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# The New Dawn

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# Capitol's damage put at nearly \$4 Million

*- As court finally serves Ex-speaker Koffa and others' indictment*

# Betrayal of trust



*-Protesting youth accuse Rep. Bility of neglecting constituents*

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# Continental News

## At least three killed after AU military helicopter crashes in Somalia's Mogadishu airport

A military helicopter operated by the African Union crashed and caught fire Wednesday at the airport in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, killing at least three people, according to Somali authorities.

The helicopter was arriving from Baledogle Airfield in the Lower Shabelle region in southern Somalia with eight people on board.

The helicopter originally belonged to the Ugandan Air Force but was being operated by the African Union peacekeeping mission, said

Artan Mohamed, who heads the immigration office at Mogadishu's Aden Abdulle airport.

The crash occurred at around 7:30 am. The exact number of casualties remains unclear. At least three people have been confirmed dead, according to Mohamed.

A Ugandan army spokesperson, Felix Kulaigye, said three people had escaped the helicopter with burns and that the remaining five passengers were "yet to be accounted for."

The three survivors were taken to hospital for treatment while

"search and rescue operations are currently underway to retrieve the remaining crew and passengers", the AU peacekeeping mission said in a statement.

The impact of the crash also caused munitions onboard the helicopter to detonate, injuring three civilians, Kulaigye reported.

Aviation officer Omar Farah, who was among the first to reach the wreckage, told The Associated Press that he "saw the helicopter spinning and then it fell very fast."

There was "a huge explosion and smoke everywhere", said Abdirahim Ali, a nearby resident who also witnessed the crash.

Minor delays were reported at the airport, but flights and other operations have since resumed. The African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), is made up of more than 11,000 troops from countries including Uganda and Kenya.

The mission helps Somali authorities fight the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab group. Al-Shabab has been waging a violent insurgency in Somalia since the mid-2000s.



Rescue efforts take place at the site after an African Union military helicopter crashed at Aden Adde airport in Mogadishu, Somalia, 2 July 2025

## In Morocco, women keep the art of traditional rug-weaving alive

The Ouaouzguit rug is more than a simple floor covering. It is a symbol of cultural identity.

In southeastern Morocco in the town of Taznakht, the Aguiness rug cooperative produces these rugs in an all-female workplace. This is not without reason: women have held a strong connection to rug-making for a long time.

Typically, the rugs were part of a bride's dowry and were exchanged as a way of announcing marriages.

Women "expressed their creativity in making the rug and used it as a medium to convey their emotions," said Abderrahmane Janah, who manages the women's carpet centre in Taznakht.

This rug is entirely handcrafted from natural wool collected from the sheep in the region including the Sirwa mountains, not far from Taznakht.

A natural product and a traditional craft

The women in Taznakht wash the wool, spin it then dye with colours extracted from local plant materials such as henna, pomegranate peels, saffron or indigo leaves.

"The advantage of these natural dyes is that they are healthy and do not cause allergies. Also, these dyes remain fixed onto the rug and do not bleed or mix with one another during washing," said Naima Akhraz, a rug artisan at the Aguiness rug cooperative. Each color and shape in the rug carries meaning, with the geometric shapes symbolizing concepts such as fertility, protection, family or the human connection to the land.

The women weave the carpets using a traditional wooden loom. It takes several weeks or even months to complete a single carpet, depending on its size and

the complexity of its designs.

Akhraz said the work used to be done at home, but as lifestyles evolved, women began to gather in women's craft cooperatives to preserve the profession and ensure a steady income.

There are several cooperatives and groups in Taznakht that promote these rugs and aim to sell them at fair prices to support the women who produce them.

The most prominent one is the Women's Centre for the Promotion of the Taznakht Carpet, which consists of 35 cooperatives and includes 3,500 women who weave the rugs.



Fatima Ait Boufker and Naima Akhraz weaving the traditional rugs at the Aguiness rug cooperative in Taznakht, Morocco, 23 June 2025.

## Liberia's former president William Tolbert symbolically reburied, 45 years after his murder

Liberia's former president William Tolbert has been symbolically reburied, 45 years after he was murdered during a coup.

Thirteen members of Tolbert's cabinet were executed following sham trials and their bodies believed to have been dumped in a mass grave.

On Tuesday, at a ceremony attended by Liberia's incumbent president, Joseph Boakai, the 14 men were given a state funeral. A grave dug during the ceremony was left empty in case any of their remains should be found.

Tolbert's overthrow marked the end of an era of political control by Americo-Liberians, the descendants of freed black

slaves who migrated to the West African nation in the 19th century.

The man who overthrew Tolbert, Samuel Doe, was Liberia's first indigenous leader. Just ten years later, he was also killed by rebels. He was reburied in his hometown last week.

Civil wars

Following the coup on April 12, 1980, Liberia entered a period of political unrest, including two civil wars that left a quarter of a million people dead.

A peace agreement in 2003 finally led to democratic elections in 2005 and the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as president. The first elected female head of state in Africa, Sirleaf created a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate the causes of the civil wars and ensure restitution for victims.



President Richard Nixon with President William Tolbert of Liberia after a dinner in the White House in Tolbert's honor, June 6, 1973.

## Zimbabwe court rejects opposition bid to block Gukurahundi massacre hearings

A Zimbabwean court has dismissed an opposition bid to block public hearings into the Gukurahundi massacres—an episode in the 1980s during which thousands were killed by elite troops under then-President Robert Mugabe. The Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) argued the process lacks impartiality and legal legitimacy, as it's led by traditional chiefs. But the Bulawayo High Court ruled the challenge was not urgent and came too late.

The hearings, backed by President Emmerson Mnangagwa—himself a former security minister during that era—aim to promote truth, reconciliation, and healing in communities affected by the killings, especially in Matabeleland and the Midlands. Victims' groups welcome the move as a long-overdue chance for justice and public acknowledgment.

While ZAPU remains critical, saying the model silences perpetrators and risks whitewashing

history, the government insists the process is a vital step toward national unity. The hearings will collect testimonies, with chiefs playing a central role in facilitating dialogue. Civil society groups stress the need for transparency and accountability as the country confronts one of its darkest chapters.





# EDITORIAL

## The Ben Town murder is terrifying

The Liberia National Police (LNP) is investigating the death of a 45-year-old Liberian-Canadian woman, Sianneh Goe Ricks, whose charred body was discovered a week ago in her room in Ben Town, Marshall, Lower Margibi County.

Madam Ricks was discovered dead following a fire incident at her house in Marshall Community.

Sources revealed that the deceased had recently returned home after completion of her dream home in Marshall, but met her unfortunate demise, covered in a burning mattress in her bedroom, in circumstances residents described as deeply suspicious.

Further reports say she was beaten, raped and tied up in her mattress, before the hidden suspect set her ablaze.

“This is unfortunate, too terrible for our country; how can a fire just catch up like that? We suspect something is wrong. We had come to help put out the fire, but then the police drove everyone out of the yard; no one has told us what the police found or what really happened”, one resident said.

Although the Police said they have arrested five suspects in connection with the incident, this is the mystery the law enforcers would have to uncover.

How come that a fellow Liberian, who spent years abroad and eventually decided to return to Liberia, the land of her birth, after she had built her dream house here, only to be set ablaze and killed? Was she alone in the house? Who could have done this ghastly act? What caused the fire?

Did she have unsettled scores with any family member or community resident that could have led to this horrible killing, if any, which is not a justification for taking her life.

Family sources disclosed that the late Sianeah had lived and worked in Canada for most of her life, but decided to relocate to Liberia after successfully constructing her dream home. She had lived in the house in Ben Town, Marshall, for about a year and a half before tragedy struck.

We urge the Liberia National Police to leave no screw unturned in getting to the bottom of this murder, because this is one of the things that discourage most Diaspora Liberians from coming home, which borders on security. We want pepetrators of the crime brought before the law to serve as deterrence.

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PRESS





# COMMENTARY

by Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Shamshad Akhtar, Maria Fernanda Espinosa

## A Make-or-Break Moment for Global Debt Reform

PORT LOUIS/MADRID/KARACHI – Amid rising poverty, sluggish growth, escalating climate disasters, and geopolitical instability, sovereign debt has emerged as the single greatest obstacle to achieving global development goals. Without bold structural reforms, the current financial system will continue to serve the interests of the few while crushing the prospects of billions of people, especially in the Global South.

On June 30, world leaders will gather in Seville, Spain, for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). Despite today's complex geopolitical landscape, countries have reached consensus on a draft outcome – an encouraging signal that multilateralism remains a viable path forward. The so-called Seville Commitment was agreed last week in New York and will be adopted on the last day of the conference.

Among the positive developments are two notable pledges: to create a new intergovernmental process to make recommendations on sovereign debt, giving developing countries a seat at the table in setting global debt norms; and to establish a debt facility focused on reducing costs of capital and scaling up tools like debt swaps to help countries free up much-needed fiscal space.

These steps mark important progress, but they are far from sufficient. What remains missing is a credible, comprehensive mechanism for sovereign debt relief. Without it, many countries will remain trapped in a vicious cycle of debt, underinvestment, and climate vulnerability. This concern was also emphasized in the recent report by the Vatican-backed Jubilee Commission, which argues that “the international community has a moral obligation to advance a [second Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative].”

As leaders from Africa, Latin America, and Asia, we know the developing world's debt crisis firsthand. Our countries have grappled with impossible trade-offs between repaying creditors and investing in their future. What we need now is not charity but a credible, rules-based system for sovereign-debt relief that prioritizes economic development and meaningful climate action over short-term financial gains.

