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# Continental News

## South Sudan: women learn to rebuild lives after sexual violence

Thirty-nine-year-old Abuk Buol was among those who suffered from South Sudan's brutal conflict, enduring horrific sexual violence, and displacement. But as one of the 60 participants at a workshop focused on how to ensure the socio-economic empowerment of survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), she is on the way to building resilience and helping others. Today, Abuk is reunited back home with her family in Bor, located 183 kilometers from South Sudan's capital, one of many towns devastated by the

civil wars that have ravaged the world's newest nation. The mother of six is working to secure justice for the horrors that she and so many others endured and to rebuild her own life. Economic independence has certainly proven to be a lifeline for Abuk, as she has embarked on various ventures including retail trade and soap-making, tailored to local market needs and her own interests. Abuk and many others are being assisted through a project to build socio-economic resilience for CRSV survivors in Jonglei, Unity, Western Equatoria and Juba, supported by the United Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and the International Trade Centre (ITC), under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. It delivers survivor-centered services, including medical care, psychosocial support, legal aid, and livelihood assistance, through referrals to specialized Family Protection Centers / One Stop Centers. It also supports survivors in speaking out and supporting others.

The objective of the workshop was to learn about the challenges in accessing services and reintegrating into society, share best practices and strengthen coordination and partnerships. Most of all, it was to amplify the voices of the survivors in leading the prevention and response to sexual violence. The workshop aims to improve future projects and secure new commitments from national and international stakeholders to sustain support for CRSV survivors, as well as to encourage policy reform in South Sudan.



This photo taken Tuesday, April 11, 2017, Women wait to receive food by ICRC at a site in Leer County region of South Sudan.

## Conflict in DRC: African Union names Togolese president Faure Gnassingbé as new mediator

Faure Gnassingbé, president of Togo, will continue the African Union's mediation attempts in the conflict between the Congolese armed forces and the Rwandan-backed rebel group M23 in eastern DRC. He will replace the Angolan president Joao Lourenço, who stepped down from the role last month to prioritise Angola's presidency of the African Union.

the cities of Goma and Bukavu. Through Angola's mediation, Kinshasa agreed to direct talks with the rebel group, but talks scheduled to take place in Luanda in mid-March failed when the M23 pulled out at the last minute after EU sanctions were imposed on some of its leaders. For the African Union, leading the peace negotiations

has become even more complex due to a parallel mediation process launched by Qatar. At a surprise meeting in Doha in March, the Congolese and Rwandan presidents engaged in direct discussions for the first time since the M23 took over the cities of Goma and Bukavu in eastern DRC earlier this year.



President Faure Gnassingbe waves to supporters during his finale election rally in Lome, Togo, 2015.

## Nigeria: Tinubu denies one-party plan after he's accused of clamping down on opposition

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on Thursday denied that there were plans to turn Africa's largest democracy into a one-party state, pushing back against claims that he's using state mechanisms to convince high-profile opposition politicians to defect to the governing party. Several governors and federal lawmakers have left opposition parties in recent months to join Nigeria's All Progressives Congress party. Abdullahi Ganduje, the governing party's chairman, has also said there was

staged protests in the nation's economic hub of Lagos, where they accused the government of bad governance and profiting off state resources at the expense of millions of citizens. The weakening of the opposition membership, despite claims of bad governance, is because Tinubu has gone after opposition politicians with "compromised state apparatus", according to Debo Ologunagba, spokesman for the main opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party, or PDP. Nigerian law enforcement



The President of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, attends the ECOWAS meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, 10 August 2023

"nothing wrong" with Nigeria becoming a one-party state, angering many in a region threatened with shrinking democratic space. In his Democracy Day address to federal lawmakers, Tinubu said that he would be "the last person" to advocate for Nigeria to drop its multiparty structure and adopt a one-party system. "At no time in the past, nor any instance in the present, and no future juncture shall I view the notion of a one-party state as good for Nigeria," he said. Dozens of youths, meanwhile,

agencies are commonly accused of a one-sided fight against corruption in favour of members of the country's governing party. Nigerians should resist "the plot to foist a despotic one-party regime in Nigeria," Ologunagba said. Some governing party members have also criticised any move towards a one-party system. "One-party dominance is a sign of the death of democracy," Ali Ndume, a governing party senator, told The Associated Press. "We need to have a system that makes it difficult for people to decamp."

## China to remove tariffs on goods from all African countries

The China-Africa Meeting of Coordinators on the Economic Partnership for Implementation of FOCAC Follow-up Actions, held in Changsha, China, would offer duty free access to the Chinese market to all African countries, if agreed by the two sides. The measure was announced as African foreign ministers gathered in central China to review the implementation of outcomes of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held last September. The initiative aims to facilitate greater market access for African exports, especially from least developed countries, and inject new momentum into China-Africa economic ties, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a congratulatory to the Ministerial

China is now the continent's largest trading partner, with total trade reaching nearly US\$300 billion in 2024.





## EDITORIAL

## Weah should accept his mistake

CDCians and supporters of former President George Weah are blaming everyone else but Mr. Weah himself, for the current soaring bad blood between him and Veronica Mamie Doe, daughter of the late First Lady of Liberia, Nancy B. Doe that led to her returning two cows, 50 (25kgs) bags of rice and 1 million Liberian Dollars the former President presented to the family, as they mourn the death of Ms. Doe.

Mr. Weah made the gesture here on Sunday, 8 June when he visited home of the late First Lady, Madam Doe, who died last month following a brief illness. But the daughter of the deceased, Mamie Doe, ordered the items returned to Mr. Weah's Congress for Democratic Change headquarters in Congo Town on Monday, a day after he personally presented them.

Veronica is unhappy with the former President, just like her late mother had expressed prior to her passing. It all started after the late former First Lady went before the ECOWAS Court and won a petition for benefits, totaling several millions from the Government of Liberia, as a former stateswoman.

She reportedly met Mr. Weah during his Presidency on the matter, but received no favorable response from the Weah Administration until it lost the 2023 election. The late Madam Doe went on radio later and lamented her experience with the man her late husband, slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe took as a son, for his soccer skills on the National Team, the Lone Star during Mr. Doe's Presidency in the 80s.

Madam Doe was emotionally disappointed and felt neglected, lest expected from a President that her late husband, Samuel Doe, practically reared. She never received a penny from the Liberian government under Mr. Weah, and lived rest of her life with this grievance up to her death. What went wrong? Why was it so difficult for Mr. Weah to intervene during his Presidency, especially at a time when the former First Lady had been made a widow from the Liberian Civil War, and needed all of the attention she should could get to keep surviving after she has lost her husband.

As a daughter, Veronica Mamie Doe may have spent time with her mother long before her death. She may have heard her late mother lamenting and recounting her ordeal with the state, especially under former President Weah. These are common experiences between a child and a mother made a widow, from a bloody civil war, leaving them with no source of support emotionally and otherwise. They ran to a President whom they had thought could have come to their aid, but he did nothing.

Unfortunately, CDCians and supporters of the Mr. Weah don't seem to see roots cause of Veronica Doe's outrage against the former President. They think the current administration is instigating her to behave the way she did to Mr. Weah.

We can but only join reported call by a prominent son of Grand Gedeh County, and member of the former Weah Administration, Kanio Bai Gbala, for Mr. Weah to apologize to the Doe Family, rather than shifting blames. We strongly believe that this would calm the current flare of emotions and tensions, even in the face of Mrs. Doe's remains still awaiting burial.

The people of Grand Gedeh, where the Doe Family hails consistently voted for Mr. Weah in all elections since 2005, because they saw in him a deep connection with their late son, slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe, and have always stood by him politically. Mr. Weah should not feel too big to say sorrow to Veronica for whatever feeling or disappointment she harbors against him personally, for treatments meted against her late mother.

## COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## Can the Conference on Financing for Development Succeed?

NEW DELHI – It is easy to be pessimistic about multilateralism nowadays. Recent international gatherings – including the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the 2024 Summit of the Future, and multiple United Nations Climate Change Conferences – have yielded only unfulfilled promises. At a time when US President Donald Trump is abandoning America's international commitments, rejecting multilateral initiatives, and sowing chaos and confusion in global trade, can the Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) at the end of this month go any better?

To be sure, the United States may well act as a spoiler in Seville, or simply disregard any agreements that are made. But that does not mean that the summit will be a bust. After all, America's withdrawal from the 2015 Paris climate agreement during Trump's first presidency – mere months after the deal entered into force – did not lead to its demise. While action has been limited, almost everyone recognizes that without the agreement, climate change would likely occur even faster.

Moreover, in April, the US [withdrew](#) from negotiations on decarbonizing shipping at the UN's International Maritime Organization, warning that it would consider "reciprocal measures" if any new fees were charged to US ships for their fuel use. Yet the IMO [succeeded](#) in getting 108 countries – accounting for 97% of the world's merchant-shipping fleet by tonnage – to approve a new mandatory fuel standard for vessels and a global emissions-pricing mechanism, with the revenues supporting, among other things, infrastructure development in developing economies.

