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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025	L\$199.8647/US\$1.00	L\$202.1917/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia. Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

# The New Dawn

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Rev. Dr. Emmett Lafayette Dunn

# Peace without prosperity is fragile

**P11**

**-178th Independence Day Orator cautions gov't**

# I very much enjoyed our meeting

**P11**



**-Donald Trump congratulates Boakai in Independence Day message**

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# Continental News

## Dozens killed in attack on church in the eastern DR Congo

## Tunisians protest against president on anniversary of his power grab

Dozens of people were killed on Sunday in an attack on a church in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo believed to have been carried out by Islamic State-backed rebels. Civil society leaders said suspected members of the Allied Democratic Force (ADF) stormed the building in the town of Komanda, armed with machetes and guns. The attack took place as Catholic Christians attended an overnight prayer vigil at the church, run by the Caritas charity. Several houses and shops were also burnt down and the search continues for missing people. Dieudonne Duranthabo, a civil society coordinator in Komanda in Ituri province, said it was “incredible” that an attack like this could occur in a town where security officials are present. He has demanded a military intervention as soon as possible saying they had been told that “the enemy is still near our town”. The ADF, with ties to the Islamic State, a rebel group that

operates in the borderland between Uganda and the DRC, has routinely conducted attacks against civilians.

It was formed by disparate small groups in Uganda in the late 1990s following alleged discontent with Yoweri Museveni.

In 2002, following military assaults by Ugandan forces, the ADF moved its activities to neighbouring DRC and has since been responsible for the killings of thousands of civilians.

The United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Congo has condemned a recent resurgence in violence in Ituri.

Earlier this month, ADF killed dozens of people in the province in what a UN spokesperson described as a “bloodbath”.

The DRC army has long struggled against the rebel group, and has now been grappling with a complex web of attacks since renewed hostilities with the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels.



Democratic Republic of Congo Defence Forces in a village in North Kivu province, 9 March 2023

## Coalition led by paramilitary RSF forms parallel government in Sudan

After 27-months of civil war, a Sudanese coalition led by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces says it has formed a parallel government.

The announcement on Saturday came nearly five months after it announced its intention to do so, and raises concerns that the move could prolong the devastating conflict.

RSF leader General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo was named head of the new 15-member Presidential Council.

Abdel Aziz al-Hilu, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) - one of the country's largest rebel groups - was appointed as vice-president.

Civilian politician, Mohamed Hassan Al-Ta'ayshi, who served on the Transitional Sovereign Council from 2019 until the 2021 military coup, was named as prime minister. The parallel government aims to challenge the military-

aligned international-recognised administration's legitimacy.

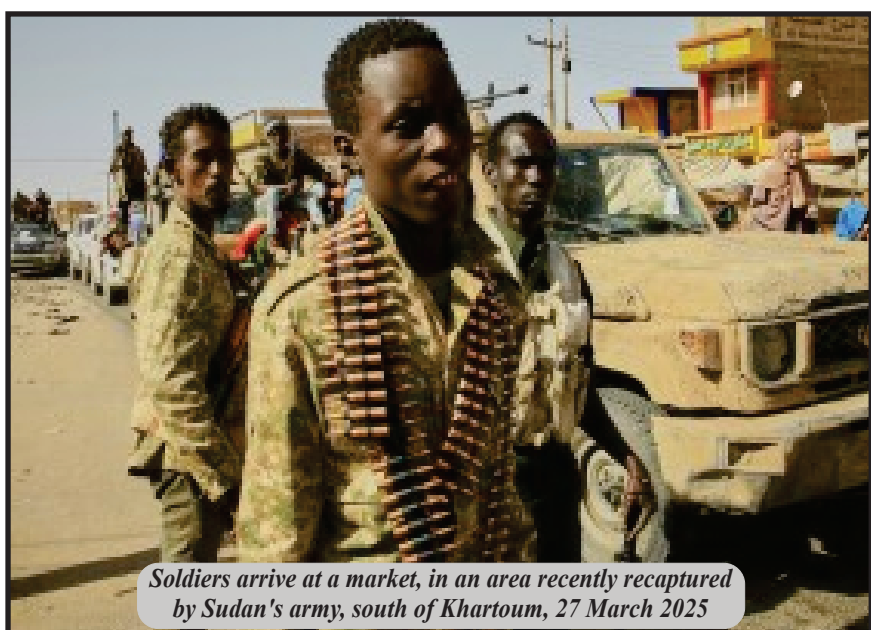
The military, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, condemned the creation of a parallel government and has promised to keep fighting until it controls all of Sudan.

It holds the north, east, and centre of the country, after recently retaking the capital Khartoum.

The RSF controls most of Darfur (west) and parts of Kordofan (south-central),

where recent attacks left hundreds dead, according to local human rights groups.

The ongoing conflict between the RSF and the military has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations saying about half the population faces increasing hunger and famine. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the fighting which has resulted in the displacement of nearly 13 million people.



Soldiers arrive at a market, in an area recently recaptured by Sudan's army, south of Khartoum, 27 March 2025

Hundreds of Tunisians took to the streets of the capital, Tunis, on Friday to protest against President Kais Saied.

The demonstrations marked four years since he moved to consolidate his one-man rule in a country once known as the birthplace of the Arab Spring pro-democracy uprisings.

On 25 July 2021, Saied suspended parliament, dismissed his prime minister and invoked a state of emergency to begin ruling by decree.

Though some cheered his efforts,

Salvation Front.

Saida Akremi, wife of jailed opposition lawyer and former justice minister, Nouredine Bhiri, called the day an “inversion of the republic” and “a betrayal of everything Tunisians stood for”.

"I am here to demand freedom for political prisoners, freedom for all detainees, lawyers, judges, and honourable citizens filling the prisons," she said.

Since 2021, Saied has dissolved key judicial bodies, dismissed judges, and overseen the jailing of numerous opponents.

Jailed political opponents,



Protesters in Tunis, 25 July 2025

critics called the move a coup and said the events marked the beginning of Tunisia's descent toward authoritarianism.

In Tunis on Friday, crowds chanted “No fear, no terror, power to the people”.

Banners and posters carried the faces of imprisoned opposition leaders, most notably Rached Ghannouchi, the head of Ennahda, Tunisia's largest Islamist party.

The message was clear. What began in 2021 as a promise of reform has become, for many Tunisians, a return to repression.

"July 25 was supposed to be Republic Day, but it's become a day of oppression. The revolution was crushed. We've seen one man take over all powers. Absolute power is absolute corruption," said Samir Dilo, a leading figure in the opposition National

lawyers, and journalists face lengthy prison sentences under anti-terrorism and conspiracy laws.

Women led much of the chanting, demanding the release of imprisoned opposition figures from across the political spectrum, including Abir Moussi and attorney Sonia Dahmani.

"More than 15 women have been jailed. No one imagined we'd see free Tunisian women imprisoned for their opinions," said activist Hafsia Bourguiba.

Tunisia's political turmoil has unfolded against a backdrop of economic hardship and deepening public disillusionment.

Amnesty International in a report last June wrote that the country's authorities have intensified their crackdown on opposition voices and used vague legal justifications to target marginalised groups.

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(G L R M L D

COMMENTARY

by Rick van der Ploeg,  
Rabah Arezki

## Liberia needs economic independence

Celebration of political independence is meaningless for Liberia unless the country and its citizens rise up to fight for economic independence, which hinges on our survival as a nation. The sooner Liberians realize this, the better it would be for this country and its unborn generation.