The numbers speak for themselves. More than half of the world's low-income countries are either in debt distress or at high risk of it. Since 2010, public debt across the Global South has grown twice as fast as in the Global North. As a result, over 3.3 billion people now live in countries that spend more on interest payments than on health care or education. In 2022-23 alone, developing countries recorded net cash outflows to external public and private creditors (excluding multilateral development banks).

Meanwhile, low-income countries' borrowing costs have surged to a four-decade high, driven by rising interest rates and slowing global growth. Given that this trend is unlikely to reverse anytime soon, World

Bank Chief Economist Indermit Gill has warned that the world is rapidly approaching a sovereign-debt disaster, with “too many developing economies” caught in a “doom loop.”

The consequences are severe. More than 90% of African countries now spend a larger share of their export revenues on interest payments than postwar Germany did under the 1953 London Debt Agreement. Small island developing states like Dominica are forced to take on more debt just to rebuild after recurring climate disasters. And Pakistan, facing devastating flooding in recent years, remains afloat only through repeated bailouts from the International Monetary Fund.

Yet despite the high stakes, the international community continues to focus on incremental adjustments that treat the symptoms rather than the disease. Although initiatives like the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments have brought some relief, the system remains ad hoc, slow, and fragmented, making it incapable of delivering timely or equitable solutions.

This year offers a critical opportunity to change course. The draft outcome of FfD4 reflects some momentum, but rhetoric must now be translated into results. We must seize this moment to create a more coherent, predictable, and inclusive approach to debt relief.

To that end, we are calling for the immediate launch of a debt relief initiative for countries unable to invest in development due to unsustainable debt burdens or high servicing costs. Such an initiative must bring all creditors – private, bilateral, and multilateral – to the table and ensure that the process is both predictable and inclusive.

The solutions must go beyond mere financial fixes. Debt relief should be linked to strategic investments in health care, education, and climate resilience, helping countries unlock the fiscal space needed to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote green growth.

This also demands a fundamental shift in how debt sustainability is assessed. Current approaches fail to account for developing countries' investment needs or the escalating risks posed by climate change and nature loss. Instead of penalizing countries for investing in their futures, we need enhanced debt-sustainability assessments that align with development and climate goals.

The multilateral system was created to solve global problems. Today, however, it is struggling to keep pace with rapid geopolitical change. As the world moves toward multipolarity, calls for a fairer global order are gaining momentum. Europe, in particular, has an opportunity to restore its credibility in the eyes of the Global South by taking the lead on debt reform, both in principle and in practice.

Our commitment will not be measured by the declarations we make, but by the outcomes we deliver. The world does not need more promises. It needs real, structural debt reform – reform that empowers developing countries to invest in the futures their people deserve.



## OP-ED

by Chukwumerije Okereke,  
Nnimmo Bassey

# Africa Is Not a Solar Geoengineering Test Site

**B**RISTOL/BENIN CITY – Africa is suffering some of the worst consequences of a climate crisis that it did not create. As rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, droughts, and floods devastate communities and ecosystems across the continent, those in the West who are most responsible for global warming are cooking up plans to test speculative climate fixes in African countries. This gamble with the future of the continent – and the planet – is a grave act of climate injustice and an affront to African leaders, many of whom have publicly expressed their concerns about the promotion and normalization of such technologies.

Perhaps most unsettling is the growing effort to study and implement solar geoengineering (also called solar radiation modification, or SRM), a set of high-risk technologies that seek to reflect sunlight back into space to cool the planet. This strategy does not address the underlying causes of climate change, nor does it offer a long-term adaptation solution. Instead, it would temporarily treat the symptoms, all while causing unanticipated – and potentially disastrous – consequences.

The risks associated with solar geoengineering are profound, particularly in climate-vulnerable Africa. SRM could change rainfall patterns and interfere with monsoons, potentially endangering food systems, displacing communities, and causing ecosystem collapse. Moreover, the prospect of outside actors testing such planetary-scale interventions in African countries echoes the many harmful medical, agricultural, and economic experiments on Black people and communities throughout history.

More broadly, the Global North's rush to expand solar-geoengineering research in the Global South raises serious concerns about power, equity, and justice in global climate governance – especially about who is setting the research agenda. True, some of the world's biggest SRM funders have proclaimed their commitment to include African scientists in knowledge creation. But it is necessary to consider whose interests are being served by this research trajectory. African scientists are increasingly being drawn into initiatives largely funded and shaped by actors in the Global North. The result is a growing asymmetry: African researchers provide knowledge, data, and legitimacy, but the real decisions are made elsewhere.

SRM research is not just a scientific issue; it raises moral, ethical, and political questions that must not be ignored. Should we be allowed to play God with Earth's thermostat? Who decides what level of cooling is “safe”? How can important decisions be made without accountability mechanisms or the consent of those who will be most affected? Who is responsible if things go wrong, or if there are cross-border consequences? And, most importantly, who controls the technology, and who bears its costs?

We must recognize that SRM research can never be impartial: it influences policy priorities, validates the use of certain methods, and has real-world effects. Putting money into studying SRM while not fulfilling climate-finance commitments or delivering on the loss and damage fund established at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh is dangerously shortsighted.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that SRM measures “face large uncertainties and knowledge gaps, as well as substantial risks.” The Convention on Biological Diversity agreed in 2010 to a de facto moratorium on solar geoengineering – a position that it reaffirmed last year – in recognition of the serious threats it poses to biodiversity and local communities. And more than 560 academics from over 67 countries have signed an open letter calling for an international non-use agreement on solar geoengineering. This has spurred a global movement, with more than 2,000 civil-society groups and 4,700 people endorsing the petition.

Solar geoengineering could also become an excuse to continue delaying emissions reductions. By creating the illusion of a technological fix, it allows governments and corporations to avoid the challenging work of transforming energy systems and ending fossil-fuel dependence.

There are no shortcuts to a healthy planet. To address the climate crisis requires systemic change and a focus on those who are most affected, putting them front and center as leaders of climate action rather than as test subjects for speculative technologies. Africa has already begun doing just that, implementing equitable and just climate solutions such as agroecology, renewable energy, ecosystem restoration, and community-led adaptation.

The idea that solar geoengineering is a necessary evil or the last resort for a warming planet is far from true. Instead, it is a potentially dangerous strategy that siphons financing and support from real solutions. Africa is not a laboratory, and we will not stand by as the future of our continent is jeopardized. Africans must show leadership and solidarity in rejecting speculative climate technologies that serve the few at the expense of the many.

## OPINION

by José Manuel Barroso

# A Fragmenting World Can Unite Around Immunization

**G**ENEVA – We live in a world that seems increasingly fractured and prone to conflict. But experience in both the public and private sectors has taught me that periods of geopolitical unrest are precisely the moments when we should take a step back and consider what unites us.

The ties that bind people together across borders, generations, and cultures must be celebrated and strengthened. Many of our differences and disagreements melt away when we recognize the simple truth that everyone wants the next generation to grow and thrive in a world that is safer, fairer, and more prosperous than the one they entered.

The question is how to translate this universal instinct into concrete collective action. One answer that almost everyone can agree on is protecting children and communities through immunization.

To show their commitment to this important cause, heads of state and government will convene in Brussels on June 25 for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's Global Summit: Health & Prosperity through Immunization. With their pledges of support, Gavi (where I have chaired the board for the last five years) can continue preventing the spread of deadly and debilitating infectious diseases, especially among the most vulnerable segments of society.

Increased uptake of vaccines has already transformed the world for the better. When Gavi was established a quarter-century ago, millions of children died annually from diseases like measles and pneumonia. These deaths represented an unconscionable tragedy because they could have been prevented easily. Gavi was founded to put a stop to this needless suffering.

Gavi's public-private model is unique among global health organizations. By bringing together vaccine manufacturers, national governments, donors, and grassroots organizations, Gavi has vaccinated more than one billion children in low- and middle-income countries since its inception, preventing nearly 19 million deaths and helping to halve childhood mortality.

Moreover, the organization has built effective global defenses against pandemics and other infectious threats by creating and maintaining emergency vaccine stockpiles.

Investing in Gavi's immunization efforts has produced remarkable returns. Since 2000, the organization's work has generated \$250 billion in broader economic benefits in the low- and middle-income countries where it operates, helping 19 of them to outgrow the need for vaccine support. Recognizing the vital role that immunization plays in enhancing public health and resiliency, several of these “Gavi graduates” are now donors themselves.

This week's global summit will determine the future of Gavi's immunization efforts. As the organization approaches its next five-year strategic period – possibly the most consequential in its history – we are calling for renewed financial and political commitments to protect the next generation. Our goal over the next five years is to vaccinate 500 million children in the world's poorest countries against 19 diseases.

For the first time in history, we have a vaccine that can turn the tide against malaria. We can also protect millions of girls against cervical cancer with the HPV vaccine, maintain progress against preventable killers like measles and typhoid, and provide children in conflict-riven and displaced communities with basic vaccinations. But none of this can be achieved without the financial backing of donor countries and partners.

Of course, most donors are juggling competing budget priorities, particularly as policymakers, confronting geopolitical uncertainty and deepening polarization between countries, push for higher defense spending. But, as the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated, ensuring our citizens' safety cannot be achieved through military might alone. Resilience requires investment in health security. Moreover, because immunization is a global public good, efforts to provide it can create fertile ground for further cooperation.