It is clearly possible for the world to make progress on shared challenges without the US. The lack of US involvement in the FfD4 might even prove advantageous, given its record of extracting compromises that favor its own multinational companies, and then refusing to sign or enforce deals anyway. The negotiations for the OECD Global Tax Deal, finalized in 2021, are a case in point.

But success will require other countries to fill the global leadership gap and demonstrate a credible commitment to the multilateral cooperation that is essential to our survival. Fortunately, the [first draft](#) of the FfD4's outcome document recognizes this imperative and advances many useful and practical policy proposals, including several from the [final report](#) of the International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development (of which I was a member).

A key focus of the document is enabling greater domestic resource mobilization. An outdated international tax system and inadequate checks on illicit financial flows are a severe constraint on low- and middle-income countries' budgets. Reforms in these areas would go a long way toward reducing income and asset inequalities and increasing tax revenues – vital to finance investment in health care, education, and climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

More broadly, participants at the Seville summit must seek to address the lack of a global financial safety net. A first step could be to initiate regular allocations of the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset,

special drawing rights. To enhance the intervention's impact, the SDRs could be distributed according to need – a departure from the current approach, which allocates SDRs in proportion to IMF quotas, meaning that the largest shares go to the countries least in need. The IMF could also introduce SDR swaps to meet the immediate liquidity needs of economies that do not benefit from the US Federal Reserve's central-bank liquidity swaps.

But this is only the beginning. The world's approach to tackling shared challenges – from climate change to public health and sustainable development – has plainly failed. International pledges and agreements have fallen far short, in terms of both scale and quality. The "billions to trillions" vision which sought to leverage public subsidies to unlock private finance for climate action – has not been realized. The suggestion that donors will close the development-financing gap through sheer goodwill is as unrealistic as it is patronizing.

It is time to embrace an entirely [new model](#) of "global public investment," with all countries contributing to the provision of shared public goods according to their means. This will require, for starters, fundamental reform of the IMF and the World Bank. Both institutions need to adopt a more countercyclical approach to lending. Moreover, they must stop linking loans to oppressive conditionalities that favor the interests of global capital over the well-being of people and the planet. In general, multilateral banks must increase their lending significantly to meet social, developmental, and climate needs, which in turn requires robust, reliable funding.

But there is a major barrier to such changes: important decisions at the IMF and the World Bank require an 85% voting majority, and with a 16% share of those votes, the US effectively wields a veto. Without major governance reforms, these institutions will remain hamstrung, countries will increasingly find ways to bypass them, and they will fade into irrelevance.

Meanwhile, international financial regulations should be strengthened, including by pursuing greater coordination of national laws – possibly on a regional basis at first. Private finance, which has enjoyed decades of lax regulation and positive incentives, should be required to align its behavior with social and planetary goals – or face punishment.

These proposals are hardly radical; such measures have been implemented in past phases of global capitalism, and they are manifestly in the interest of all countries. Nonetheless, in the current geopolitical landscape, they may appear unrealistic. That is why "coalitions of the willing" must take the lead in setting ambitious goals – and doing what it takes to achieve them. The upcoming Conference on Financing for Development is a good place to start.

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## OP-ED

By Pinelopi Koujianou  
Goldberg

## America's Retreat Is Europe's Big Opportunity

NEW HAVEN – The United States is at a turning point. For reasons that future historians will debate – and that will leave many dumbfounded – the country is attacking the very foundations of its strength: its openness, its institutions, and its global engagement.

The shift began with President Donald Trump's tariffs. Their chaotic and inconsistent deployment in pursuit of ill-defined objectives has not only raised the cost of imports and disrupted global trade, but also undermined America's credibility as a reliable economic partner, prompting questions about the dollar's future as the world's reserve currency.

Then came the attacks on US universities, long a cornerstone of the country's scientific and technological leadership. Cuts to research funding, higher taxes on endowments, and restrictive visa policies are weakening their ability to attract and retain top global talent. The result is a loss not just for academia, but for US innovation and thus the broader economy.

Meanwhile, the country's most dynamic sector – technology – has come under political and regulatory pressure. Apple, Alphabet (Google), and Meta face intensifying scrutiny at home while their competitors abroad benefit from supportive industrial policies. As most countries position themselves to compete in the twenty-first-century economy, the US has adopted a policy that reflects the past (reviving domestic manufacturing, [relaxing](#) child labor protections).

Behind all these recent policy shifts is a fundamental misreading of the positive spillovers that the US has historically generated. American leadership in science, security, and innovation has certainly benefited others; but rather than viewing this as a sign of strength, the Trump administration treats it as evidence of exploitation. The response has been to withdraw, even if that means damaging the institutions that have enabled and sustained US global leadership.

Rather than curbing the rise of other countries, America's retreat creates openings for them to advance. Nowhere is this more evident than in continental Europe. Faced with longstanding economic challenges – low productivity growth, aging populations, and missed opportunities in the digital transformation – European policymakers increasingly regard America's inward turn as a chance to catch up.

Two recent developments have given them hope. First, Germany's relaxation of its constitutional “debt brake” (a cap on annual deficits) has created fiscal space for sorely needed public investment. Second, in the face of geopolitical and economic fragmentation, there is a growing political consensus that Europeans must act with greater unity and purpose. But seizing the moment requires more than optimism. Four conditions are essential if Europe is to fill the void left by US disengagement.

First, the European Union must resist the Trump administration's divide-and-rule strategy by avoiding bilateral bargaining with the US by any member country. Only by presenting a united front can the EU leverage its market power and defend its interests. Second, Europe must embrace openness, particularly to talent and trade. With the US becoming increasingly hostile to international students and foreign labor, Europe can benefit from the coming US brain drain by welcoming skilled migrants and researchers. Further, since developing new technologies requires critical minerals and rare earths that are currently unavailable in Europe, it also must maintain productive trade relations with others – not least China. That will require political will and a recognition that openness, managed well, is a source of strength.

Third, Europe needs regulatory reform. While European standards for food safety, environmental protection, and labor rights are rightly admired, excessive or poorly designed regulations in other sectors have stifled investment and innovation and impeded productivity growth. This is especially true when rules serve incumbent interests rather than broader societal goals. For example, qualified refugees are often unable to work because of bureaucratic hurdles.

To be sure, loosening such constraints will be difficult, particularly in countries where high living standards make change politically costly. Workers in Europe will not willingly log more hours, give up job security and long vacations, or take on unpleasant tasks. But failing to make the necessary changes would mean sacrificing future dynamism to preserve past achievements.

Lastly, Europe must tackle its growing labor shortages through immigration policies that apply to skilled and less-skilled individuals alike. Demographic decline and rising living standards mean that many jobs – especially in care, construction, and services – are going unfilled. There is no path to sustained growth or innovation if the workforce is stretched thin meeting basic household and social needs.

Reforming immigration policy does not mean accepting uncontrolled borders; but it does mean creating legal pathways for those willing to contribute. Politically, this may be the hardest challenge of all, given the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment and far-right parties. But it is essential.

America's retreat from the global stage presents Europe with an opportunity it has not had in decades. Whether it can rise to the occasion will depend on its ability to form a united front, remain open, modernize its regulatory frameworks, and embrace a pragmatic approach to immigration. Otherwise, the momentum may pass once again to Asia, which has never stopped preparing for the future.

*Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the [American Economic Review](#), is Professor of Economics at Yale University.*

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## OPINION

By Jonathan Hall

## Political Changes Don't Weaken the Case for Green Business

LONDON – Since Donald Trump's return to the White House, the United States has taken an everything-everywhere-all-at-once approach to disrupting the domestic and global status quo, and sustainability and climate commitments have been among its first targets. Trump immediately signed an executive order withdrawing the US from the Paris climate agreement, and his administration then [canceled funding](#) for clean-energy projects under the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) and the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). Against this backdrop, some companies are [quietly downplaying](#) or abandoning their previously announced environmental and climate commitments.

But no amount of shock-and-awe policy disruption in one country compares to the disruption caused by climate change. Already, the financial costs from disrupted global supply chains – owing to [water stress](#), biodiversity loss, and [land degradation](#) – are projected to reach up to [\\$25 trillion by 2060](#).

Businesses that fail to manage these risks will face higher costs, [increased regulatory scrutiny](#), and reputational damage. For example, automakers that are slow-playing the transition to electric vehicles may find themselves scrambling to catch up as more governments enact legislation to [phase out](#) internal combustion engines in the coming years. In time, legacy auto brands are likely to face the same kind of scrutiny and reputational fallout that oil and gas producers have.

By contrast, companies that proactively build greater resilience throughout their businesses and supply chains will benefit from greater investor confidence, and thus [lower capital costs](#). For example, the champagne brand Taittinger has [opened a vineyard in Kent](#) to manage the risk that climate change poses to production in France.

