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**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT


**French Version Inside**

**VOL. 15 NO. 119**      **TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025**      **PRICE LD\$50.00**

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# How Hamak and 79 Resources defrauded Liberia

**-The case of Amara Kamara**

**Amara Kamara**

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# Continental News

## World's oldest president to seek eighth term

The world's oldest head of state, Cameroon's President Paul Biya, 92, has said he will run once more about his well-being and unfounded rumours that he had died. His candidacy was expected but



President Paul Biya, pictured here in 2022, first came to power in 1982

for re-election in October aiming to extend his 43 years in power.

"Rest assured that my determination to serve you matches the urgency of the challenges we face," he said in a post on X. He added that his decision to go for an eighth term came after "numerous and insistent" calls by people from all regions in Cameroon and the diaspora.

Biya's administration has faced criticism over allegations of corruption and embezzlement, as well as accusations of bad governance and failure to tackle security challenges. There have also been concerns about his health and ability to govern. His absence from the public for more than six weeks last year led to speculation

not formally confirmed until Sunday's social media post.

Biya has never lost an election since taking power in 1982 and if he wins another seven-year term he could be president until he is nearly 100.

There have been growing calls from inside and outside Cameroon for him to step aside and give way for fresh leadership in the central African nation.

His candidacy follows a recent political divorce from key allies from the northern regions, who had been crucial in helping secure votes in previous elections from that part of the country.

Two of these men - prominent minister Issa Tchiroma Bakary and former Prime Minister Bello Bouba Maigari - recently quit the ruling coalition and separately

announced plans to run in the election.

Last month, Tchiroma said the Biya administration he belonged to had "broken" public trust and he was switching to a rival party.

Multiple opposition figures, including 2018 runner-up Maurice Kamto, as well as Joshua Osih, Akere Muna, and Cabral Libii, have also announced their candidacies.

However, members of the governing Cameroon People's Democratic Movement and other supporters have since last year publicly called for Biya to seek another term. He was already the de-facto candidate as the party leader. Biya abolished term limits in 2008, enabling him to seek the presidency indefinitely. He won the 2018 elections with more than 71% of the vote although opposition groups said there were widespread irregularities. Reacting to Biya's latest bid for the presidency, many people on the streets of the capital Yaoundé told the BBC they did not feel safe commenting openly on politics for fear of reprisals. Others withheld their names, ages or occupations out of caution.

"Never in the political history of nations have I seen or heard that a man of that age, is declaring his candidacy in a presidential election," said one member of the public, who spoke on condition of anonymity. BBC

## Nigeria declares public holiday to honour former leader who died aged 82

Nigeria's government has declared Tuesday a public holiday to honour former President Muhammadu Buhari, who died aged 82 in a London clinic on Sunday after battling ill health for years. "This public holiday provides an opportunity for all Nigerians to reflect on his life, leadership, and the values he upheld," Nigeria's interior minister said in a statement. Katsina state governor Dikko Radda, who returned to Nigeria on Monday after being with Buhari's family in the British capital, said Buhari would be buried in his home state on Tuesday. "What I have gathered so far is that the corpse will arrive 12pm tomorrow and the burial will happen by 2pm," he added. Officials say the funeral, initially expected on Monday, had been delayed for logistical reasons. The former president's remains will be flown directly to Katsina airport before being moved to their final resting place in his home town of Daura, 50 miles (80km) from Katsina

city, Radda said.

Buhari's home is already filled with mourners as friends, family and well-wishers await the arrival of his corpse. The vice-president said that Buhari had died after a brief illness without revealing any further details. Even though he is a former president, there will not be a state funeral. In line with Islamic teachings, Buhari will be buried as quickly as possible in a simple ceremony, Islamic cleric

Abdullahi Garangamawa told the BBC. Tributes have continued to pour in for the late army general who led Nigeria twice - first as military leader and then as an elected president after becoming the first opposition leader to defeat an incumbent, in 2015. Former President Goodluck Jonathan, defeated by Buhari in 2015, described the late leader as someone who "was selfless in his commitment to his duty and served the country with character and a deep sense of patriotism".



Muhammadu Buhari died in a London clinic

## MP charged for accusing Lesotho king of signing over country to South Africa

A Lesotho MP is facing criminal charges after he accused the country's monarch and government of signing over control of Lesotho to its much larger neighbour, South Africa.

Dr Tshepo Lipholo also faces charges of "violating the dignity and reputation" of the royal family by declaring himself the chief ruler of the landlocked country.

He reportedly appeared in court on Monday to apply for bail but this was postponed to a later date this month. The opposition MP has previously called for parts of South Africa to be declared "Lesotho's territory" and wants them returned to Lesotho's control. Among them is the Free State, one of the three South African provinces that share a border with the small southern African nation. Dr Lipholo is also laying claim to parts of the Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

The people of Lesotho, called Basotho, lived in these areas until the 19th Century, when

king's presence.

A retired army official, Major General Samuel Makoro, was also arrested on Friday for allegedly supporting Mr Lipholo and providing him with sensitive information.

Dr Lipholo is the leader of the Basotho Covenant Movement (BCM), which has a single seat in parliament. His motion, which was previously debated in Lesotho's parliament, is based on a 1962 United Nations resolution that recognised the right to self-determination and independence for the people of Basutoland. The view from South African officials is that the motion to reclaim territories some Basotho view as their own does not stand a chance of happening, because it does not enjoy the support of the majority in Lesotho. One of the key stumbling blocks is the 1964 Cairo Declaration of the Organisation of African Unity, now the African Union, whereby African leaders agreed to recognise the existing borders of their newly independent countries, even if



Dr Tshepo Lipholo is accused of harming the reputation of Lesotho's royal family, pictured above

they were seized by Afrikaners - white South Africans. Many still live there, especially the Free State. In the charge sheet, which the BBC has seen, the state accuses the lawmaker of "uttering seditious words" and "inciting public violence" by saying King Letsie III and the government had "signed [over] Lesotho to become the 10th South African province".

These remarks were allegedly made between April and June 2025 on various social media platforms and radio interviews, according to the state. He is also accused of declaring himself the paramount chief of Basutoland, the country's colonial name, despite the

they were drawn up by colonial powers with little regard to where different ethnic groups lived, to avoid stirring up conflict across the continent.

South Africa's foreign affairs ministry reaffirmed this view in response to a question in parliament earlier this year. Dr Lipholo has previously told Lesotho media that he also hopes to have the motion discussed in the British Parliament "since it was the UK that gave Lesotho its independence in 1966, without correcting the borders seized by the Afrikaners".

According to a source, his legal team was given until 25 July 2025 to argue for bail. He remains in police custody. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## Questioning GoL's decision on HPX Rail Access amidst AML's ongoing MDA

The recent decision by the Government of Liberia (GoL) to grant HPX (High Power Exploration) access to the national railway, while ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) continues to hold an active Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) with the government, raises several questions about national interest and strategic priorities.

At the heart of the matter is whether the GoL's actions serve Liberia's long-term goals, or whether they prioritize foreign interests over national interests or those of its own people.

Granting HPX access to the railway while AML MDA is still in effect creates a climate of uncertainty for current and potential investors.

AML's existing agreement with the government represents not only a legal commitment but also an implicit promise to prioritize the company's expansion and its resultant contributions to Liberia's economy.

While it is true that the railway is a state asset, by signing an access agreement with HPX, GoL appears to compromise the spirit, if not the letter, of its ongoing agreement with AML. This raises critical questions:

How does GoL justify entering into a new, potentially conflicting arrangement while its prior commitments remain unresolved?

What assurances exist to prevent operational or legal clashes between AML's expansion plans and HPX's anticipated access?

The optics of this new agreement suggest that foreign iron ore shipments are being prioritized over Liberian developmental interests.

AML's expansion is not merely a matter of corporate growth; it represents an opportunity for increased employment, local procurement, tax revenue, and infrastructural development.

This move may set a concerning precedent for future negotiations, signaling to both domestic and international actors that Liberia's commitments are manipulable and that foreign pressure can yield preferential treatment, even at the expense of national development.

This perception could impede AML's ability to finance future expansions, as investors may question the reliability of GoL's assurances and the stability of their investments.

It is no secret that HPX has been mounting pressure, pushing GoL to sign this agreement, but not necessarily with Liberia's broader interests at heart.

Rather than develop, the company's strategy appears driven by the prospect of securing a lucrative deal, one that would enhance the value of the Guinean concession granted to HPX, thereby enabling it to “flip” the asset for significant profit.

In this regard, HPX's persistent lobbying can be seen less as a commitment to contributing to Liberia's long-term growth and more as a calculated move to maximize short-term gains, potentially at Liberia's expense.

These developments suggest a troubling narrative: Liberia, despite being the landlord and custodian of its own resources and infrastructure, is at risk of being the net victim in a zero-sum game orchestrated by external actors.

The benefits accrued by HPX, facilitated by GoL's acceptance, come at the cost of Liberia's own interests and the aim of AML to expand and deepen its economic impact.

In conclusion, the GoL's decision to sign a rail access agreement with HPX/Ivanhoe, while an existing agreement with a major investor remains unresolved, raises fundamental doubts.

Unless adjusted, this deal with HPX/Ivanhoe threatens to leave the nation at a disadvantage, undermining both sovereignty and future prosperity for the fleeting advantage of others.

