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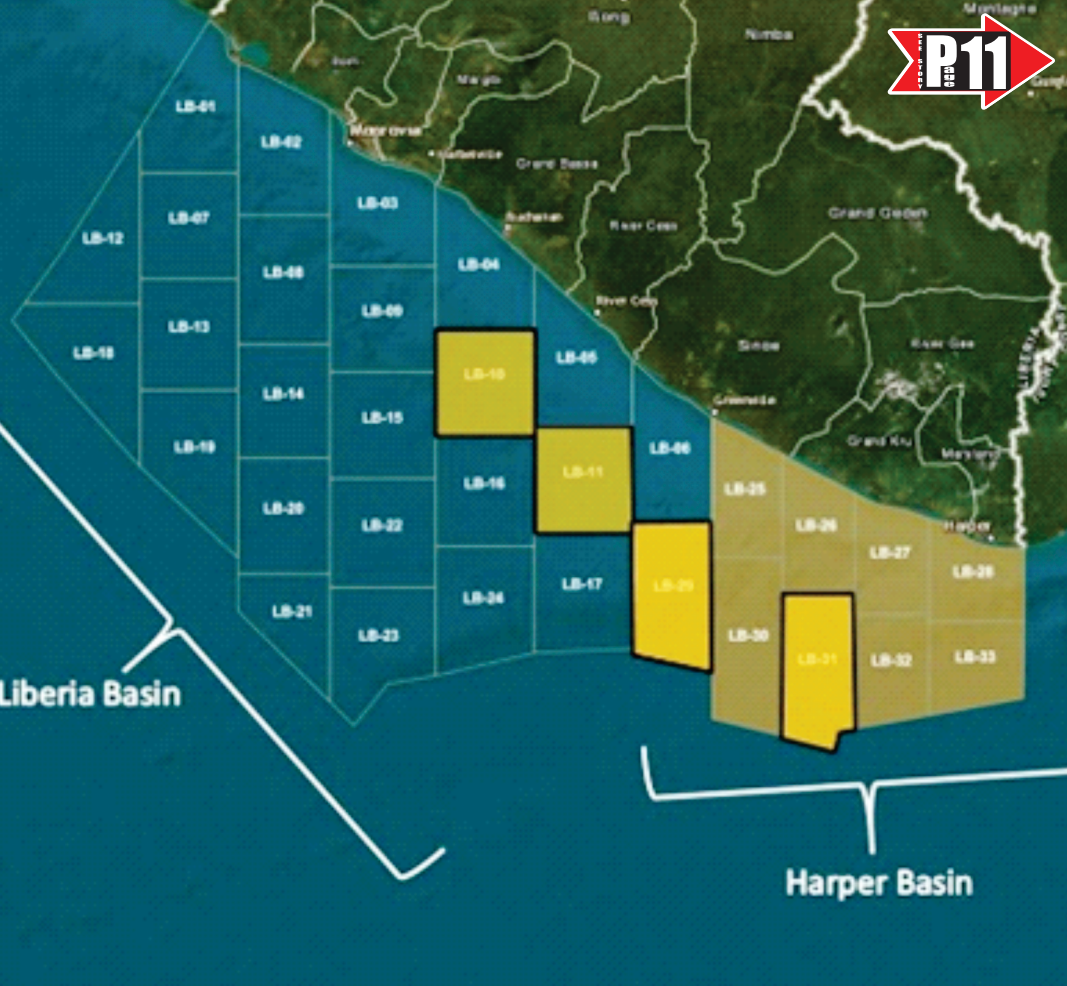
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# NOCAL takes over strategic oil blocks

# Govt Calls for Speedy Trial in Capitol Hill Arson Case



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# Continental News

## Schoolchildren swept away as heavy floods and snow hit South Africa

A minibus carrying schoolchildren has been swept away by heavy flooding in South Africa, a spokesperson for the Eastern Cape provincial government has told the BBC.

Khuselwa Rantjie said it was unclear how many children

have left nearly 500,000 homes without electricity. The Eastern Cape - the birthplace of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela - has been worst-affected by the icy conditions, along with KwaZulu-Natal province.

The bad weather has forced the closure of some major roads in

department spokesperson, Unathi Binqose, told the BBC. Two people were injured in the accident, he added.

State power utility Eskom said that almost 300,000 homes had been hit by electricity cuts in 14 towns and villages in Eastern Cape.

A further 196,000 homes in 24 areas in KwaZulu-Natal were also experiencing power cuts, Eskom spokesperson Daphne Mokwena told the BBC.

KwaZulu-Natal Transport Minister Siboniso Duma said that heavy snow had led to lorries being stuck on roads, causing huge congestion. Grader machines have been stationed on worst-affected roads to clear snow before it reached more than 30cm (12in) in depth.

Meteorologist Lehlohonolo Thobela also warned of strong winds and heavy waves at sea, making navigation for ships difficult. Both Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal are along the coast. South Africa regularly receives snowfall during its winter months, from June through August, with temperatures diving below 0C (32F). There is also regular flooding and scientists say that climate change is causing heavier rainfall in the region. Flash floods and overflowing rivers between 30 April and 2 May caused significant damage to about 4,500 homes, and left 18 people injured. BBC



Snowfall has resulted in major disruptions on South African roads

were on the bus, but three had so far been found alive. Rescue efforts had been suspended as night had fallen and would resume on Wednesday, she added. In a separate incident, the bodies of seven people carried away by flood water have been found in the province's OR Tambo district. South Africa has been hit by heavy snow, rains and gale force winds that have claimed the lives of a further five people in a road accident, and

the two provinces to avoid further casualties. "This is a devastating reminder of nature's force. We urge everyone to exercise extra caution in areas prone to flooding," Eastern Cape premier Oscar Mabuyane said in a statement. Five people died when a minibus taxi overturned near the coastal city of East London, with the driver saying he had lost control as he was trying to avoid a fallen tree, Eastern Cape transport

## Culture and colour come out in praise of a Nigerian king

Thousands gathered on Sunday in an ancient town in south-west Nigeria for a spectacular display of culture, colour and tradition. The Ojude Oba festival in Ijebu-Ode, brought together locals and visitors to pay homage to the Awujale - the traditional ruler of the Ijebu people.

This union of drummers, musicians and dancers coupled with a fashion parade told a tale of people deeply connected to their roots.

Ojude Oba - a Yoruba phrase meaning "the kings forecourt" - began over two centuries ago. Earmarked for the third day after Eid, this was originally a modest gathering of the Muslim faithful, thanking the king for allowing them to practise their religion freely. But it has grown to symbolise pride, unity and identity among all the Ijebu people regardless of religion. The women were elegantly turned-out in colourful traditional

dresses, known here as iro and buba, along with the gele, or head wrap. Their outfits were made from lace or aso-oke, a locally sourced fabric woven by the Yoruba people. The sunglasses and hand fans meant to provide respite for the blistering sun were must-have accessories, complementing the looks. Dressed in traditional Yoruba agbada, the men agree months ahead on what outfits, colour and accessories to use for the festival. Each year, they

tweak the style and colour and display. Accessories include matching caps, beads and shoes. Regardless of social status, the people are classified into age groups known as regbe-regbe, with hundreds belonging to each one. They are aimed at fostering unity among the locals. The horses were adorned in colourful ornaments of gold and silver. Their riders displayed their prowess and the strength of their horses circling the arena to thunderous applause from spectators. BBC



## Kenyan blogger was hit and assaulted to death, autopsy reveals

A Kenyan blogger who died in police custody was hit on the head and his death was likely to have been caused by assault, a post-mortem has revealed. This contradicts police claims that Albert Ojwang "sustained head injuries after hitting his head against a cell wall". His death has sparked widespread outrage in Kenya, with rights groups demanding that police be held accountable. Mr Ojwang, 31, was detained following a complaint by the deputy police chief, who accused him of tarnishing his name on social media.

"The cause of death is very clear; head injury, neck compression and other injuries spread all over the body that are pointing towards assault," state pathologist Bernard Midia said. Police have not yet commented on the findings.

the wall, as police had said in a statement on Sunday.

He said if Mr Ojwang had done this, the pattern of injuries would have been different, and frontal bleeding on the head would be seen.

"But the bleeds that we found on the scalp... on the skin of the head were spaced, including on the face, sides of the head and the back of the head," Dr Midia said at a press conference.

"There were also multiple soft tissue injuries spread all over the body, including the head, neck, upper limbs and the trunk and lower limbs... these were injuries that were externally inflicted," he added.