But with the climate-finance industry focused mostly on the net-zero agenda (reducing emissions), physical risks and climate-adaptation needs have not received the attention they merit. As a result, banks, asset managers, and (especially) insurers are sitting on a time bomb of potential liabilities. Adapting to a world characterized by biodiversity loss, [water stress](#), and other risks is now crucial to maintaining corporate profitability over the long term.

Far-sighted countries and companies will recognize that this upheaval represents an opportunity. In separate studies, McKinsey Sustainability and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) [estimated](#) the economic opportunity represented by the sustainable transition at [\\$12 trillion per year](#) by 2030.

Similarly, Kantar BrandZ assessments show that perceptions of sustainability enhance brand equity (value in the eyes of customers), drive sales, and allow brands to command a premium. Yet even as sustainability perceptions add [as much as 10%](#) to the value of the top 100 brands, these companies are still leaving an estimated \$600 billion on the table. The next decade of business will be defined by companies that recognize sustainability as an economic imperative, rather than just a regulatory requirement.

Economic power is shifting fast with the impending generational transfer of wealth. In the US alone, the transfer of wealth from Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) to Millennials (1981-96) and Gen Z (1997-2012) could amount to [\\$84.4 trillion](#) over the next 20 years.

As Millennial and Gen Z consumers become more dominant in the marketplace, they are seeking brands that reflect their values, and chief among these is a preference for mutualism over individualism: a sense of community and shared responsibility for collective gain in the face of anticipated uncertainty and adversity. In this context, businesses like Airbnb, Vinted, and IKEA are stealing a march with brand communications that focus on cooperation, community, and a sense of belonging. Airbnb's stated purpose, for example, is to “create a world where anyone can belong anywhere.”

Most of the business community understands what it at stake. In Kantar's work with the Climate Governance Initiative, 88% of board directors [told us](#) that climate change requires new thinking and new forms of leadership from top executives to the workforce, and 84% viewed climate-related challenges as opportunities for business innovation.

As global business leaders increasingly recognize the need for a new mindset, one finds more and more brands exploring circular business models – such as reuse, repair, and rental – that allow them to differentiate themselves, strengthen customer loyalty, and unlock new revenue streams. IKEA's CIRKULÄR initiative, for example, uses financial rewards, humor, and green imagery to encourage customers to buy and sell used IKEA items, decoupling growth from the production of new items.

As global markets increasingly focus on business resilience and respond to the rise of industrial policy and longer-term investment strategies, companies that adapt to generational change will be best positioned to lead the next industrial revolution. We are experiencing much more than the shock of US policy shifts. To remain credible in the eyes of consumers and investors, brands and businesses will have to get serious about building climate resilience into their operations – whether by addressing single points of failure in their supply chains or by implementing robust crisis and recovery plans.

For businesses, the need to adapt to climate change isn't going away, and neither is consumer demand for sustainable solutions. Globally, [85%](#) of people surveyed still want to make “greener” choices in their purchases. Companies that shun, renounce, or postpone climate-attuned strategies do so at their own peril.

*Jonathan Hall, Managing Partner of the Sustainable Transformation Practice at Kantar, is a non-executive director at Water Unite and a member of the Executive Council for the Oxford Future of Marketing Initiative.*

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Rethinking Capital Growth in Liberia: A Path Toward Equitable Resource Distribution:

BY: Austin S Fallah-

*A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:*

This article was written with Liberia in mind but could serve as a policy resource for any African or developing nation.

Liberia, a nation rich in natural resources, stands at a pivotal crossroads as it approaches the mid-21st century. Harnessing these resources for sustainable internal growth is not only an economic imperative but also a moral imperative to foster equity among citizens.

With a history fraught with political instability and socio-economic challenges, there is an urgent need to rethink capital growth strategies that ensure the benefits of Liberia's natural wealth are felt by all.

I will explore the Liberian government's potential to implement district-level shareholding in natural resources contracts alongside a broader vision for economic development that serves the common good.

**Historical Context and Economic Landscape:**

Liberia, a land given the name "Liberia" by freed Returned Africans to the continent of their nativity in the early 19th century, possesses abundant resources, including diamonds, gold, iron ore, planted natural rubber, timber, etc.

Despite this wealth, the country has struggled with systemic poverty since the day it was given the name Liberia, particularly following the civil wars that ravaged the nation from 1989 to 2003.

These conflicts exacerbated already existing inequalities and left a legacy of underdevelopment.

The aftermath of the war necessitated reconstructing the national economy, focusing on sustainable and inclusive growth.

A significant informal sector, widespread unemployment, corruption, and reliance on agriculture characterize Liberia's economic landscape.

Efforts to attract foreign direct investment have been met with varied success. They often lead to exploiting local resources with minimal benefits for the nation and the communities from which they are extracted.

As such, there is a critical need for a transformative approach to development in Liberia, a shift from mere resource extraction to a model that prioritizes long-term capital growth and benefits every Liberian.

**The Case for District-Level Shareholding:**

One innovative approach to ensuring equitable resource distribution is establishing a system in which each district in Liberia holds shares in the contracts for resource extraction.

This could enable local communities (districts) to participate directly in the wealth generated from their natural resources, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability.

**1. Promoting Local Involvement and Investment:**

Allowing districts to act as shareholders would empower local populations and incentivize sustainable practices. When communities have a stake in resource management, they are more likely to advocate for environmentally friendly practices that secure their future livelihoods.

This model could lead to enhanced community-focused initiatives funded by local revenue from educational programs to infrastructural development.

**2. Economic Diversification:**

With districts benefiting directly from resource revenues, there is potential for the diversification of local economies. Community (district) level investments could develop various sectors, including agriculture, tourism, and small-scale manufacturing.

This diversification would be crucial in reducing the economy's dependency on natural resources and mitigating the "resource curse" often observed in

resource-rich nations.

**3. Collective Bargaining Power:**

As shareholders, districts could collaborate to negotiate better terms with foreign investors.

This would empower local governments by giving them a stronger voice in contracts and revenue-sharing discussions, potentially leading to more favorable agreements for the national economy.

**4. Accountability and Transparency:**

Transparency is essential for trust in a nation plagued by corruption.

By involving districts in revenue sharing, greater scrutiny of how resources are extracted and distributed would occur.

This could foster a culture of accountability, as local representatives could be held responsible for how funds are utilized within their communities (districts).



**5. Building Human Capital:**

The direct financial benefits to local districts could be reinvested into education and healthcare, two critical areas for sustainable development.

Enhancing human capital is essential for long-term economic growth and can help lift communities (districts) out of poverty.

A model structured around district shareholding ensures that the dividends from natural resources contribute to a more educated and healthier populace.

**The Role of Government in Facilitating Equity:**

For district-level shareholding to become a reality, the Liberian government must develop a robust framework to facilitate such initiatives.

This includes policy reforms, legal frameworks, and strategic investments.

**1. Legislative Framework:**

A legislative overhaul may be necessary to enable district participation in resource contracts.

Clear guidelines outlining profit-sharing mechanisms, governance structures, and accountability measures would be essential to prevent corruption and mismanagement.

**2. Capacity Building:**

The government could play a critical role in capacity building at the district level.

Enhancing the skills of local leaders and administrative staff in financial management, resource allocation, and project implementation can lead to more effective governance and sustainable development.

**3. Public-Private Partnerships:**

Encouraging collaboration between the government, local communities, and private investors through PPPs could

help streamline processes and prioritize community needs alongside investor interests.

This approach fosters an environment where both parties can benefit, with local districts receiving the necessary support to manage their resources effectively.

**4. Long-term Economic Vision:**

The Liberian government must articulate a vision for long-term growth that aligns with the interests of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, private sector actors, and international partners.

This vision should emphasize sustainable practices and the importance of leaving no one behind in the quest for development.

**The Broader Vision: Towards Sustainable Economic Emancipation:**

Ultimately, the goal of any economic restructuring in Liberia must be geared toward fostering sustainable growth that empowers its citizens.

This vision of economic emancipation transcends immediate financial gains; it demands a holistic approach that incorporates social, environmental, and governance facets.

**1. Sustainability:**

Economic growth should not come at the cost of environmental degradation. Liberia's rich biodiversity is a valuable asset that must be preserved alongside resource extraction.

Policies that promote sustainable farming, eco-tourism, and conservation can create alternative livelihoods while protecting the environment for future generations.

**2. Social Cohesion:**

Economic policies must prioritize social cohesion, address inequalities, and ensure that vulnerable populations can access opportunities.

This includes marginalized groups such as women, youth, and young people.

By empowering these demographics, Liberia can harness the full potential of its population.

**3. Global Integration:**

While focusing on internal growth, Liberia must remain engaged with the global economy.

This includes fostering trade relationships, responsibly attracting foreign investment, and sharing best practices with other nations.

An integrated approach can bolster domestic industries and promote international competitiveness.

**4. Cultural Resilience:** Liberia's unique cultural identity should also play a pivotal role in its economic development strategy.