# COMMENTARY

By Susan Stokes

## Why Trump Is Attacking the Academy

CHICAGO - The resignation of University of Virginia President James E. Ryan under political pressure from US President Donald Trump's minions and the Virginia state government is the latest shocking turn in the administration's all-out attack on American higher education. Officials from Trump's Justice Department and members of the University's Board of Visitors - several of whom were appointed by Republican Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin - accused Ryan of moving too slowly to dismantle the university's diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. By the end of June, Ryan had announced his departure.

It is highly unusual for politicians to call the shots at major universities in the United States. But such interference is common in failing democracies. Power-hungry presidents and prime ministers replace university leaders with partisan loyalists. They defund or dismantle universities - often the most elite ones. Trump's assault on the University of Virginia - as well as on Harvard, Columbia, and many others - is following this playbook and should be understood as a measure of America's slide into autocracy.

Trump's rationale for the crackdown is that many of the top US universities are bastions of “woke” culture and have become dominated, as he put it in 2023, by “Marxist maniacs and lunatics.” The universities can't be trusted, the argument goes, to protect students from biased treatment and harassment. The administration's ostensible aim is to make these institutions more “viewpoint-neutral.”

Other right-wing autocrats around the world have made the same argument - that universities are too progressive - when attacking higher education. But that is far from the only justification. Leftist autocrats have complained that universities are too conservative. Some politicians might deem universities too secular or too religious. Universities' real threat to autocrats, though, lies in their independence as sites of critical inquiry, which implies an institutional check on these regimes' authority.

Consider Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who, despite initially coming to power through fair and free elections, has censored the press, crushed legitimate protests, and overseen the country's slide toward autocracy. Most recently, Erdoğan ordered the imprisonment of his top political rival, Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

As part of his efforts to solidify his rule, Erdoğan has engaged in a years-long attack on Boğaziçi University, a prestigious public institution known for its academic rigor and diverse and engaged student body. After a failed coup attempt in 2016, Erdoğan issued a decree that gave the president the authority to appoint university rectors - a task that normally fell to professors. Soon after, he installed Mehmed Özkan, a biomedical engineering professor at Boğaziçi, as the university's head, instead of

the faculty's choice.

In 2021, Erdoğan further restricted Boğaziçi's academic autonomy by appointing as rector Melih Bulu, an outsider and a loyalist to the president's Justice and Development Party (AKP). This set off student demonstrations and a series of silent protests by faculty members. Erdoğan accused protesters of being “communists, terrorists, and traitors,” and his government prosecuted many of them, while also imposing other controls that have triggered an exodus of top talent.

While Erdoğan's AKP represents a nationalist-conservative alliance, autocratic-minded leaders from the political left have framed their attacks on universities in their own terms. During his tenure as Mexico's president between 2018 and 2024, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (widely known as AMLO), a populist who raised the minimum wage and increased pension payments as he consolidated his power, disparaged top Mexican universities' “neoliberalism.” The hostility went beyond rhetoric: Mexico's attorney general made repeated attempts to arrest a group of 31 top scientists on corruption charges, spawning enormous controversy.

AMLO's attacks roiled Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, one of Mexico's top public-research centers and universities. CIDE students protested the government's appointment of a new director, who demoted several administrators. Over the course of its conflict with López Obrador, many CIDE faculty members departed for other schools.

Some autocrats are not satisfied with merely changing the leadership of annoyingly independent universities. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán forced the Central European University out of Budapest; it moved to Vienna, where its faculty continues to engage in excellent research and teaching. At the opposite end of the ideological spectrum, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega assumed control of the Jesuit-run Central American University, fired the university's leadership and staff, hired party loyalists, and changed its name. Only the buildings remain the same.

When politicians try to muzzle universities by ousting their leaders, interfering with their research and teaching, and cutting off their funds, the writing is on the wall - and not only for once-great academic institutions. As the US careens toward autocracy, Trump has set his sights on other independent institutions as well. From media outlets to law firms and judges, the president is trying to demolish the pillars of democracy.

Many are resisting, but many are capitulating, normalizing Trump's anti-democratic behavior in the process. In the case of the University of Virginia, founded by Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of America's Declaration of Independence, the submission to despotism is particularly poignant.



OP-EDBy Ylli Bajraktari and André Loesekrug-Pietri

Ending European Tech Stagnation

WASHINGTON, DC - As the tech revolution intensifies, Europe is finding itself on the sidelines, particularly in AI. This is a problem not only for Europe, but for the broader Western alliance. As other regions surge ahead with tech-centric ambitions, the prospect of Europe fading into digital irrelevance is becoming stronger. We urgently need a revitalized transatlantic relationship, one centered on a bold, positive technology agenda.

As highlighted by recent analyses, while US tech giants dominate the current AI landscape, Europe’s own champions are few and far between. The continent that led the industrial revolution now struggles to foster globally competitive tech behemoths - not for a lack of talent or innovative spirit, but rather because a complex mix of fragmented markets, cautious investment climates, and a regulatory environment that inadvertently stifles innovation.

The result is growing dependence on external technologies and a diminished capacity to shape the digital future according to Europe’s values and interests. This digital lag is as much a strategic vulnerability as it is an economic problem.

Europe’s tech deficit should concern the United States almost as much as European governments. After all, a technologically weakened Europe is a less capable partner in addressing global challenges, from economic competitiveness to security. The US, moreover, also knows that it cannot hold back the tide of Chinese technology alone. And Europeans know that there is no alternative to US power. Each still needs the other.

As Europe and the US seek a new tech relationship, East Asian countries like Malaysia, powered by government investment and dynamic private sectors, are making enormous strides. The Middle East, too, is leveraging its resources to become a new hub for AI development and tech innovation. This rise of new tech power centers is, in itself, a positive development, fostering global competition and innovation, but it underscores the need for Europe to reclaim its position. The greatest challenge, however, comes from China, which makes no secret of its ambitions to achieve global AI dominance by 2030.

China’s “Digital Silk Road” initiative is already spreading the country’s tech infrastructure and influence across Europe, Africa, and beyond. And this isn’t just about market share; it’s also about embedding technical standards, surveillance capabilities, and, ultimately, China’s authoritarian model into countries’ digital DNA. If the US and Europe fail to offer a compelling, democratic alternative, much of the world’s digital infrastructure will be controlled by a strategic rival.

The solution is a clear-eyed strategy - a transatlantic technology pact for the twenty-first century, with a 2030 horizon. This strategy must revolve around a positive AI agenda, one that goes beyond simply trying to regulate or contain risks. We need to articulate a vision for how AI can be a force for good - advancing science, improving health care, addressing climate change, and creating new economic opportunities. This was the spirit that animated joint US-European infrastructure projects during the Cold War, building the foundations of a connected and prosperous Western world. We must recapture that ambition. Europe recognizes this: the Draghi report of EU competitiveness, the Paris AI Action Summit, and the recent NATO summit in The Hague all show an awareness of the need for radical change.

This new pact should focus on fostering joint research and development in foundational AI models and critical enabling technologies. This means pooling resources and talent to compete at scale. We need to consider the future workforce and potentially even strategies to import the necessary human capital.

Existing mechanisms like the Joint European Disruptive Initiative, the NATO Innovation Fund, and the Defense Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic can serve as platforms for joint research and development in strategic dual-use technologies. A coordinated effort focused on breakthrough technologies and fostered by innovation ecosystems - from procurement to test beds - will ensure that the US and Europe stay competitive in the global tech race. For that, the right funding must be delivered according to a methodology focused on bold risk-taking, maximum speed, and clear metrics.

We must also emphasize interoperability, especially in defense-related technologies. The turn by countries on both sides of the Atlantic toward reindustrialization provides a strategic opportunity to align efforts around interoperable digital and hardware systems, strengthen defense supply chains, and avoid duplication. Shared standards and joint development of critical capabilities such as cloud, AI models, cyber, and quantum will ensure transatlantic resilience in the face of future conflicts.

This will require investing in the joint digital infrastructure of the future, from next-generation networks to secure data centers. AI and emerging AGI systems will place immense demands on energy, computing power, and storage. The US and Europe must ensure we have the physical and digital backbone to support our AI ambitions, coordinating around semiconductor and advanced compute supply chains.

This is where public-private partnerships can play a crucial role, bringing together governments, industry, and academia. The security of critical infrastructure, including in strategic locations like Taiwan, must be a shared priority, as digital and geopolitical stability are inextricably linked. An important goal of transatlantic cooperation must be to offer an alternative to China’s digital expansionism, particularly in developing countries. This means providing competitive financing, open-source technologies, and training that aligns with democratic principles and promotes open, interoperable systems. Only by acting together can the US and Europe provide countries with a compelling alternative to China’s surveillance-driven model.

Lastly, we must rejuvenate our democracies to make them fit for the technological age. The decisions we make - or fail to make - in the coming years will determine whether the US and Europe can lead the next wave of tech advancement, or whether we will be reacting to a world shaped by others. Regardless of the administration in Washington, a thriving, technologically advanced Europe is in America’s interest, while Europe has much to gain from transatlantic tech cooperation. A Europe that is merely a consumer, rather than a creator, of critical technologies will be a Europe with a diminished voice and influence.

Ylli Bajraktari, a former chief of staff to the US National Security Adviser and a former executive director of the US National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, is CEO of the Special Competitive Studies Project. André Loesekrug-Pietri is Chairman and Scientific Director of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative, the European advanced research projects agency.