The injuries were consistent with "external assault" and there were also signs of a struggle, according to the pathologists.

Mr Ojwang's father, Meshack



Albert Ojwang died while being held at a police station in Nairobi

Mr Ojwang, a digital creator who microblogged on X and Facebook on topical political and social issues, was arrested in Homa Bay, a town in western Kenya, on Friday.

He was detained over a post on X that was allegedly critical of Deputy Inspector General of Police Eliud Lagat. He was subsequently transferred over 350km (220 miles) to the capital, Nairobi, and booked into the Central Police Station on Saturday. Police said he was later found unconscious in his cell with self-inflicted injuries.

But an autopsy, conducted by five pathologists who released a unanimous report, revealed that Mr Ojwang had severe head injuries and suffered neck compression and multiple soft tissue trauma. Dr Midia, who led the team of pathologists, said that Mr Ojwang did not hit himself on

Ojwang, has appealed to President William Ruto to help him get justice for his son. "Help me as a taxpayer. The officers who picked up my son saw our home was humble and assumed we didn't matter," the father said. Ruto has not yet commented.

The Digital Content Creators Association of Kenya paid tribute to Mr Ojwang, saying: "Albert was more than a content creator - he was a voice of the youth, a symbol of resilience, and an embodiment of the dreams and hopes of a generation that uses digital platforms to inspire change. His legacy will not be silenced."

Faith Odhiambo, president of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), said the autopsy report clearly showed that Mr Ojwang had been "tortured" and "brutally murdered" in police custody.



# 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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.  
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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266  
Opposite the National Investment Commission  
Monrovia - Liberia

Tel: 088484201 / 0777007529  
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# COMMENTARY

By Adekeye Adebajo

## Trump's Diplomacy of the Absurd

PRETORIA - Last month, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa became the first African leader to visit the White House during US President Donald Trump's second term. As he so infamously did with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in February, Trump turned his televised meeting with Ramaphosa in the Oval Office into absurdist theater.

Ramaphosa and his multiracial delegation were mere props in a larger performance aimed at Trump's nativist "Make America Great Again" cult and right-wing xenophobes around the world. Trump, perpetuating racist stereotypes, accused marauding Black savages of hunting down innocent white farmers. It was a bizarre perversion of the historical record - namely, that a white minority had stripped Black South Africans of their land and labor rights for more than three centuries.

Of course, Trump is fully ignorant of that history. The 1913 Natives Land Act, enacted by South Africa's white-minority government, reserved 93% of the country's land for white ownership. Today, white South Africans, comprising 7% of the population, still own 72% of all private farmland. Even though Ramaphosa's administration enacted a law in 2024 allowing for land expropriation without compensation, such land is to be used only for the public good, and any confiscations are subject to judicial review.

Today, 13.2 million people, or roughly one-fifth of the population in what is the world's most unequal country, still live in extreme poverty, with the vast majority being Black. In 2024, 26,232 murders were recorded in South Africa, 44 of which occurred in farming communities; only eight of those 44 victims were farmers. According to data collected by the Transvaal Agricultural Union - an Afrikaner farmers' union - only 1,363 white farmers have been killed since 1990, amounting to less than 1% of total murders over that period. Only two of the 18 people murdered on farms between October 2024 and March 2025 were white.

Equating apartheid-era atrocities with the current plight of white South Africans, who still own most of the country's wealth, is simply preposterous. Despite this, Trump has granted refugee status to white South African farmers, 59 of whom arrived in the US days before his meeting with Ramaphosa. Opening America's doors to this group, particularly as the Trump administration launches a crusade against illegal and legal immigrants, is less about protecting an endangered minority, and more about appealing to nativist sentiment among white Americans.

It is perhaps not surprising, then, that Trump ambushed Ramaphosa. After all, Trump has launched an assault on diversity programs in the US, is restoring the old names of military bases honoring Confederate generals, and has taken extraordinary measures to erase America's long history of slavery.

While the exchange between Ramaphosa and Trump started off friendly enough, it quickly degenerated into hectoring, with Trump repeatedly painting the perpetrators of oppression as its victims. After describing Ramaphosa as "a little controversial," the same president who once described Africa as full of "shithole countries" proceeded to reinforce the trope of Black barbarism, noting: "They say there's a lot of bad things going on in Africa."

At this point, Trump zeroed in on the egregious claim - amplified by the South African-born billionaire Elon Musk - that the Black-led African National Congress (ANC) government was committing genocide against white people. Trump proceeded to screen a video of Julius Malema, a firebrand South African opposition leader who was expelled from the ANC in February 2012, chanting an apartheid-era song "Kill the Boer," referring to white farmers. Although South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal ruled that the chant did not constitute incitement to violence, it is a divisive relic.

The next video - which Musk had posted twice on X before the Oval Office meeting - depicted white crosses that Trump falsely claimed represented a burial site for more than 1,000 murdered white farmers. These were, however, temporary memorials, not gravesites, and were later removed. Trump also showed Ramaphosa an image, purportedly of massacred white South African farmers, that was later revealed to have been taken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Derrick Johnson, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, described Trump's remarks as "extremely biased and racist." They were also an attempt at a power play. One could hardly imagine Ramaphosa inviting Trump to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to accuse him of committing "Black genocide" in America, before showing him a video of white policemen brutalizing and killing innocent Black motorists.

In requesting the White House meeting, Ramaphosa had naively believed that he could reason with a Mafia don wielding a loaded pistol. The South African president maintained a dignified calm, but did not do enough to refute Trump's bogus claims. His delegation - which included three prominent white South Africans, the billionaire Johann Rupert and golfers Ernie Els and Retief Goosen, at Trump's behest - did not help matters.

The presence of these wealthy white South Africans reassured Trump: he enthusiastically invited them to speak, even as he failed to make eye contact with his black counterpart. Els betrayed his inadequate understanding of history when he thanked the US for having supported the murderous apartheid army's invasion of Angola in the 1980s. Goosen talked of his crime-afflicted relatives having to erect electric fences. Rupert lobbied for Musk's Starlink satellite company to equip South Africa's police stations.

These responses fed into the "white savior" complex, imploring American knights in shining armor to save South Africans from savage Black criminals. Even Zingiswa Losi, the Black trade unionist who tried to set the record straight on land expropriation, spoke of Black women being raped and murdered. All this reinforced the message that South Africa is a crime scene - far from a powerful sales pitch for a country keen to attract foreign investors and tourists.

This visit was supposed to "reset" South Africa-US relations and start trade discussions, with Ramaphosa touting his country's critical-mineral deposits. But despite efforts by South African officials and some media to spin the encounter as a success, it exposed deep and damaging divisions between the two countries. The only consolation is that Ramaphosa at least made it to the official lunch. Zelensky was not so lucky.

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# Africa’s Creative Boom

WASHINGTON, DC - In February, Afrobeats singer Tems won the Grammy for Best African Music Performance. Her achievement underscores the genre’s growing popularity, exemplified by more than 15 billion streams on Spotify. It is also part of a broader cultural renaissance, as Africa’s creative industries - from music and film to fashion - rapidly expand their global reach.

African culture’s rise to prominence could play a major role in the continent’s economic transformation, offering significant opportunities for a large and growing youth population. The creative industries are projected to account for 4% of Africa’s GDP and up to 10% of global creative exports by 2030, creating more than 20 million new jobs.

As I highlight in a new report, the growth of Africa’s creative industries is driven by two major forces: digitalization and demographic shifts. But to unlock the sector’s full economic potential, policymakers must make strategic investments and implement targeted reforms.

Digital innovation is rapidly reshaping Africa’s cultural landscape, creating new pathways to economic development. Increased access to emerging technologies is fueling the rise of digital payment platforms, while social media, streaming services, and online marketplaces are lowering entry barriers for creators and entrepreneurs. AI alone is projected to add nearly \$1.5 trillion to the continent’s GDP by 2030, transforming how creative work is produced, distributed, and consumed. Between 2016 and 2022, Netflix invested \$175 million in South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya, reflecting its confidence in Africa’s creative output.

Demographic shifts are equally transformative, as the rapid expansion of Africa’s middle class and consumer base is driving demand for locally produced creative goods. By 2060, the middle class is expected to comprise more than 40% of the continent’s population. At the same time, Africa’s youth population is projected to double by 2050, making it the only region in the world with a growing working-age population. In addition to expanding Africa’s domestic markets, this demographic dividend is poised to transform the global cultural landscape, with African creators playing an increasingly influential role.