Even amid all of life's economic, political, and scientific complexities, sometimes the choices we face are simple. There is no future without children. Improving access to vaccines is perhaps the single most effective and scalable tool at our disposal to stem the spread of preventable diseases that threaten too many young people and cause unnecessary deaths.

Regardless of our differences and disagreements, I am confident that the world can find common purpose when it comes to immunization, and that, working together, we can begin to create the conditions for a better and more hopeful future.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: General Manager – Car Rental Company

Location: Monrovia, Liberia

Company: BEES Affordable Car Rental Services

Reports To: Chief Executive Officer/Shareholders

Date of Issue: June 26, 2025

Deadline: Friday, June 7, 2025:

1. Background

BEES Affordable Car Rental Services is an established and trusted name in Liberia's transportation sector, with a fleet of over 55 vehicles, including sedans, SUVs, pickups, and minibuses. Serving a broad clientele ranging from international agencies, government, to corporate and individual customers, BEES Affordable Car Rental Services has built a strong reputation for reliability, safety, and customer service. To lead our growing team and expand our impact, we seek a seasoned General Manager to steer the company’s operations and strategic growth.

2. Purpose of the Position

The General Manager (GM) will serve as the chief executive of BEES Affordable Car Rental Services, responsible for the overall leadership, strategic development, and management of all operations. The GM will ensure business growth, financial sustainability, customer satisfaction, and operational efficiency across all departments, including fleet management, human resources, finance, and customer service.

3. Key Responsibilities

A. Strategic Leadership and Business Development

- Develop and implement strategic plans aligned with the company’s vision, mission, and growth objectives.
- Identify new business opportunities, strategic partnerships, and market expansion areas.
- Lead innovation in customer service, technology adoption, and competitive positioning.
- Oversee branding, marketing, and business promotion strategies.

B. Operational Oversight

- Provide oversight of all departments: operations, driver management, maintenance, administration, and customer service.
- Ensure efficient utilization of the fleet and timely servicing, insurance, and licensing of all vehicles.
- Monitor key operational metrics, client feedback, and service quality to drive continuous improvement.
- Implement and oversee effective logistics, tracking, and dispatch systems.

C. Human Resources and Team Leadership

- Supervise, guide, and evaluate department heads and senior staff, including the Operations/Driver Manager.
- Promote a high-performance, customer-focused, and accountable workplace culture.
- Lead workforce planning, recruitment, training, and professional development.

D. Financial Management

- Oversee the preparation of annual budgets, monthly financial reports, and income statements.
- Ensure efficient cost control measures across all operations, including fuel management, driver allowances, and vehicle maintenance.
- Monitor revenue growth, profit margins, and operational expenses to ensure business sustainability.
- Ensure compliance with tax obligations, regulatory filings, and financial audits.

E. Compliance, Risk, and Governance

- Ensure the company adheres to all national transport laws, safety regulations, insurance policies, and industry standards.
- Develop and implement internal policies and risk mitigation frameworks.
- Oversee incident and accident management processes, and implement preventive strategies.
- Report to the Shareholders or CEO on company performance, risks, and future outlook.

4. Qualifications and Experience

- Master’s degree in Business Administration, Management, Fleet Management, Transport/Logistics, or a related field (preferred).
- Minimum of 7–10 years of senior management experience, preferably in the transport, car rental, or logistics sector.
- Strong leadership experience in team management, strategic planning, and operational execution.
- Solid understanding of fleet operations, customer service excellence, and financial management.

5. Required Competencies and Skills

- Strategic thinking and business acumen.
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Strong financial, analytical, and decision-making abilities.
- Effective communication, negotiation, and stakeholder engagement.
- Proficiency in fleet management software, accounting systems, and office productivity tools.

6. Reporting and Supervision

The General Manager reports directly to the Shareholders or designated CEO and supervises all department heads, and has overall responsibility for staff performance and development.

7. Performance Review and Duration

This is a full-time executive position with annual performance evaluations against strategic and operational KPIs. The position is subject to a probationary period of six months.

8. Working Conditions

Office-based with frequent field supervision across operational sites. May involve weekend or after-hours responsibilities depending on business demands.

All application letters and resumes should be submitted to the following email by Friday, June 7, 2025:

beesaffordablecarrental@gmail.com

Contact: 0886135408 / 0777077721

# Betrayal of trust

Nimba County District#7 Representative, Musa Hassan Bility, accused of neglect, as Concerned Youth of District #7 protest.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Nimba, Liberia; July 3, 2025 - Tensions are mounting in Nimba County's District #7, as Concerned Youth of District #7 staged a peaceful protest on Wednesday, accusing their lawmaker, Representative Musa Hassan Bility, of abandoning them in favor of political allies and development projects in Margibi County.

The protestors claim that Rep. Bility's scholarship program and development efforts are disproportionately benefiting Margibians, leaving many young people in his own district without access to education.

"Rep. Musa Bility, you can't be a representative in our district, giving



scholarships to 100 Margibians, while we are out of school with no means of attending,” the group stated. “Your scholarship program only benefits those who supported you during the 2023 election. If your leadership is not inclusive, then leave our district”, the protesting youth demanded.

Although Nimba District #7 has seen some level of development in its road network, the protesting youth argued that they have been overlooked, particularly in terms of educational support and empowerment.

Critics point to Rep. Bility's close partnership with Senator Nathaniel F. McGill of Margibi County as evidence of misplaced priorities.

Earlier this year, the two leaders unveiled

ambitious development plans for the Gibi District, Margibi County, including the construction of a road and a modern senior high school.

The announcement was made during Senator McGill's post-election thank-you tour, where he praised Gibi residents for their overwhelming support during the 2023 senatorial election. At the event, he introduced Rep. Bility as the standard bearer of the Citizens Movement for Change (CMC), describing him as a “brother” in their shared political journey.

Rep. Bility used the occasion to express his gratitude to Margibi residents, promising to champion the county's growth. Through his Bility Humanities Foundation, he pledged to build the first-ever senior high school in Gibi and hinted at long-term plans for a college.

"We're not only breaking ground on infrastructure; we're laying the foundation for a better future,” Bility declared during the launch, recently.

Construction on the Gibi road and school project is set to begin next week, with both lawmakers touting the projects as vital for enhancing trade, transportation, and access to education in Margibi County.

However, back in District #7, frustration is growing. Youth leaders accuse Rep. Bility of turning his back on those who elected him, particularly in an area still grappling with poor infrastructure and limited access to education.

While the projects in Margibi are celebrated by many there, they have sparked a backlash in Nimba, where residents say their needs remain unmet. The Concerned Youth of District #7 have vowed to intensify their campaign until their representative addresses their demands for equitable educational support and local development. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

**SURVEY NOTICE**

Date: 20/06 2025

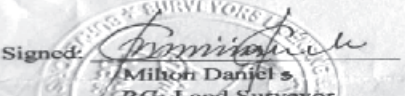
In keeping with the private land regulations and according to Liberia land authority (LLA) mandate, the undersigned registered land surveyor has been duly authorized by the board of trustee of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to re-demarcate 110 acres of land in favor of Mount Carmel A.M.E Church situated Arthington Township Georgia road community Montserrado county.


The re-demarcation will be conducted on Saturday the: 5<sup>th</sup> day of July at the précised hour of 10:00 am, therefore all adjoining parties are asked to be present with their deeds or diagrams to substantiate their claims and should come along with their technical representatives'. This notice should claim the attention of the following person and cornerstone's


1. Rev. William W. Wright

2. The Bob Johnson Family

3. The Hodgers Family

Signed: 



Signed: 

S. Guymodoh Wrimene  
Autt: Land Surveyor  
Cell # 0886924140

CC

1. Hon: Raymond Clarke  
Mayor Township Arthington

2. Community Chairperson Georgia Rd Arthington

3. Police (Arthington Townships)



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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### ArcelorMittal Liberia launches new Digital Policy to Modernize Land Compensation and Resettlement

ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), the country's largest foreign investor and a key player in Liberia's mining sector, has launched a pioneering digital resettlement and land compensation policy designed to bring fairness, transparency, and structure to its land acquisition and compensation activities.

The new policy covers all AML operational areas, including its mining sites in Nimba County, the Buchanan Port in Grand Bassa, the Yekepa-Buchanan railway corridor, and the Neekreen rock quarry in Grand Bassa County.

The initiative introduces a digital

system that integrates technology, community engagement, and procedural clarity to address historical challenges surrounding land rights and compensation disputes. It marks a transformative shift in how landowners and farmers interact with concessionaires, especially in resource-rich but governance-challenged regions like Liberia.

At the heart of the new policy is a structured process that ensures affected landowners and farmers are informed, consulted, and fairly compensated. AML's Resettlement Officer, Shad Whabyely, described the policy as a great step forward in ensuring efficient and credible land

processes.

The process begins with AML submitting formal land use requests, followed by a series of community consultations and awareness sessions. These are designed to ensure that local residents understand the procedures, eligibility criteria, and the roles of various actors, including the government, AML, and community stakeholders.

A detailed baseline survey and crop inventory are then conducted to establish what exists on the land before any transaction. To support accurate identification and tracking, farmers are issued Resettlement ID Books equipped with QR codes, linking them to verified data within AML's digital land management platform. Once this verification is complete, compensation payments are processed in accordance with national guidelines.