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OP-EDBy Bertrand Piccard

Turning Ocean Preservation Into an Economic Windfall

AUSANNE - In 1960, my father, Jacques Piccard, reached the bottom of the Mariana Trench - nearly 11,000 meters (36,000 feet) below sea level. The mission was not to make headlines, but to disprove a dangerous misconception. Some experts had claimed that no life could survive in the crushing darkness of the ocean’s depths, and that assumption had led to proposals to use the deep sea as a dumping ground for nuclear waste. But my father and his team encountered living fish - a discovery that prevented a potentially catastrophic mistake.

My father’s mission underscores what exploration has always meant to my family. It is not about conquest and domination, but rather curiosity and understanding. Studying nature expands not only the frontiers of our knowledge, but also the scope of our responsibility as planetary stewards.

Today, the ocean is under greater threat than ever, and not only because the United States has just set the stage for private companies to pursue deep-sea mining in international waters. Despite decades of warnings, humanity continues to treat the ocean as an inexhaustible resource and a bottomless dumping ground. We are suffocating it with plastic, heating it with emissions, poisoning it with chemicals, and depleting it by overfishing. But the biggest danger is subtler: As was true in 1960, there is glaring gap between what we know and what we are doing.

While we speak of binding treaties and ambitious targets, our actions remain fragmented and insufficient. Even as the ocean’s degradation accelerates, governments often take refuge behind the complexity of global consensus-building, using it as an excuse for inaction. As a result, fishing vessels engaged in illegal practices, such as destructive bottom trawling in marine protected areas, are still permitted to sell their catch freely in ports and markets. Although regulations exist, enforcement is weak, sporadic, or simply absent.

But we cannot afford to wait for the perfect implementation of perfect treaties. Nor should we use others’ failure to address the problem as an excuse for our own inaction. After all, we already know the solutions, and we have the tools to pursue them. What is missing is the will.

At the Solar Impulse Foundation, we have identified more than 1,800 clean and profitable strategies and tools that reconcile economic growth with environmental preservation. Many focus on strengthening regenerative and sustainable practices in the blue economy - from technologies that track illegal fishing and monitor vessel movements from space, to innovations in low-carbon shipping, plastic waste prevention, and regenerative aquaculture.

Our recent Ocean Opportunity Guide, mapping ocean-focused innovation, shows just how broad and mature these solutions are. From bio-enhancing concrete that supports marine life to seaweed-based alternatives to single-use plastic and traceability platforms that eliminate greenwashing in seafood value chains, these are not theoretical models; they are real tools already being deployed around the world. Behind them stands a growing ecosystem of entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers.

Equally, new financial mechanisms are emerging to bridge the gap between innovation and scale. Blended finance structures, results-based payments, and de-risking vehicles are beginning to unlock capital for nature-based solutions and sustainable aquaculture, particularly in vulnerable coastal economies. These developments show that diverse stakeholders, when aligned, can build an innovation ecosystem capable of solving one of the world’s most complex challenges.

The solutions we highlight are tested, scalable, and economically sound. They do more than protect ecosystems; they also create jobs, stimulate new markets, and reduce long-term operational risk. Clean innovation in the ocean economy is already generating competitive advantages for forward-looking companies and countries. Financial instruments that de-risk nature-based investments are helping to stabilize coastal economies and expand access to new forms of capital. And circular-economy solutions like seaweed-based packaging and marine-life-friendly infrastructure are not only reducing environmental harm, but also lowering material costs and strengthening supply-chain transparency.

In short, ocean preservation is becoming an engine of industrial renewal and geopolitical resilience. As an economic development strategy, it is both future-proof and inclusive, and it appeals to investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers alike. But to unlock this potential, we must change the narrative. Sustainability is not about sacrifice; it is about modernization, innovation, and efficiency.

Far from an environmental constraint, ocean preservation is a catalyst for a more dynamic, resilient global economy. As such, it should be recognized as the new frontier of exploration. Our task is to discover not uncharted depths, but better systems. Like the entrepreneurs featured in the Ocean Opportunity Guide, we should all be questioning what we have built and considering how it can be improved. The spirit of exploration must guide us toward regeneration, not exploitation. It must inspire us to stop waiting for others, and to start demonstrating the leadership that this moment demands.

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Policy Brief on Budgeting Tracking in the Girls’ Education Division

Over the last decade, Liberia has made commendable efforts to reform its education sector. Key national frameworks, including the Education Reform Act 2011, the Children’s Law (2011), and the National Policy on Girls’ Education, were adopted alongside international commitments such as the Dakar Framework for Action, the Incheon Declaration, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. To operationalize these commitments, the Ministry of Education (MoE) launched initiatives, including the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2022–2027, the Alternative Basic and Accelerated Learning Programs, the TVET Program, and the Tuition-Free Policy, aligned with Pillar 3 of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development.

Despite these efforts, Liberia’s education system continues to struggle with poor access, low quality, and underfunding. Budget allocations in FY2024 and FY2025 remain insufficient to meet national and global targets, particularly those related to the Education Sector Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In response to these persistent gaps, ActionAid Liberia has supported PAYOWI since 2023 to monitor budget allocations and expenditures with emphasis on the SPAII programme and counties: Montserrado, Bong, and Gbarpolu. The budget analysis employs the Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) and Girls’ Rights to Education Programming Strategy (GRPS). This analysis did not capture off-budget spending to the education sector—rather, it examined the FY2024-2025 National Education Budget, focusing on girls’ education. This policy brief aims to increase policymakers and stakeholders’ understanding of the gaps in budget allocation for girls' education and provide concrete policy recommendations for improving budgeting practices to promote gender equity in education.

A deeper review of the Liberia fiscal year (FY) 2025 national budget shows that 87.9% is spent on recurrent costs (primarily salaries), leaving just 12.1% for public investment. This imbalance limits the government’s ability to address long-standing infrastructure deficits, teacher training gaps, and equity issues. The education budget trends reveal both progress and concern. In FY2024, the national budget was US\$738.86 million, with 15.1% (US\$111.33 million) for education, of which US\$48.58 million went to the Ministry of Education (MoE), while the overall national budget increased to US\$880.66 million in FY2025, education’s share dropped to 13.6% (US\$119.7 million) across 24 spending entities, with US\$53.24 million allocated to the MoE. Comparatively, Sierra Leone and Côte d’Ivoire allocate 20–22% of their national budgets to education, highlighting a regional investment gap. In terms of equity, SPAII counties saw varied allocations: Montserrado increased from US\$101,969.00 in 2024 to US\$414,034.00 in 2025; Bong increased to US\$187,332.00 in 2025, while Gbarpolu dropped to US\$56,674.00, reflecting uneven priorities across counties.

The PRS analysis of the education budget reveals challenges in realizing the **right to free and compulsory education**—despite legal frameworks supporting fee-free basic education, actual funding has been inconsistent—whereas the Tuition-Free Policy is implemented in higher institutions like the University of Liberia and several community colleges, the MoE allocated zero funds for free and compulsory primary education in 2024 and 2025. Moreover, informal fees persist in public schools, creating barriers for underprivileged families.

**Rights to quality-trained teachers** are undermined by the fact that over 40% of teachers are unqualified (MOE, ESP 2022–2027). In FY2024, there was no budget for teacher education under the MoE; however, in 2025, US\$3.2 million was allocated across four rural teacher training institutes—a modest but important step.

**The right to a safe, protective, and non-violent environment** remains unmet. Reports of school-based sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) persist, yet the 2025 budget provides no dedicated funding for SGBV prevention in schools. The Ministry of Gender allocated US\$518,400.00 to broader gender programs, but these lack specificity for school safety.

**Right to adequate infrastructure**—school infrastructure remains inadequate, with over 60% of schools lacking proper WASH facilities and gender sensitive amenities (MoE, EMIS 2022). While the Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP) includes US\$2.9 million for facility renovation (MoE, MCSS, and BWI), there is no national line-item for school WASH; these services remain reliant on external actors (UNICEF, WaterAid, etc).

**Right to non-discrimination** is weakly addressed, despite an inclusive education policy, the 2025 budget allocates only US\$50,000.00 to the Liberia School for the Blind and US\$210,000.00 to special and vocational education; such allocation remains insufficient to meet the needs of children with disabilities, 63% of whom have never attended school (LiberiaCensus2022Report.pdf).

**Right to quality learning**—Limited investments in inclusive materials, teacher development, and classroom resources constrain the right to quality learning. On a positive note, US\$1 million was allocated in 2025 to strengthen school feeding programs, which promote nutrition and school retention. In addition, the “Support A Child, Save the Future” project, launched in 2024, allocated US\$500,000.00 (MGCSP) to address the education of Liberia’s 366,584 street children.

The 2025 budget includes, for the first time, a US\$100,000.00 allocation for **girls’ education**, reflecting incremental progress. However, this represents just 5% of what is recommended under the National Policy on Girls’ Education. Investments in **early childhood education** doubled from US\$10,000.00 to US\$20,000.00 in 2025, though still low. Meanwhile, **basic and secondary education** saw a significant cut, from US\$1.8 million in 2024 to US\$1.15 million in 2025. **Primary education** increased from US\$306,250.00 to US\$417,785.00.