African policymakers must harness this cultural momentum to advance economic, social, and development goals. Notably, creative industries tend to employ a higher proportion of young people than other parts of the economy. With an estimated 11 million young Africans expected to enter the workforce annually through 2030, targeted investment in these industries could be a highly effective strategy for addressing the continent’s youth unemployment problem.

In sectors like fashion, around 90% of micro, small, and medium-size enterprises operate informally. Formalizing these businesses could boost productivity, broaden access to finance, and foster long-term growth. A more structured creative economy could also advance gender equality, especially in countries like Ethiopia, where women comprise roughly 85-90%of the apparel workforce.

To be sure, significant obstacles must be overcome to realize the sector’s full potential. Africa currently accounts for just 1.5% of the global creative economy and 5% of the world’s cultural and creative-industry jobs, and the sector faces persistent funding gaps, chronic underinvestment, and weak regulatory frameworks. Many African governments allocate less than 1% of their national budgets to creative industries.

Intellectual property protections remain a key vulnerability as well, with UNESCO estimating that 50-75% of African film and audiovisual revenues are lost to piracy. To tackle this challenge, governments must bolster anti-piracy laws and improve enforcement mechanisms. The African Union’s Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries is a step in the right direction, but its success will depend on coordinated national implementation, the development of clear IP guidelines, and more robust institutional capacity.

Alongside IP reform, African governments should adopt business-friendly policies tailored to the unique needs of African entrepreneurs and creators. Given the high levels of informality across the sector, these frameworks must be flexible and inclusive. A prime example is Morocco’s rebate system, which attracted international productions and helped the country’s film industry achieve record profits in 2023.

Access to funding is essential. The financial measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to aid the arts sector provide a useful model for how direct public investment can support creative industries. Strategic investment in digital infrastructure is also critical, especially for creative industries like fashion e-commerce.

National governments should also collaborate with regional and international funders. Encouragingly, the African Export-Import Bank announced last year that it would double its investment - to \$2 billion over the next three years - in the Creative Africa Nexus initiative, which connects creative professionals and investors from across the continent.

More broadly, African governments must develop forward-looking policies that accelerate the growth of creative industries. By tapping into the talent, innovation, and entrepreneurial drive of Africa’s youth, the continent has the potential to position its creative economy as a global powerhouse, driving GDP growth, expanding cultural influence, and shaping a future defined by African-led prosperity.

# Climate Finance Needs a Conductor

SINGAPORE - As the multilateral order comes under growing strain, several trends are becoming increasingly clear. International development assistance and climate finance appear to have peaked, even as global needs continue to evolve. At the same time, international institutions, faced with mounting pressure to prove their efficiency and cost-effectiveness, are reassessing their operations. But today’s climate-finance challenges demand more than introspection; they call for structural change, decisive action, and - above all - coordinated leadership.

Climate finance is currently delivered through a broad array of institutions: multilateral bodies like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the newly established Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD); multilateral development banks (MDBs); and an ever-expanding network of philanthropic, national, and regional initiatives. Each was created to fill a perceived functional or political gap. Collectively, however, they form a sprawling and often unwieldy arrangement.

Institutional sprawl creates two major challenges. First, it fosters unhealthy competition. Many of these institutions draw on the same pool of donors, serve similar recipient countries, and have overlapping mandates. The result is a bureaucratic maze and high transaction costs, with recipient countries often spending more time navigating the system than accessing its benefits. As a 2024 report by the G20’s climate-finance working group warned, fragmented and inefficient access mechanisms are among the most significant obstacles to effective climate action.

Second, and paradoxically, this competition also leads to inertia, because institutions, protective of their respective niches, become increasingly reluctant to depart from established practices. While differences in size and financial terms should enable climate funds and MDBs to serve distinct, complementary roles, in practice their policies and portfolios often converge. The FRLD is a striking example. When the need for a dedicated mechanism to address loss and damage became urgent, no existing institution was equipped - or willing - to take the lead, so a new entity had to be established.

But competition for resources and inertia regarding evolving challenges are only part of the issue. The deeper challenge lies in fragmented governance. Despite repeated calls to improve coordination, meaningful alignment remains elusive, largely because climate-finance institutions operate under fundamentally different governance structures.

The GCF, GEF, FRLD, Adaptation Fund, and Climate Investment Funds all report to separate governing bodies, each with its own mandate and varying degrees of alignment with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). MDBs answer to their shareholders, while bilateral and philanthropic organizations are driven by domestic or private agendas. As a result, no single body is capable of overseeing or steering the entire system.

Fragmentation doesn’t just hinder strategic planning; it also distorts access. Each institution has its own rules, timelines, and application requirements, creating a patchwork of uncoordinated and inconsistent processes. Recipient countries must navigate multiple systems, often with limited institutional capacity, making access to climate finance burdensome and uneven.

A recent synthesis report by the GCF’s Independent Evaluation Unit underscores the need for structural reform, finding that climate finance tends to flow to countries that already have access to traditional development financing. While this may seem intuitive, it is also deeply troubling. The implication is that countries with greater institutional capacity and experience with complex funding mechanisms are better positioned to secure climate finance, leaving the world’s most vulnerable regions systematically underserved.

If there is a broad consensus that access should be faster and simpler, why does it remain so difficult to achieve? The answer is that facilitating climate finance is not just a technical challenge. As the GCF synthesis report notes, real progress requires more than procedural tweaks. It calls for governance structures tailored to the specific needs of fragile and capacity-constrained countries, sustained investment in institutional capacity, and an equitable distribution model.


In addition to creating inefficiencies, fragmented governance deepens inequality. Without sufficient specialization, a willingness to break with the status quo, and a dose of institutional innovation, climate finance will continue to flow to countries with stronger institutions and fuller project pipelines.

What climate finance urgently needs is a coordinating mechanism, coalition, or platform with the authority to review the current architecture and guide institutions toward more specialized, complementary roles - much like a conductor bringing harmony to an otherwise disorganized orchestra. And this is the fundamental challenge: the absence of a decision-making platform tasked with steering the evolution of climate finance architecture. While the G20 has made climate finance a top priority and addressed several issues related to the broader financial architecture, its limited membership means it lacks universal representation. The UNFCCC can direct funds within its own financing mechanism, but it is slow-moving and lacks the mandate to regulate MDBs and other actors. Similarly, the UN Environment Assembly may not have the necessary speed, scope, or reach to lead this effort effectively.

The upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) is a rare opportunity to address the institutional sprawl that impedes effective climate action. As a UN initiative, it offers both legitimacy and universal participation. While not a climate summit, it is one of the few platforms where climate finance intersects with broader questions of development, debt, and institutional reform.

The FfD4 draft outcome document rightly urges international policymakers to prevent the further proliferation of climate funds, calling for greater integration among existing mechanisms. But it may need to go further by offering clear guidance on how the various components of climate finance can work together more effectively. Even if FfD4 does not resolve these questions, it could still play a pivotal role in identifying the coordinating force needed to ensure the coherence of climate finance. The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the positions of any entities they represent.






REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

National Investment Commission (NIC)

M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive

Monrovia, Liberia



Invitation for Bid(IFB)

Contract Identification No.: IFB No: NIC/NCB/002/25

The National Investment Commission (NIC) has received budgetary allotment from the Government of Liberia and intends to apply part of the funding towards the procurement of 80 KVA Generator for use by the Commission. The procurement process will be done through a National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method of the Public Procurement and Concession Act of 2010 (PPCA) of Liberia.

Schedule of Requirements

No.	Description	Type	Quantity	Unit	Delivery Schedule	Delivery site
1.	60 KVA Generator	Silencer	1	Unit	Four weeks (4) after Contract signing	NIC Head Office, UN Drive

Note: The National Investment Commission is now advertising 60 instead of 80 KVA silence generator due to an adjustment in the budgetary allotment. Therefore, adjusted bidding document will not sold to suppliers who already bought it earlier.

1. The National Investment Commission now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of 80 KVA Generator.

2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in Section 48(P. 52) of the 2010 amended PPCA.

3. All interested eligible bidders may obtain copy of the bidding document for a non-refundable fee of US \$ 50.00(One Hundred United States Dollars) and for any further information, please contact the Procurement Unit of the National Investment Commission (NIC) beginning Friday, May 27, 2025 from 9:00am to 3:00pm daily (Monday-Friday).

4. Sealed Bid (One Original and Four Copies) must be delivered to the address below. Absolutely Electronic bid will not be permitted.