To discourage speculative planting and land misuse, the policy introduces clear eligibility criteria. Only crops planted before January 1, 2020 within AML's designated concession zones are eligible for compensation. These will



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

### Assistant Mines Minister gives perspectives

**-After training in China**

Beijing, China; July 3, 2025 - The Assistant Minister for Mines, Carlos Eddison Tingban, has pledged sweeping reforms to Liberia's mine safety systems, following his return from a rigorous two-week technical training in Beijing, China, in what he described as "More than knowledge, a blazing commitment to save lives."

Speaking at the closing ceremony on July 2, 2025 of the "Mine Rescue for Belt and Road Countries" course, Minister Tingban delivered a powerful message that spotlighted not only gratitude but a call to action anchored in national duty and international solidarity.

As he took the stage in Beijing to deliver his closing remarks, Tingban emitted gratitude and resolve. "You haven't just lit our path," he declared passionately. "You have equipped us to light the way for others. The flame you ignited in us will burn brightly in Liberia." It was a message that blended reverence for China's hospitality with an ironclad promise to implement transformative changes back

*Liberia's Assistant Minister for Mines, Carlos Eddison Tingban, says training completed in China was "More than knowledge, a blazing commitment to save lives."*

home.

The Assistant Minister's remarks weren't just ceremonial; they signaled a pivot in how Liberia approaches mines safety.

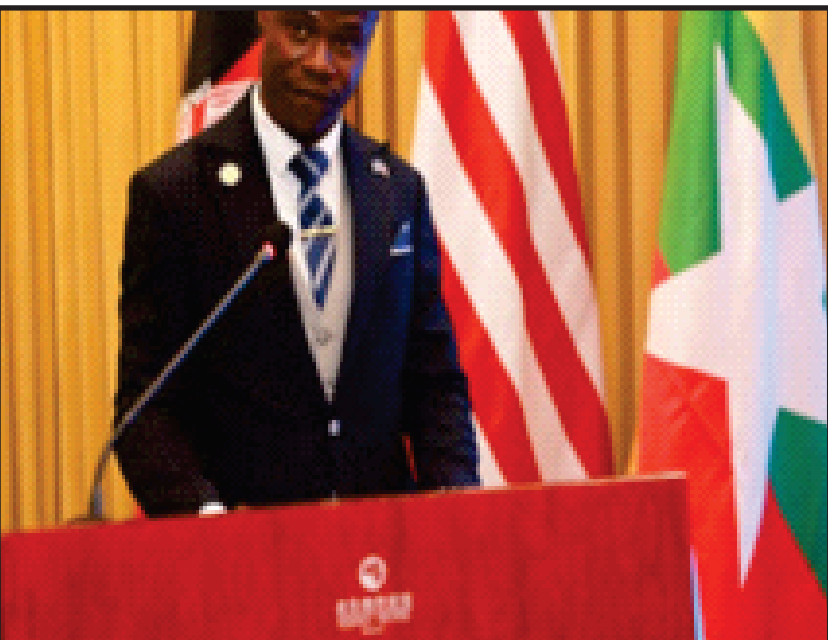
"We return not just inspired, but armed," he said, "armed with vital lessons, proven strategies, and an unshakeable resolve."

That resolve centers on improving mine monitoring, instituting early warning

systems, and building rapid-response rescue mechanisms systems that could mean the difference between tragedy and accomplishment in a sector that often walks the edge of risk.

Throughout the training, Tingban and his delegation were immersed in hands-on simulations in Shengdon's world-renowned rescue facilities. They navigated tight

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



### NaFAA Acting Director General Highlights Importance of Public-Private Partnerships in Liberia's Fisheries Sector

Monrovia, Liberia – The Acting Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Mr. J. Cyrus Saygbe Sr., has emphasized the transformative potential of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in advancing efficiency, investment, and sustainable development within Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Speaking on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, during a courtesy visit by the Country Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Mr. Saygbe stated that the integration of PPPs is essential to addressing longstanding challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, limited

Public-Private Partnership framework, allowing for proper management and maintenance in the host fishing communities.

He further disclosed that NaFAA's new leadership is channeling efforts toward rejuvenating the aquaculture sector—an area that has historically received limited government investment. Mr. Saygbe noted that the World Bank is currently supporting the reconstruction of the Klay Hatchery in Bomi County, marking a significant step in aquaculture revitalization.

However, he called for additional support from FAO and other international partners to renovate



innovation, and financing gaps.

"Public-Private Partnerships can play a critical role in revitalizing Liberia's fisheries sector by merging public oversight with private sector innovation and capital. This approach offers a sustainable pathway toward achieving food security and promoting economic growth," Mr. Saygbe said.

Mr. Saygbe praised FAO for its continuous support, particularly in infrastructure development, citing the construction of modern FAO-Thiaroye Processing Techniques (FTT) facilities in Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties. These modern fish processing sites are helping improve food safety and product value in coastal communities.

To ensure effective use and sustainability, Mr. Saygbe recommended that all FTT facilities be operated under a

two key hatcheries in Tassah (Bong County) and Douyee (Grand Gedeh County), emphasizing their strategic importance in expanding aquaculture operations across Liberia.

In response, Mr. Saud Boncie, FAO's Country Representative for Liberia and Sierra Leone, reaffirmed the UN agency's commitment to supporting Liberia's fisheries development. He emphasized FAO's technical expertise and pledged continued collaboration with NaFAA to attract investment and enhance the aquaculture sector's growth.

NaFAA continues to work closely with development partners to build a resilient and commercially viable fisheries and aquaculture industry, creating employment, increasing food production, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Starts from page 6

ArcelorMittal Liberia launches new Digital Policy to

be evaluated using Ministry of Agriculture standards. Crops planted after January 1, 2020 within concession areas are not eligible for compensation, unless they are situated on private land. In such cases, the Ministry of Agriculture will determine appropriate compensation. These rules are intended to prevent the abuse of land compensation programs, a problem that has plagued resettlement schemes in Liberia and the wider region for years.

Beyond crop compensation, AML's new policy introduces a framework for leasing private land needed for operations. This includes signing official lease agreements with landowners, ensuring fair pricing and lease terms, and providing a grievance resolution mechanism to handle disputes or concerns raised by landowners and farmers.

Marcus Wleh, AML's Head of Sustainability and External Relations, emphasized the importance of the policy in building lasting partnerships with communities. He said the policy is another step toward building sustainable relationships with local communities, noting the company's evolving approach to corporate social responsibility.

Local and government officials have lauded AML's initiative as a progressive step in improving concession-community relations. Amos W. Solee, representing the Nimba County Agriculture Office, welcomed the structured engagement by AML and encouraged farmers to remain informed about the latest crop pricing policies. Meanwhile, Augustus Greaves, a prominent community leader in Grand

Bassa, described the digital policy as timely. He said AML is one of Liberia's biggest taxpayers and the policy should be widely shared so farmers know their rights and can plan better for the future.

AML is now rolling out information sessions across its operational counties to educate affected farmers and landowners on how to engage with the new system. Community members are being encouraged to attend these meetings, register for their Resettlement ID Books, and submit any complaints or concerns through AML's official communication channels.

With this digital shift, ArcelorMittal Liberia is positioning itself as a benchmark for responsible land management practices in West Africa's extractive sector. The integration of digital tools, verification procedures, and community engagement could serve as a model for other natural resource companies operating in similar environments. As Liberia continues to grapple with land-related disputes, especially in concession zones, AML's policy could represent a much-needed evolution in how companies interact with rural communities, balancing corporate interests with the rights and dignity of local landowners.

The successful implementation of this policy could further strengthen AML's social license to operate and set a new standard for inclusive and transparent resource governance in Liberia.

Liberian entrepreneur assesses business climate here

A Liberian entrepreneur laments lack of bigger contracts from government to boost the private sector.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; July 3, 2025 - A Liberian businessman and founder/CEO of Dorbor Bedell Foundation in Maryland County, has shared his candid assessment of Liberia's business climate, focusing on challenges and progress.

“We want to see more contracts awarded to Liberian businesses, especially the small ones, and we want bigger contracts too. This is Liberia, and we need to succeed,” Mr. Dorbor Bedell said.

He emphasized the need for government to focus on boosting the private sector, where millions of Liberians earn their livelihoods, noting “Government jobs are not permanent. Those in government should promote entrepreneurs to help grow the private sector.”

Addressing issue of delays in loan repayments by Liberians, Mr.

project that involves constructing eight-room flush toilets in New Kru Town.

Speaking during an interview on July 2, 2025, at his Sinkor office in Monrovia, Bedell also explained that the Foundation focuses on business creation for women's groups, offering zero percent interest loans. “We believe in creating entrepreneurs,” he said.

Founded in 2023 in Harper, Maryland County, the Foundation initially began by addressing student tuition challenges. Bedell appreciates that his initiatives have not faced government interference, calling it a laudable and encouraging sign.

Regarding progress on road projects in counties like Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland, Bedell said payments for the roads are ongoing. The roads are being maintained well, with some



Bedell recommended that payments currently in the final government must collaborate with stages.

the private sector to tackle problems in the sector, and conduct awareness campaigns to ensure people do not take undue advantage of loan facilities. “We want cheap loans for our people,” he stressed.

When asked about major challenges in Maryland County, Bedell pointed out that while road access is improving, overall infrastructure development remains broken and requires urgent attention. He noted that Harper, Maryland, has significant tourism potential but is hindered by sanitation problems faced by local residents.