We agree with the orator of the 178<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration that Liberians can't talk about true independence without talking about economic independence. Rev. Dr. Emmett Lafayette Dunn, stressed that it is time Liberians confront a painful truth, because too much of Liberia's economy is owned and controlled by foreign interests.

This is the stark reality that faces a country of 178 years old that has sat back and allowed its economy to be piloted by foreigners all these years, giving them freedom to take away profits, leaving the country bare. This must change and only Liberians both at home and abroad can do it; no one else.

"While foreign investment is welcome", Dr. Dunn stressed, "it must not be at the expense of our dignity. The soul of our economy must be Liberian. Liberians must be actively involved in owning businesses. Liberians must be positioned to create wealth, not just consume it. To do that, we must nurture and grow a vibrant middle class, one built on entrepreneurship, skilled labor, professional excellence, and innovation."

But we like to remind that economic independence does not come on a silver platter. And no Liberia should be under any elusion. It will require toil and sweat, sincerity, sacrifice and discipline that would some time lead to self-denial, amid challenges.

Also, Liberians would have to demonstrate sincerity and trust in order to turn the economic wheel around in their favor. For too long, successive governments had preached Liberianization Policy without walking the talk: Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf set aside a special fund to empower Liberian entrepreneurs, but the scheme was mismanaged thru political patronage with official organizing bogus companies and taking the money. Former President Weah promised that under his administration, Liberians would not be spectators in their own economy, but a financial scheme initiated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the leadership of former Minister Professor Wilson Tarpeh, was characterized by lack of transparency and accountability, leaving deputy Minister Jemamah Wolokollie to resign.

Besides, most Liberian-owned companies are noted for defaulting on contracts and absconding with public funds meant to deliver social services. Not just that, most Liberians are not trustworthy in paying back loans taken from commercial banks.

We need to first clean our backyards and put our houses in order to wage the battle for economic independence or else, the foreigners will continue to be far ahead of us.

Orator Dunn also emphasized that a strong middle class is the backbone of every stable society, adding that it generates jobs, drives demand, pays taxes, and anchors democracy.

However, government he says should create an enabling environment for small and medium enterprises to grow and to make access to credit easier, as well as to invest in technical and vocational training and modernize agriculture so that farming becomes profitable again.

The road ahead of us in achieving economic independence will be tough and clouded temptations, because many Liberians have gotten accustomed to during business as usual; they have been used to fronting for foreign-owned businesses for peanuts and having life the easy way, instead of laboring with their hands for a better future. In this new front being called for, we have no choice, if we as nation must be truly independent in the sense of the word.

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## The Scramble for Critical Minerals

PARIS – The world's superpowers have developed a seemingly insatiable appetite for the critical minerals that are essential to the ongoing energy and digital transitions, including rare-earth metals (for permanent magnets), cobalt (for batteries), and uranium (for nuclear reactors). The International Energy Agency forecasts that demand for these minerals will more than quadruple by 2040 for use in clean-energy technologies alone. But, in their race to control these vital resources, China, Europe, and the United States risk causing serious harm to the countries that possess them.

As it stands, China is leading the pack, having gained ownership or control over an estimated 60-80% of the critical minerals that are needed for industry (such as for magnets) and the green transition. This control extends across the supply chain: China is heavily invested in mining across Africa, Central Asia, and Latin America, and has been building up its processing capabilities.

For Western powers, China's quasi-monopoly over critical minerals looks like an economic and national-security threat. This fear is not unfounded. In December 2024, China restricted exports of critical minerals to the US in retaliation for US restrictions on exports of advanced microchips to China.

Since then, US President Donald Trump has forced Ukraine to relinquish a significant share of its critical minerals to the US in what he presents as repayment for American support in its fight against Russia. Trump also wants US sovereignty over mineral-rich Greenland, to the dismay of Denmark. And he has suggested that Canada, with all its natural resources, become America's 51st state. The European Union, for its part, has sought its own mining contracts, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), touted as the "Saudi Arabia of critical minerals."

From the Scramble for Africa in the nineteenth century to Western attempts to claim Middle Eastern oil in the twentieth, such resource grabs are hardly new. They reflect a fundamental asymmetry: less industrialized developing economies tend to consume fewer resources than they produce, whereas the opposite is true for developed economies – and, nowadays, China.

In principle, this asymmetry creates ideal conditions for mutually beneficial agreements: industrialized economies get the resources they desire, and non-industrialized economies get a windfall, which they can use to bolster their own development. But, in reality, vast natural-resource endowments have proven to be more of a curse than a blessing, with resource-rich countries often developing more slowly than their resource-poor counterparts.

A key reason for this is that developed economies have more economic clout, advanced technology, and military might – all of which they bring to bear to acquire the resources they seek. For example, European imperial powers used steam-engine technology to help them explore and exploit Africa for resources like copper, tin, rubber,

timber, diamonds, and gold in the nineteenth century. This, together with more advanced weaponry and other technologies, meant that, far from offering local communities fair compensation for their valuable resources, European powers could subjugate those communities and use their labor to extract and transport what they wanted.

But even countries that are exporting their resources for a profit have often struggled to make progress on development, not only because of imbalanced deals with more powerful resource importers, but also because their governments have often mismanaged the associated bonanzas. It does not help that resource-rich countries and regions often grapple with internal and external conflicts.

Consider the mineral-rich provinces of the DRC, such as Katanga and North Kivu, which have long suffered from violence and lawlessness, fueled by neighbors such as Rwanda and Uganda. Today, the advance of the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels is fueling bloodshed in eastern Congo – and creating an opportunity for outside powers to gain access to critical minerals. The DRC-Rwanda peace agreement brokered by the Trump administration promises precisely such access to the US, in exchange for security guarantees.

But the resource curse is not inescapable, especially for countries with strong outward-facing institutions to manage the economy's external relations, including its resource sector's ability to attract investment and generate revenues for the state, and inward-facing institutions to govern how those revenues are used. If a country is to translate its resource endowments into economic development and improvements in human well-being, both have a critical role to play.

Outward-facing institutions must negotiate fair and transparent mining contracts with multinational corporations and strengthen local governments' ability to do the same. Such contracts should include local-content requirements, which keep more high-value-added processing activities at home, increase local employment, and strengthen the capacity of local suppliers and contractors. Since acquiring a 15% stake in De Beers, Botswana has sought to ensure that diamond cutting – not just mining – occurs domestically, which requires inward-facing institutions to deliver adequate investment in these capabilities.

Inward-facing institutions must also manage risks raised by resource extraction, from health and environmental damage (deforestation, biodiversity loss, pollution) to labor-rights violations (including child labor). Unfortunately, as it stands, many mineral-rich countries are falling far short, leading some to advocate boycotts of critical minerals coming from conflict zones or countries using forced labor. While such boycotts are unlikely to sway these governments, they could convince multinationals and foreign governments to demand better enforcement of environmental and social standards from countries with which they do business.

Ultimately, however, it is up to mineral-rich countries to defend their interests and make the most of their endowments. This starts with efforts to strengthen institutions.









# Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission

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E-mail: [lacc@liberia@gmail.com](mailto:lacc@liberia@gmail.com)  
Contact number: 0886-667-439

## Press Release

Date: Monday, July 28, 2025

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) informs the public that, during the May A.D. 2025 term of court, the Commission secured true bills in three major indictments as part of its ongoing mandate to investigate, prosecute, and deter acts of corruption and financial misconduct in public service. These indictments pertain to the following institutions:

### 1. National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL)

Three individuals have been indicted:

- **Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis**, Suspended CEO, NOCAL
- **Richman Jallah**, Comptroller, NOCAL
- **Edmond Massaquoi**, IT Technician, Ministry of Transport

They face multiple charges, including:

- Economic Sabotage
- Tampering with Public Records
- Criminal Attempt, Solicitation, Facilitation, and Conspiracy
- Violations of Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) and Project Management Framework (PMF) laws

All three defendants appeared before **Criminal Court 'C' on Tuesday, July 22, 2025**, and presented Judge-approved criminal appearance bonds. They were formally served with writs of arrest and indictments, placing them under the jurisdiction of the court.

### 2. Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)

The LTA indictment involves:

- **Madam Edwina C. Zackpa**, Former Chairperson, LTA
- **Temma Corporation**, through its CEO **Mr. Abdullah Kamara**

The charges include:

- Economic Sabotage
- Theft of Property
- Misapplication of Entrusted Property
- Criminal Facilitation, Solicitation, and Conspiracy

On service of the indictment, Mr. Kamara presented a criminal appearance bond and is now under court jurisdiction. He has filed several motions, including:

- Motion to Dismiss
- Motion for Severance and Separate Trial
- Motion for Change of Venue
- Motion to Correct Bail Bond

These motions have been heard, with final rulings pending. Meanwhile, Madam Zackpa remains outside the Republic of Liberia, and efforts are ongoing to ensure her appearance.

### 3. Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC)

Four former officials face indictment:

- **Patrick Tarnue Worzie**, Former Director-General
- **Alieu Fofana**, Former M&E Manager
- **Joseph Wea**, Former Comptroller
- **Jeredine Kolley**, Manager of Humanitarian Department

The charges include:

- Economic Sabotage
- Theft of Property
- Misapplication of Entrusted Property
- Criminal Conspiracy

Mr. Worzie appeared at Criminal Court 'C' on Monday, July 21, 2025, and filed a criminal appearance bond

. The remaining defendants are yet to appear, and the Commission is actively coordinating with relevant authorities to pursue further action.

The LACC is assessing the validity and adequacy of the bond submitted and reserves the right to challenge it within the legal timeframe inf found defective.

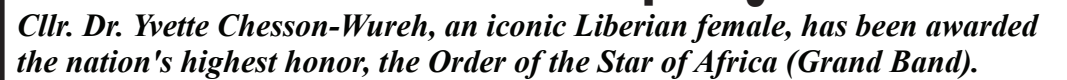
The LACC reaffirms its commitment to transparency, accountability, and zero tolerance for corruption. These indictments reflect our steadfast pursuit of justice and the protection of Liberia's public resources.

The Commission will continue to keep the public informed on developments as proceedings unfold.

Signed: Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC)

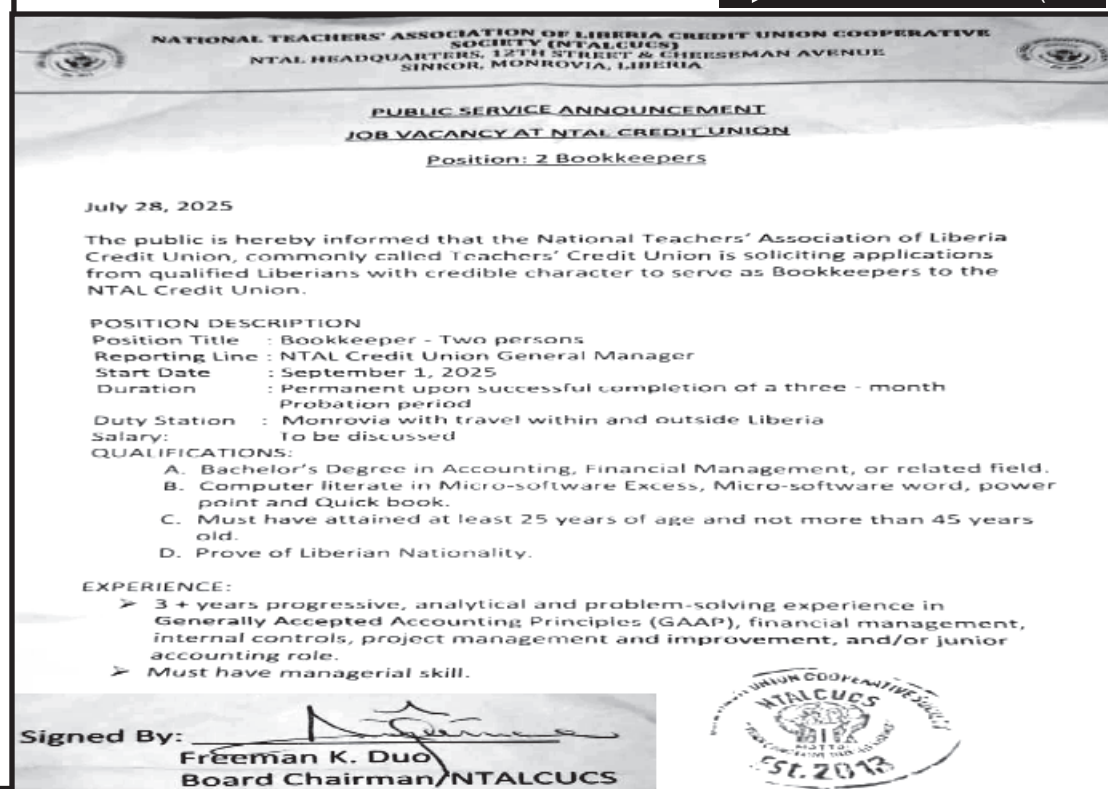






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# Freetown, Sierra Leone





Let's embrace value of mercy and dignity

Liberia Remains a Beacon of Perseverance,

-Press Boakai pleads with Liberians

President Boakai urges Liberians to embrace the values of mercy and dignity for a better Liberia, as he extends clemency to 75 inmates in commemoration of Liberia's 178th Independence Day.

-Says LiMA Commissioner Lighe at EFLA Assembly in Belgium

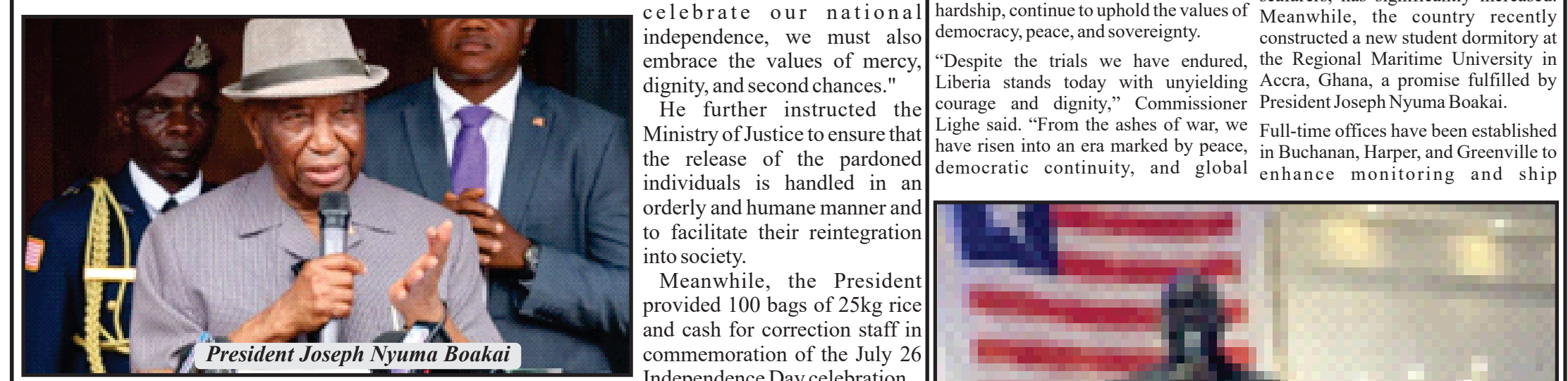
By Stephen G. Fellajuah

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia; July 28, 2025 - Following the release of 75 inmates from various correctional facilities across the country, President Joseph N. Boakai called on citizens to embrace the value of mercy and dignity for a better Liberia. "As we celebrate our national Independence, we must also embrace the values of mercy, dignity, and second chances", President Boakai said. He disclosed that the act of clemency reaffirms his belief that justice must be both firm and fair, and that redemption remains possible for those willing to change. President Boakai spoke on Friday, July 25, 2025, at the Monrovia Central Prison when he granted executive clemency to 75 inmates from various correctional facilities across the country.