5. Deadline for the submission bids is Friday, June 27, 2025 at 1:30 PM. All Bids will be opened at 2:00 PM in the Conference room of NIC the same day in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend. Late Tenders will be rejected and returned unopened.

6. Tenders shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of Tender submission.

7. Bid Securing Declaration

8. Details on Technical Specification are captured in the Bid Document.

The Procurement Unit

National Investment Commission (NIC)

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room – 1

M&E Professional Building

UN Drive, Monrovia, Liberia


Cell #s:0777551753/0888409194

Email: boimahgibson@gmail.com

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IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT CIVIL LAW COURT

MONTSERRADO COUNTY. R.L.

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

THE PETITION OF MARIE K. QUIAH PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS “TERESA KOLLIE”

COURT’S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

THE PETITIONER BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL FILED A PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT REQUESTING THIS HONORABLE COURT TO ORDER THE CHANGE OF HER NAME FROM MARIE K. QUIAH TO “TERESA KOLLIE”.


During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to claim her biological parents’ name and to conform to her documentation. After conducting the necessary interrogations required 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 name proposed by her.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on June 20, 1979, in Juarzon, Bong County, Republic of Liberia, and that she was born unto Mr. David Kollie and Madam Martha Kollie in Bong County; and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and more firmly and that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction.


The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Marie K. Quiah be changed to “Teresa Kollie” beginning this 26<sup>th</sup> Day of May, A.D. 2025. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

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.

COURT SEAL:



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY A.D. 2025



HIS HONOR SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CIVIL LAW COURT ANNEX

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW

REGISTRAR NATIONAL LANDS AND MINES DEPT

DATE: June 2025 AT 2:15 PM

06-2025

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Sawyer Foundation to host series

honour two most outstanding and as one of the key launchers at the patriotic Liberian citizens in the awards dinner which is expected to person of the venerable Dr. Abba see a cross section of high government Karnga for some of his most officials as well as political actors pioneering works with the Bassa across the political and religious language and Christian missionary spectrum of Liberia in the spirit of Dr. works.Prof. Agnes Nebo von Ballmoos Amos C. Sawyer.

would be honoured posthumously as On Sunday June 15, the ACS Liberia’s foremost ethnomusicologist Educational Foundation will honor its and her devotion and dedication to Patron Saint with dedication service the preservation of Liberian folklore to further observe his 80th heavenly music as well as standards she set with birthday at the St. Stephens Episcopal the University of Liberia choir and Church on 10th street in Sinkor to choral group.In addition, Noble climax three days of celebration and Laureate Leymah Gbowee will serve activities. -Press release.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NBC evaluates companies in Maryland County

A team of inspectors from the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) is in Maryland County, southeast Liberia, to carry out a comprehensive review of operations of Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) and Cavalla Rubber Corporation (CRC).


By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland County, Liberia; June 11, 2025 - Amid the House of Representatives calls for revisitation of all concession companies operating across the country, the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) has dispatched a high-level team of Monitoring and Evaluation compliance officers to Maryland County, southeast Liberia, to carry out a comprehensive review of operations at the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) and the Cavalla Rubber Corporation (CRC). Maryland Oil Palm Plantation operates a plantation of oil palms that was granted under a concession agreement signed on 4th March 2011, while Golden SIFCA INCORPORATED (GSI) is involved with processing of Oil Palm, and Cavalla Rubber Corporation is one of Liberia’s largest rubber plantations within the southeast

In previous years, the Maryland Legislative Caucus had accused the

noting that the ongoing monitoring represents an opportunity for “a new dawn” in government-community-corporate relations. Director Momo further disclosed that the NBC team is working in collaboration with county representatives from the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Labour, and the Liberian National Police, among others to access the current status of the companies.

“These institutions are represented locally and have firsthand knowledge of the operations of these concessions. Their insights are critical to the success of our assessment,” Momo explained. He pointed out that the compliance evaluation process includes; meetings with concession company management, workers’ unions, and affected residents. He stressed that the team is also actively engaging stakeholders to gather environmental data related to the operations of both MOPP and CRC. Though the NBC team does not have enforcement authority, it will compile



companies of alleged failure to comply and submit recommendations based on with contents of their respective findings. Concession Agreements signed with the Government of Liberia and service delivery capacities in consonance with the laws and Constitution of Liberia. The Caucus then wrote the plenary of the House of Representatives to bring to the attention of members of the House willful failure of the three companies to honor invitations that were extended to the companies in (June 8, 2023, and June 27, 2023).

The situation has not been addressed, but is now being evaluated by a team led by NBC Director General, Theodore Momo, Jr.

The team has been tasked with assessing the companies' compliance with concession agreements and evaluating their impact on affected communities Addressing reporters in a press briefing in Pleebo over the weekend, Director Momo emphasized the importance of cooperation from both concession companies and local communities. He emphasized that there are several areas where the companies delayed in compliance, but they are hopeful that MOPP and CRC will cooperated. He added that affected communities should engage the process honestly,

and submit recommendations based on findings. “Our job is to gather facts and provide a full report. Where necessary, recommendations will be made for appropriate government actions,” said Momo.

He clarified that the current review focuses on the period from 2020 to 2025, adding that in cases of serious financial, environmental, or legal violations, the Bureau may extend its evaluation back to the original 2011 concession agreements. Director Momo confirmed that the team has already held initial meetings with stakeholders and has since been deployed to various field sites.

“Our experts are actively engaging community members, reviewing company financial records, assessing environmental impacts, and evaluating human resource practices. We are covering every key area of concern,” he added.

The NBC’s ongoing review is part of a broader national effort to ensure that concession agreements serve the best interests of both the government and the Liberian people's. Editing by Jonathan Browne



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### A global responsibility and national opportunity

**- Boakai reflects on Liberia's seat on the Security Council**

*President Boakai urges Liberians to embrace the profound significance of Liberia's election to the United Nations Security Council.*

**By Lincoln G. Peters**  
Monrovia, Liberia; June 11, 2025 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai calls on Liberians to embrace the profound significance of map out the country's Liberia's election to the United Nations Security Council, describing it as both a great honor and a weighty responsibility. "Liberia is back on the global stage, and Liberia is ready!" the President of Foreign Affairs, Sara



declared, as he opened a special cabinet meeting convened to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts behind the successful campaign for the Non-Permanent Seat and to

Beysolow Nyanti, members of the Cabinet, and all individuals and institutions whose contributions made this historic achievement possible.

President Boakai reminded Liberians that this collective success must translate into visibility, success and benefit for all of us. "Our ARREST Agenda, the African Agenda and the global agenda must be pursued," he underscored, urging that "we put forth our best to ensure an enduring legacy for our term to end with pride and honor."

Tuesday's Cabinet Meeting received an update from the Foreign Minister, Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti, on Liberia's roles and responsibilities as a non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council.

Minister Nyanti outlined the UNSC mandate and assessed Liberia's preparedness, covering technical capacity requirements such as

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### Nimba students want ArcelorMittal's MDA revisited

*The student community of Nimba County petitions the 55th Legislature to revisit ArcelorMittal Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) signed with the Government of Liberia*

**By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh**  
Monrovia, Liberia; June 11, 2025 - A local group, Concern Nimba University Student Association (CONUSA) has petitioned the Liberian Legislature to revisit the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between ArcelorMittal Liberia and the Government of Liberia. CONUSA warns that continued neglect by AML threatens environmental devastation, economic marginalization, and corporate exploitation. "If this Honorable Body fails to act, it risks igniting a generational revolt among young people and affected communities. The dignity, future, and development of Nimba County can no longer be sacrificed at the altar of foreign profit and governmental complacency", says Saye Keynel, Chairman-CONUSA. Reading a six-count petition

critical infrastructure, Chairman Keynel urged the Legislature to not only intervene for Nimba, but for Liberia's sovereignty, sustainability, and social justice.

According to the group, the petition serves as an indictment and a clarion call for national scrutiny into the operations of ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), whose continued presence in Nimba County not only constitutes a breach of the Mineral Development

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Gbarpolu to benefit Agri-processing and storage facility

Bopolu City, Liberia; June 11, 2025 - Farmers in Gbarpolu County are set to benefit from a new \$80,000 agri-processing and storage plant, to empower cooperative and individual farmers. Launched by the Government of Liberia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Accelerated Community Development Programme (ACDP), the facility will serve as a hub for processing raw food materials into finished products and a storage hub for processed and unprocessed commodities.