The Dorbor Bedell Foundation is actively addressing some of these challenges through programs like “Sanitation with Dignity,” a pilot

He praised positive reception from the people of Harper, describing it as a sign of appreciation and a gateway to progress for the entire county. While the Foundation's work remains focused on Harper for now, Bedell said they plan to extend the efforts across other districts and counties.

His passion for helping others stems from his experiences during the Liberian Civil War, which showed him the depth of need in the country. “It has reached the point that if I had more, I would do more for my people,” Bedell said during the interview. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Starts from page 6

Assistant Mines Minister gives

tunnels, simulated toxic gas leaks, and practiced rescue coordination in scenarios that closely resembled real-life emergencies.

“It was where theory met sweat, sand, and the tangible reality of saving lives,” Tingban recounted. “This wasn't about lectures. It was about preparation. It was about readiness.”

The technical drills were just one part of the equation. The team was equally moved by China's cultural and institutional commitment to safety. Witnessing high-precision engineering at SANY and TIANMI's production floors, and engaging with student-researchers at the China University of Mining and Technology, the Assistant Minister described the environment as being “humbled and inspired by a society that treats safety not as an afterthought, but as a foundation.”

“We witnessed the blazing fire of innovation,” he noted. “China's young scholars are solving tomorrow's problems today. They understand that protecting lives is not just moral, it is strategic, and we have been taking notes.”

The course was more than a learning experience; it was a blueprint. He plans to roll out a comprehensive national mine safety reform agenda that borrows directly from China's highly effective models. These include centralized command centers, mobile response units, and continuous skills training for mine workers and first

responders.

“This is not a one-off speech,” he emphasized. “We're going to act swiftly and decisively.”

Tingban, at the same time, spoke of the diplomatic and personal bonds forged during the program. “From the moment we arrived, China's overwhelming hospitality wrapped us in a feeling of home,” he said.

He recalled walking the Great Wall of China and visiting the Communist Party Museum, reflecting on resilience, unity, and leadership. “We learned that the strongest walls aren't made of stone, they're built from shared purpose.”

And at the heart of that purpose is a belief in the power of international collaboration. “Liberia and China don't just share trade ties, we now share the knowledge and will to protect our most precious resource: human life,” he said.

He proposed deeper cooperation through joint emergency simulations, technology exchanges, and collaborative safety initiatives that would set new standards across Africa.

The training, hosted by China's Ministry of Emergency Management and the International Exchange and Cooperation Center, brought together leaders from Belt and Road countries for a rigorous deep dive into mine rescue strategies, emergency response systems, and state-of-the-art safety technologies.

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# Français

## Les dégâts du Capitole estimés à près de 4 millions de dollars

Le Grand Jury du comté de Montserrado a officiellement mis en accusation l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Me Jonathan Fonati Koffa, ainsi que quatorze autres personnes, en lien avec l'incendie criminel perpétré contre le Capitole le 18 décembre 2024. Les dommages et pertes ont été

Cour criminelle « A », au Temple de la Justice, après avoir été déposé par le Grand Jury. Cette notification ouvre la voie à l'ouverture du procès au cours de la session judiciaire d'août devant la même juridiction. Parmi les personnes inculpées figurent Kivi Bah, alias « Kaba », Jerry Pokah, alias « Tyrese », Stephen M. Broh, John Nyanti, les députés Dixon W. Seboe, Jonathan Fonati Koffa et Abu B. Kamara,

Le Ministère public les accuse notamment de tentative criminelle de meurtre, conspiration criminelle, facilitation et incitation criminelles, destruction volontaire par incendie, mise en danger de la vie d'autrui, et utilisation de substances destructrices.

Selon l'acte d'accusation, les prévenus et leurs complices auraient organisé et exécuté l'incendie volontaire des salles plénières du Capitole, causant d'importants dégâts matériels : destruction de chaises, sectionnement des câbles électriques et électroniques, et perte financière dépassant 3,7 millions de dollars.

Le document judiciaire détaille qu'avec le soutien des députés Seboe, Koffa, Kamara et de Jacob C. Deebie, les accusés Kivi Bah, Jerry Pokah, John Nyanti, Christian et Amos Kofa, Eric Sesay, Janjay, Thomas Isaac Etheridge et d'autres encore se sont entendus pour incendier le bâtiment.

Toujours selon l'accusation, après avoir commis cet acte qualifié de « diabolique », les auteurs ont rédigé un document

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

évalués à 3 788 500 dollars américains. L'acte d'accusation a été lu et remis aux prévenus le mercredi 2 juillet 2025 par le juge Roosevelt Willie de la

ainsi que Patience Bestman, Harrilyn Grace Johnson, Jacob C. Deebie, Christian Kofa, Amos Kofa, Eric Susay et Thomas Isaac Etheridge. D'autres complices non identifiés sont également visés.

## Des jeunes manifestants accusent le député Bility de négliger ses électeurs

La tension monte dans le district n°7 du comté de Nimba, où un groupe se faisant appeler *Jeunes Concernés du District n°7* a organisé mercredi une manifestation pacifique. Les protestataires accusent leur élu, le représentant Musa Hassan Bility, de les avoir abandonnés au profit d'alliés politiques et de projets de développement dans le comté voisin de Margibi.

Selon eux, le programme de bourses et les initiatives de développement portées par le député Bility profitent de manière disproportionnée aux habitants de Margibi, alors que de nombreux jeunes de son propre district n'ont plus accès à l'éducation.

« Député Musa Bility, vous ne pouvez pas être notre représentant et offrir des bourses à 100 personnes de Margibi, pendant que nous restons sans école et sans aucun moyen d'y accéder, » ont-ils dénoncé dans une déclaration publique. « Votre programme de bourses bénéficie uniquement à ceux qui vous ont soutenu lors des élections de 2023. Si votre leadership n'est pas inclusif, alors quittez notre district. » Bien que le district n°7 ait

connu certains progrès, notamment l'amélioration du réseau routier, les jeunes manifestants estiment que leurs besoins fondamentaux, en particulier dans le domaine éducatif, ont été ignorés.

Les critiques soulignent la proximité du député Bility avec le sénateur de Margibi, Nathaniel F. McGill, comme preuve d'un détournement de priorités au détriment des électeurs de Nimba.

En début d'année, les deux responsables politiques ont présenté des projets ambitieux pour le district de Gibi, à Margibi, prévoyant notamment la construction d'une route et d'un lycée moderne.

L'annonce avait eu lieu lors de la tournée de remerciement du

sénateur McGill après sa victoire aux élections sénatoriales de 2023. Ce dernier avait salué le soutien massif des habitants de Gibi, tout en présentant le député Bility comme le porte-étendard du *Citizens Movement for Change* (CMC), le décrivant comme « un frère » dans leur parcours politique commun.

À cette occasion, le député Bility avait exprimé sa gratitude aux habitants de Margibi et promis de s'engager pour le développement du comté. Par l'intermédiaire de sa *Bility Humanities Foundation*, il s'est engagé à financer la construction du tout premier lycée

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## 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

Starts from page 8

## Capitole estimés à près de 4 millions de dollars

adressé au député Seboe, expliquant les raisons et modalités de l'opération.

Dans cette lettre, Kivi Bah relate qu'une réunion s'est tenue la nuit du 17 décembre 2024, sur le parking d'un dépôt de voitures d'occasion situé en face de la station-service CONEX sur Jallah Town Road. C'est à cette occasion que les participants auraient convenu de passer à l'action le lendemain. L'acte d'accusation précise qu'au matin du 18 décembre, vers 5 heures, après une nuit entière de planification, les co-prévenus se sont procuré de l'essence et ont mis le feu aux salles plénières du Capitole.

Des éléments audio versés au dossier font état d'échanges entre Eric Susay et Thomas Etheridge, notamment sur la fourniture d'essence et la préparation de bombes incendiaires destinées à être utilisées contre des policiers, des véhicules de la majorité parlementaire et l'hôtel LRJ, où se réunissaient les députés du bloc majoritaire.

Dans l'une de ces conversations, Eric Susay aurait déclaré : « Nous avons neutralisé l'agent de police Amara Bility, l'avons laissé sur la route, et remis son arme de service à d'anciens membres de l'EPS ».

La même nuit, Amos Kofa et Thomas Etheridge

auraient planifié de poster des hommes chargés non seulement d'incendier le Capitole, mais également d'ouvrir le feu sur tout policier qui tenterait de s'interposer.

Le document judiciaire mentionne encore qu'Amos Kofa a informé Thomas Etheridge, le 18 décembre, que le Capitole était en flammes. Toujours au téléphone, Etheridge l'aurait dirigé vers la résidence de l'ex-président de l'Assemblée, J. Fonati Koffa, située derrière le bâtiment de la YWCA, à Congo Town.

Enfin, selon l'acte d'accusation, lors de la préparation de l'attaque, les prévenus se sont entendus sur l'emploi de gaz lacrymogène et de chlore pour évacuer les députés de la majorité et empêcher la tenue de la session parlementaire.

Les co-prévenues Harrilyn Grace Johnson et Patience Bestman, membres du groupe de discussion numérique du bureau de J. Fonati Koffa, sont accusées d'avoir eu connaissance de l'opération et d'avoir conspiré pour dissimuler des preuves, notamment des enregistrements sur le téléphone de Thomas Etheridge.

Le procès de cette affaire, qui ébranle le cœur même des institutions libériennes, devrait débiter dans les prochaines semaines.

Starts from page 8

## Des jeunes manifestants accusent le

de Gibi et a évoqué un projet ultérieur d'établissement universitaire.