His decision to grant executive clemency was part of activities marking Liberia's 178th Independence Day celebration. The decision followed a formal recommendation from the Ministry of Justice, based on assessments conducted by the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) and the Human Rights Protection Division. The gesture of clemency reflects the President's ongoing commitment to justice, rehabilitation, and compassion within Liberia's correctional system. The categories of pardoned inmates include: inmates who have served more than 50% of their sentence for non-capital offenses and have demonstrated good behavior; and misdemeanor offenders who have completed their sentences but remain incarcerated due to an inability to pay restitution of not more than USD 2,000. Others include terminally ill inmates with medical certification, indicating a low likelihood of survival beyond July 2025; Elderly inmates, aged 50 and above, convicted of non-capital crimes with consistent good behavior; and Felons with no more than two years remaining on their expected date of release (EDR). In announcing the pardons, President Boakai said, "As we celebrate our national independence, we must also embrace the values of mercy, dignity, and second chances." He further instructed the Ministry of Justice to ensure that the release of the pardoned individuals is handled in an orderly and humane manner and to facilitate their reintegration into society. Meanwhile, the President provided 100 bags of 25kg rice and cash for correction staff in commemoration of the July 26 Independence Day celebration. Mr. Boakai said this gesture aligns with his broader agenda for criminal justice reform by decongesting Liberia's prison system and restoring hope and dignity to underserved populations.

Antwerp, Belgium, July 27, 2025), Maritime Commissioner and CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), Neto Zarzar Lighe, has described Liberia as a "beacon of perseverance," celebrating the nation's resilience and progress during remarks at the Annual General Assembly of the European Federation of Liberian Associations (EFLA) and the commemoration of Liberia's 178th Independence Day. Addressing Liberians in the diaspora at the event held in Antwerp, Belgium, Commissioner Lighe paid tribute to the indomitable spirit of Liberians who, despite enduring decades of conflict, political instability, and economic hardship, continue to uphold the values of democracy, peace, and sovereignty. "Despite the trials we have endured, Liberia stands today with unyielding courage and dignity," Commissioner Lighe said. "From the ashes of war, we have risen into an era marked by peace, democratic continuity, and global environment under international law," Commissioner Lighe explained. Despite the notable achievements, Commissioner Lighe acknowledged the challenges the sector still faces including limited surveillance capacity, outdated maritime legislation, and underdeveloped port infrastructure outside Monrovia. However, he called these issues "opportunities in disguise," urging Liberians especially those in the diaspora to seize investment opportunities in the growing maritime sector. Enrollment at the Liberia Maritime Training Institute, which continues to offer rigorous training to future seafarers, has significantly increased. Meanwhile, the country recently constructed a new student dormitory at the Regional Maritime University in Accra, Ghana, a promise fulfilled by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. Full-time offices have been established in Buchanan, Harper, and Greenville to enhance monitoring and ship



President Joseph Nyuma Boakai

and that redemption remains possible for those willing to change. President Boakai spoke on Friday, July 25, 2025, at the Monrovia Central Prison when he granted executive clemency to 75 inmates from various correctional facilities across the country.

Police warn against resisting arrest

-Amid controversy over woman's arrest

Despite issuing an initial apology to aggrieved protesters in Monrovia, the Liberian National Police warns the public that resisting arrest is both unlawful and dangerous.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; July 28, 2025 - Following a mass protest by members of the Fula community here over the arrest of a Muslim woman accused of power theft, Police Spokesperson Cecelia M. Clarke has cautioned that resisting arrest is both unlawful and dangerous. She called for calm and urged citizens to respect the legal process. The protest erupted after a viral video surfaced showing the controversial arrest of Madam Zainab Bah, during which she allegedly struck an officer and poured boiling soup on him. Protesters dispute the police account and claim her hijab was forcibly removed, sparking allegations of religious insensitivity. However, speaking on state broadcaster ELBC, Clarke condemned the protest and rejected suggestions that the incident was motivated by religion. She emphasized that religious attire does not exempt individuals from arrest. "It is wrong for people to make this look like a religious war. That is not good for our country," Clarke said, and stressed, "Yes, Madam Bah was wearing a hijab, but that cannot prevent an arrest."

She added, "You can wear your incident drew little public cleric [attire] or hijab and still be arrested when you commit a crime. You cannot hide behind it." Clarke confirmed that both justice, stating, "This matter will be fully investigated. If Madam Bah and the arresting officer are under investigation and Bah is found culpable, she will be dealt with in accordance with the law. The same goes for the officer involved." She also criticized what she described as double standards in public reaction, referencing the Cllr. Varmah, President of the July 17 "Enough is Enough" protest during which police officers were stoned, but the

cooperation. Our journey is far from over, but the path ahead holds promise for hope, prosperity, and transformation." Commissioner Lighe praised the contributions of the Liberian diaspora, encouraging them to view themselves as ambassadors of Liberia's culture, values, and economic aspirations. "Your role in the diaspora is vital," he emphasized. "You reflect the image of Liberia to the world. Your unity, patriotism, and involvement are shaping the trajectory of our nation's development." Turning attention to Liberia's maritime achievements, Lighe highlighted the country's continued leadership in global shipping. With over 5,600 vessels flying its flag, Liberia now boasts the world's largest ship registry, representing 17% of the global fleet. He traced the origins of this maritime success to 1949 with the registration of the World Peace, the first vessel to sail under the Liberian flag. Since then, Liberia's open ship registry has become a critical pillar of the national economy, contributing to public revenue, international visibility, and workforce development. "At LiMA, we don't just manage ship registrations, we oversee all maritime-related matters, including safety at sea and the protection of our marine inspection and for the first time since independence, Liberia has initiated domestic shipbuilding efforts to support short-sea shipping along the West African coast. Recalling missed opportunities during past oil exploration efforts, the Commissioner pointed out that Liberians must not allow future opportunities to slip away, adding that the maritime sector is an untapped economic goldmine, and with the right investments, Liberians can lead the charge in transforming the sector. "We must not allow future opportunities to slip away. Our sector is an untapped economic goldmine and with the right investments, Liberians can lead the charge in transforming our maritime landscape." Moreover, he told the gathering that as Liberia celebrates 178 years of independence, it was important for all citizens, especially those abroad, to reflect on their roles in the nation's forward march. "This Independence Day, let us reaffirm our faith in Liberia's destiny. Let us invest in the future, take pride in our accomplishments, and remain united in our pursuit of progress. Liberia's fame shall remain green, and the gallantry of its people will never fade."