By promoting cultural products and heritage-based tourism, the nation can create jobs and engage communities in preserving their history and identity while generating revenue.

As Liberia charts its course toward the latter half of the 21st century, the imperative for a transformative approach to capital growth has never been more critical.

By considering district-level shareholding in natural resource contracts, the government can foster an equitable framework that allows all Liberians to share in their country's wealth.

Coupled with comprehensive policy reforms, capacity building, and a commitment to sustainability, this shift could usher in Liberia's new era of economic emancipation, where the nation's resources serve the common good, laying a tangible and self-felt foundation for future generations.

If executed conscientiously, this approach can transform the narrative of poverty into one of prosperity and hope, ensuring that Liberia is remembered not merely for its resources but for the resilience and ingenuity of its people.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Lutheran University's Phebe Campus announces closure

**-Following students uprising.**

**By Edwin N Khakie**

The Lutheran University of Liberia's Phebe-Esther Bacon College of Health Sciences has been temporarily shut down following a wave of student protests that have spiraled into a full-blown campus crisis. Phebe, Bong County June 16, 2025—What was once a vibrant center of learning and medical training is now silent.

campus amid rising tensions and a growing atmosphere of uncertainty.

The flashpoint came on June 10, when student leaders launched a high-stakes protest by locking several key university administrators inside the main administrative building. The bold action, while controversial, was aimed at drawing national attention to what students' claim are years of administrative neglect and

campus, citing security concerns considering the volatile situation. Their departure triggered an immediate and indefinite shutdown of academic and administrative activities.

Although the university administration has yet to issue an official statement detailing the nature of the conflict, sources within the student body cite chronic infrastructural decay, insufficient academic resources, and a lack of responsiveness from university leadership as the core issues fueling the unrest.

"We've been raising these concerns for years—about classrooms with broken chairs, labs without equipment, and promises that never materialize," said a student protest leader who requested anonymity. "We are the future health workers of this country. We cannot be trained under these conditions."

The protest and subsequent campus closure highlight deeper systemic challenges within Liberia's higher education system—especially unresolved grievances. By early Wednesday morning, most university students and staff abandon the officials had vacated the



Dormitories are empty, lecture halls are locked, and faculty offices lie deserted as both June 11, most university students and staff abandon the officials had vacated the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

### Bong County: ForumCiv, partners conduct joint monitoring visit to Naama community

*As part of a three-day Joint Project Monitoring initiative, ForumCiv Liberia and members of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) conducted a field visit to the Naama community in Bong County on Wednesday.*

**By Edwin N. Khakie**

Bong County, June 16, 2025: The monitoring exercise is a core part of ongoing efforts to assess the impact, challenges, and progress of activities implemented under the Our Land Programme, in partnership with the Justice and Peace Commission (JPC).

The monitoring delegation comprised a broad coalition of

comprehensive training provided under the Land Rights Act, they now have a deeper understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities concerning land ownership. This has led to increased community engagement, with local residents—especially women—taking proactive roles in educating others and advocating for equitable land access.

"We now understand our rights and



stakeholders, including representatives from the Office of land," said Korto F. Wolokollie, a the Bong County Superintendent, community mobilizer. "And we the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), are helping others understand too." the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Bong County Civil Society Council, monitoring engagements across ForumCiv staff and interns, and Bong County. According to other local implementing partners. ForumCiv and its partners, the goal During the visit, the delegation is to document success stories, engaged local community identify implementation gaps, and members and stakeholders, who reinforce collaborative efforts provided firsthand testimonies toward inclusive, rights-based about the transformative effects of rural development.

the program. A key highlight of the discussions was the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) scheme, which residents credited for fostering economic empowerment—particularly among single women and low-income earners.

Antonette Kessele, a local resident expected to continue over the next and VSLA participant, praised the program for creating accessible financial opportunities. "The low interest rate allows us to repay at a pace we can manage," she said. "It's helping many of us, especially women, to build better lives for our families."

The team also reviewed the strides made in land rights awareness and governance. Community members reported that through

### Boakai Gov't is a disaster for Liberia

**-Rep. Bility descends**

**By: Edwin N. Khakie**

In a fiery condemnation of the current Liberian administration, Representative Musa Hassan Bility, political leader of the Citizens Movement for Change (CMC) and Chairman of the Rule of Law Caucus in the House of Representatives, has branded the government of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai as a "complete disaster" for the Liberian people.

Speaking to journalists in Gbarnga, Bong County, on June 12, 2025, Rep. Bility did not mince words in his blistering assessment of the Unity Party-led government.

He accused President Boakai of presiding over a worsening socio-economic crisis, failing to

deliver on campaign promises made during the 2023 general and presidential elections.

"Liberians are suffering. And nothing has changed under the Boakai-Koung government, despite the promises they made to the Liberian people," Bility said.

According to the Nimba County District #7 lawmaker, the Boakai administration has not only failed to ease the economic burdens of ordinary Liberians but has also exhibited authoritarian tendencies, including a willingness to suppress dissent and manipulate institutions to remain in power.

"Those who govern are so desperate to cling to power that they would crush any voice,

rewrite any truth, and spend the country's soul just to stay in charge," Bility added.

Rep. Bility also highlighted what he termed the administration's alarming failure to tackle systemic corruption and uphold the rule of law. He expressed concern over what he perceives as selective justice, political intimidation, and the growing politicization of the country's justice system.

"The institutions of democracy are being undermined," Bility asserted. "Instead of strengthening transparency and accountability, we are witnessing the rise of a government more interested in vengeance than governance."

These strong accusations come at a time of heightened political tension, as several opposition parties, including the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), the Alternative National Congress (ANC), the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE), and Bility's own CMC, have united in criticism of the Boakai administration.

The criticism follows the controversial arrest and detention of former House Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa and several lawmakers. The group is

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Musa Hassan Bility



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Starts from page 6 **Lutheran University's Phebe**

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## **Liberia: NAKOL endorsed Cllr. David Woah for 2029 Presidency**

By: Edwin N Khakie

The President of the National Kpelle Organization of Liberia, (NAKOL), Emmanuel Sibley has openly declared that they have resolved and adequately prepared to test the political heat in the upcoming 2029 presidential and general elections. Mr. Sibley said in the past that they have struggled to make senators, representatives, and presidents, but we have never been recognized as an organization.

Based on these dissatisfactions, the political wing of the organization will support a presidential candidate to contest the 2029 presidential election who is a senior official of the organization. "We the Kpelle people have resolved to support Cllr. David Woah in the 2029 presidential elections," Sibley stated. After the declaration, he called upon the National Leadership to travel across Liberia with Cllr. David Woah to present him to the Kpelleh people of Liberia as their 2029 presidential candidate.

He further emphasized that the decision is their right under the constitution of the Republic of Liberia, not a privilege. "Let us join hands, choose our own, support our own, defend our own, and elect our own comes 2029," he added. Furthermore, Emmanuel Sibley revealed that they have suffered a lot because of what he described as their mistakes in Liberia's largest tribe. He

## **Office of War and Economic Crimes lacks money**

**-Amidst 5 months' salary arrears**

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, June 16, 2025 - The Office of War and Economic Crimes Court (OWECC) in Liberia has issued an urgent plea to religious leaders, for their intervention to secure governmental support for its operations. The appeal comes as the Office grapples with severe financial crisis, leaving its employees unpaid for five months and facing outstanding rental for its

The Office of War and Economic Crimes is appealing for support, as employees there go without salary for five months.

Bishop also pledged the Network's commitment to launching a nationwide awareness campaign about the court, partnering with local churches across the country to conduct coordinated forums. Bishop Quire further outlined the Faith and Justice Network's initiatives to support the court's objectives. These include a church-based victims' healing initiative, which will offer



premises. Dr. Barbu, Executive Director of the OWECC, revealed the workshops in collaboration with licensed Christian engagement with members

of the Faith and Justice Network over the weekend in Monrovia's diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point. Dr. Barbu highlighted that the chronic lack of funds is not only fostering public trust and paralyzing the court's preparatory activities but also deterring international partners.

Concluding his remarks, who are unwilling to cover staff salaries. "Since President Joseph Boakai issued an executive order extending the Office," Dr. Barbu stated, "not a cent has been released for its operation, forcing employees to personally cover almost all expenses."

The engagement saw the participation of a diverse group of prominent religious leaders, including Catholic Archbishop, appeal, Bishop Samuel Quire, Gabriel Jubwe; Episcopal Chairman of the Board of Church Directors of the Faith and Justice Network, assured the Christopher Toe, Secretary OWECC that he would engage President Joseph Boakai to advocate for the court's crucial support. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

The United Methodist Church





# Français

## ArcelorMittal s'engage à verser 4 millions de dollars par an au Fonds de Développement des Comtés

Le directeur général par intérim et chef des Opérations d'ArcelorMittal Liberia, M. Anthony P. Kocken, a annoncé que le géant sidérurgique s'engage à augmenter sa contribution annuelle au Fonds de Développement Social des Comtés (County

Développement Minier (MDA) entre l'entreprise et le gouvernement libérien. Ledit amendement constitue une révision majeure du cadre légal régissant les activités de la société au Liberia, notamment dans le secteur de l'extraction de minerai de fer. ArcelorMittal, l'un des plus grands producteurs d'acier et

dans le comté de Nimba, et l'exporte via le port de Buchanan, situé dans le comté de Grand Bassa.