« Nous ne faisons pas que lancer des travaux d'infrastructures ; nous posons les fondations d'un avenir meilleur, » avait-il déclaré lors de la cérémonie de lancement.

Le chantier de la route et du lycée de Gibi doit débiter la semaine prochaine, les deux élus présentant ces projets comme essentiels au renforcement du commerce, des transports et de l'accès à l'éducation dans Margibi.

Mais dans le district n°7, la frustration gagne du terrain. Les leaders de la jeunesse accusent le

député Bility d'avoir tourné le dos à ceux qui l'ont porté au pouvoir, alors même que leur région souffre encore d'infrastructures précaires et de l'absence d'opportunités éducatives.

Tandis que les projets de Margibi sont salués localement, ils suscitent un vif ressentiment à Nimba, où de nombreux habitants estiment que leurs besoins restent ignorés. Les *Jeunes Concernés du District n°7* promettent de renforcer leur mobilisation tant que leur représentant n'apportera pas de réponses concrètes à leurs revendications en matière d'éducation et de

## La NOCAL octroie des bourses à 20 étudiants libériens

La National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) a toujours eu pour tradition d'offrir des bourses et des opportunités aux étudiants universitaires complètes à vingt méritants. Nous voyons encore étudiants libériens brillants, afin plus grand pour l'année de leur permettre de poursuivre prochaine : ce n'est que le début, des études scientifiques de car en 2026, nous prévoyons premier cycle.

Lors d'une cérémonie officielle de signature du programme *Scholarship Education Initiative*, tenue à Monrovia, le président s'inscrit dans le cadre du pilier directeur général par intérim de la NOCAL, M. Fabian Michael Lai, gouvernement et contribue au développement du contenu local, à récompenser l'excellence afin de permettre aux Libériens de jouer un rôle moteur dans le secteur énergétique émergent du pays. « C'est une partie intégrante de notre responsabilité sociétale. La

jour : 191 candidats issus des 15 comtés ont été évalués lors de trois étapes successives, incluant l'examen des dossiers, des tests d'aptitude et des entretiens avec un jury. Fait notable, 33 % des bourses ont été attribuées à des étudiantes, dont plusieurs poursuivent des filières STEM (sciences, technologies, ingénierie et mathématiques), illustrant l'engagement de la NOCAL en faveur de l'équité de genre et de la croissance inclusive. « Aujourd'hui, nous ne signons pas seulement des conventions de bourse ; nous posons les bases de l'avenir du Liberia. Notre pays possède des ressources pétrolières, mais sa véritable richesse réside dans le talent et la détermination de sa jeunesse », a affirmé M. Lai.

Il a invité les bénéficiaires à rester humbles et concentrés sur leurs objectifs, malgré la reconnaissance qu'ils reçoivent. « Je vous exhorte à ne pas vous laisser emporter par ces distinctions. Vous devez travailler dur, élaborer un plan de réussite et viser plus haut. Être boursier ne signifie pas seulement être intelligent ; c'est la preuve que vous avez fait preuve de rigueur et de persévérance.

## ArcelorMittal Liberia adopte une nouvelle politique numérique pour moderniser l'indemnisation foncière

ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), premier investisseur étranger du pays et acteur majeur du secteur minier, a lancé une politique numérique innovante visant à encadrer l'indemnisation foncière et les opérations de réinstallation. Cette démarche ambitieuse entend instaurer davantage d'équité, de transparence et de rigueur dans la gestion des terres acquises pour les activités industrielles.

Cette nouvelle politique couvre l'ensemble des zones d'opérations d'AML : les sites miniers du comté de Nimba, le port de Buchanan dans le comté de Grand Bassa, le corridor ferroviaire reliant Yekepa à Buchanan, ainsi que la carrière de Neekreen.

Le dispositif introduit un système digital qui associe technologie, sensibilisation des communautés et procédures structurées, afin de répondre



aux difficultés récurrentes liées aux droits fonciers et aux litiges indemnitaires. Il s'agit d'une évolution majeure dans les relations entre propriétaires terriens, exploitants agricoles et sociétés concessionnaires, particulièrement dans des régions riches en ressources mais fragiles sur le plan de la gouvernance.

Au cœur de cette politique figure un processus rigoureux destiné à garantir que les populations affectées soient informées, consultées et indemnisées de manière juste et vérifiable. Shad Whabyely, responsable de la réinstallation chez AML, a salué cette avancée comme « une étape décisive vers des pratiques foncières plus crédibles et efficaces ».

Le processus débute par la soumission officielle d'une demande d'utilisation des terres par AML, suivie de plusieurs consultations et sessions de sensibilisation communautaires. Ces réunions visent à expliquer les critères d'éligibilité, les étapes de la procédure et le rôle de chacun : autorités publiques, entreprise et communautés locales.

Un inventaire de référence détaillé est ensuite réalisé, incluant un recensement précis des cultures présentes avant toute transaction. Pour fiabiliser l'identification et le suivi, les agriculteurs se verront remettre un livret d'identification doté d'un QR code, les rattachant à une base de données numérique sécurisée. Une fois ces vérifications achevées, les paiements sont effectués conformément aux lignes directrices nationales.

Afin d'éviter les plantations spéculatives et les abus constatés par le passé, AML a établi des règles claires : seules les cultures mises en terre avant le 1er janvier 2020, dans les zones de concession, pourront faire l'objet d'une indemnisation, selon les barèmes du ministère de l'Agriculture. Les plantations postérieures à cette date ne seront indemnisées que si elles se trouvent sur des terrains privés, auquel cas le ministère évaluera leur valeur. Ces dispositions visent à endiguer la fraude et les détournements qui ont longtemps fragilisé les mécanismes d'indemnisation au Liberia et en Afrique de l'Ouest.

La politique va plus loin en introduisant un cadre formel de location des terres privées nécessaires aux opérations. Des contrats de bail seront signés avec les propriétaires, assortis de conditions tarifaires transparentes et d'un mécanisme de résolution des griefs pour traiter les différends éventuels.

Marcus Wleh, directeur du développement durable et des relations extérieures d'AML, a souligné que cette politique s'inscrit dans une dynamique de partenariat de long terme avec les communautés. « C'est une étape supplémentaire vers des relations plus durables et équilibrées », a-t-il précisé, rappelant l'évolution de l'approche de l'entreprise en matière de responsabilité sociale.

Des responsables locaux et gouvernementaux ont salué l'initiative. Amos W. Solee, représentant le bureau agricole du comté de Nimba, a encouragé les agriculteurs à se tenir informés des nouvelles procédures et des barèmes de prix des cultures. À Grand Bassa, le leader communautaire Augustus Greaves a qualifié la politique de « mesure opportune », estimant qu'elle doit être largement diffusée afin que les exploitants connaissent leurs droits et puissent mieux anticiper l'avenir.

AML entame actuellement une série de sessions d'information dans ses zones opérationnelles pour accompagner les populations concernées : inscription aux livrets d'identification, explication des démarches et collecte des plaintes via des canaux officiels.

Avec cette transformation numérique, ArcelorMittal Liberia entend devenir une référence en matière de gestion responsable des terres dans le secteur extractif ouest-africain. L'intégration des outils digitaux, des contrôles rigoureux et de la concertation communautaire pourrait servir de modèle à d'autres sociétés minières ou pétrolières confrontées aux mêmes enjeux.

Si elle est pleinement mise en œuvre, cette politique renforcera la légitimité sociale d'AML et posera un nouveau standard de gouvernance transparente et inclusive des ressources naturelles au Liberia.



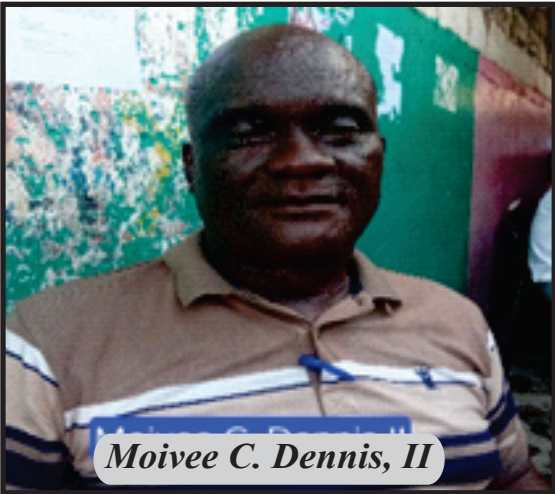


LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: **The rice allegation against former officials** *By Naneka A. Hoffman*

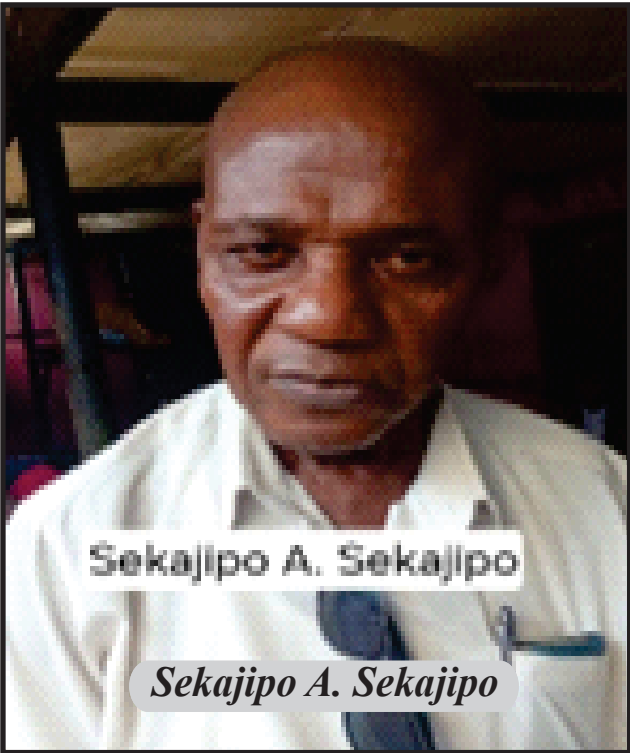
*The Boakai administration has arrested several ex-officials for investigation over the handling of rice donated by the Government of Saudi Arabia. But critics say the action is nothing but witch-hunting. In a random interview, The NEW DAWN asked some members of the public to give their take on the issue. Read their comments, as compiled below.*