It will specialize in cassava and rice processing, a lifeline for farmers and the local economy, helping local farmers reduce post-harvest losses, increase efficiency, and add value to their produce. Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony recently in Bopolu, City Mayor Siah Victor-Keah, hailed the initiative as a transformative project for farmers and their families.

Mama Korpu expressed gratitude to the authorities for their improved processing technologies. Another farmer, Moses Jallah, a longtime resident of Bopolu, shared his gratitude for the new facility. "This plant is a game-changer. It will serve not just Bopolu but also adjacent towns and villages. We thank the UNDP and our government for making life better for us, farmers," Jallah remarked.

Mama Korpu, a visually impaired leader, serves as the head of disabled farmers in Gborpolu County. She sustains her livelihood through cassava farming and is a beneficiary of one of the 14 cooperatives the Accelerated Community Development Programme (ACDP) awarded small capital to support operational and logistical expenses, as well as the construction of mini-offices. "We say disability, not inability," declared Mama Korpu at the groundbreaking ceremony for the agri-processing and storage facility in Bopolu. Quoting Article 10 of the United Nations Convention article 10 of the United Nations (UN) convention, she emphasized that countries must guarantee persons with disabilities their inherent right to life on an equal basis with others.

"This plant will ease the burden of the authorities for their



processing crops, allowing our farmers to increase their earnings and improve their standard of living. We are grateful to President Joseph Boakai and UNDP for prioritizing our community," she intimated. With access to modern processing technology, local farmers will no longer suffer losses due to limited storage facilities or rely on costly, distant processing centers. This advancement keeps more profits within the community, strengthens local food production, and encourages youth participation in agriculture. Residents are optimistic about the plant's impact.

Hannah Sumaworo, a cassava processor from Henry Town, expressed excitement about the potential to expand cassava-based industries. "Cassava is more than a crop—it's our livelihood. From flour to gari, this plant will help us process and sell value-added products across Liberia and beyond," she explained. She highlighted that cassava chips, flour, gari, and starch—now vital commodities—are benefiting from

that all produce from the facility will be brought to market at competitive prices, ensuring economic benefits for local farmers and businesses.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

*Starts from page 6* **A global responsibility and national opportunity**

staffing, financial support and budgetary provision, as well as crafting principled and strategic foreign policy directions. The Cabinet Meeting marked the beginning of a series of high-level engagements aimed at ensuring that Liberia’s leadership on the Security Council reflects the country’s commitment to peace, stability, and global cooperation. The Executive Mansion

*Starts from page 6* **Nimba students want**

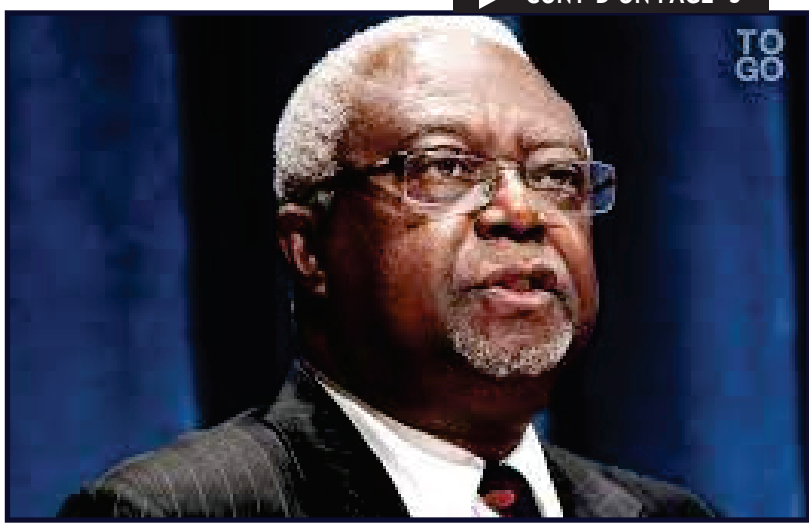
Agreement (MDA) signed with the Government of Liberia, but also violates citizens’ right. CONUSA accuses AML of underpaying workers below living wages, health safety, disregard for Liberianization, and recruiting foreign nationals, which undermines local employment, breaches concession agreements, as the company has deliberately failed to rehabilitate and develop the Yekepa concession area and grossly treated Yekepa community with neglect, among other issues. Meanwhile, efforts to contact Communication Manager of ArcelorMittal Liberia Winston Daryoue, on these allegations were unsuccessful, as he did return the call up to press time. Editing by Jonathan Browne

*Starts from page 6* **Gbarpolu to benefit Agri-**

He further stressed that the success of the project is a shared responsibility—not just of the contractor but also the community, as the facility is built for their benefit. Massaquoi encouraged community members to collaborate closely with the contractor to maximize the project’s impact. To ensure community ownership and a lasting impact, the Director of Community Services at the Ministry of Public Works urged residents to take pride in the agri-processing plant and actively protect and maintain it. “This facility belongs to the people of Bopolu. Its success depends on how well it is protected and used by the farmers it was built to serve,” Madam Bynor Young emphasized. Echoing this sentiment, Deputy Minister for Extension at the Ministry of Agriculture, Moses Gbanyan, described the facility as a shared opportunity and responsibility for growth by creating jobs, reducing waste, and strengthening food production. “This project is for the people. It will empower farmers, boost productivity, and enhance food security across Bopolu,” Gbanyan stated. A Shared Responsibility Residents are encouraged to actively support the facility by ensuring proper maintenance, advocating for its efficient use, and sharing knowledge to maximize the long-term benefits. “The prosperity of our farmers is the prosperity of Bopolu City. Together, we can build a stronger, more food-secure community,”

**Sawyer Foundation to host series of events to mark his 80th birthday**

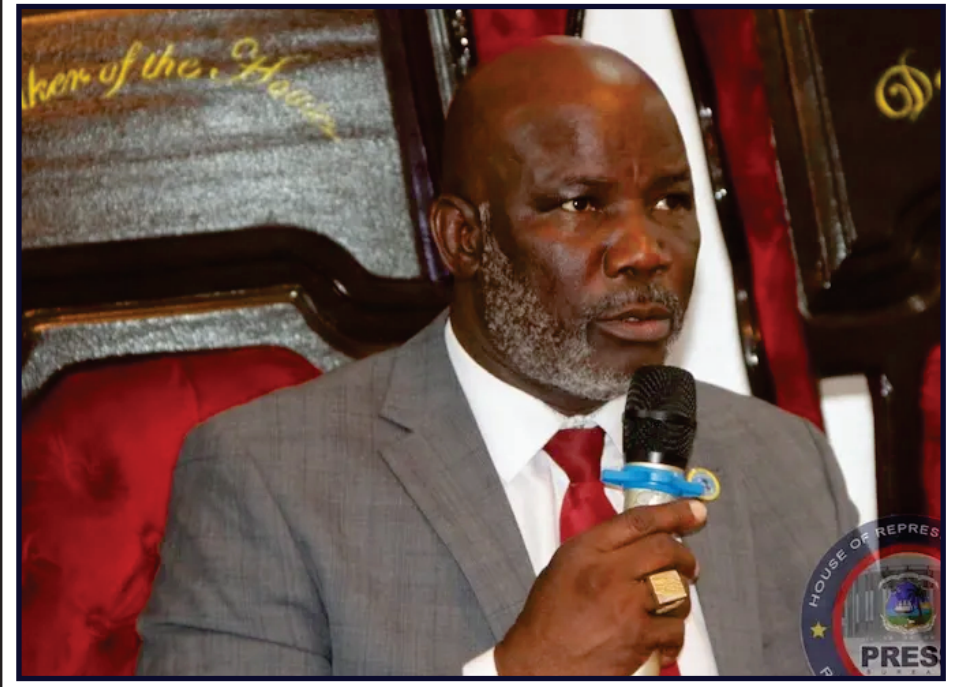
The Amos C. Sawyer Educational Foundation will host a series of events to commemorate the life, work, and vision of Prof. Dr. Sawyer and to mark his 80th birthday in June. According to a press release issued by the ACS Educational Foundation, there will be an inaugural lecture, a number of interfaith activities, and a fundraising dinner schedule to be held in the ballroom of the Monrovia City Hall on Saturday, June 14 at 6 p.m. The Jum-AH prayers at the Fish Market masjid will be held on Friday June 13. Guests, well-wishers, and worshippers will witness a reflection by the scholarly Iman Ali Krayee who will review the life, vision, and works of Dr. Sawyer. Along with worshippers, Iman Krayee will offer prayers for peace in the tradition so well-cherished by the interfaith community. One of the most outstanding features of the activities this year is the launch of what would be the Annual Amos C. Sawyer Academic Lecture Series and Prestigious Award to outstanding patriots. The inaugural lecture will be held on the fendell campus which is home to the Dr. Amos C. Sawyer College of Social Sciences and Humanities on Friday, June 13 at 3:30 p.m. Subsequently, Prof. Dr. Dew Tuan Wleh Mason, a well know academic diplomat with established credentials as a famous member of the cherished members of progressive members in the Liberian historical settings will inaugurate the series. The university community on the fendell campus will come alive with these activities which will be interspersed with recital of lines from speeches and writings of Dr. Sawyer. This activity is open to the diplomatic, academic, and general public. The ACS Educational Foundation has held a series of consultation with various stakeholders and is pleased to announce that the fundraising dinner on Saturday June 14 will



