, Liberia cannot afford to ignore the tech sector's potential. Young people, who are often more adept at navigating digital tools and platforms, should be encouraged to pursue technology-related careers. This can lead to their own social and economic empowerment and significantly benefit the nation as it strives to reintegrate into a globalized economy

after years of upheavals. Consider the success stories of individuals who have risen out of adversity to become leaders in tech innovation, such as the late Stev Jobs, who was of Iranian heritage, and the world's richest airbreathing living human being, Elon Musk, who is of African heredity. With the right mentorship and resources, young people in Liberia can follow suit, developing solutions that address local challenges while contributing to the global digital landscape. For instance, coding, app development, and digital marketing training programs can empower young individuals to create tech startups or join existing enterprises, fostering a sense of purpose and direction. However, these career-oriented initiatives require more than just the establishment of programs; they necessitate a cultural shift. Liberian society must begin to value career aspirations and technical skills as legitimate and honorable pursuits. Unfortunately, certain attitudes may stigmatize individuals seeking non-traditional paths or practical skills, making them feel that only formal education or high-ranking positions are worthy of pursuit. This stigma can be a deterrent, causing many to drift aimlessly rather than actively engage in personal development. Government officials-legislators-executives-judges, county, district, town, village leaders, educators, and families must work together to instil a value system supporting and uplifting career-oriented aspirations to overcome this cultural challenge. Sensemaking-national-patriotic leaders, not noisemakers-unschooled-being to school but learned nothing, can be role models, showcasing how varying career paths contribute meaningfully to society. Schools should incorporate career development into their curriculums, emphasizing vocational training alongside academic education to help young people recognize the available avenues, as was done (hopefully is) at William V.S. Tubman High School in Sinkor, Monrovia, Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI) in Kakata, Margibi County, Liberia, etc. When young individuals see their nation celebrate diverse career choices, they will feel emboldened to pursue their interests without fear of judgment. In parallel, the role of government and organizations cannot be underestimated. Governmental bodies can demonstrate their commitment to young people's professional development by investing in career orientation programs and providing frameworks for internships and apprenticeships. Collaborations with local businesses can provide hands-on training opportunities that bridge the gap between education and employment. The public and private sectors must rally behind this cause, recognizing that a skilled workforce is essential for national recovery and growth. Engaging young people in decision-making processes around national issues can further enhance

their connections to their careers, communities, and the nation. By involving them in discussions about economic respect for the rule of law, respect for parents and the elderly, and social policies, young people can learn essential skills in leadership, negotiation, and civic responsibility. This level of engagement can help them see the direct impact of their professional development on the health and well-being of their nation. Furthermore, Liberians must provide safe spaces for dialogue where young people can share their experiences and ideas. Through workshops, forums, and mentorship programs, the nation can cultivate an atmosphere of innovation, encouraging grassroots solutions to the problems that plague our society. Fostering a culture of collaboration can inspire young people to seek jobs and create jobs, reinventing the narrative around employment in Liberia. Moreover, the importance of mental health must be a part of this discussion. Many young people in Liberia struggle with the psychological repercussions of living in a post-conflict environment. Addressing emotional well-being is paramount for anyone aiming to pursue a career, as unresolved trauma can cloud judgment and stifle ambition. Seeking to incorporate mental health support within career orientation initiatives could ensure that young individuals are equipped with practical skills and the resilience to pursue their goals. Career orientation illuminates the path toward social and economic emancipation for Liberia's young people. When the nation peels back the layers of frustration, idleness, and disillusionment, it can reveal individuals bursting with potential, waiting to be nurtured and guided. By actively engaging them in career-oriented initiatives, Liberia can free its citizens from the distractions of chaos and redirect their energies into constructive outlets that uplift themselves and their various communities and the nation in general. Each young person in Liberia represents the seeds of hope and renewal. Their transformation into career-oriented individuals capable of thoughtful contributions could lead to a chain reaction of social progress, economic growth, and transformative change. Liberians must rise to the challenge. The time has come for Liberians to foster an environment that champions career aspirations, challenges stifling norms, and provides all the necessary tools for our young people to thrive. Through this commitment, Liberians can ensure a vibrant future for Liberia, where every young person is not just a bystander to change but a pivotal architect. The task is daunting, yet the rewards are exceedingly high; the question is no longer whether the nation can equip young people with career orientation but how soon they can set this transformative process into motion.



# Koffa, others indictment imminent

## Boakai, Mittal inaugurates \$1.8bn investment

**-As tension rises**

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

**Former House Speaker Fonati Koffa along with four others face imminent indictment here as suspects of the Capitol Building arson after spending a night at the Monrovia central prison. They are expected to appear in court today, after being officially charged by the government.**

Monrovia, Liberia June 8, 2025 – Authorities at the Liberia National Police (LNP) have revealed a list of suspects and their corresponding charges bringing the long running investigation into the Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder (Chapter 10, Section 10.1). Others are Criminal Facilitation (Chapter 10, Section 10.2), Criminal Solicitation (Chapter 10, Section 10.3), Criminal Conspiracy (Chapter 10, Section 10.4).