Moivee C. Dennis, II

“I resigned from government in this country on June 27, 1990, and if I were still in government, if I had such a responsibility as department under me that has to do with this issue, I don't have to be involved like the disaster management is placed by the Internal Affairs Ministry. Does the minister have to get involved? Even the former minister Maxwell Kemayah. If there is a need, he allocates to you for a purpose you await. If it comes to you now, who's approving it? If you sign for it, it justifies your standing in terms of investigation but, to go and get involved with it or ok, let's jump over;

that was the procedure, but if the investigation took place and it happens that you are linked, you have to answer to the crime. Arresting people on indictment doesn't mean you can't be outside; if your charge is bailable, you will come out. We should now start to support action being taken or impunity. Impunity has lived in this country than anywhere in Africa. It is about now we supposed to copy that there should be no special delay. In this country, if you follow history, former chief justice, senators have been in jail, and sitting senators have been escorted from government, for their action. The law should be above everybody; no one should be above the law that certain people should be untouchable; no, I don't support that. They should be investigated by facts and if they are guilty, it should prove beyond doubt; if they are not guilty, they should be released and also have the right to sue the government, for damaging their names.”

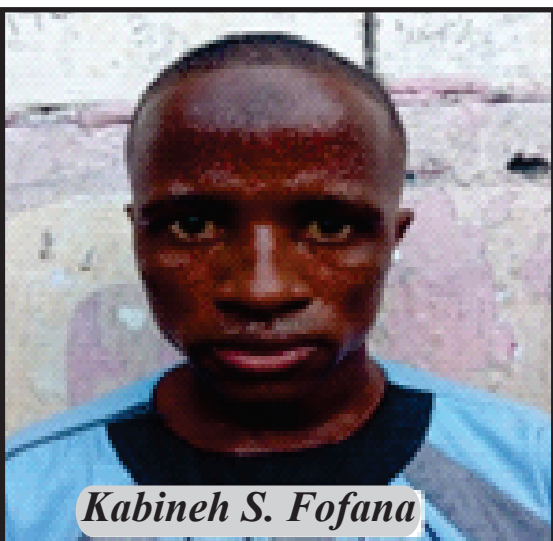


Sekajipo A. Sekajipo

Sekajipo A. Sekajipo

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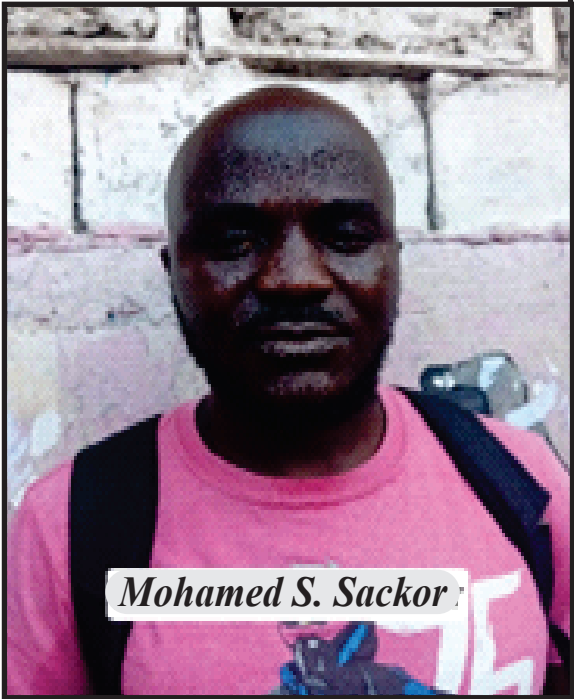
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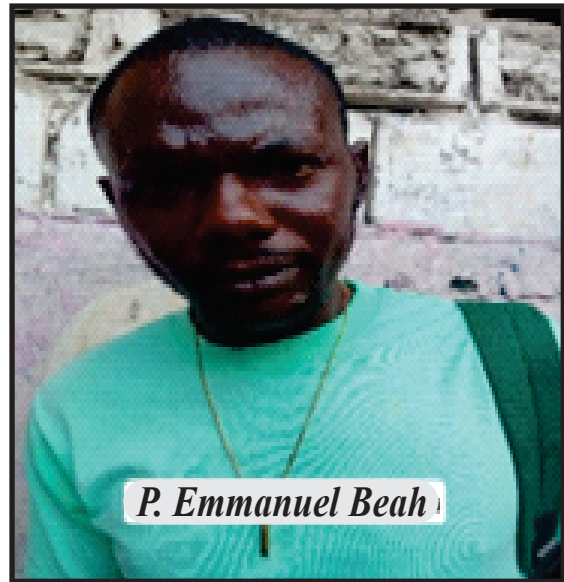
Kabineh S. Fofana

“I was too happy when I heard this news; happy in a sense that you know the backwardness today of Liberia has been caused by corruption. It is because of corruption today that we Liberians lack quality education, good road infrastructure and good medication. I was happy to hear the President coming down on people, who have been the cause for lack of quality education, good road infrastructure and

“I think it is a good sign and shows that Liberia is now visionally to another level. During the past regime, we saw people engaged in corruption and no action was taken against them. Seeing President Boakai taken this bold step, not looking at people faces, but to indeed go for them, based on the injuries they caused this country, I think this actually calls for celebration. It is a good sign that Liberia is now moving on a rightful turn. We want for all those that are involved in corrupt activities during the past and present regimes, we are calling on the President to make sure all these people should be prosecuted.”



Mohamed S. Sackor



P. Emmanuel Beah

“Firstly, I want to say it is commendable. I say it is commendable because every responsible leadership is tasked with responsibility for the people by the people

good medication. Thanks to the President and this is why we fought to bring President Boakai on board, because we know the kind of character he has. We know what he stands for; we are willing to be with him in every decision he makes. Just imagine these are people, who were serving in key positions; these were people, who were opportune to have meals on their tables. These were people that were working for good salary then international community giving you aid to give it to your people that water overtook their homes, then you personalized it for yourself. It isn't good; these are things that have been carrying Liberia backward. How do you think the international community will continue to trust this country? when aid given to our government officials and they are continuing to vote them to power, so I stand for the decision taken and I look forward to investigation and if they are guilty, they should be prosecuted.”

and for the people. The multiple charges or offenses didn't just fall from the sky on earth; it was some investigation; I want to believe that there were some inquiries and there were some whistleblowers, who brought this to light today. Witch-hunting now, in Liberia has become a saying. When you try to do the right thing, people will call it witch hunting. Even serious-minded teacher, for me, I am from the classroom, if you become so hard on students, they will call it witch-hunt but, if you become so soft, they will say that is a weak teacher, so isn't a witch-hunt. What I expect from this investigation when it is proving by law that the total rice brought in country were taken for personal gains by state officials, they should be prosecuted.”

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# Capitol's damage put at nearly \$4 Million

Damages inflicted on the Capitol during the December 18, 2024, arson attack have been put at more than US\$3 million, according to the Grand Jury of Montserrado County, Liberia.

**By Lincoln G. Peters**

Monrovia, Liberia; July 3, 2025 - The Grand Jury of Montserrado County has officially indicted former House Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa and fourteen others in connection with the December 18, 2024, arson attack on the Capitol Building, while putting losses and damages at Three Million Seven Hundred, Eighty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred United States



Dollars (US\$3,788,500.00).

The indictment was read and served on the defendants on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, by Judge Roosevelt Willie of Criminal Court "A" at the Temple of Justice, following its filing by the Grand Jury of Montserrado County.

Legally, the indictment has paved the way for trial proceedings during the August Term of Court before Criminal Court "A."

Those indicted by the state include Kivi Bah alias "Kaba," Jerry Pokah, alias "Tyrese," Stephen M. Broh, John Nyanti, Representatives Dixon W. Seboe, J. Fonati Koffa, and Abu B. Kamara; Patience Bestman, Harrilyn Grace Johnson, Jacob C. Deebie, Christian Kofa, Amos Kofa, Eric Susay, and Thomas Isaac Etheridge—along with others yet to be identified.

The state indicted the defendants for the alleged crime on multiple charges of Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Conspiracy, Criminal Facilitation, Criminal Solicitation, Release of Destructive Forces, Reckless Burning or Exploding, and Recklessly Endangering another person's life.

According to the Grand Jury indictment, the named defendants and others to be identified, committed the crimes of Arson, a felony of the second degree, Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder, a felony of the second degree, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Conspiracy, a felony of the second degree, Criminal Solicitation, a felony of the second degree, Release of Destructive Forces, a felony of the second degree, Reckless Burning or Exploding, a felony of the third degree; Criminal Facilitation, a felony of the third degree, and Recklessly Endangering Another Person, a misdemeanor of the first degree to wit:

The indictment further stated that with the support and facilitation of Co-Defendants Dixon W. Seboe, J. Fonati Koffa, Abu B.