**Speaker Koon welcomes first testing center for Liberian accounting professionals**

*By Lewis S. Teh*

Monrovia, Liberia; June 11, 2025 - House Speaker Richard N. Koon expresses joy over what is being considered, Liberia’s first comprehensive preparatory testing center for professionals seeking advance professional credential. “It is a strategic milestone, a turning point in our national efforts to domesticate international professional standards and open new pathway for Liberians to gain globally respected credential, such as the ACCA, the CIA, the CFE, and other professional certificates in our profession”, Speaker Koon notes. Recently, Liberian-owned Koufa Consortium, in collaboration with African Methodist Episcopal University boosted the education sector of Liberia thereby launching the first premier comprehensive preparatory training programs and testing centers for ACCA, CIA, CFE, and IPSAS exams setting a new benchmark for professionals’ development across the country. how he encountered difficulties travelling to the United States upon getting qualified to do his CPA exam. “So you can imagine this travel went I through. Most of you will not be privileged to get a file. So this initiative is to curtail some of the expenditures, some of the unnecessary investment, and you may have to go overseas, you have to sit international tests he said. Koon strongly believe with the establishment of the program, while professionals are at work, it will help to build capacity and hold ground, saying “even get promotion when you see it; though I’m aware that when one is leaving their job to go abroad, and at the end of the day, you come in at the risk of having no job. Today, we change that particular directive. He expressed special gratitude to organizers of the program, adding I commend the leadership of Koufa consortium and administration of AMEU for this partnership, which



According to Koufa Consortium the reflects a deep understanding of newly inaugurated testing centers Liberia's need to build internal capacity, while creating new professional opportunities for our people.” He says the initiative is a demonstration of faith in Liberia's human capacity and an investment in the nation's future. “I use this platform to call on all sectors, particularly government ministries, public corporations, private institutions, to take full advantage of this opportunity.”Speaker Koon underscores that Liberia needs auditors who are internationally certified. “We need accountants; we need fraud examiners and financial managers whose credentials meet global standards”, saying this is how to build system of transparency, accountability, and innovation in both public and private sectors. He urges students studying accounting that this is their moment, so they should take advantage of it. “This program is required Liberian citizens to look your bridge from academic history abroad, investing resources many to professional practice.” Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Français

## Lakshmi Mittal réaffirme l'engagement d'ArcelorMittal

Le président exécutif d'ArcelorMittal, M. Lakshmi N. Mittal, a renouvelé ce lundi son

implanté sur le site du concasseur de Tokadeh. L'événement s'est déroulé en présence du président de la

renforcer la collaboration avec les autorités nationales.

« Le président Boakai me parle souvent des attentes des communautés. Nous prenons très au sérieux toutes les préoccupations exprimées par le gouvernement libérien, et nous sommes pleinement engagés à œuvrer à ses côtés », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a également souligné les investissements continus d'ArcelorMittal Liberia dans le développement local :

« Nous poursuivons nos actions en faveur des communautés à travers la construction d'écoles, des programmes de formation professionnelle, et bien sûr, l'achèvement des travaux sur la route Ganta-Yekepa. » Une promesse vieille de plus d'une décennie

Le projet d'asphaltage de cette route longue d'environ 70 kilomètres fait partie des engagements

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engagement à finaliser l'asphaltage tant attendu de la route reliant Ganta à Yekepa, un axe stratégique pour le développement du nord du Libéria.

L'annonce a été faite à l'occasion de l'inauguration officielle du nouveau concentrateur de minerais de fer d'ArcelorMittal Liberia,

République, Joseph Nyuma Boakai, salué pour sa participation à ce que plusieurs observateurs qualifient déjà de moment charnière pour l'industrie minière libérienne.

Un engagement renouvelé envers les communautés Lors de son allocution, M. Mittal a insisté sur l'importance de répondre aux préoccupations des communautés locales et de

## La famille Doe divisée sur le don de George Weah

La famille de l'ancien président libérien Samuel K. Doe est actuellement divisée quant à l'acceptation d'un don offert par l'ex-président George Weah dans le cadre de la présentation de ses condoléances, à la suite du décès de l'ancienne Première Dame, Nancy B. Doe. Le geste comprenait deux bœufs, 50 sacs de riz et une somme de 5 000 dollars américains, soit environ 1 million de dollars libériens.

La controverse a éclaté quelques heures après que l'une des filles du défunt président, Veronica Mamie Doe, a rejeté publiquement le don, accusant George Weah d'hypocrisie et de n'avoir jamais soutenu leur mère de son vivant.

M. Weah s'était rendu, le dimanche 8 juin 2025, au domicile de la famille en deuil, accompagné d'anciens collaborateurs, pour présenter ses condoléances et appeler à l'unité au sein de la communauté du Sud-Est libérien. Lors de sa visite, il avait exhorté la famille à

l'unité et déclaré :

« Ne laissez personne nous diviser. Nous sommes une seule famille. Tous les Libériens sont ma famille. Il n'y a pas lieu de me justifier sur la manière dont j'ai traité notre mère ; je sais l'avoir traitée avec respect et dignité. »

Mais dès le lendemain, Veronica Mamie Doe a retourné les dons au siège du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), parti dirigé par M. Weah, affirmant que sa famille n'avait pas besoin de gestes de façade de la part d'un homme qui avait ignoré leur mère en vie.

« N'essayez pas de faire semblant maintenant qu'elle est morte, alors que vous l'avez

négligée de son vivant », a-t-elle déclaré fermement.

La réaction a suscité un vif débat sur les réseaux sociaux et ravivé des tensions politiques persistantes entre les partisans de Weah et les sympathisants de la famille Doe.

Toutefois, plus tard dans la journée, certains membres de la famille ont présenté leurs excuses à M. Weah et demandé que les dons soient ramenés au domicile familial. Dr Isaac Nyenebo, agissant comme liaison entre la famille et les

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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 pas 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

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## Lakshmi Mittal réaffirme

historiques pris par la compagnie, bien que non inclus dans l'accord minier formel. Un protocole d'accord signé en janvier 2013 sous le gouvernement de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf prévoyait un investissement de 37 à 40 millions de dollars pour financer les travaux, négociés comme bénéfice communautaire dans le cadre de la deuxième phase d'expansion de l'entreprise.

Prévue pour démarrer en 2013 avec une finalisation projetée entre 2015 et 2016, la construction a été retardée en raison de la crise Ebola et de la chute des cours mondiaux du minerai de fer. En 2018, ArcelorMittal avait pourtant réaffirmé sa volonté de mener le projet à bien, en s'engageant à le réaliser par phases lors des saisons sèches successives. En juin 2023, l'asphalte atteignait la ville de Sanniquellie, marquant une amélioration notable de la sécurité routière, de l'accès aux marchés, et de la mobilité régionale.

Une artère vitale pour le comté de Nimba

L'annonce de M. Mittal redonne espoir aux habitants des localités situées sur le tronçon encore non bitumé, particulièrement vulnérables pendant la saison des pluies. Pour eux, cette route représente bien plus qu'un simple axe de transport : elle est synonyme d'accès aux soins, à l'éducation, et à des opportunités économiques.

Une fois achevée, la route Ganta-Yekepa facilitera les déplacements des femmes enceintes vers les centres de santé, permettra aux élèves d'aller à l'école toute

l'année, et aidera les petits producteurs à écouler leurs marchandises sans pertes ni retards.