Finally, several rights remain underfunded or unsupported: the **right to know your rights** (no explicit funding for rights or sexuality education); the **right to participate** (no line for child led initiatives or school governance); and the **right to accountability** (no direct support for PTAs or County School Boards, though US\$300,000 was allocated for national school monitoring).

Challenges in ensuring educational equity	Recommendation to reduce inequities in education
<i>The lack of school fees and other related indirect costs,</i>	<i><b>Eliminate or subsidize</b> school fees, transportation, uniforms, and examination costs for low-income families; <b>Expand</b> school feeding programs to improve attendance and learning outcomes.</i>
<i>Low budget for education and insufficient allocation of resources</i>	<i><b>Increase the education budget</b> to 20% or above and prioritize funding to underserved schools. <b>Reduce recurrent</b> expenditure and increase spending on public investment (PSIP); <b>Increase funding</b> support to girls’ education by at least 5% of the MOE budget (NPGE Indicator)</i>
<i>Lack of adequate expenditure reporting by the spending entity to the public hinders understanding of the inputs to education. Development partners’ off-budget spending is currently not adequately tracked.</i>	<i><b>Provide an adequate</b> expenditure report on domestic and external investment in the education sector</i>
<i>Lack of adequate learning environment, including limited seating capacity and insufficient WASH facilities.</i>	<i><b>Allocate sufficient</b> funding within the education budget to strengthen (upgrade) schools’ infrastructure and WASH facilities (gender-sensitive) across the country <b>Enforce minimum</b> infrastructure standards across all schools.</i>



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# Education Is a Weapon to Embrace,"

**-Says Gabriel S. Tidoe**

By Naneka Hoffman

The Director of the Forpoh Vocational Training Institute in Grand Kru County, Gabriel S. Tidoe, has strongly encouraged parents and guardians to take their children's education seriously



He described education as a powerful tool because it equips individuals with knowledge, skills, values, and experiences that enable them to improve their lives and make positive contributions to society. "Education is not just about learning how to read and write," he stated. "It plays an essential role in shaping our daily lives and must be embraced in all aspects of life at home, in the workplace, in markets, among families, and even in marriages." According to Director Tidoe, education influences many aspects of our daily behavior, including how we walk, talk, cook, greet others, play, eat, sleep, sew, and dress. He stressed that education begins at home, where parents act as the first teachers and children are their first students.

Mr. Tidoe encouraged them to take advantage of vocational training, which can help them become self-reliant. "Non-formal education such as skills gained from adult literacy programs, vocational institutes, and community workshops can be just as empowering," he noted. Tidoe reiterated that education is a weapon because it combats ignorance and misinformation, both of which can lead to poor decisions, missed opportunities, and harmful consequences. He also emphasized that education promotes critical thinking. "It provides people with the ability to analyze information, make informed decisions, solve problems, and contribute meaningfully to society," he said. "Education teaches values and morals. It is a weapon because it equips individuals with the knowledge and character to foster positive behavior in our communities," Tidoe concluded. The event celebrated the graduation of twelve students from 6th to 7th grade, and ten students from K-2 to 1st grade at Doyle Goodspeed Christian Academy.

if Liberia is to match the educational standards of other countries in the region. Speaking over the weekend at the 34th Thanksgiving Service of the Doyle Goodspeed Christian Academy in the Township of Caldwell, Director Tidoe emphasized that parents must be fully involved in their children's education. "It's not just about enrolling them in school or paying tuition," he said. "Parents should check their children's notes and follow up with teachers regularly."

# Bong County Technical College to Graduate 123 Students at 4th Commencement Convocation

The administration of Bong County Technical College in Gbarnga is set to confer undergraduate degrees on 123 students at its fourth commencement convocation scheduled for Saturday, July 19, 2025.

By: Edwin N Khakie  
Gbarnga, Bong County, July 15, 2025: According to the graduation data released by the Office of the Dean of Admissions, Records, and Registration, headed by Ebee Kollie, the graduating class is drawn from six academic departments, which include: Health Sciences, Agriculture Technology, Education, Information Technology / Computer Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Mining Engineering. The Department of Health Sciences will graduate 40 students, including 18 females and 22 males. Another 40 students will graduate from the Department of Agriculture Technology, comprising 21 females and 19 males. The Education Department, which includes both primary and secondary education, will present 21 graduates—3 females and 18 males.

Additionally, seven students from the Information Technology / Computer Engineering Department will receive degrees, including 2 females and 5 males. The Engineering Department will produce 15 graduates: 7 in Mining Engineering, all males, and 8 in Civil Engineering, comprising 1 female and 7 males. Appearing as guest on a major radio simulcast recently in Gbarnga, Dr. Alfredson W. Taikerweyah, President of Bong County Technical College, announced that the commencement ceremony will be His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia. Dr. Taikerweyah emphasized the importance of the President's presence, noting that it indicates national recognition of the college's efforts to rise from past challenges and make its mark among institutions of higher learning in Liberia.



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# Young Liberian Engineer and IT Expert Inspires Participants at AML Employees Learning Week

Learners attending ArcelorMittal Liberia's (AML) Learning Week in Yekepa were energized by a compelling presentation from Darius G. Wonyen, a young Liberian Mining and Mineral Processing Engineer, who passionately explained the long-term economic impact of the newly inaugurated concentrator plant. Wonyen's presentation, titled "Our Concentrator, Our Future," took learners on an informative journey through the workings of the iron ore processing facility. Using relatable language and vivid video demonstrations, he simplified complex processes and explained how the plant adds value to iron ore before export. His delivery, both technical and motivational, won loud applause and admiration from students and staff in attendance.

Meanwhile, in Buchanan, the momentum of Learning Week 2025 continued with a practical and forward-looking session led by AML's IT Business Systems Superintendent, Ngaima Sandiman. She challenged employees to sharpen their digital skills and embrace modern tools that boost productivity and efficiency. With a focus on the Microsoft Office Suite, Sandiman's session emphasized how programs like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint can empower employees to work smarter. "Embracing technology isn't just about staying current—it's about enabling ourselves to work more effectively," she noted. "The Microsoft Suite is a powerful set of tools that helps us manage tasks, analyze data, and present information clearly." Participants engaged in hands-on exercises, learning to create professional documents, build data models



emphasized. "Expats won't always be here. If we prepare ourselves now, we can take over and benefit from the economic growth this project promises." He highlighted the plant's potential to create well-paying jobs, support local businesses, and build long-term careers for skilled Liberians. Wonyen also called on young people to pursue technical education and professionalism to position themselves for future leadership in the sector. "In 25 years, we should be able to look back and proudly say we worked here and contributed to Liberia's development," he said. He closed his presentation with a passionate appeal for unity and preparedness, reminding the audience that the choices made today will shape how future generations judge Liberia's use of this major

in Excel, and deliver compelling presentations using PowerPoint. The session was praised for its interactivity and relevance, with many attendees' expressing enthusiasm for putting their new skills to use immediately. Both sessions—one focused on industrial transformation, the other on digital empowerment—reflect ArcelorMittal Liberia's continued commitment to capacity building, knowledge transfer, and long-term national development. As AML invests in infrastructure and people, Learning Week 2025 is helping to build a workforce that is technically competent, digitally fluent, and ready to lead Liberia into a brighter, self-sustaining future.



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### \$1M Project announced as Indian Embassy

k.Ambassador Manoj Bihari Verma, in his remarks, thanked the Caucus for the warm reception extended to the Indian All-Party Parliamentary Delegation during its visit to Liberia from June 1-3, 2025. He also conveyed India's gratitude for Liberia's solidarity in the global fight against terrorism. The Caucus praised India's dedication to strengthening women's leadership and expressed keen interest in future exchanges and training opportunities in collaboration with Indian institutions. WLCL Participants included: Rep. Ellen A. Attoh-Wreh - Representative, District #6, Bong County, Sen. Dabah Representative, District #3, Varpilah - Member and Bong County, Rep. Prescilla Abram-Cooper - Co-Chair, National Affairs and Member and Senator, Representative, District #5, Gbarpolu County and Montserrado County, Rep. Madam Marayah Fyneah - Finance Secretary and Representative, District #2, Lofa County, and Rep. G. Bessie Sonii-Feika - Treasurer and Representative, District #3, Grand Cape Mount County. Others are Rep. Marie Johnson - Member and Representative, District #2, Grand Gedeh County, Rep. Moima Briggs- Mensah - Member and

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### Justice Gbeisay faces Senators

Senator, is that all of us come from one small law school. We have worked together for many years, and I have had the opportunity to be with them for the past three years now. They respect me, and I respect them. I believe they are happy because I was selected from the bench rather than being brought in from outside. Therefore, I believe they will work with me and we all will work together and have a smooth sail," he stated. Meanwhile, providing a written speech regarding his plan for the judiciary, he said that he is a Liberian with twenty-seven years of practical legal experience in several capacities, namely seventeen years as a practicing lawyer, seven years as a judge, and approximately three years as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. Accordingly, Justice Gbassy asserted that he is with integrity and deep understanding of the Liberian, regional, and

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### How Hamak and 79 Resources defrauded Liberia

failed to meet legal standards or maintain valid licenses. Their efforts to retain rights through deception and legal gymnastics must be met with swift and public accountability. Furthermore, the Ministry must ensure that Northwestern Mining's questionable activities, including the use of multiple TINs and third-party payments, are also properly investigated. This scandal has highlighted the deep rot in Liberia's mining sector, revealing a system where powerful elites manipulate processes to amass private gain, robbing the