Kamara, and Jacob C Dechie, the co-defendants Kivi Bah alias Kaba, Jerry Pokah alias Tyrese, John Nyanti, Stephen M. Broh, Christian Kofa, Amos Kofa, Eric Sesay, Janjay, Thomas Isaac Etheridge, AKA Tom, and others to be identified purposely set ablaze the joint chambers of the Capitol Building.

The State disclosed that, as if that were not enough, after the defendants and co-defendants committed this devilish act, they took a pen and paper and wrote, explaining to Dixon W. Seboe how and why the co-defendants intentionally set the Capitol Building ablaze.

The Grand jury notes that defendant Kevi Bah alias Kaba, while still narrating in the letter to Representative Seboe how he and co-defendants intentionally burnt the Capitol Building, they also stated in the letter that during the night hours of December 17, 2024, they and co-defendants had a discussion around a used car parking lot, located opposite CONEX Gas station, on Jallah Town Road.

Also, defendant Kevi Bah, alias Kaba, said that during that discussion, Representative Seboe and co-defendants finally agreed to burn the Capitol Building on December 18, 2024.

"Further, that on the same December 17, 2024 during the morning time at 0500hrs, after you and your co-defendants have conspired and planned all night, you all agreed and co-defendant Christian Kofa and other co-defendants went and got gasoline, and set ablaze the joint chambers of the Capitol Building, and damaged chairs and cut electric and electronic wires in the joint chambers of the Capitol building, thus sustaining a loss of Three Million Seven Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred United States Dollars (US\$3,788,500.00)" the indictment noted.

Explaining further, the document points out that co-defendant Lesay, on the 17th day of December 2013, was on audio with Orange GSM SM number +2317 1397654, and making a call and telling co-defendant Feridge to receive gasoline to commence the arson attack on the Capitol Building.

"In another audio recording, you, Defendant Eric Susay, can be heard saying to your co-defendants that "We dirty the police officer (Sgt. Amara Bility), and left him lying on the street, and have taken his service weapon away and gave it to former EPS officers." The indictment explained.

# Starts from Back page NOCAL awards scholarship to 20 students

ning the blueprint for Liberia's future, while our nation is endowed with petroleum resources, our true wealth lies in the talent and determination of our youth", Mr. Lai said.

He cautions the beneficiaries not to be carried away by the minimum education they have achieved but to be steadfast, work hard and achieve more.

"My cautions to you here today, do not be carried away by those, accolade, or honor you have received, but work hard and start up a plan and achieve your goals.

To be scholar doesn't means you are smart, but to plan well, and you have worked hard, and there is no joke, you can achieve more."

He charged the students to take the opportunity serious and be an ambassador for NOCAL.

"We want you to take this opportunity very serious, the intent is to award competitive people and when you are a scholar, meaning you are a hard worker, So my message here to you today, you go out there and be an Ambassador of NOCAL, your parents and yourself", he added.

Representing the Ministry of Education, Dr. James Mulbah, rallied the awardees to make maximum use of the opportunity.

"You have to work hard and justify your inclusion, but I urge you to remain focus and prepare yourself; you must also encourage teamwork", he added.

The Director- General of the Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA) Nee- Alah T. Varpilah, urged the beneficiary to see the scholarship as

opportunity to sharpen their skills, credentials and professional services, to get prepared to serve their country.

He commended NOCAL for what he describes as visionary process of attracting young people towards the oil sector.

"This is a story of vision that drives sustainability and we must commend you for visionary process of attracting young people towards oil service", Varpilah added.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, Mariama Keita applauded NOCAL for the fairness, transparency and integrity in awarding the scholarship.

"I'm deeply honored and incredibly grateful; this moment is a proud milestone for me, but it is not a surprising one, because my hard studies and accomplishment through high-school have earned honors", Keita said.

She charged fellow recipients to rise above the occasion despite obstacles, and be determined.

"I carry with me not just a scholarship, but a responsibility and I urge my fellow recipients to rise to the occasion with knowledge and never settle for less, for what you are capable of achieving," Mariama added.

The scholarship beneficiaries include: Sando Kamara, Stanley Dennis, L. Moses Mulbah, Joy F. Praise, Johnson N. Dolo, Mariama Keita and Jonathan H. Jallah.

The students have been urged to achieve a minimum score of 3.0 Grade Point Average per semester to remain on the scholarship. *Editing y Jonathan Browne*

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At the same time the state added that in the same audio recording of December 17, 2024, Defendant Eric Susay is heard complaining to co-defendant Thomas Isaac Etheridge, stating "You are calling co-defendant Janjay, but you are not getting him; also, that you are requesting co-defendant Thomas to come and give him money to purchase gasoline and prepare petrol bombs to be used on the police officers, Hon. James Kolleh of the majority group house in Congo Town, LRJ Hotel where the majority bloc meet and personal vehicles of the majority bloc.

The state narrated that during the same night of the planning process on December 17, 2024, co-defendants Amos Koffa and Thomas Etheridge are heard discussing on audio the execution of the operation, which includes putting men in position to participate in the burning of the Capital Building, and to "shoot any police officer who will try to stop you."

Furthermore, in the same audio conversation on December 17, 2024, co-defendant Amos is heard asking Thomas Etheridge whether "he saw the materials to be used in the burning of the Capitol Building in the building."

"Further, that you Defendant Amos Koffa called co-Defendant Thomas Etheridge on December 18, 2024 and confirmed to him that the Capitol Building was on fire, while still on the line, co-defendant Thomas Etheridge directed you Defendant Amos Kofa to go to Hon. J. Fonati Koffa's house opposite former vice president Jewel Howard Taylor's residence, behind YWCA building in Congo Town", the indictment indicated.

Meanwhile, the State continues that Defendants Thomas Etheridge and Amos Koffa, during their planning of this wicked act, can also be heard saying "We will use tear gas and chlorine in the joint chambers to dislodge lawmakers from the majority bloc so that they do not have access to the joint Chamber for the session.

"Co-Defendants Harrilyn Grace Johnson and Patience Bestman, who are part of the social media chatroom of Co-Defendant J. Fornati Koffa's office, had knowledge of the planning and execution of the destruction of the Capitol Building and actively conspired to conceal evidence relating thereto contained on Co-Defendant Thomas Isaac Etheridge's phone." The indictment concluded. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



*Twenty university students from across Liberia have benefited full scholarship from the National Oil Company of Liberia to complete undergraduate studies in the sciences.*

NOCAL, Fabian Michael Lai, said the intent is to award competitive students, and enhance their capacity for the future.

Mr. Lai stressed that NOCAL has always had a history of awarding scholarships to deserving students as part of its corporate

students.

And we have bigger plan next year; this is just the beginning and bigger one will be in 2026. Maybe you could have an opportunity that when we are targeting graduate level”, he said.

According to the NOCAL Boss, the program is in alignment with the government's ARREST Agenda, particularly its education pillar, and role in advancing Local Content Development to ensure Liberians lead the country's burgeoning energy sector.

“This year's selection process was the most competitive to date, with 191 applicants from all 15 counties rigorously evaluated through a three-stage review (document screening, aptitude testing, and panel interviews). Notably, 33% of scholarships were awarded to female students, many pursuing STEM fields—a testament to NOCAL's commitment to gender equity and inclusive growth.

“Today, we are not just signing scholarship agreements; we are signing

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



various university across Liberia.

In a signing ceremony of the Scholarship Education Initiative held in Monrovia, the Acting President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

social responsibility, and that the Company is even aiming at a bigger picture next year.

“This is just part of our corporate responsibility and you know, NOCAL has always have a history of awarding scholarship and opportunity for deserving



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The advertisement features a vibrant yellow background with colorful streamers. In the center, a man and a woman are shown celebrating. The man is holding a smartphone and a small trophy, while the woman is holding a smartphone and a small trophy. Behind them are several prizes, including a motorcycle, a television, and bags of rice. The prizes are labeled with the MoMo logo. At the bottom, the MoMo logo is displayed next to the logos for Lonestar Cell and MTN.


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A person is shown from the chest up, holding a newspaper. The background is a solid yellow wall. In the upper right corner, the text "PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE" is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The newspaper being held is the "New Dawn" and features several headlines. On the left page, the main headline reads "Dawn raises red-flag" with a sub-headline "New Dawn's 10th anniversary" and a photo of a man in a blue shirt. Below this is a section titled "Travelers' Book" with a photo of a person. On the right page, the main headline is "Uncertainty hangs over schools" with a sub-headline "As authorities weigh options over closure" and a photo of a school building. Below this is a large headline "Nephew butchered uncle" with a photo of a person. The newspaper is held in front of the person's face, obscuring it.

A photograph showing two large Heidelberg printing machines in a workshop. The machine on the left is a smaller, older model with a yellow bed. The machine on the right is a larger, more modern model with a black frame. The text "2 Colors Heidelberg Machines" is overlaid in the center of the image.

A hand is shown pressing a pen onto a document. The word "PRESS" is written on the document. Above the hand, there are colorful paint splashes in yellow, red, and blue. The background is a solid blue color.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'SS\$2.5m for Wood by-election', a calendar for 2014, a magazine with the headline 'SS\$2.5m for Wood by-election', and a brochure with the headline 'BROCHURE'. The publications are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion against a blue background.