Un message de responsabilité et de transparence

Au-delà de l'engagement infrastructurel, les propos de M. Mittal ont été perçus comme un message fort de responsabilité vis-à-vis des attentes des communautés hôtes. Le comté de Nimba, qui abrite l'un des plus importants sites miniers du pays, a exprimé à plusieurs reprises ses frustrations face aux promesses de développement non tenues.

Cette déclaration publique, faite par la plus haute autorité d'ArcelorMittal, est accueillie comme un pas important vers la restauration de la confiance entre l'entreprise et les populations locales.

Une promesse à concrétiser

Si elle est tenue, cette promesse fera de la route Ganta-Yekepa non seulement un symbole de la responsabilité sociale de l'entreprise, mais aussi un exemple de partenariat réussi entre secteur privé et gouvernement.

Dans un pays où de nombreuses communautés rurales se sentent délaissées, l'achèvement de cette route incarnera l'équité, la dignité et le progrès partagé. L'engagement renouvelé de M. Mittal pourrait transformer une décennie de frustration en un héritage de développement concret – illustrant comment un investissement responsable peut relier les populations à un avenir meilleur.

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## La famille Doe divisée sur

visiteurs, a exprimé ses regrets pour l'incident, assurant que la famille acceptait désormais les dons :

« Dans toutes les familles, il peut y avoir des malentendus, surtout après la perte d'un être cher. Mais nous sommes désormais unis pour offrir à notre mère des funérailles dignes. »

Malgré cette tentative d'apaisement, un nouveau rebondissement est survenu. Veronica Doe a de nouveau exigé que les dons soient retournés, affirmant ne pas avoir été consultée concernant leur acceptation :

« Je suis la fille aînée de la famille, et après discussion avec mes frères et sœurs, nous avons décidé que ces dons devaient être

rendus à M. Weah. Ses propos lors de sa visite nous ont profondément offensés, et nous estimons que ses gestes ne sont ni sincères ni appropriés. »

Elle a également réitéré que l'ex-président n'avait jamais soutenu leur mère durant son vivant, notamment en ce qui concerne ses droits et avantages en tant qu'ancienne Première Dame, un différend que la famille considère toujours comme non résolu.

Malgré la discorde, certaines parties du don – notamment les bœufs – ont été acceptées par d'autres membres de la famille et transportées à Grand Gedeh, leur région d'origine.

## 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.

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FEATURE
ARTICLE

Town Trap Not for Rats alone:  
The Case of Monrovia Central Prison



by Seltue Karweaye Sr.

The Liberian National Police stated on Friday that there are "credible links" suggesting that Honorable Councillor J. Fonati Koffa was "strategically involved" in an incident that has led to his detention along with five other lawmakers. Police Chief Gregory Colman announced that Koffa has been charged with several offenses, including arson, criminal mischief, endangering others, and attempted murder. Colman reported that Koffa utilized his office and staff to coordinate sabotage efforts as early as November 2023.

While I don't want to delve into the merits or demerits of the case, something caught my attention at the Monrovia Central Prison. I heard Koffa's supporters complaining about the prison conditions and saw mattresses, food, and drinks being delivered to the facility for high-profile detainees.

Do Koffa's supporters realize that he played a pivotal role as Deputy Speaker during President George Weah's administration and later as Speaker under President Joseph Boakai? From 2018 to 2024, Koffa oversaw numerous budget allocations, amounting to over \$340 million directed towards their offices and initiatives. However, amidst these financial decisions, a significant oversight has persisted: the neglect of the Monrovia Central Prison, where inmate living conditions have deteriorated to an alarming state.

A comprehensive report by Amnesty International highlights the severe overcrowding issue in Liberia's prison system, particularly at Monrovia

Central Prison, which poses significant dangers to the health and safety of inmates. Many cells are so overcrowded that there isn't enough space for all prisoners to lie down at the same time, forcing them to sleep in shifts. This practice disrupts their sleep, leading to a cycle of fatigue and poor mental health.

According to Amnesty International, the lack of bedding is alarming; a staggering number of inmates are left without basic necessities like mattresses and blankets. As a result, nearly all detainees report chronic body aches because they are forced to sleep on hard, cold concrete floors. The situation worsens during the rainy season when the floors absorb moisture, chilling the air and exacerbating discomfort and potential health issues. Healthcare within these facilities is alarmingly inadequate.

Also, Prisons lack the necessary resources, including trained medical personnel and essential medications, rendering them incapable of providing sufficient medical care. Common ailments such as malaria, skin infections, and various eye problems often go untreated, as inmates rarely receive medical attention unless they face life-threatening emergencies. This negligence reflects a broader pattern of human rights violations, underscoring the urgent need for reform and compassionate action to protect the dignity and well-being of all incarcerated individuals.

The neglect of inmate welfare became painfully evident when Representative Kamara was reported to have experienced a dramatic spike in

his blood pressure, reaching an alarming 200, as he faced the harsh realities of imprisonment for the first time. This critical health crisis was exacerbated by the absence of adequate medical care within the prison system, highlighting the dire need for comprehensive reform.

This writer and many others hope that the sobering experience of the former Speaker of the National Legislature, who endured the grim conditions of Monrovia Central Prison, will impart a crucial lesson to members of the House of Representatives. Specifically, there is an urgent need to allocate a significant portion of the national budget toward enhancing prison facilities throughout the country. These facilities must be transformed into environments that are not only humane but also adhere to fundamental standards for the health and well-being of inmates.

This responsibility is not merely a moral obligation; it reflects the core values of our society. In this context, the phrase "town trap is not just for rats" resonates profoundly. It serves as a poignant reminder that the principles of justice, rehabilitation, and human dignity must extend to every individual—regardless of their circumstances. We must recognize that fostering better prison conditions is essential not only for the benefit of those incarcerated but also for the overall integrity of our justice system and the society at large. By prioritizing reform, we can pave the way for a more just and humane approach to incarceration. Remember, Town Trap Not for Rats alone. I rest my pen.



# Govt Calls for Speedy Trial in Capitol Hill Arson Case

By Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia has called for a speedy trial for those accused of involvement in the arson attack on the Capitol Building. While acknowledging

Sanoe emphasized that the police acted based on credible evidence and not on political motivations. “Some individuals who made threatening statements were not charged because the investigation did not find any

happened in Liberia at the Capitol Building. Responding to those expressing disappointment in the government, he added that anyone who commits a crime will be arrested and prosecuted, and no one will enjoy impunity. However, he warned that threatening the peace of the country will not help anyone, because this is not the first time that lawmakers have been dragged to court. “This democracy will only thrive when the rule of law is respected, but nobody will be allowed to commit a crime and believe that they are untouchable,” he said. He warned those who are misbehaving that the day they commit a crime, they will be apprehended. “There are no sacred cows under this government. Anybody who commits a crime will be arrested,” he emphasized. However, he said their mandate as a government is to establish who committed the crimes, and it is now left with the court to prosecute and prove whether those who committed the crime are innocent. Meanwhile, minister Sanoe warn those making threatening remarks that President Boakai, will not be deterred, he will ensure that those connected to the crime face be prosecuted He call on the court to speed the trail process to ensure that justice is served.



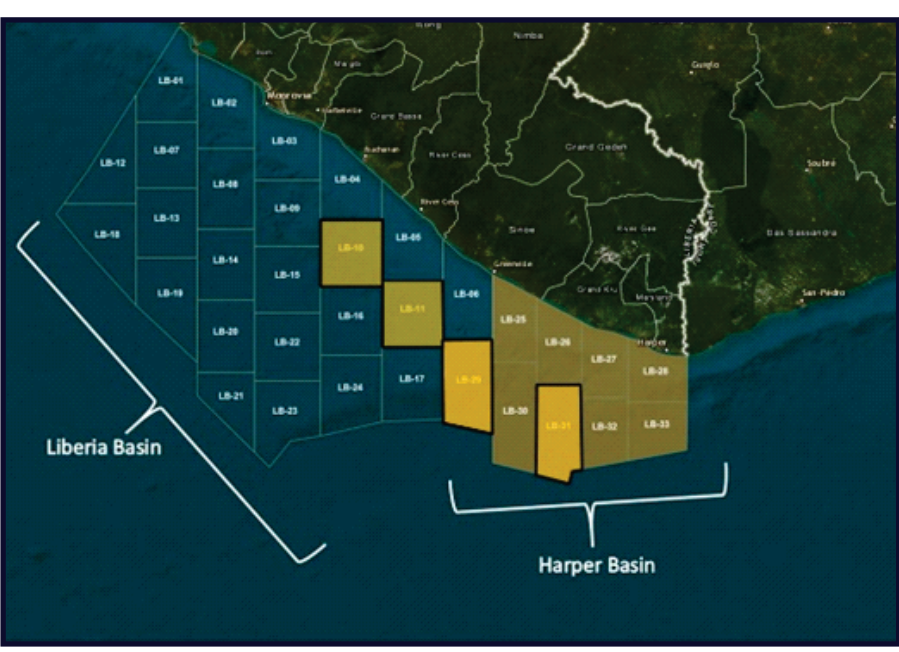
sympathy for those charged, the government emphasized the importance of justice and urged the judiciary to handle the case without delay. Speaking Tuesday at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism’s regular press briefing, Deputy Information Minister Daniel Sanoe said the government has a duty to ensure that anyone implicated in criminal acts is held accountable through the judicial process. “We are calling for a speedy trial of those accused in the Capitol Hill arson case,” Minister Sanoe said. “The investigation was thorough and took nearly six months. It was conducted with assistance from international partners to ensure its integrity, and based on the findings, individuals of interest were invited for questioning.