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### Bong County Technical College to Graduate 123

He explained that BCTC had struggled for public attention in previous years, particularly after suffering a temporary closure for about three academic semesters early 2023. However, through teamwork and renewed energy, the college leadership extended an invitation to President Boakai to serve as the convocation speaker as a way of establishing a new image for the institution. He acknowledged the foundation laid by previous presidents of the College, including Dr. John Flomo, Dr. Charles Mulbah, and

### UN Women, MGCSP Concludes Post-CSW Dialogue

By: Kruah Thompson

UN Women, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), has concluded a one-day Post-CSW69 National Dialogue in Liberia, outlining concrete national actions to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing+30 Action Agenda and address critical issues confronting women and girls across the country. The dialogue, held on Friday, July 11, 2025, at the Ministry of Gender conference room at the Ministerial Complex in Paynesville, Congo town, brought together stakeholders from government, civil society, international partners, and grassroots women's organizations. The event served as a platform to review progress made since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, identify persistent challenges such as gender-based violence and economic inequality, and develop a strategic roadmap to inform Liberia's national commitments ahead of the global review process next year. During the discussions, participants emphasized the need for stronger legal frameworks, sectors; and prioritization of the collection and utilization of gender disaggregated data to inform development initiatives, track gender gaps, and measure progress. Other key areas included Women in Peace and Security, Climate and Development Financing, and Women's Empowerment and Leadership. During the event, Liberian representatives reaffirmed the country's commitment to the Beijing+30 Action Agenda during the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69). As part of this global recommitment, member states were encouraged to focus on two to three high-impact areas. In view of this, Liberia stepped forward as a Trailblazer Country, committing to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and to investing in young people, girls, and future generations, with a particular focus on adolescent girls and young women. However, the dialogue aimed to galvanize a national action plan or roadmap that will foster local ownership of these commitments, align policy



increased budgetary allocations for gender programs, and the empowerment of women through education, skills training, and leadership opportunities. In March 2025, Gender Minister Gbeme Horace Kollie led a 38-member Liberian delegation to the United Nations Headquarters in New York to showcase Liberia's progress on gender equality, engage in global policy discourse, and influence global outcomes under Beijing+30 and SDG5. Focus areas of the visit included the implementation of the Beijing Declaration; the enactment and adoption of key legislation and policies focused on women's rights, empowerment, and gender equality; commitment to and implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security; adoption of the National Gender Policies and their corresponding action plans; implementation of initiatives in the public and private transport frameworks, and accelerate coordinated efforts toward implementing the CSW69 Political Declaration and Liberia's Trailblazer commitments. The roadmap highlighted plans to revisit the GBV National Action Plan by August 2025 and to reactivate and reinforce the coordination and functioning of the county-level CSO GBV Secretariats by June 2025. It also aimed to develop and implement a Communication Plan by August 2025; map the national and sub-national initiatives targeting young women and adolescent girls in Liberia by June 2025; and advocate for the passage of the Anti-FGM Bill (ongoing). Additionally, it called for stakeholder mobilization in September 2025 and the convening of a high-level side event at the Women's Summit in September 2025.



# Français

## Comment Hamak et 79 Resources ont escroqué le Liberia

Une enquête accablante menée par le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie du Liberia a mis au jour un vaste réseau de fraudes, de falsification de licences et de malversations financières impliquant

met en lumière une profonde dysfonction dans la gouvernance des ressources minières du pays. À la tête de ces entreprises se trouve M. Amara Kamara, homme d'affaires libérien dont les pratiques commerciales sont qualifiées de douteuses.



deux entreprises minières : Hamak Mining et son successeur 79 Resources. Le rapport, fruit des travaux d'un Comité spécial d'enquête (SIC),

Les tentatives de contact avec ce dernier sont restées vaines ; son numéro de téléphone MTN-Lonestar se terminant par 773 était hors service au moment de

la publication du rapport. Licences expirées, dettes impayées et manœuvres frauduleuses Le rapport révèle que Hamak Mining, titulaire de l'exploitable licence aurifère de Nimba, n'a mené aucune activité d'exploration significative malgré la richesse géologique de la zone et la présence active de mineurs artisanaux. Pire encore, la licence de Hamak a expiré en 2017, sans que l'entreprise n'en sollicite formellement le renouvellement, en violation flagrante de la législation minière libérienne. Lorsque le ministère a soulevé la question, Hamak a affirmé avoir reçu une « extension spéciale » de l'ancienne administration. Or, aucune preuve de cette extension n'a été retrouvée dans les archives officielles. De plus, Hamak doit plus de 400 000 USD de redevances impayées à l'État libérien,

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## Un jeune ingénieur libérien inspire les participants à la Semaine de l'apprentissage chez ArcelorMittal Liberia

À l'occasion de la Semaine de l'apprentissage 2025 organisée par ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), les apprenants réunis à Yekepa ont été vivement inspirés par la présentation percutante de Darius G. Wonyen, jeune ingénieur libérien spécialisé en exploitation minière et en traitement des minerais. Sa présentation, intitulée « Notre concentrateur, notre avenir », a captivé l'auditoire en dévoilant de manière claire et accessible le fonctionnement de la nouvelle usine de concentration de minerai de fer, récemment inaugurée par AML. À l'aide d'un langage simple, de démonstrations visuelles et de vidéos explicatives, M. Wonyen a réussi à vulgariser des processus industriels complexes, tout en soulignant leur importance pour le développement économique du pays. « Cette usine n'est pas seulement une infrastructure industrielle - c'est une opportunité

pour notre jeunesse », a déclaré Wonyen. « Les expatriés ne seront pas toujours là. Si nous nous préparons dès maintenant, nous serons prêts à prendre la relève et à bénéficier pleinement de la croissance économique que ce projet apporte. » Préparer les leaders de demain Devant un public composé d'étudiants, de jeunes professionnels et de membres du personnel d'AML, l'ingénieur a mis en lumière les retombées économiques durables que représente l'usine de concentration : création d'emplois qualifiés, développement de carrières

durables, soutien aux entreprises locales et renforcement des compétences nationales. Il a lancé un appel vibrant à la jeunesse libérienne pour qu'elle embrasse l'éducation technique et développe un esprit de professionnalisme, en vue de prendre part activement à l'avenir industriel du Liberia. « Dans 25 ans, nous devrions pouvoir regarder en arrière avec fierté et dire : “Nous avons travaillé ici, nous avons participé au déve lopp