Acteur économique majeur du pays, ArcelorMittal emploie des milliers de Libériens et contribue de manière significative au budget national. Le troisième amendement, négocié avec le gouvernement, prévoit l'extension des opérations de la société pour une durée supplémentaire de 25 ans.

Dans ce nouveau cadre, ArcelorMittal prévoit un investissement dépassant le milliard de dollars. Ce montant inclut l'expansion de ses activités minières, la construction d'une nouvelle usine de traitement à Yekepa, la modernisation des infrastructures ferroviaires et portuaires, l'augmentation de la production annuelle à 15 millions de tonnes — avec un potentiel de montée à 30 millions — et l'ouverture de ces infrastructures à d'autres entreprises minières, telles que High Power Exploration (H P X),

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Social Development Fund) à hauteur de 4 millions de dollars. Cette décision intervient à la suite de la conclusion du troisième amendement de l'Accord de

exploitants miniers au monde, opère au Liberia depuis la signature de l'accord initial en 2005, amendé une première fois en 2006.

La société extrait principalement le minerai de fer du Mont Tokadeh,

## Commémoration du 80e anniversaire du Professeur Amos C. Sawyer : début de la série de conférences ce vendredi

La Fondation Éducative Amos C. Sawyer (ACS) organise, à partir de ce vendredi, une série d'activités pour célébrer la vie, l'œuvre et la vision du professeur Amos Claudius Sawyer, à l'occasion de ce qui aurait été son 80e anniversaire.

Selon un communiqué publié par la Fondation, les célébrations débiteront ce vendredi 13 juin avec une conférence inaugurale sur le campus de Fendell, qui abrite le *Dr. Amos C. Sawyer College of Social Sciences and Humanities*. Cet événement marquera également le lancement officiel de la Série annuelle de conférences académiques Amos C. Sawyer ainsi que la remise du Prix d'excellence patriotique, destiné à honorer des citoyens libériens remarquables.

La conférence inaugurale débutera à 15h30 et sera animée par le professeur Dew Tuan Wleh Mason, universitaire de renom et figure emblématique du mouvement progressiste libérien. Des extraits de discours et d'écrits du professeur Sawyer seront récités tout au long de l'événement, qui est ouvert au corps diplomatique, à la communauté universitaire et au grand public.

Par ailleurs, une prière interconfessionnelle (Jum'ah) sera organisée le même jour à la

mosquée de *Fish Market*, avec une allocution spéciale de l'imam Ali Krayee, qui évoquera la vision et le parcours du professeur Sawyer. Des prières pour la paix seront élevées dans l'esprit d'unité interreligieuse cher à l'héritage du défunt.

Le samedi 14 juin à 18h, un dîner de levée de fonds se tiendra dans la salle de bal de l'Hôtel de Ville de Monrovia. Deux grandes figures patriotiques du pays y seront honorées :

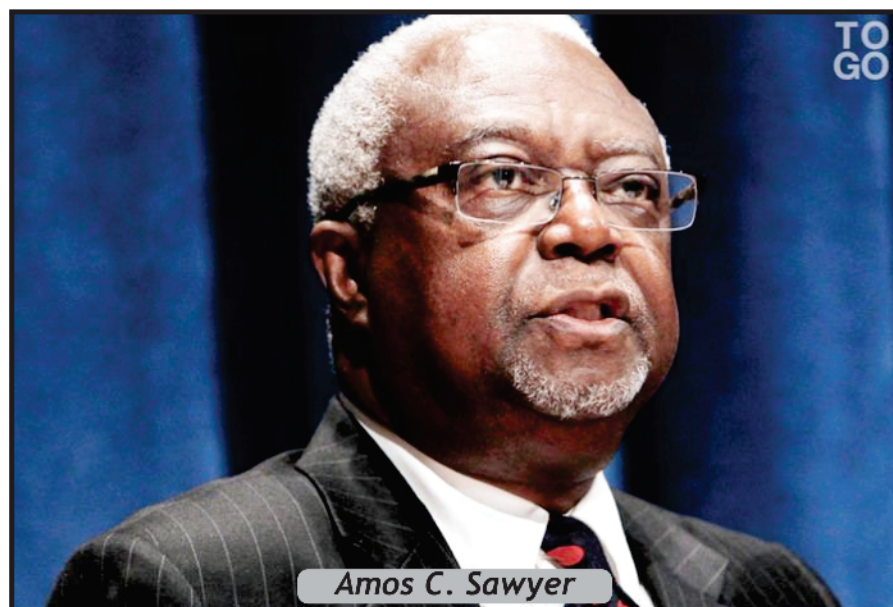
Dr. Abba Karnga, pour ses contributions pionnières à la promotion de la langue Bassa et son engagement dans les missions chrétiennes,

Professeure Agnes Nebo von Ballmoos (à titre posthume), première ethnomusicologue du Liberia, reconnue pour son travail exceptionnel de préservation de la musique folklorique libérienne, et son

impact sur le chœur universitaire.

Parmi les invités d'honneur figurera la lauréate du prix Nobel de la paix Leymah Gbowee, qui participera au lancement officiel du Prix d'excellence. Ce dîner de gala rassemblera également de nombreuses personnalités issues des sphères politique, religieuse et gouvernementale, dans un esprit d'unité et d'hommage à l'œuvre du professeur Sawyer.

Enfin, les célébrations se clôtureront le dimanche 15 juin par un culte de dédicace en l'honneur du "Saint Patron" de la fondation. Ce service religieux se tiendra à l'église épiscopale St. Stephen, située sur la 10e rue à Sinkor, marquant le point culminant de trois jours d'activités riches en émotion et en reconnaissance.



Amos C. Sawyer

## Éditorial

Par Jayati Ghosh

### La Conférence sur le financement du développement a-t-elle des chances de succès ?

NEW DELHI – Le pessimisme est aujourd'hui compréhensible en ce qui concerne le multilatéralisme. Les récents rassemblements internationaux – Sommet de 2023 sur les Objectifs de développement durable, Sommet de l'avenir 2024, ainsi que les multiples Conférences des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques – n'ont en effet donné lieu qu'à des promesses non tenues. Le président américain Donald Trump abandonnant actuellement les engagements internationaux des États-Unis, et rejetant les initiatives multilatérales tout en semant le désordre et la confusion dans le commerce mondial, la Conférence sur le financement du développement (FfD4) qui se tiendra à la fin du mois pourra-t-elle produire de meilleurs résultats ?

Certes, il faut s'attendre à ce que les États-Unis jouent les trouble-fête à Séville, ou à ce qu'ils se montrent indifférents aux accords conclus. Cela ne signifiera pas pour autant l'échec de cette conférence. En effet, le retrait des États-Unis de l'accord de Paris 2015 sur le climat durant le premier mandat de Trump – quelques mois seulement après l'entrée en vigueur du texte – n'a pas conduit à sa disparition. Bien que l'action climatique demeure limitée, presque tous les protagonistes admettent que le changement climatique se produirait encore plus rapidement si cet accord n'avait pas été conclu.

Les États-Unis se sont par ailleurs retirés en avril des négociations sur la décarbonation du transport maritime menées au sein de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI) des Nations Unies, menaçant de prendre des « mesures réciproques » si de nouvelles taxes étaient imposées aux navires américains pour leur consommation de carburant. Or, l'OMI est malgré tout parvenue à convaincre 108 États – qui représentent 97 % de la flotte marchande mondiale en termes de tonnage – d'approuver une nouvelle norme obligatoire concernant le carburant des navires, ainsi qu'un mécanisme mondial de tarification des émissions, dont les recettes sont destinées à soutenir notamment le développement d'infrastructures dans les économies en voie de développement.

Il est clairement possible pour le monde de progresser sans les États-Unis face à des défis communs. Le manque d'implication des États-Unis dans la FfD4 pourrait même s'avérer avantageux, compte tenu de leur tendance habituelle consistant à obtenir des compromis favorables à leurs propres multinationales, pour ensuite refuser de signer ou d'appliquer quelque accord que ce soit – comme l'illustrent les négociations relatives à l'accord fiscal mondial de l'OCDE, finalisé en 2021.

Pour que la FfD4 soit une réussite, il faudra néanmoins que d'autres États viennent combler le manque de leadership mondial, et qu'ils démontrent un engagement crédible en faveur de la coopération multilatérale, qui est essentielle à notre survie. Fort heureusement, la première version du document final de la FfD4 reconnaît cet impératif, et formule de nombreuses propositions politiques utiles et pratiques, dont plusieurs sont issues du rapport final de la Commission internationale d'experts sur le financement du développement (dont j'étais membre).