criminal evidence against them,” he explained. “So, people must know that it took about six months for this entire investigation, and that should even show to people that the government is not interested in arbitrarily arresting anyone, we have evidence,” he said. He noted that everyone knows the court does not work on Saturdays, but interestingly, after the individual were arrested, the court was opened on a Saturday to hear from them. That, he added, should show that the government is not targeting anyone, but is rather focused on ensuring that those who committed the act face justice. He said the same way a group of terrorists planned, coordinated, and executed an attack against the United States, the same comparison

# NOCAL takes over strategic oil blocks

Monrovia, Liberia - June 10, 2025 - In a landmark decision to strengthen Liberia's energy independence and economic prosperity, His Excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. has allocated four offshore oil blocks to the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) with full 100% ownership. The Executive Allocation of blocks LB-10, LB-11, LB-29, and LB-31 represents a transformative step in Liberia's energy sector development. The full ownership transfer ensures maximum financial returns for Liberia, with all future revenues from these blocks directly benefiting the Liberian people through national development projects, infrastructure improvements, and social programs. By maintaining complete control over these resources, Liberia safeguards its long-term energy security and reduces dependence on foreign energy imports. The allocation creates substantial economic opportunities, including the

the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) to immediately commence the Petroleum Sharing Contracts (PSC) process under strict adherence to the model petroleum agreement. The mandated ten-working-day completion timeline demonstrates the administration's commitment to efficient resource development while maintaining rigorous standards of transparency and accountability. This decision also reinforces Liberia's sovereignty over its natural resources while creating an attractive investment framework. The NOCAL allocation complements the LPRA's regulatory oversight, establishing a balanced approach to sector growth that prioritizes both national interests and international best practices. With exploration and development of these blocks expected to commence following legislative approval, Liberia stands to gain



Starts from back page

## Liberia pledges to fight illegal fishing

the subregion,” he said. The Commissioner reaffirmed the country's endorsement of the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency, urging fellow states to join the fight against illicit fishing operations. He stressed that Liberia would work to make beneficial ownership information fully accessible to expose the true beneficiaries of crimes at sea. He also announced Liberia’s ratification and submission of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, a milestone in global ocean governance. Additional efforts, he said, include plans to ratify the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188) and the Cape Town Agreement to protect workers’ rights and safety at sea. Addressing the challenges inherited from Liberia’s history

of conflict, Commissioner/CEO Lighe, Sr. acknowledged that rebuilding the fisheries sector is an uphill battle but insisted that progress is already underway. “Our government is determined to restore Liberia’s fishing industry to its former strength,” he pledged, aligning these efforts with the national ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID). Community empowerment emerged as a cornerstone of Liberia’s ocean strategy. Commissioner Lighe, Sr. emphasized that coastal communities, especially women, are on the frontlines of both the challenges and the solutions to ocean governance. “We must support communities in ensuring that our system and resources remain sustainable,” he urged, underscoring the human dimension of the fight

against maritime crimes. In closing, he called on the international community for continued support in enforcement, traceability, and governance. “Governments, industry actors, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the global community must come together to protect our oceans and the livelihoods of those that depend on it,” he said. Organized by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), the event underscored the interconnectedness between healthy oceans and the well-being of millions worldwide. For Liberia, it marked a decisive step toward transforming its maritime sector from a vulnerable target of exploitation to a model of sustainable management and resilience.

potential for thousands of direct and indirect jobs in exploration, production, and related sectors. It also positions NOCAL as a major player in Africa's energy landscape, attracting technical expertise and international partnerships that will build local capacity in the oil and gas industry. President Boakai has directed

transformative benefits including increased government revenue, technology transfer, energy infrastructure development, and strengthened positioning in regional energy markets. The administration remains committed to ensuring these resources are developed responsibly for the maximum benefit of all Liberians.

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Nice, France - Liberia has vowed to crack down on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, while championing global transparency and accountability in its marine governance. The

Liberia's Maritime Authority Commissioner and CEO, underscored his country's renewed commitment to ocean governance. He highlighted Liberia's determination to transform maritime management and empower coastal communities that rely

2022 Lisbon Ocean Conference, including the adoption of the National Blue Economy Strategy and the ratification of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). These steps, he emphasized, are critical to protecting Liberia's fisheries sector, which supports 80 percent of the country's population as a primary protein source and employs around 60 percent women in coastal communities.

“Our future is closely tied to the health of our oceans,” he told the delegates, noting that fisheries account for nearly 10 percent of Liberia’s GDP. But he warned that IUU fishing and overfishing continue to undermine local livelihoods, fueling organized maritime crime and threatening food security.

Liberia's efforts, Commissioner/CEO Lighe, Sr. explained, extend beyond national boundaries. As the current President of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), Liberia has positioned itself as a regional leader in tackling IUU fishing. "We are committed to eliminating IUU fishing from our waters and championing this cause across

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



announcement came on Tuesday, June 10 as the Commissioner/CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe Sr. addressed a high-profile side event at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France.

Addressing a packed room of ministers and delegates from France, Ghana, the Maldives, Panama, and beyond,

on marine resources for their livelihoods.

“Liberia will not serve as a safe harbor for illegal fishing activities,” he declared, drawing applause from assembled dignitaries. “We remain steadfast in our resolve to end IUU fishing and bring greater transparency to our ocean governance systems.”

Commissioner/CEO Lighe, Sr. highlighted Liberia's strides since its pivotal pledge at the



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The advertisement features a vibrant yellow background with colorful streamers. In the foreground, a woman with a joyful expression holds a smartphone. Behind her, a man is also celebrating, holding a phone. In the center, two yellow motorcycles are parked next to two large white bags of MasAR rice. To the left, a television displays a scenic beach view. At the bottom, the MoMo logo is positioned next to the Lonestar Cell logo, which includes the MTN logo.

<http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com>

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

The logo for 'The New Dawn' newspaper. It features the website address 'http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com' in a small black font. Below it, the word 'The' is in a small, italicized script, followed by 'New Dawn' in a large, bold, blue serif font. Underneath 'New Dawn' is the phrase 'TRULY INDEPENDENT' in a smaller, blue, all-caps sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a collage of several magazine covers, including one titled 'Celebrity' and another with a green globe.

**PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,**  
UN Drive, P O. Box 1266  
Opposite the National Investment Commission  
Monrovia - Liberia.

**Tel:** 0886484201 / 0777007529  
0886978282 / 0775407211

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**PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE**

**Dawn Sports**  
OWAS raises red-flag

**New Dawn**  
Uncertainty hangs over schools  
As authorities weigh options over closure to Nephew butchered uncle

A person's hands are shown placing a large sheet of paper into a wide-format photocopier. The copier is a large, industrial-style machine with a control panel on the left. A large, printed document is emerging from the output tray on the right. The document features a prominent photograph of a large crowd of people gathered in front of a building, with other smaller images and text visible on the page. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor scene.

A hand holding a pen is shown writing the word "PRESS" in bold, black capital letters on a white, curved surface. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of splashing and flowing colors, including red, yellow, green, blue, and purple, suggesting a dynamic and creative environment.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline "New Dawn", a calendar titled "New Dawn CALENDAR", a brochure titled "New Dawn BROCHURE", and a magazine titled "New Dawn Sports" with the headline "New \$2.5m for Mont. by-elections". The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern, overlapping each other, and are set against a background of colorful, abstract shapes.