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## Éditorial

### La doctrine Trump

NEW YORK – En à peine quatre mois de deuxième administration du président américain Donald Trump, les premiers signes d'une doctrine en matière de politique étrangère apparaissent d'ores et déjà. Comme bien d'autres aspects de la présidence Trump 2.0, cette doctrine marque une rupture majeure par rapport au passé. Les doctrines jouent un rôle de premier plan dans la politique étrangère américaine. À travers la doctrine Monroe formulée en 1823, les États-Unis ont affirmé qu'ils s'imposeraient comme la puissance prééminente sur le continent américain, et qu'ils empêcheraient tout autre pays d'établir des positions stratégiques concurrentes dans la région. De même, au début de la guerre froide, la doctrine Truman a promis un soutien des États-Unis à tous les pays qui lutteraient contre le communisme et la stratégie de subversion soviétique. Plus récemment, la doctrine Carter a énoncé que les États-Unis ne resteraient pas spectateurs si une force extérieure cherchait à prendre le contrôle de la région du golfe Persique, riche en pétrole. La doctrine Reagan a promis assistance aux mouvements et pays opposés au communisme. Celle de George W. Bush, axée sur la liberté, a notamment adressé le message selon lequel ni les terroristes, ni ceux qui les protégeraient ne seraient à l'abri d'une intervention armée. Point comme entre ces doctrines, elles font toutes savoir à différents destinataires quels sont les intérêts fondamentaux des États-Unis, et ce que le pays est prêt à faire pour les promouvoir. Les doctrines visent à rassurer amis et alliés, à dissuader ennemis réels ou potentiels, à galvaniser les agences en charge des questions de sécurité nationale, ainsi qu'à informer les citoyens. Non formulée explicitement pas Trump, une nouvelle doctrine américaine émerge pourtant actuellement, que l'on pourrait qualifier de doctrine des « yeux fermés », du « rien vu, rien entendu », ou du « cela ne nous regarde pas ». Quelle qu'en soit l'appellation, cette doctrine semble énoncer que les États-Unis ne chercheront plus à influencer ni à réagir à la manière dont les autres pays se comporteront à l'intérieur de leurs propres frontières. C'est ainsi que l'administration américaine s'est abstenue de condamner l'arrestation arbitraire d'un opposant politique de premier plan par le président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les manœuvres répétées du Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu pour affaiblir le pouvoir judiciaire dans son pays, ou encore la manière dont le Premier ministre hongrois de longue date, Viktor Orbán, ne cesse de malmenier les institutions démocratiques en Hongrie. De même, Trump dénonce certes la politique étrangère du président russe Vladimir Poutine, ainsi que la politique économique du dirigeant chinois Xi Jinping, mais ne s'indigne en aucun cas de la répression que mènent l'un et l'autre contre leur propre population. L'administration Trump a par ailleurs décidé d'affaiblir voire de démanteler bon nombre des instruments – Voice of America, Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international, ou encore Dotation nationale pour la démocratie – employés depuis longtemps pour promouvoir la société civile et les mouvements démocratiques à travers le monde. Ce qui se rapproche le plus d'une [formulation](#) publique de cette nouvelle doctrine a eu lieu en Arabie saoudite, le 13 mai dernier. Trump a en effet exprimé son admiration pour ce qu'il décrit comme une formidable transformation du Royaume, ajoutant que cette évolution n'était pas le fruit des efforts « d'interventionnistes occidentaux [...] qui vous donnent des leçons sur la manière de vivre et de gouverner vos propres affaires [...] Ces dernières années, trop de présidents américains ont considéré à tort qu'il était de notre devoir de sonder les âmes des dirigeants étrangers, et d'user de la politique américaine pour absoudre ou non leurs péchés ». Les agissements de Trump, notamment sa recherche d'accords commerciaux avec plusieurs gouvernements autoritaires du Golfe et d'ailleurs, soulignent le poids de cette déclaration. À la différence de Reagan, de Carter, de Bush, de Barack Obama et de [Joe Biden](#), Trump adresse ici clairement le message selon lequel les États-Unis n'ont plus l'intention de défendre les droits de l'homme et la démocratie, de condamner les méfaits de dirigeants étrangers autoritaires, ni de faire pression pour la libération d'opposants politiques. Cette doctrine du « rien vu, rien entendu » évite certes aux États-Unis une dérive caractéristique de la présidence Bush, durant laquelle le zèle dans la propagation de la démocratie avait conduit à une invasion irréfléchie et coûteuse de l'Irak. Elle facilite par ailleurs pour les États-Unis un travail constructif auprès de gouvernements appliquant chez eux des politiques qui, en temps normal, constitueraient un obstacle aux relations commerciales ou à la coopération sur des questions bilatérales, régionales ou mondiales essentielles. Ce sont néanmoins les retombées négatives de cette approche qui l'emportent. La doctrine Trump accroît la probabilité que les gouvernements engagés sur cette voie redoublent d'efforts de répression intérieure et de subversion de la démocratie – régime politique caractérisé par davantage de liberté pour les individus, mais également par des marchés libres, soutenus par l'État de droit, et par une politique étrangère généralement moins agressive. La promotion de la démocratie est par conséquent bénéfique pour les investisseurs américains, et limite le risque que l'Amérique s'enlise à l'étranger dans des conflits coûteux ou prolongés. *Richard Haass, président émérite du Conseil des relations étrangères, conseiller principal chez Centerview Partners, et chercheur universitaire émérite à l'Université de New York, est l'auteur de la newsletter hebdomadaire Substack [Home & Away](#).*



# Français

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## Comment Hamak et 79 Resources

ce qui illustre un mépris manifeste pour la souveraineté économique nationale.

Une nouvelle identité pour échapper aux sanctions

Face à la pression croissante et à l’expiration de sa licence, Hamak s’est rebaptisée 79 Resources - une stratégie typique visant à esquiver toute responsabilité. Sous ce nouveau nom, la société a introduit une demande de licence sur la même zone, devançant même l’entreprise concurrente Northwestern Mining. Pourtant, 79 Resources conservait les mêmes propriétaires et les mêmes dettes, rendant cette opération illégale au regard du droit libérien.

Le comité d’enquête a également constaté que 79 Resources avait présenté des relevés bancaires avec deux numéros de comptes Ecobank différents (6101761642 et 6102150042), accompagnés de documents contradictoires. L’enquête a formellement établi que Hamak détient 100 % des parts de 79 Resources, confirmant que cette dernière n’est qu’une façade juridique.

Conflit d’intérêts et manquements administratifs graves

Le 8 mai 2025, le nouveau ministre des Mines et de l’Énergie, Wilmot J.M. Paye, a convoqué en urgence la haute direction après avoir découvert que deux entreprises - 79 Resources et Northwestern Mining - avaient toutes deux effectué des paiements pour une même zone de licence. Il a alors mis sur pied un comité spécial chargé d’enquêter et de livrer ses conclusions avant le 12 mai 2025.

Les constats du SIC sont accablants :

- 79 Resources a introduit sa demande avant Northwestern Mining, mais en fournissant des documents incomplets et potentiellement frauduleux.
- Elle a utilisé deux numéros d’identification fiscale (NIF) différents lors du dépôt de dossier et des paiements, contrevenant aux règles fiscales.
- Le paiement effectué pour Northwestern Mining l’a été via une entité distincte, Northwestern Investment, avec un NIF différent, soulevant des doutes sur la

transparence et l’identité réelle de l’opérateur.

Fait plus troublant encore, un haut fonctionnaire du ministère, cumulant les fonctions de ministre adjoint à l’exploration minière et à la recherche environnementale ainsi que de ministre adjoint par intérim aux opérations, a validé les factures de paiement pour les deux entreprises sur la même zone. Ce double paiement, qu’il résulte de négligence ou de collusion, a causé une perte financière pour l’État et ouvert la voie à de graves irrégularités.

Recommandations urgentes du Comité d’enquête

Le SIC a émis plusieurs recommandations immédiates :

- Suspension de toutes les demandes liées à la zone litigieuse et prise de contrôle temporaire de celle-ci par le ministère.
- Remboursement des montants versés par 79 Resources et Northwestern Mining par des voies légales et transparentes.
- Enquête sur les exonérations fiscales accordées à Hamak, et justification de l’absence d’équité vis-à-vis des autres entreprises.
- Audit complet de l’historique financier et de la structure de propriété de Hamak, Hamak Gold et 79 Resources.
- Clarification du lien entre Northwestern Mining et Northwestern Investment, notamment sur les conditions de paiement des licences.
- Réforme interne visant à empêcher tout agent du ministère de signer des documents en plusieurs qualités, ce qui a facilité les abus.
- Vérification des zones de licence avant émission de toute facture.
- Collaboration formelle avec les banques et l’Agence de Renseignement Financier (FIA) pour l’authentification des documents financiers dans les dossiers de demande.

Conclusion : un système minier à réformer d’urgence

La licence aurifère de Nimba est désormais considérée comme juridiquement libre,

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## Un jeune ingénieur libérien inspire les participants à la

ement de notre pays” », a-t-il conclu, sous un tonnerre d’applaudissements.

Buchanan : le numérique au cœur de la performance

Pendant ce temps, à Buchanan, la Semaine de l’apprentissage s’est poursuivie avec une session pratique animée par Ngaima Sandiman, Superintendante des systèmes informatiques chez AML. Elle a exhorté les employés à renforcer leurs compétences numériques et à adopter des outils technologiques modernes pour accroître leur efficacité professionnelle.

Sa formation, axée sur la suite Microsoft Office, a mis en lumière le rôle central de logiciels tels que Word, Excel et PowerPoint dans l’optimisation du travail quotidien.

« Adopter la technologie ne consiste pas simplement à rester à jour, mais à améliorer notre productivité », a expliqué Mme Sandiman. « La suite Microsoft est un ensemble puissant qui nous permet de mieux gérer nos tâches, d’analyser des données et de présenter des informations de façon claire. » Les participants ont pris part à des exercices

pratiques, allant de la création de documents professionnels à la modélisation de données dans Excel, en passant par la réalisation de présentations percutantes sur PowerPoint. L’atelier a été largement salué pour son caractère interactif et concret, suscitant un fort enthousiasme chez les employés désireux de mettre en œuvre immédiatement leurs nouvelles compétences.

Vers un avenir libérien autonome et compétent

Les deux sessions – l’une centrée sur la transformation industrielle, l’autre sur l’autonomisation numérique – illustrent parfaitement l’engagement d’ArcelorMittal Liberia en faveur du renforcement des capacités, du transfert de savoirs et du développement durable du capital humain. En investissant à la fois dans les infrastructures et dans les talents locaux, AML trace la voie vers un Liberia plus fort, plus autonome et porté par une main-d’œuvre techniquement compétente et numériquement outillée.

## Le Centre de Diagnostic Jahmale bientôt transformé en établissement médical à part entière

Le directeur général de la Caisse nationale de sécurité sociale et d’assistance (NASSCORP), M. Dewitt B. VonBallmoos, a annoncé un projet ambitieux visant à transformer le **Centre de Diagnostic Jahmale** en un établissement médical pleinement opérationnel, offrant des services de santé essentiels aux Libériens.

Situé au carrefour ELWA, sur la route A.B. Tolbert à Paynesville, le Centre de Diagnostic Jahmale est un établissement médical libérien de type ambulatoire, reconnu pour ses services de diagnostic avancés et ses soins spécialisés, destinés non



seulement au Libéria mais aussi à la sous-région ouest-africaine. Ce centre a été mis en service par NASSCORP en tant qu’investissement privé, dans le but de réduire le transfert coûteux de travailleurs blessés vers des hôpitaux à l’étranger — notamment au Ghana — en leur offrant des soins de qualité sur place grâce à des équipements de pointe tels qu’un IRM, un scanner CT, et un appareil de radiographie numérique.