L'un des points clés du document consiste à permettre une plus grande mobilisation des ressources nationales. Un système fiscal international obsolète et des contrôles insuffisants des flux financiers illicites pèsent lourdement sur les budgets des pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire. Des réformes dans ces domaines contribueraient grandement à réduire les inégalités de revenus et d'actifs, ainsi qu'à faire croître des recettes fiscales indispensables pour financer les investissements dans la santé, l'éducation, l'atténuation et l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Il est plus largement nécessaire que les participants au sommet de Séville s'efforcent de remédier à l'absence de filet de sécurité financière mondiale. Une première étape pourrait consister à mettre en place des allocations régulières de droits de tirage spéciaux, l'actif de réserve du Fonds monétaire international. Pour renforcer l'impact de cette démarche, les DTS pourraient être distribués en fonction des besoins – en rupture avec l'approche actuelle, qui alloue les DTS proportionnellement aux quotas du FMI, ce qui signifie que les parts les plus importantes reviennent aux États qui en ont le moins besoin. Le FMI pourrait également introduire des swaps de DTS afin de répondre aux besoins de liquidités immédiats des économies qui ne bénéficient pas des swaps de liquidités de la Réserve fédérale américaine.



# Français

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Ledit amendement constitue une révision majeure du cadre légal régissant les activités de la société au Liberia, notamment dans le secteur de l'extraction de minerai de fer. ArcelorMittal, l'un des plus grands producteurs d'acier et exploitants miniers au monde, opère au Liberia depuis la signature de l'accord initial en 2005, amendé une première fois en 2006.

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minières, la construction d'une nouvelle usine de traitement à Yekepa, la modernisation des infrastructures ferroviaires et portuaires, l'augmentation de la production annuelle à 15 millions de tonnes — avec un potentiel de montée à 30 millions — et l'ouverture de ces infrastructures à d'autres entreprises minières, telles que High Power Exploration (HPX), favorisant ainsi l'intégration régionale. L'accord inclut également des dispositions en matière de développement communautaire, de contenu local et de partage des revenus.

Sur la base de cet accord, la Chambre des représentants a approuvé l'amendement en 2022. Toutefois, le Sénat a suspendu son approbation, invoquant un manque de transparence, des bénéfices jugés insuffisants pour les communautés locales, ainsi que le contrôle exclusif exercé par ArcelorMittal sur les infrastructures ferroviaires et portuaires. Le Sénat a exigé l'ouverture de ces installations à d'autres projets, notamment ceux en provenance de la Guinée.

À la mi-2024, les consultations se poursuivaient entre les différentes parties prenantes, incluant la société civile, les représentants du gouvernement et des acteurs internationaux.

S'exprimant lors du point de presse hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information (MICAT), le jeudi 12 juin 2024, M. Kocken a réaffirmé que l'augmentation du Fonds de Développement Social des Comtés à 4 millions de dollars sera effective une fois le troisième amendement ratifié.

Il a par ailleurs rappelé qu'en mars 2025, le Liberia

## La Chine et l'Afrique dénoncent le protectionnisme et l'unilatéralisme

La République populaire de Chine, la Commission de l'Union africaine, ainsi que 53 pays africains, dont le Liberia, ont fermement condamné la montée du protectionnisme, de l'unilatéralisme et des pratiques économiques abusives qui entravent gravement le développement socio-économique et la qualité de vie en Afrique et dans d'autres régions du Sud global.

Cette position commune a été exprimée mercredi 11 juin à l'occasion de la réunion ministérielle des coordinateurs chargés du suivi des engagements du Forum sur la coopération sino-africaine (FOCAC), tenue à Changsha, dans la province chinoise du Hunan.

La délégation libérienne était conduite par le Dr Ibrahim Al-barkri Nyei, vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères chargé de la Coopération internationale et de l'Intégration économique.



Guidés par le consensus des chefs d'État formulé lors du sommet de Pékin en 2024, les représentants chinois, les délégués des 53 pays africains et la Commission de l'UA se sont réunis pour faire progresser la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Pékin sur la construction conjointe d'une communauté sino-africaine à toute épreuve pour la nouvelle ère.

Vers une coopération de qualité

Dans son intervention, la Chine a réaffirmé son engagement à renforcer sa coopération avec l'Afrique dans le cadre de dix axes stratégiques de partenariat pour la modernisation, incluant l'industrie verte, le commerce électronique, les paiements numériques, la science, la technologie et l'intelligence artificielle. La coopération sera également élargie aux domaines de la sécurité, de la finance et de l'État de droit, dans le but de promouvoir un développement de haute qualité de la coopération sino-africaine. Le FOCAC est désormais reconnu comme un modèle de solidarité Sud-Sud. Le rapport d'étape sur la mise en œuvre des décisions du Sommet de Pékin offre une présentation concrète, quantitative et exhaustive des progrès réalisés. Les parties ont annoncé leur volonté commune de faire de 2026 l'Année des échanges entre les peuples Chine-Afrique, selon un plan d'action défini dans un document conceptuel publié à cette occasion.

Une résolution forte en faveur du multilatéralisme À l'issue de la séance plénière, les participants ont adopté une résolution en neuf points destinée à répondre aux défis économiques et développementaux majeurs. Ils y soulignent que l'émergence du Sud global constitue une tendance irréversible et porteuse d'avenir. « La Chine et l'Afrique sont des piliers majeurs du Sud global. Nous appelons l'ensemble des pays — en particulier ceux du Sud — à œuvrer à la construction d'une communauté de destin pour l'humanité, à promouvoir une coopération de qualité dans le cadre de l'Initiative La Ceinture et la Route, et à mettre en œuvre les grandes initiatives mondiales pour le développement, la sécurité et la civilisation », indique la résolution. Les signataires ont dénoncé les tentatives de certains pays, notamment les États-Unis, de perturber l'ordre économique et commercial mondial par l'imposition de droits de douane unilatéraux, estimant que ces pratiques nuisent à l'intérêt général international. Ils appellent la communauté internationale à accorder une attention prioritaire aux difficultés économiques rencontrées par les pays africains et à renforcer l'aide au développement plutôt qu'à la réduire, afin de soutenir efficacement la lutte contre la pauvreté, l'amélioration des conditions de vie et la croissance économique durable. Respect mutuel et équité internationale La Chine a été saluée pour sa détermination à défendre l'équité et la justice sur la scène internationale, tandis que les pays africains ont été félicités pour leur attachement indéfectible aux principes de souveraineté, d'égalité et de justice. La résolution rejette toute logique de compromis imposé au détriment des intérêts d'un pays tiers. Elle appelle à défendre un multilatéralisme authentique, fondé sur la consultation, la coopération et le bénéfice mutuel, à préserver l'ordre international centré sur l'ONU et à promouvoir un système commercial multilatéral équilibré sous l'égide de l'OMC.

« Tous les pays, quel que soit leur poids ou leur puissance, sont égaux dans la communauté internationale », conclut la résolution, affirmant la volonté partagée de protéger l'égalité souveraine et de garantir un ordre mondial juste.

## Boakai distingue 13 institutions performantes

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a procédé à la certification de treize institutions gouvernementales dans le cadre du *Performance Management Compliance System* (PMCS), le programme-phare de son administration visant à renforcer la responsabilité et la transparence dans le secteur public. Les entités non performantes, quant à elles, s'exposent à une interdiction temporaire de voyages officiels à l'étranger.

Le PMCS, lancé en octobre 2024 sous la houlette du président Boakai, s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'Agenda ARREST du gouvernement. Ce mécanisme de gestion de la performance établit une structure claire permettant aux ministères, agences, commissions et entreprises publiques de fixer des objectifs mesurables, d'améliorer la qualité des services offerts aux citoyens, et de rendre compte régulièrement des résultats obtenus.

Parmi les institutions distinguées figurent :

- le Ministère d'État,
- le Ministère des Affaires étrangères,
- le Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications,
- le Ministère des Travaux publics,
- la Commission WASH,
- la LERC,
- la LACRA,
- l'Hôpital Mémorial Jackson F. Doe,
- la LPRC,

- le Ministère de la Défense,
- la PPCC,
- l'Autorité de l'aviation (LAA),
- ainsi que le LISGIS.

Lors de la cérémonie de remise des certificats tenue le 12 juin au complexe ministériel EJS de Congo Town, le président Boakai a salué ce moment comme une avancée majeure vers une gouvernance centrée sur les résultats.

« À travers le PMCS, nous passons des promesses aux performances, des intrants à l'impact, et des excuses à l'excellence », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a souligné que ce système représente une transformation de culture administrative, appelant l'ensemble des entités publiques à institutionnaliser l'approche axée sur les résultats.