December 2024 arson attack on the Capitol Building to a close. The list includes former Speaker Koffa and four others but excludes Unity Party backed lawmaker Priscilla Cooper of District #5, Montserrado County. Her notable absent from the list, has sparked public concern and accusations of selectivity in the report. Of the seven lawmakers invited for interrogation, including Rep. Cooper, only Rep. Frank Saah Foko and Rep. Marvin Cole, were released of any wrongdoing. However, in a press statement by Police Inspector General Gregory O. W. Coleman, over the weekend, the findings were described as “evidence-based and guided by law,” exposing what the LNP believes was a coordinated and politically sensitive attack on one of the country's most important democratic institutions. Key Suspects and Charges Thomas Isaac Etheridge (alias Tom), Chief of Maintenance, Office of Rep. J. Fonati Koffa, allegedly damaged the chambers on November 10, 2024, and helped set the fire on December 18, 2024. His charges include Arson (Chapter 15, Section 15.1), Criminal Mischief (Chapter 15, Section 15.5), Recklessly Endangering Another Person (Chapter 14, Section 14.23),

Section 10.4), and Release of Destructive Forces (Chapter 15, Section 15.4). Eric Susay, participated in the December 17 riot and December 18 fire; allegedly stole a police firearm and assaulted an officer. Charges include all charges listed for Etheridge, plus: Rioting/Failure to Disperse (Chapter 17, Section 17.1), Theft of Property (Chapter 15, Section 15.51), and Aggravated Assault (Chapter 14, Section 14.20). Steven Broh, Maintenance staff at the Capitol, allegedly participated directly in the December 18 attack. Charges are the same charges as Etheridge, excluding “Release of Destructive Forces” Jerry Pokah (alias Tyrese), residence of New Kru Town, was allegedly involved in planning and executing the December 18 arson. Charges are the same as Etheridge High-Level Accusations and Political Implications The investigation also links several lawmakers to the orchestration and financing of the attack, including Rep. J. Fonati Koffa, Rep. Dixon Seboe, and Rep. Jacob C. Debee. Former Speaker Koffa, is allegedly linked to sabotage efforts dating back to November 2024. Charged with Criminal Conspiracy (Chapter

Mischief (Chapter 15, Section 15.5), as well as Recklessly Endangering Another Person (Chapter 14, Section 14.23). The charged lawmakers have been barred from leaving the country, pending their trial. Their Charges also include Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder (Chapter 10, Section 10.1), Criminal Facilitation (Chapter 10, Section 10.2), Criminal Solicitation (Chapter 10, Section 10.3), and Criminal Conspiracy (Chapter 10, Section 10.4). The LNP noted that the deliberate destruction of the Capitol Building's Joint Chambers was not merely an act of vandalism but a direct attack on the core of Liberia's democratic governance. All suspects named in the report are currently being held at Monrovia Central Prison, awaiting trial. Authorities have emphasized that legal proceedings will be conducted in full respect of constitutional rights and due process. Inspector General Coleman called on the public to remain calm and allow justice to take its course. "Let this serve as a clear message: the LNP will not tolerate any act that threatens public safety or the integrity of our national institutions," the statement concluded. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Head of the formal guarantees the long-term future of commissioning of a new 20 million tonne capacity concentrator, the President Joseph Boakai, and ArcelorMittal Executive Chairman, Mr. Lakshmi Mittal, Thursday attended an inauguration event held at the site of the concentrator in Tokadeh, Nimba County. Coming soon after ArcelorMittal celebrated 20 years of mining in Liberia, the new state-of-the-art concentrator is one of the largest iron ore beneficiation plants in Africa. It is the central component of ArcelorMittal's US\$1.8 billion expansion project in Liberia - bringing ArcelorMittal's total investment in Liberia to date to approximately \$3 billion - which will see production increase from current levels of 5 million tonnes of iron ore a year, to 20 million tonnes, alongside a significant improvement in product quality to higher-grade, higher-value iron ore. The expansion project also involved investment in accompanying infrastructure assets. The railway from Tokadeh to Buchanan is being upgraded, while a new pier has been added at the port of Buchanan, along with associated material handling infrastructure. 5,000 contractors have been brought in to support the project, in addition to the 2,000 people permanently employed by ArcelorMittal in Liberia. Speaking at the inauguration, His Excellency President Joseph Boakai said: “This level of expansion of investment is a testament to the increasing confidence in the security and well-being of the state, as well as the current state and future direction of this country's investment climate. This brings great relief to our economy noting that it is impacting the area of job creation. We are informed that this has already created over 5,000 on site construction jobs and is expected to generate 1,000 permanent job roles upon its completion. “No doubt, such a huge expansion augurs well for the enriching of the corporate social responsibility envelope, thereby positively impacting areas of health, education, commerce, and employment. We commend ArcelorMittal Liberia for this bold and courageous step and further urge to press forward with its other investment pursuits like the Railway Expansion, Port Enhancement, and Power Plant Installations.” Mr. Lakshmi Mittal, Executive Chairman of ArcelorMittal said: “It is wonderful to be here again in Liberia to celebrate this very important milestone in the history of mining in the country. We have been working towards this moment for many years and to have President Boakai here makes it especially memorable. I must thank him for taking the time to travel to Nimba. “This state-of-the-art concentrator





***- Reflects on Nancy Doe legacy***

President Boakai accompanied by senior officials from the Executive Mansion, was received by members of the Doe family at

The late Madam Doe served as Liberia's First Lady from 1980 to 1990, during the presidency of her husband, Samuel K. Doe, who rose to power through a military coup. During her tenure, she was known for her charitable initiatives and advocacy for rights and welfare of women and children.