Le centre propose actuellement des soins de santé de base, y compris des examens diagnostiques, traditionnellement recherchés à l’étranger par une partie de l’élite libérienne. Il se compose d’un bâtiment de trois étages dédié à l’imagerie et aux analyses de laboratoire, ainsi que d’un bâtiment adjacent de quatre étages abritant une clinique ambulatoire et une pharmacie.

La clinique dispose de médecins certifiés dans plusieurs disciplines : médecine générale, pédiatrie, médecine interne, gynécologie-obstétrique, orthopédie, neurochirurgie, urologie et oto-rhino-laryngologie — élargissant considérablement l’offre de soins diagnostiques et thérapeutiques disponibles dans le pays.

Lors des célébrations marquant le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la NASSCORP, organisées ce week-end à Monrovia, M. VonBallmoos a présenté ce projet comme un **investissement stratégique** visant à faire du centre un **actif générateur de revenus** pour l’institution.

« Si le développement des infrastructures reste une priorité, le renforcement du capital humain est au cœur de notre vision à long terme », a-t-il déclaré. Il a précisé que des ateliers de formation internes et la participation à des séminaires internationaux ont été mis en place pour doter le personnel des compétences nécessaires afin de répondre aux exigences croissantes du secteur.

M. VonBallmoos a également souligné que le succès de NASSCORP repose sur le **soutien constant du gouvernement et du secteur privé**, dont les apports financiers, logistiques et moraux sont essentiels à la pérennité et à l’expansion du programme de retraite.

« Nous sommes profondément reconnaissants pour ce partenariat, qui permet à NASSCORP de continuer à remplir sa mission sociale : offrir sécurité, dignité et bien-être à nos retraités ainsi qu’à l’ensemble de la communauté », a-t-il ajouté. Enfin, il a exprimé sa **reconnaissance envers les présidents Joseph Nyuma Boakai, George Weah et Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** pour la confiance qu’ils lui ont accordée au fil des années, lui permettant de servir au sein d’une administration axée sur les résultats.

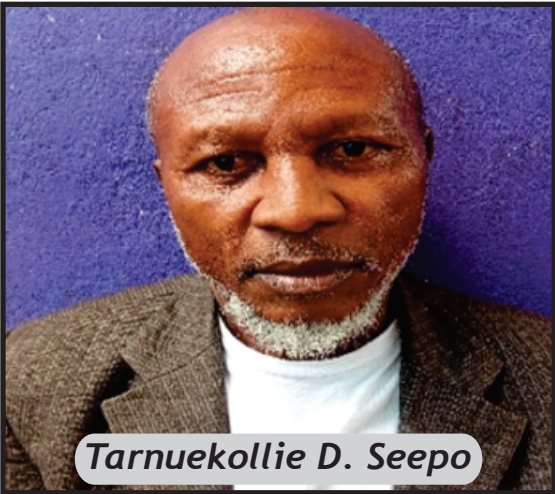


# LIBERIANSDEBATE

Topic: **The US\$1.8 Billion HPX deal**

By Naneka A. Hoffman

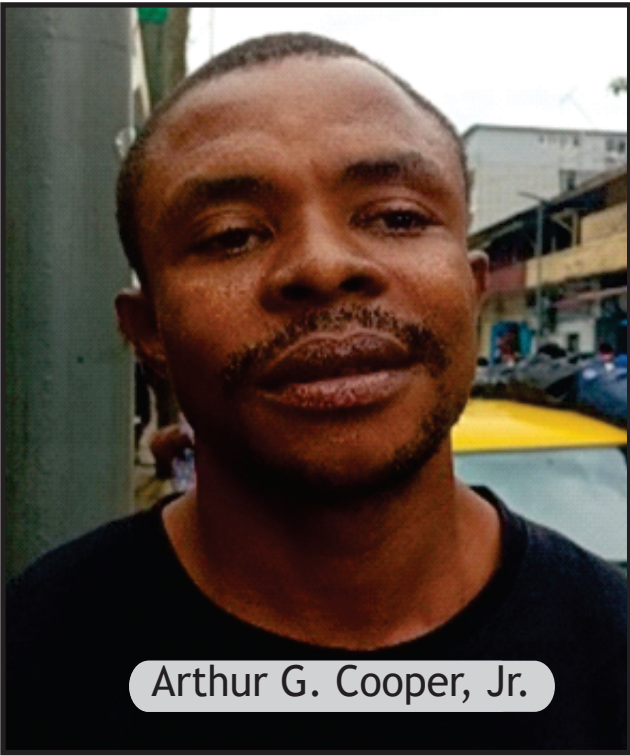
The signing of a US\$1.8 Billion railway agreement between the United States Government and the Government of Liberia is attracting attention from many Liberians with mixed responds, as you may read below.



Tarnuekollie D. Seepo

“The 1.8 billion HPX deal between the Government of the United States and the Government of Liberia was signed illegally, because there was no meeting held in the 55th Legislature. The upper and lower Houses weren’t informed. We know the kind of person the President is; he has that kind of character, and believes in single action movement, so we woke up to our surprise, and it is what he did before he left. We don’t know what the conversation existed almost like one year between the President of Liberia and Donald Trump after he took

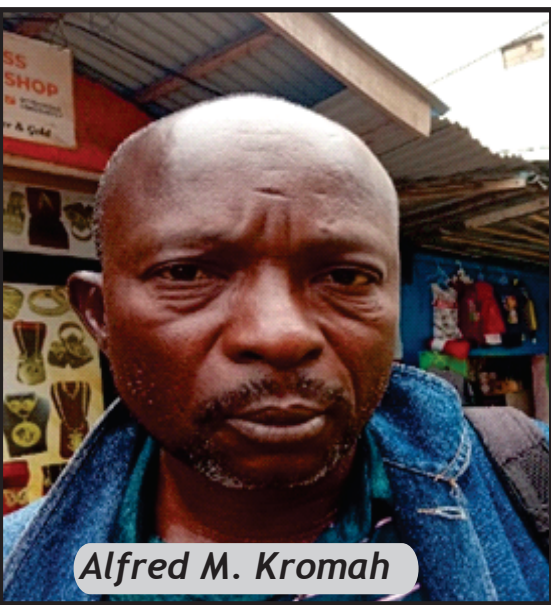
over. That is something he has decided not to do, but here is it; what they did to Nigerian former President Obasanjo, if you don’t turn Taylor over, you will not see the President, so early that what he was told that we will not allow you to see Trump except you do this thing and single-handedly he did and that how he left. He didn’t want for the House to know about it, because the House supposed to be informed of such issue, but leaving the legislature and single-handedly doing this thing is criminal. The only country that stands to benefit is America, because America is good at controlling people on what they want you to do, but not for your own benefit but for their own benefit. I believe that Liberia will not benefit because their fear is any money given to President Boakai, it will not be used for the intended purpose.”



Arthur G. Cooper, Jr.

“Liberia stands to benefit a lot; I will not disrespect our past history with the relationship with America and Liberia, and we all know that there was a saying

around what Liberia stands to benefit from America and I think that America is using another way round to benefit Liberia’s economic growth. I believe that when the 1.8 billion given to our government is used wisely, I think that it will bring economic growth, most especially, we’re looking at job empowerment. There are a lot of young guys, who aren’t working. The reason why people will always support protest is because more people are less busy, but if you empower a man economically, I think that he can benefit, so I think it is a good deal for Liberia.



Alfred M. Kromah

“When it comes to my own understanding, the sitting between the Government of the United States and the Government of Liberia on the 1.8 billion HPX deal is bogus. It is a “kangaroo arrangement.” Liberia stands

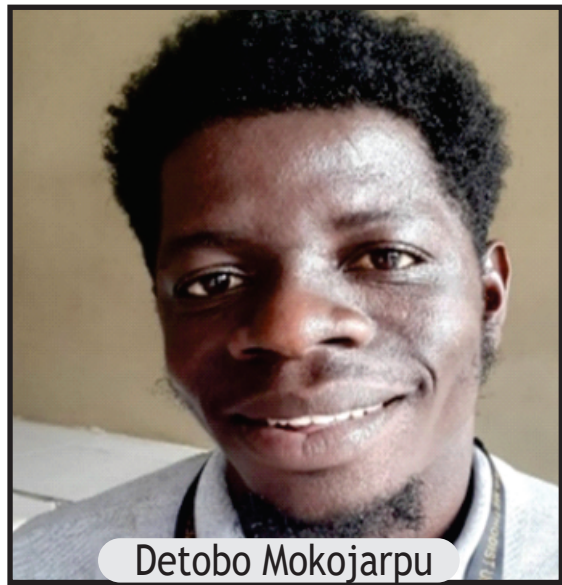
“I think the 1.8 billion HPX deal between the Government of the United States and the Government of Liberia, Liberia will not benefit anything; the legislature said they wasn’t aware of what the President did. It was wrong for the President one to just go sign a deal like that, while the country will not benefit anything; the deal is wrong. Liberian will not benefit nothing. President Joseph Boakai only signed that deal for the people to allow him to go to the White House to talk with Trump, and Liberia will not benefit nothing, because if you signed a deal the legislature supposed to be aware of it but

nowhere to benefit. If 1.8 billion is signed as a deal between US government and Liberian government, what Liberia stands to benefit? Liberia will not benefit anything and Liberia has never benefited anything and there are references we can make to other tunnel companies: the Bea Mountain in Cape Mount, ArcelorMittal Liberia in Buchanan and Nimba County, APM Terminals at Freeport and lots of them. In history of Mano River, Bong Mines, NOCAL what Liberia benefited, so to come and signed a new deal, Liberia will not benefit anything. It is just a big show and money eating designated by the executive.”