« Ce système n'est pas un simple programme ; il constitue un legs que nous devons au peuple

libérien. Il appelle à plus de rigueur et d'engagement », a-t-il ajouté.

Le président a noté que, pour la première fois dans l'histoire du pays, son gouvernement a complété un cycle complet d'évaluation de la performance dans toute la fonction publique. Cette première édition historique a permis d'identifier les institutions ayant fait preuve d'exemplarité, notamment par l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'une *Charte de prestation de services*.

Il a salué les efforts des institutions qui ont démontré une planification rigoureuse, un renforcement des systèmes internes, et des améliorations tangibles dans la qualité des services publics.

Cependant, il a également mis en garde contre les défaillances observées dans plusieurs autres entités.

« Un certain nombre d'institutions n'ont pas respecté les exigences de base du système. Cela est inacceptable », a-t-il affirmé.





## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Gbarpolu officials on spotlight "I will return in 2029"

**-For their role in Bio-Chico operations**

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, "They extracted massive amounts of iron ore while ignoring community development, labor rights, and environmental safety," Fahnlaments. The former Representative candidate of Gbarpolu County District #3 stressed that "This Thomas Andrew Fahnlaments. He describes the Chinese-

operational permits after more than a decade of activities in Gbarpolu.

Speaking on Prime FM in Monrovia over the weekend, Fahnlaments said Bio-Chico's presence brought exploitation, contract violations, and unethical labor practices to the region.

"If you do a survey in the county, you'll find that only a clique of those in authority benefitted from Bio-Chico, while ordinary citizens were enslaved and robbed of their mineral resources," he added. He accused members of both the Gbarpolu County local authority and the Liberian Legislature of colluding with the company, allowing it to operate unchecked and without meaningful benefit to the local population.

On May 15, 2025, the Government of Liberia officially revoked the operational and transport permits of Bio-Chico Resources Liberia Ltd., effectively halting its ability to move iron ore on public roads across the country.

Info rmat ▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Former President George M. Weah continues to hold onto his hope for a return to state power, citing his relationship with the Liberian people as the driving force behind his aspirations, and declaring that he will return in 2029.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Robertsfield Highway, Paynesville, June 16, 2025: Former President Weah remains optimistic here about his second return to state power, telling his local congregation that he will return in 2029 because he served well during his first term and nothing is going to stop his return to power.

"I've done nothing wrong, nothing bad to the Liberian People, and God knows. I have fought for you, this

We met the problem in this country, and we tried our best to fix it."

Former President Weah was defeated by a narrow margin by President Joseph N. Boakai in an election dubbed a 2017 rematch between the two men. Weah won a popular vote in the 2017 election rerun, while President Boakai snatched power from his hands despite an elaborate campaign between the two men in the December 2023 elections.

Meanwhile, Weah's renewed



investigation into the role of owned Bio-Chico a "disaster local and national officials in for Liberia," commending the enabling the company's Boakai Administration for controversial operations. revoking the company's



## Starts from page 7 Liberia: NAKOL endorsed Cllr.

The President of the our own, and elect our own National Kpelle comes 2029," he added. Organization of Liberia, Furthermore, Emmanuel Sibley (NAKOL), Emmanuel Sibley revealed that they have suffered has openly declared that they a lot because of what he have resolved and adequately described as their mistakes in prepared to test the political Liberia's largest tribe. heat in the upcoming 2029 He added that the time is now to presidential and general recover those past discoveries. elections.

Mr. Sibley said in the past that "Those mistakes should be past memories. The time is now to they have struggled to make harness our resources and senators, representatives, and challenge the future with all our presidents, but we have never might. My noble Kpelle people, been recognized as an we have lost a lot of organization. opportunities due to ignorance

Based on these dissatisfactions, in the past," the NAKOL President stated. the political wing of the The President of the National organization will support a Kpelle Organization, at the same time, said that the future presidential candidate to rests on perpetuating and contest the 2029 presidential preserving their culture by election who is a senior official of the organization. ensuring that young people are

"We the Kpelle people have protected and developed resolved to support Cllr. David through adherence to the Woah in the 2029 presidential elections," Sibley stated. culture and traditions.

After the declaration, he called He expressed that drugs are wreaking havoc on the young upon the National Leadership people in the Liberian society, to travel across Liberia with most of whom are Kpelle. Cllr. David Woah to present him to the Kpelleh people of

Liberia as their 2029 He continues: "This presidential candidate. organization must join the fight

He further emphasized that the against illicit drugs and substance abuse through awareness to save our future, the decision is their right under the the youth. We must also seek constitution of the Republic of ways to ensure that the Kpelle Liberia, not a privilege. language is taught in schools

"Let us join hands, choose our within Kpelle settlements in own, support our own, defend

Liberia and Guinea and that it is used as the second general sub-regional language."

He stressed that they as Kpelle people are separated by the boundaries that divide them because of colonialism.

History tells us that the "Scramble and Partitioning" of Africa, which was settled by the colonial powers at the Berlin Conference in 1887, divided families and tribes by separating them into different countries.

One of the tribes affected was the great Kpelle people, When the French took Guinea, they divided the Kpelle people who were living along the border side as one people. And as I said earlier, some of them became

Guineans and others became Liberians. This geographical divide hurt the bond of the Kpelle people. Members of the same tribe became divided on boundary lines. This situation persisted for several years and created a lot of division among us still continues today.

"We all know the danger of this colonial divide which had outweighed our togetherness in terms of our language and cultures," Sibley stated. "Nevertheless, our unity remains unbending and undisturbed."

Country, and will be back," Mr. optimism about recapturing state Weah, who was honoured as Father power in 2029 appears to be gaining of the year for the second time, told momentum as a new group called the his congregation on Sunday, June 15. "Weah Coming Back" has been formed. It is expected to be officially launched shortly.

Speaking briefly after he was gowned the second time as Father of the Year at the Forky Klon Jlahle Family Fellowship Church, Baptist Seminary, Mr. Weah appears to have demonstrated his focus on his return forward.

to the country's top seat and not being "This Country is so beautiful, but we bothered by criticisms. think that fighting will make us

"I'm not bothered by criticisms. better, no, it will only destroy us. Let Castigating me and talking wrongly us continue to focus on God." He about me doesn't move me. What added.

worries me is my Family- my wife, He, later thanked members of his my children, not people, whom I congregation for the honor bestowed sacrificed my life for," Mr. Weah upon him.

said. "I respect your decision, and I'm very He reflected on his first six years in satisfied today to be honored among power, saying, "You made me 10,000 fathers to be recognized.

president, I performed to the best of This is the second time that Mr. Weah my ability. You took me out, I didn't has been crowned Father of the Year. complain, why are you fighting?"

In 2022, Mr. Weah was named Father of the Year, an occasion he affirmed his commitment to bringing prosperity to Liberia. Edited by "I am not the problem for this country," Weah said, adding, "We met the problem. They say Liberia was founded in 1847. In 1847, I was Othello B. Garblah.

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# Koff, others full trial begins today

Hearings into the Capitol Building arson attack case involving former House Speaker Cllr. Koffa and others are expected to start today after a lower court upheld that the state has enough evidence to move the case forward.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Capitol Hill, June 16, 2025: A full trial into the Capitol Building fire incident is expected to begin today at Criminal Court "C", Temple of Justice following the transferred of the case there based on a lower court ruling Friday, June 13.