# Le LMTI pris dans les filets du Sénat libérien

La société étrangère Liberia Traffic Management Incorporated (LMTI), qui cherche à prendre en charge la gestion du système de circulation routière du Liberia au détriment du ministère des Transports, s'est retrouvée au cœur d'une vive controverse au Sénat, accusée

suspension immédiate des opérations de LMTI avant même leur lancement, évoquant des faits de fraude et d'incohérence dans les documents contractuels. Le contrat de concession de la société, qui prévoyait la prise en charge de fonctions clés telles que la délivrance de permis de conduire, l'immatriculation des véhicules, les inspections routières et d'autres

suppression de près de 300 emplois au sein de l'administration.

Mais au-delà des conséquences sociales, un autre problème majeur a été mis en lumière : selon les révélations faites au Sénat, deux versions différentes du contrat existent — l'une ayant été approuvée par le Sénat, et l'autre circulant dans le domaine public.

La Sénatrice du comté de Grand Cape Mount, Dabbah Varpileh, qui a soulevé le dossier, a affirmé que le document rendu public diffère sensiblement de celui ratifié par le Sénat et transmis au Président Joseph N. Boakai.

« Le contrat de concession de 2018 signé avec le LMTI, que nous avons validé, ne correspond pas à la version actuelle. C'est pourquoi je demande au Sénat d'ouvrir une enquête pour identifier les irrégularités, notamment en ce qui concerne les pertes d'emplois, les recettes publiques et les hausses éventuelles des frais de service. Ces derniers jours, les travailleurs concernés ont manifesté, et il est impératif que l'Exécutif

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d'irrégularités documentaires et de tentative d'usurpation de fonctions publiques.

Lors de la séance plénière du jeudi 24 juillet, les sénateurs libériens ont voté la

attribution relevant du ministère des Transports, a déjà suscité une vague de protestations de la part des fonctionnaires publics. Sa mise en œuvre, prévue pour la fin juillet ou début août, entraînerait la

# SRC et Jeety Rubber offrent une ambulance et installent des lampadaires solaires dans 56 communautés

La Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) et sa filiale Jeety Rubber ont fait don d'une ambulance entièrement équipée aux travailleurs et résidents du district n°5 du comté de Margibi, renforçant ainsi de manière significative l'accès aux soins d'urgence dans cette région rurale.

La remise officielle du véhicule s'est tenue le 23 juillet 2025 lors d'une cérémonie à laquelle ont participé des autorités locales et des leaders communautaires. Cette initiative s'inscrit dans le cadre de la politique de responsabilité sociétale des entreprises (RSE) des deux sociétés.

L'ambulance est destinée à desservir non seulement les employés de SRC et de Jeety Rubber, mais également les populations environnantes, notamment dans les zones difficilement accessibles pendant la saison des pluies, lorsque l'état des routes entrave les déplacements rapides.

« Cette ambulance sauvera des vies », a déclaré M. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, PDG de SRC et Jeety Rubber. « Elle permettra des interventions plus rapides en

cas d'urgence médicale et facilitera l'accès à des soins spécialisés lorsque la situation l'exige. »

Le véhicule est équipé de matériel médical moderne, notamment de bouteilles d'oxygène, de défibrillateurs et de médicaments d'urgence. Par ailleurs, du personnel médical local a été formé pour assurer l'utilisation et la maintenance adéquates de l'équipement.

Un appui à l'éducation rurale Dans une autre action sociale, les deux entreprises ont mis à disposition un autobus scolaire de 24 places afin de faciliter le transport des enfants des employés et des élèves des villages voisins vers les établissements scolaires de la région. Cette mesure vise à améliorer les taux de fréquentation

scolaire, en particulier pendant la saison pluvieuse.

« De nombreux enfants devaient marcher plusieurs kilomètres pour se rendre à l'école », a expliqué Mme Irene Darwolor, présidente du comité communautaire de Baypolou. « Ce service de transport régulier réduira considérablement le taux d'abandon scolaire. »

L'autobus suivra un itinéraire fixe, desservant plusieurs villages pour garantir un transport sûr et fiable aux élèves.

Renforcement des infrastructures communautaires Dans le cadre de leur engagement envers le développement local, SRC et Jeety

▶ & 217. 2 \$\*3



# Éditorial

## Un agent de la LDEA tué par une foule en colère à Caldwell

Une tragédie s'est produite à Caldwell, dans la banlieue de Monrovia, le mardi 22 juillet 2025. L'agent Emmanuel Payne, membre de l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, LDEA), a été lynché à mort par une foule en furie, composée de présumés délinquants communément appelés « zogos » ainsi que de certains habitants de la communauté.

Selon un communiqué officiel de la LDEA, l'agent Payne rendait visite à un collègue de la Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) sur Benson Street, à Caldwell, lorsqu'il a aperçu un individu suspect transportant un sac en plastique noir en direction d'un ghetto bien connu dans le quartier.

Agissant conformément à son devoir, l'agent Payne aurait tenté d'intercepter le suspect. C'est à ce moment, indique l'agence, qu'un trafiquant notoire identifié comme Franklin B. Feawoe, alias « Black Bottle », aurait ordonné à un groupe de personnes d'attaquer l'agent. Malgré le fait qu'il portait son uniforme officiel et s'était clairement identifié, M. Payne aurait été accusé à tort d'être un voleur de moto (« motorbike rogue »), avant d'être pourchassé et violemment agressé par la foule. Dans une tentative désespérée de se défendre et de disperser ses agresseurs, il a tiré deux coups de semonce. Mais loin de se calmer, la foule se serait renforcée, devenant de plus en plus agressive.

Gravement blessé, l'agent Payne a été transporté d'urgence à l'hôpital John F. Kennedy (JFK) à Monrovia, où son décès a été constaté peu après son admission.

Dans un communiqué, la LDEA a fermement condamné ce qu'elle qualifie d'« acte odieux et lâche » perpétré contre l'un de ses agents les plus engagés dans la lutte contre le trafic de drogue.

L'agence a déclaré coopérer étroitement avec la Police nationale du Liberia (LNP) ainsi que d'autres forces de sécurité pour identifier, arrêter et traduire en justice tous les auteurs de cette attaque. Une attention particulière est portée au principal suspect, Franklin B. Feawoe, actuellement en fuite et activement recherché.

En réponse à ce drame, la LDEA a lancé une série d'opérations de ratissage à Caldwell. Plusieurs ghettos ont été démantelés et incendiés, et de nombreux suspects présumés impliqués dans le meurtre ont été arrêtés.

« Nous adressons nos plus sincères condoléances à la famille, aux amis et aux collègues de l'agent Emmanuel Payne. Son courage, son intégrité et son sacrifice dans la lutte contre les stupéfiants ne seront jamais oubliés. Que son âme repose en paix », a déclaré la LDEA.

L'agence appelle par ailleurs la population à fournir toute information susceptible d'aider à localiser Franklin B. Feawoe. Elle exhorte les citoyens à ne pas tenter de l'interpeller eux-mêmes, mais plutôt à contacter immédiatement la LDEA au numéro suivant : 0777 133 333.

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# U D Q C D

## Le LMTI pris dans les filets du Sénat libérien

se penche sérieusement sur cette affaire », a-t-elle plaidé.

Dans son intervention, le Sénateur du comté de Margibi, Nathaniel F. McGill — ancien ministre d'État au moment des négociations — a précisé que l'ancien président George M. Weah n'a jamais signé l'accord de concession avec LMTI.