Prince Harris

both of them weren’t aware. Only the President went and signed this deal while the country wringing in poverty; people dying, no drugs in the various hospitals and food prices increasing on a daily basis, so it is very wrong.”



Detobo Mokojarpu

“I think the 1.8 billion signed by the President alone was in error. How will President Boakai alone sign a deal without the Legislature knowing about it? The President

should inform the Liberian people what the deal from the American government is all about and what the country stands to benefit and how many years the 1.8 billion deal is for. The House of Representatives and the Senate supposed to be there for the signing ceremony, because this 1.8 billion HPX deal is not a small deal for only President Boakai alone to do because if Liberia does not benefit from this deal, the Legislature will be blames. This deal isn’t a help to the country and Liberians until President Boakai explains to us better.

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PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,

UN Drive, P.O. Box 1264

Opposite the National Investment Commission

Monrovia - Liberia

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



# How Hamak and 79 Resources defrauded Liberia

A damning investigation by Liberia’s Ministry of Mines and Energy has uncovered a web of deceit, license fraud, and financial malpractice involving two companies, Hamak Mining and its successor 79 Resources, that reveals deep dysfunction within Liberia’s mineral resource governance.

Monrovia, July 15, 2025: At the head of these companies is Mr. Amara Kamara, a Liberian businessman with alleged questionable business practices. Efforts to



reach Mr. Kamara to comment on the findings and allegations raised within the Ministry’s report proved futile as his MTN-Lonestar cell number ending in 773 was switched off. The revelations, made public in a Special Investigation Committee (SIC) report, expose how corrupt practices, regulatory negligence, and administrative collusion have cost the Liberian people both revenue and resource control. The scandal not only implicates company executives but also casts a shadow on former officials within the Ministry itself. Hamak Mining Company, once holding rights to the highly valuable Nimba gold license, has sat on the license for years without fulfilling its legal obligations. Despite clear geological promise and artisanal mining activities within the area, Hamak conducted no meaningful exploration, violating its license terms. To make matters worse, Hamak’s license had long expired in 2017, and the company never formally applied for renewal, a basic requirement under Liberian mining law. When questioned, Hamak falsely claimed it had received a “special extension” from the former Ministry of Mines and Energy, a claim proven untrue as no documentation of such an extension exists in Ministry records. Perhaps the most damning evidence, Hamak owes over \$400,000 USD in unpaid license fees to the Government of Liberia. This staggering debt signals a flagrant disregard for the rule of law and the country’s economic sovereignty. Facing mounting legal pressure and an expired license, Hamak rebranded itself as 79 Resources, a classic shell-game maneuver aimed at dodging accountability. The new company applied for a license over the same area, even before its competitors, notably

process, violating standard tax and licensing procedures. Payment for the license was made not by Northwestern Mining itself, but by a separate company, Northwestern Investment, using yet another TIN, raising questions about corporate identity and transparency. Shockingly, the SIC uncovered that a senior Ministry official, the Assistant Minister for Mineral Exploration and Environmental Research, who was also Acting Deputy Minister for Operations, approved payment invoices for the same license area to both companies. This grave error, whether due to incompetence or collusion, enabled double invoicing and opened the door to potential corruption, costing the Liberian state valuable income. The committee delivered the following urgent recommendations, including immediate suspension of all applications for the disputed license area. The Ministry should assume full control of the area until further notice. Also, refund all payments made by both 79 Resources and Northwestern Mining through legal and transparent means. Additionally, investigate the basis of Hamak’s tax waivers, including why other companies were not granted the same. At the same time, seek legal clarification from the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) on the rules governing tax waivers in the mining sector. The committee report also recommended investigating inconsistencies in the bank documents and TINs submitted by both 79 Resources and Northwestern Mining. Audit the financial and ownership history of Hamak, Hamak Gold, and 79 Resources to uncover the extent of fraud and potential tax liabilities and examine the relationship between Northwestern Mining and Northwestern Investment, particularly how license payments were handled. Establish internal checks and balances to prevent senior staff from signing documents in multiple capacities, a loophole that facilitated this scandal. Suspend the issuance of payment invoices until license area verification has been completed. And establish formal relationships with banks and the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) to authenticate all financial documents submitted in future applications. The Nimba gold license area is now legally open, as both 79 Resources and Hamak have

# Justice Gbeisay faces Senators

Chief Justice designate, Associate Justice Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay, will have to convince members of the Liberian Senate on how he plans to unite the full Bench of the Supreme Court before his confirmation, according to Senate Chair on Judiciary Sen. Augustine Chea.

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Capitol Hill, July 15, 2025: But Associate Justice Gbeisay has told Senators at his confirmation hearing that he doesn’t know how to convince the senators and Liberians regarding his strategy and administrative plan to keep the full Bench of the Supreme Court united. The confirmation comes following his nomination by President Joseph N. Boakai as the third least senior person on the bench, a move that has cast a shadow over his nomination within legal circles. Following the retirement of Chief Justice Youh, Jamesetta Howard-Wolokollie became the most senior and experienced associate justice, followed by Associate Justice Yussif Kaba, Chief Justice-designate Gbeisay comes third, followed by Associate Justice Clinton-Johnson. On Monday, July 14, 2025, the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims and Petition chaired by Senator Augustine Chea and Co-Chair by Lofa County Senator Joseph Jallah, conducted a public hearing for Chief-Justice designate, Gbeisay, aims at evaluating his suitability and understanding of the legal aspect and constitutional comprehension of the law. The confirmation here is in keeping with President Joseph N. Boakai’s June 30, 2025, decision nominating Associate Justice Yamie Quiqui

crown a long public and private legal career that began in education and spanned foreign affairs, labor, elections, and the judiciary. During the confirmation hearing in the Liberian Senate Chamber, Grand Kru County Senator Albert Chea requested that Associate Justice Gbeisay present his strategy and plan to maintain bench unity, given his nomination by President Boakai and his understanding of his position on the bench. However, responding to the senator’s question, he said that he doesn’t know how to convince the senator and the Liberians regarding his plan to keep the bench united and collectively working, adding that he believes that his colleagues trust and are pleased with him. “I don’t know how to convince you regarding this one. But I have worked with Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba. He is my colleague from law school. Also, we both served as judges down. I believe that my colleagues are cool and okay with me,” he stated. Following the response of Associate Justice Gbeisay, the Presiding officer of the hearing and Chair of the Judicial Committee, Sinoe County Senator, Cllr. Augustine S. Chea called Justice Gbeisay to order, reminding him that he must



Gbeisay as the next Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia, following the statutory retirement of Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh, who turned 70 last week—the mandatory retirement age for Justices under Article 72(b) of the 1986 Constitution. The Executive Mansion, in a statement Monday, described the nomination as an embodiment of continuity and integrity in Liberia’s highest court. The nomination now awaits confirmation by the Liberian Senate. Justice Gbeisay, 66, was hailed by President Boakai as a “distinguished jurist” who “has demonstrated exemplary integrity, profound legal acumen, and commitment to upholding the rule of law and the Constitution.” If confirmed, his elevation would

convince the body to approve his nomination. According to him, every single senator of the Liberian senate must be fully convinced, with proper and in-depth explanation regarding Justice Gbeisay’s vision for the justice system, his principles, and how he intends to hold the full bench of the court together to ensure the adequate dispensation of justice instead of descending opinions. However, based on the information provided by Senator Chea, Justice Gbeisay stated that he believes his colleagues are satisfied with his nomination, as evidenced by the Presence of Associate Justice Kaba and Clinton-Johnson at the hearing. “So, all that I can tell you,



## \$1M Project announced as Indian Embassy meets Women's Legislative Caucus

The Embassy of India in Liberia hosted members of the Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia (WLCL) for a high-level engagement aimed at strengthening collaboration on women's empowerment, parliamentary exchange, and capacity building.

The meeting, held at the Indian Embassy in Monrovia, was led by Rep. Ellen A. Attoh-Wreh, Chairperson of the WLCL and Representative

Liberia (WLCL), led by Chairperson Rep. Ellen A. Attoh-Wreh. Discussions covered potential collaborations and parliamentary exchanges.

development initiative recently approved under the IBSA Fund (India, Brazil, South Africa).

According to a release dated July 14, 2025, a US\$1 million proposal has been approved to enhance the capacity of the WLCL, in partnership with UN Women.

The initiative aims to promote gender-responsive legislation and governance through tailored capacity development programs. Its key objectives include: Developing an action plan for legislative reforms targeting discriminatory laws, promoting access to sexual and reproductive health rights, advancing women's equal rights to economic resources and employment, and supporting informal education and economic empowerment, especially for women and girls in rural areas.

WLCL members expressed their appreciation for India's continued commitment to gender-focused development under the UN South-South Cooperation framework.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



of District #3, Bong County. She was accompanied by eight fellow Caucus members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"We are honoured to host Members of the Women's Legislative Caucus of

WLCL appreciated India's ongoing support under the UN South-South Cooperation framework for women's empowerment and gender equality."

A key highlight of the meeting was the acknowledgment of a new

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UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266  
Opposite the National Investment Commission  
Monrovia - Liberia.  
Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529  
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