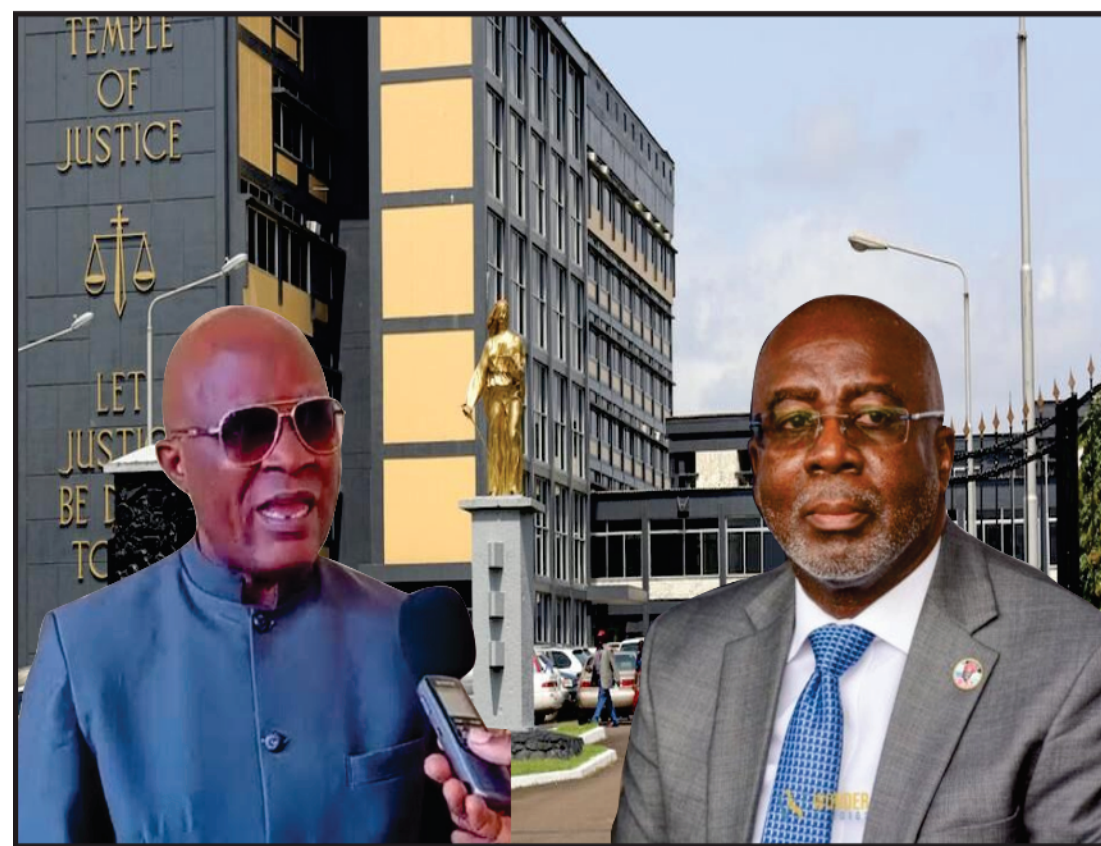
On Friday, June 13, 2025, the Monrovia City Court ruled against former House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa and three others setting the bases for trial.. At a preliminary hearing, Magistrate Ben Barco found that the prosecution established a prima facie case, which means there is enough evidence to move the case to Criminal Court "C" for a full trial. Magistrate Barco explained that the standard is not proof beyond reasonable doubt, but a reasonable ground to suspect the accused committed a crime. The defendants, including representatives Dixon Seeboe, Abu B Kamara, Fonati Koffa, and Jacob C. Debbie, face charges related to a conspiracy to purchase

even the Defense knows that they can't come and challenge this evidence. We told the Défense on cross examination that they recruited people from New Kru Town, and they didn't challenge that with a question. In the criminal justice system, if you don't challenge you have accepted," Cllr. Fayiah noted.

Cllr. Fayiah further argued that the evidence in the possession of the state has been thoroughly investigated and texted and therefore the prosecution is certain that with such evidence it would prove its case during the actual trial at Criminal Court "C".

The Solicitor General also bragged that the state evidence in question is not based on social media or artificial intelligence as claimed by the defence counsel.

"What has happened in this country regarding the burning of the Capitol Building should be taken very seriously. When former President Charles Taylor came with the war, I was living Jallah Town, and the legislature was not touched. That place is for everyone because



explosives and gasoline. These items were allegedly used to set fire to the House of Representatives joint chamber on December 18, 2024. The case is expected to now proceed to the next level of the judiciary for a full trial today. Speaking in a telephone interview over the weekend on the Hot seat midnight conversation following the preliminary trial, Solicitor General Cllr. Augustine C. Fayiah was full of confidence that the evidence in the possession of the Government can prove beyond all reasonable doubt that the accused lawmakers are liable for the arson at the Capitol Building.

Speaking further on the same program, Cllr. Fayiah assured Liberians that nobody will escape from the law under this current administration. He added that government has a robust prosecuting team that are trained and ready to deal with any criminal cases.

"We are up to the task. What we are worried about is the facts, the facts in the case and not the monetary support. We are paid and because we are paid, we are to perform what we are paid for. I want you to know that, giving the level of training of our prosecutors and the evidence we have,

everyone is represented at that place. Because of that, we are taking this seriously," he noted.

Accordingly, Cllr. Fayiah disagreed with the opinion regarding material evidence of voice and video recordings not being permissible in court, adding that they followed all the legal proceedings in presenting their evidence and subpoenaed was done and therefore, they are not concern with out of court sentiment.

"How can someone say there is no evidence, and they are social media when people were seen taking the gasoline to the Capitol Building. Also, people were recruited from New Kru Town and other places to implement, for which people were named and testified. This is a serious thing. The defendants accused themselves. In fact, where they are, they are regretting what they did," he opined.

Commenting on the question regarding police officers' presence at the Capitol Building on the night of the fire incident, Cllr. Fayiah pointed out that these are details of the case that he can't analyse outside of the trial. Rather, it is something the persecution will speak to in court to prevent the Défense from having upper hands. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

## 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

1. 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.
2. The General Auditing Commission (GAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of Laptop Computers.
3. 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.
4. Schedule of Requirement:

No.	Description	Quantity
1.	Laptop Computers	10pcs

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration** in the format indicated in this document.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. 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

## Starts from page 10 Gbarpolu officials on spotlight

Monrovia, Liberia, June 16, 2025 - A prominent citizen of Gbarpolu County has joined several civil society voices in applauding the Liberian government's recent decision to shut down Bio-Chico Resources Liberia Limited. Thomas Andrew Fahn, described the closure as "long overdue" and called for a full investigation into the role of local and national officials in enabling the company's controversial operations.

"They extracted massive amounts of iron ore while ignoring community development, labor rights, and environmental safety," Fahn laments.

The former Representative candidate of Gbarpolu County District #3 stressed that "This should not be swept under the rug."

He describes the Chinese-owned Bio-Chico a "disaster for Liberia," commending the Boakai Administration for revoking the company's operational permits after more than a decade of activities in Gbarpolu.

Speaking on Prime FM in Monrovia over the weekend, Fahn said Bio-Chico's presence brought exploitation, contract violations, and unethical labor practices to the region.

"If you do a survey in the county, you'll find that only a clique of those in authority benefitted from Bio-Chico, while ordinary citizens were enslaved and robbed of their mineral resources," he added.

He accused members of both the Gbarpolu County local authority and the Liberian Legislature of colluding with the company, allowing it to operate unchecked and without meaningful benefit to the local population.

On May 15, 2025, the Government of Liberia officially revoked the operational

and transport permits of Bio-Chico Resources Liberia Ltd., effectively halting its ability to move iron ore on public roads across the country.

Information Minister Jerolinmek Mathew Piah made the pronouncement during a press briefing at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) in Monrovia.

According to Minister Piah, the decision followed a high-level inter-ministerial meeting convened by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai on May 14 at the Executive Mansion.

"President Boakai instructed that all permits associated with the road transport of ore by Bio-Chico be immediately revoked," Piah declared.

"No Bio-Chico truck transporting iron ore will not be allowed to use public roads anymore."

Piah said the meeting brought together key ministries, Justice, Mines and Energy, Public Works, Transport, and State, in response to growing public concerns over the company's operations.

Bio-Chico, registered under the laws of Hong Kong, was granted rights to explore, produce, and export iron ore in Gbarpolu. However, Piah revealed the company had been operating under a permit issued by a single government agency, without undergoing the required multi-ministerial review.

Additionally, Bio-Chico blatantly disregarded a standing government directive that prohibited the



## LNP probe suspects in AML railway operation attack in Bassa

Authorities at the Liberia National Police detachment say they have arrested several individuals in connection with vandalizing, and blockade of ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), railway operation station.

Monrovia, June 16, 2025: The alleged vandalism and blockade of the railway station, which occurred between June 10 and 12, 2025 led to the obstruction, resistance, prevention and impediment of the transportation of the company's iron ore from Nimba County through the Port of

used for transporting iron ore from the company's mining operations to the Port of Buchanan. The blockades vandalism occurred when the individuals, reportedly former workers of a contractor company (WBHO) halted train operations by placing debris and other obstructions, lighting fires and removing some steel sleepers on the tracks between Kilometres

Concentrator Plant in Nimba County.

Those arrested are Andrew Jokpo, age 22, Sampson B. Pokiay (43), Cyrus Bloue (32), J. Prince Quito (27), Stanley Ben (19), Samuel Barchue (19). They are undergoing Police investigation, pending charges and prosecution.

However, in response to the disruption, ArcelorMittal Liberia condemned the action, emphasizing the risks to rail safety, the potential adverse impact on revenue generation and the broader economic implications for Liberia. This latest situation adds to a growing trend of illegal actions against ArcelorMittal and its operations by individuals who continue to resort to violence and vandalism when they have grievances.

The Yekepa to Buchanan railway is a critical piece of infrastructure of Liberia, with significant importance to the national economy, particularly in terms of mining, trade, and regional development. The railway primarily serves the transport of iron ore from the mines in Yekepa to the port of Buchanan, making it essential to the country's top export commodity. Any disruption in railway operations directly affects ore shipment volumes and state revenue. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.**



Buchanan, in Grand Bassa County.

Police said the alleged action caused financial loss within the company. The railway operated by ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), is a key infrastructure

Six and Ten.

The protesters claim to have unresolved issues with WBHO, a company independent of ArcelorMittal Liberia.

The incident occurred days after AML unveiled its 1.8 billion

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