Selon lui, les documents actuellement mis en œuvre par l'entreprise sont différents de ceux approuvés par le Sénat et transmis à l'Exécutif, ce qui expliquerait pourquoi le gouvernement précédent, dirigé par le CDC, n'avait pas procédé à l'exécution du contrat.

Le Sénateur Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, de son côté, a renforcé cette position en déclarant : « Si le gouvernement précédent, à l'origine de cette concession, a refusé de la mettre en œuvre, pourquoi devrait-ce être au tour de ce gouvernement de le faire ? »

Il a également rappelé que l'entreprise avait saisi la justice, avant de retirer sa plainte et de laisser le dossier en suspens pendant plusieurs années, preuve selon lui que des problèmes fondamentaux entachent la validité du contrat.

## SRC et Jeety Rubber offrent une ambulance et installent

Rubber ont également rénové et inauguré une nouvelle mairie pour la communauté de Barpolu. Le bâtiment comprend des salles de réunion, des bureaux pour les autorités locales ainsi qu'un grand hall destiné aux rassemblements communautaires.

« Avoir une mairie fonctionnelle permettra à notre communauté de mieux s'organiser, de tenir des réunions dans la dignité et de disposer d'un espace où notre voix pourra être entendue », a ajouté Mme Darwolor.

Sécurité et développement durable

Par ailleurs, les sociétés ont achevé l'installation de 58 lampadaires solaires dans 56 villes et villages situés dans les zones d'opération de la SRC. Ce projet d'éclairage public vise à améliorer la sécurité nocturne et à favoriser les activités sociales et économiques après la tombée de la nuit. Ces nouvelles actions viennent compléter une série d'initiatives RSE mises en œuvre par SRC et Jeety Rubber dans le district n°3 du comté de Margibi et au-delà. Les entreprises exploitent déjà des cliniques médicales offrant des soins de santé de base, des campagnes de vaccination et un soutien à la santé maternelle. Elles ont également foré des puits et installé des systèmes d'approvisionnement en eau potable dans plusieurs localités, don't Weala, réduisant ainsi les risques de maladies d'origine hydrique.

## Des membres de la communauté Fula manifestent devant le siège de la police nationale

Le jeudi 24 juillet a été marqué par une vive tension à Monrovia, lorsque des membres de la communauté Fula ont pris d'assaut le siège de la Police nationale du Liberia (LNP), situé au centre-ville, pour protester contre ce qu'ils qualifient de brutalité policière à l'encontre d'une femme de leur communauté.

L'Incident à l'origine de la colère concerne Mme Zainab Bah, une femme issue de la communauté Fula, accusée de vol d'électricité. Une vidéo devenue virale sur les réseaux sociaux montre une altercation violente entre Mme Bah et un agent de police, au cours de laquelle elle semble frapper le policier et lui jeter une soupe bouillante. La séquence montre également l'agent tentant de procéder à son arrestation alors qu'elle porte son bébé.

Ce qui a particulièrement choqué l'opinion, c'est l'allégation selon laquelle le voile (hijab) de Mme Bah aurait été arraché de force par le policier pendant l'arrestation, un geste perçu comme une atteinte grave à la dignité et à la foi musulmane. Des voix issues des milieux religieux et des organisations de défense des droits humains dénoncent une violation flagrante des droits fondamentaux et un manque de respect culturel.

L'opinion publique reste divisée : certains condamnent les actes de Mme Bah envers le policier, tandis que d'autres s'indignent de la manière brutale et humiliante



## Bong County : Un enseignant accusé dans un scandale sexuel

Un scandale d'envergure secoue le lycée Nathaniel Varney Massaquoi, à Gbarnga, où Julius Sevelee — enseignant de chimie et doyen des élèves, connu sous le surnom de « Chemical J » — est accusé d'avoir entretenu une relation sexuelle avec une élève, laquelle serait tombée enceinte à la suite de cette liaison présumée.

L'affaire a été révélée au grand public après qu'une plainte formelle a été déposée par le père de l'élève auprès de l'antenne locale de la Police nationale du Liberia (LNP) dans le comté de Bong. Depuis, une enquête a été ouverte conjointement par les autorités policières et éducatives.

Le directeur du district scolaire de Gbarnga, M. P. Kohnkahn Cole, a convoqué M. Sevelee à une audience prévue pour le jeudi 24 juillet 2025 à 10 heures. Cette rencontre est considérée comme déterminante dans la suite



Mr. Julius Sevelee

administrative du dossier.

Si les faits sont avérés, ils constitueraient une violation manifeste du Code de conduite de 2014 à l'usage des enseignants et administrateurs scolaires du Liberia, en particulier l'article 4.2.1, qui interdit formellement toute relation sexuelle ou sentimentale entre un enseignant et un élève, indépendamment de l'âge ou du consentement. Ce code vise à préserver l'intégrité morale des établissements scolaires et à assurer la protection des élèves.

L'Incident a suscité une vague d'indignation parmi les parents, les défenseurs des droits des élèves et les membres de la communauté, qui réclament une enquête impartiale et des sanctions exemplaires si les accusations sont confirmées.

Interrogé par la presse, M. Sevelee a nié toute implication, qualifiant les allégations de « fausses, malveillantes et politiquement motivées », affirmant être victime de représailles en raison de sa proximité avec le représentant du district n°2 du comté de Bong, l'honorable James Kolleh.

Il a reconnu avoir été contacté par la police le 16 juillet 2025, suite à la plainte initiale, qui comportait des accusations de viol. Selon lui, ces accusations auraient été abandonnées à l'issue d'une première enquête policière.

Cependant, il a confirmé avoir reçu une mise en demeure de la part de l'administration de l'école concernant la grossesse de l'élève. Au cours d'une réunion avec le proviseur et d'autres responsables, il aurait admis la possibilité d'être le père de l'enfant à naître, tout en se référant au document de « non-incrimination » émis, selon lui, par la police.

« J'ai dit au proviseur que je m'en tiendrai à ce que dit le rapport de la police », a-t-il déclaré, soutenant que ses propos étaient faits de bonne foi, convaincu d'avoir été blanchi de toute infraction pénale.

Malgré cette défense, des rumeurs persistantes font état de tentatives présumées d'arrangement financier avec la famille de l'élève en vue d'étouffer l'affaire. Ces allégations, actuellement à l'étude, renforcent les inquiétudes concernant d'éventuelles pressions et une politisation du dossier.

Le ministère de l'Éducation, par l'intermédiaire du bureau éducatif du district, a réaffirmé son engagement à faire respecter les normes professionnelles et à garantir la sécurité des élèves. Un responsable, s'exprimant sous couvert d'anonymat, a assuré que « le ministère prend cette affaire très au sérieux et veillera au respect rigoureux de la procédure ».

Cette affaire relance le débat national sur l'éthique professionnelle dans les écoles et les abus de pouvoir don't peuvent être victimes les élèves. De nombreuses voix appellent le ministère et la justice à agir avec fermeté pour garantir la transparence, la responsabilité et la sécurité dans l'environnement scolaire.

La réunion avec les autorités éducatives sera décisive quant à d'éventuelles sanctions contre l'enseignant, notamment une suspension ou un licenciement, selon les conclusions de l'enquête.

Entre-temps, les organisations de la société civile et les défenseurs des droits de l'enfant plaident pour des réformes plus larges dans le système de supervision scolaire, ainsi qu'un renforcement des mécanismes de contrôle du comportement des enseignants.

Rédigé et édité par Othello B. Garblah



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6WDUWV IUR

## Police warn against resisting arrest

(LNBA), weighed in on the incident, stressing that resisting a lawful arrest is prohibited under Liberian law, even if the individual believes the arrest is unjustified.

He explained that arrests are governed by the Criminal Procedure Law and the 1986 Constitution, which prohibits arbitrary arrests and guarantees due process.

"The law does not grant a citizen the right to resist a lawful arrest; even if an arrest appears unjust, the proper recourse is through the courts, not resistance."

He noted that only limited resistance may be justified in rare cases of unlawful arrest, especially where excessive force is used. Still, such determinations can only be made retrospectively by the courts.

On the use of force, Cllr. Varmah emphasized that police officers are permitted to use only the amount of force reasonably necessary to carry out an arrest. Deadly force is allowed only to prevent death or serious harm.

He also addressed the religious concerns raised by protesters, stating that Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and that all citizens deserve equal protection under the law.

"While the underlying offense was not religious in nature, allegations of religious insensitivity must be taken seriously," he said.

"Public authorities must ensure arrests are carried out with cultural sensitivity and respect for human dignity."

He concluded with a call for independent, transparent investigations in all incidents that generate public concern.

"The incident in Monrovia must serve as a reminder that respect for human dignity and the rule of law are non-negotiable in a democratic society", the Bar president noted.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## MOH Received 42 New Ultrasound Machines

*By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh*

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has received 42 brand-new ultrasound machines, funded by the Government of Liberia. The machines are intended to improve access to quality and affordable healthcare for all citizens and residents.

The equipment, identified as the Mindray Ultrasound System Z50, represents a state-of-the-art diagnostic tool designed to elevate the quality of imaging and patient monitoring in health facilities nationwide.

Each machine comes with advanced features, including mobile color modes, convex and linear probes, endocavity 3D/4D imaging, Live Smart Face, Smart

the country.

The Ministry has also outlined plans to conduct comprehensive training for health workers on the usage, interpretation, and routine maintenance of the machines. These training sessions will ensure that the equipment is used efficiently and sustainably, empowering healthcare professionals to deliver high-standard services.

The acquisition of the ultrasound equipment comes at a time when Liberia is intensifying efforts to strengthen its primary healthcare delivery system and reduce dependence on external referrals. The Ministry calls on county health teams and facility heads to ensure proper stewardship and

6WDUWV IUR

## Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh receives prestigious

s Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Tarja Halonen.

A trailblazer in gender-responsive peacebuilding, she initiated the Women's Situation Room (WSR), an award-winning early warning and rapid response mechanism against electoral violence, which has been implemented in over ten African countries. She chairs the Eminent Women's Room of the WSR and co-chairs FemWise-ECOWAS, a network of women mediators across the region.

Her leadership has also extended to critical national moments: chairing logistics for the 2015 inauguration of President Sirleaf, leading ethical and legal advisory efforts during the Ebola crisis, and mobilizing youth through ABIC platforms.

While in the diaspora, she played a pivotal role in securing Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for undocumented Liberians in the U.S, a victory that granted legal status and work permits to thousands.

Cllr. Chesson-Gibson is deeply rooted in Liberia's legacy of leadership and resilience. On her maternal side, she is the great-great-granddaughter of King Zolu Duma (also known as King Peter) of the Vai people and the great-granddaughter of President Hilary R. W. Johnson, Liberia's first native-born president. Her mother, Catherine Leona Tucker Chesson, was a renowned lawyer and former legislator for Montserrado County.

Her paternal lineage includes Joseph Chesson, one of Liberia's famed merchant princes. Her father, Cllr. Joseph J.F. Chesson served as Minister of Justice and was tragically executed during the 1980 coup. She remains a dedicated member of the April 22nd Memorial Group, honoring the legacy of President William R. Tolbert Jr. and others lost during that period.

Cllr. Chesson-Gibson earned her Juris Doctor with honors from North Carolina Central University School of Law and is a member of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, the U.S. Federal District Court Bar, and the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL). She holds additional certifications in Mediation and Arbitration from Bowie State University and has served on national and international boards, including the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## Bong County: MoE suspends teacher named to Sex Scandal

*The Ministry of Education (MOE) has suspended Julius Sevelee, in sexual relationships with a Chemistry teacher and Dean of Students at the Nathaniel Varney Massaquoi High School in Gbarnga, following allegations of sexual misconduct involving a female student.*

*By Edwin N. Khakie*

Gbarnga, Bong County, July 28, 2025: The suspension follows a report published by The New Dawn newspaper detailing claims of an inappropriate relationship between Sevelee, also known as "Chemical J," and a student, which reportedly resulted in the student's pregnancy.

The matter first came to light when the student's father lodged a formal complaint, alleging that the teacher had raped his daughter.

An initial investigation conducted by the Liberia National Police's Bong County Detachment cleared Sevelee of the rape allegation after he maintained his innocence during questioning.

However, the case was further escalated when the student's family brought the matter to the attention of Gbarnga District Education Officer, Mr. P. Kohnkahn Cole, and County Education Officer (CEO), David Boakai.

Based on the seriousness of the allegations and in accordance with internal procedures, the Ministry of Education issued an official suspension on July 25, 2025. The suspension letter cites a breach of Section 6.3.1.2(d) of the Ministry's Code of Conduct, which prohibits teachers or school administrators from engaging

students under their supervision.

According to CEO Boakai, the suspension takes effect immediately and will remain in place pending the outcome of a five-day administrative investigation.

The letter also bars Sevelee from entering the school compound or interacting with students or staff, warning that any violation could lead to further disciplinary action.

In a formal statement, Sevelee acknowledged receipt of the suspension and pledged full



Mr. Julius Sevelee



B, Auto IMT package, and iScape technology.

The units are mounted on durable trolleys, making them ideal for both static and mobile use in clinical settings.

The new ultrasound systems will be distributed to various hospitals and major health centers across

maintenance of the equipment as the country moves toward a more modern and resilient healthcare infrastructure.

The Ministry of Health reaffirmed its dedication to equitable healthcare delivery and pledged that no county will be left behind in the allocation process.

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cooperation with the investigation. "I understand and respect the Ministry's commitment to upholding discipline and ethical conduct in our schools," he said. "While I maintain my innocence, I support a fair and unbiased investigation to ensure that the truth is revealed."

He further urged that the process be free from personal bias, political pressure, or public speculation, emphasizing his trust in the Ministry's ability to conduct a thorough and just review.

The allegations have sparked concern in the Gbarnga education community and beyond, with parents and stakeholders calling for a swift and transparent resolution. As the investigation progresses, attention remains focused on ensuring accountability while safeguarding the rights of all parties involved.

The Ministry of Education has yet to issue additional public statements but affirmed its zero-tolerance policy regarding teacher-student misconduct.

*Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*



# Peace without prosperity is fragile

*The Orator of Liberia's 178<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary has called on the Boakai Administration to confront economic disparity with robust, practical policy actions.*

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Monrovia, Liberia; July 28, 2025 - Liberia's 178<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Orator, Rev. Dr. Emmett Lafayette Dunn, has urged the Government of Liberia to address skyrocketing economic disparity across the country, warning here



that peace without economic prosperity is fragile. Delivering the Independence Day speech on Saturday, July 26, 2025, in Monrovia, Dr. Dunn recommended that the government must confront economic disparity with robust practical policy action. "In a country as rich in natural resources as ours, why are so many Liberians still poor? This is not just an economic issue; it is a moral one. We must focus on economic justice, because peace without prosperity is fragile." Dr. Dunn urged. Over the weekend, the government and people of Liberia celebrated 178 years of

Independence, bringing together four African heads of State in Monrovia, namely John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana; President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal; President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone; and President Umaro Sissoco



EMBALÓ of Guinea-Bissau. This year's celebration was held under the theme: "One People, One Destiny: Healing the Past, Building the Future". The program was also graced by international partners and members of the diplomatic community, including the Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Yin Chengwu, and the representative of the American Embassy in Monrovia. Dr. Dunn reminded the government that a hungry child can't wait for macroeconomic policy, while a farmer without tools can't wait for committee reports, and a mother who can't afford healthcare for her child does not need promises; rather,

she needs solutions. Accordingly, the vocal Independence Day Orator further indicated that Liberians can't talk about true independence without discussing economic independence, stating that it is time to confront a painful truth, as too much of Liberia's economy is owned and controlled by foreign interests. "While foreign investment is welcome, it must not be at the expense of our dignity. The soul of our economy must be Liberian. Liberians must be actively involved in owning businesses. Liberians must be positioned to create wealth, not just consume it. To do that, we must nurture and grow a vibrant middle class, one built on entrepreneurship, skilled labor, professional excellence, and innovation." He recommended. He believes that a strong middle class is the backbone of every stable society, adding that it generates jobs, drives demand, pays taxes, and anchors democracy. Dr. Dunn urged the government to support small and medium-sized enterprises, make access to credit easier, invest in technical and vocational training, and modernize agriculture so that farming becomes profitable again. "We must embrace technology so our youth can compete on a global stage. To my fellow Liberian businesses, when government has done all this, as I know this government would, we must endeavor to prove that we are trustworthy by honoring our contracts and commitments", he concluded. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# I very much enjoyed our meeting

*President Donald Trump has sent a National Day Message to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, lauding his recent interaction with the Liberian Leader in Washington, D.C.*

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Monrovia, Liberia; July 28, 2025 - United States of America President, Donald John Trump, has expressed appreciation and gratitude to Liberian President, Joseph N. Boakai, saying that he very much enjoyed the meeting held with President Boakai in Washington, D.C., while extending congratulations to Liberians on behalf of the Government and People of the United States. President Trump, in a message posted on the official Facebook page of the Embassy of the United States in Liberia and read during Liberia's 178th Independence Day celebration, said it was a great honor to host President Boakai in Washington recently. "National Day Message from President Trump to Liberian President Boakai. Dear Mr. President: On behalf of the American people and the Government of the United States, I send our best wishes to you and the people of Liberia as you celebrate the 178th anniversary of your independence. It was a great honor to host you at the White House earlier this month, and I very much enjoyed our meeting." President Trump

stated. The U.S. President, in his message, said that on this occasion, they are proud to reflect on both countries' shared commitment to democracy, economic growth, and regional stability, and look forward to strengthening this partnership for the betterment of both the United States and Liberia. "We are grateful for your friendship with the United States and your commitment to enhancing peace and prosperity, and we look forward to continued cooperation in the years ahead. Sincerely, Donald J. Trump", the message concluded. Over the weekend, the government and people of Liberia celebrated 178 years of Independence, which brought together four African Heads of State in Monrovia, namely, President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana, President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal, President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone, and President Umaro Sissoco EMBALÓ of Guinea-Bissau. Rev. Dr. Emmett Lafayette Dunn delivered the 178th Independence Day oration under the theme: "One People, One Destiny: Healing the Past, Building the Future".

# SRC, Jeety Rubbe share Independence Day

6WDUWV IURP  
s SRC's five plantation camps received carefully selected Independence Day gifts, bringing joy and reinforcing a sense of national celebration. Many of the children, dressed by their parents for the occasion, were visibly excited, reflecting the companies' commitment to fostering a brighter future for Liberia's youth and promoting unity and hope. In a move to encourage youth recreation and community bonding, Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, popularly known as Jeety, announced additional cash prizes for an ongoing local football tournament organized by the companies. The pledged amounts include L\$25,000 for the winner, L\$15,000 for second place, and L\$10,000 for third place. These are in addition to the tournament's existing prize structure. The Independence Day gesture followed just days after a July 23 CSR event, during which SRC and Jeety Rubber donated a fully equipped ambulance, school bus, and a renovated Town Hall to the people of Weala. These donations aim to address key local needs, improve emergency healthcare access, support student transportation, and provide a space for community events. Once plagued by internal strife and aging infrastructure, SRC, one of Liberia's oldest rubber plantations, has undergone a dramatic transformation under Mr. Jeety's leadership. Key improvements include ongoing renovations across the company's five camps and schools. Expansion of management housing, increased employment opportunities with better pay structures, and solar lighting installations in surrounding communities.

Meanwhile, Jeety Rubber LLC, also based in Weala, has become a hub for processing raw rubber into finished and semi-finished products, including TSR10, for both local use and export. Mr. Jeety emphasized that his efforts go beyond corporate image. "This isn't just about giving food or gifts," he said. "It's about compassion, ensuring that even inmates, disadvantaged youth, motorcyclists, and children are not forgotten on a national day like July 26." He further emphasized the importance of corporate citizenship, urging Liberian businesses to make positive contributions to the communities in which they operate. The initiative drew widespread praise from residents of Weala, including motorbike riders, community leaders, and parents, many of whom described Jeety's actions as a model of meaningful social impact. "Mr. Jeety continues to show that he cares. He's not from here, but he's doing more than most," said a local resident. This year's Independence Day celebrations, marked by SRC and Jeety Rubber's humanitarian outreach, have not only fed bodies but lifted spirits, reminding Liberians that progress comes from unity, compassion, and shared responsibility. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

The program was also graced by international partners and members of the diplomatic community, including the Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Yin Chengwu, and representatives of the Embassy of the United States in Monrovia. On July 7, 2025, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai was invited by U.S. President Donald J. Trump, along with four other African leaders, for a significant two-day working visit to the United States. The invitation highlights the strengthening diplomatic ties between Liberia and the United States and sets the stage for important multilateral discussions. President Boakai's visit was from July 9 to 11, 2025, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and opening trade avenues between the two nations. The visit was also part of a broader African diplomatic initiative of President Trump, for which he also invited Presidents Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal, Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema of Gabon, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani of Mauritania, and Umaro Sissoco Embaló of Guinea-Bissau. The multilateral gathering sought to foster collaboration in addressing regional security challenges and strengthening economic partnerships. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



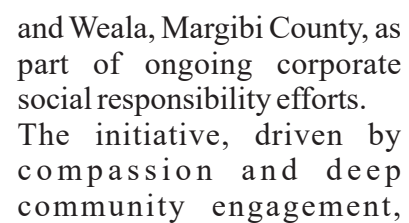
Trump and Boakai



*By Stephen G. Fellajuah*

included hot meals to 1,600 inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison (South Beach) and support to 500 disadvantaged youths (commonly referred to as Zogoes). The exercise also aided 45 struggling motorbike riders and provided gifts to 5,000 children across five SRC

The initiative wasn't limited to adults. In Weala, 5,000 children across



The cornerstone of the Independence Day outreach, commemorating Liberia's 178th Independence Anniversary, was the provision of a nutritious hot

A photograph of a large industrial machine, possibly a paper mill component, with a colorful rainbow graphic overlaid on the left side. The machine has a control panel with a digital display and buttons. The rainbow graphic is a bright, multi-colored arc spanning the width of the image.