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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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# Public Outrage

**-Over US\$10M Presidential Villa in Foya**

# Chief Justice, Judge face off

*Chief Justice, His Honor, Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay*      *Resident Judge Nancy F. Sammy*

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# Continental News

## Army sent to battle fire in Namibia tourist hotspot

Namibia says it is sending in helicopters and hundreds of soldiers to battle a fire that has ravaged a third of a key nature reserve.

Angola. "Strong winds and dry vegetation" were partly to blame for the rapid escalation of the blaze, officials say. Opposition MP Likando

extent of destruction would not be clear until aerial photographs were complete. "The fire poses a significant threat to the biodiversity, wildlife and livelihood of the communities in the affected areas," the statement added, but "thankfully, no human casualties have been reported".

Covering a total of 22,935 sq km (8,855 sq miles), Etosha National Park is one of the largest in Africa. Some 200,000 tourists visit the nature reserve every year, according to the government. It boasts a total of 114 mammal species and attract hundreds of migratory birds including flamingos. Experts say wildfires occur naturally in arid savannah and believe occasional wildfires are a necessary part of keeping ecosystems healthy - provided they are managed closely. The fire poses a significant threat to the biodiversity, wildlife and livelihood of the communities in the affected areas. Approximately 30% of the grazing in the Park has been destroyed by the fire. Aerial imagery will be undertaken to determine the extent of the spread of the fire and the area destroyed.

Rodrick recently criticised the government for failing to contain the fire, saying it should have been better prepared and urging it to beef up its long-term response measures. At an emergency meeting on Saturday, it was decided to send more than 500 troops to help firefighters, police, and volunteers on the ground, Prime Minister Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare said on X. Late on Sunday, the presidency said fires which had spread to grazing land in Oshikoto, Oshana and Kunene regions were now under control. But, it said, the full

Etosha National Park is one of southern Africa's top tourist attractions, known for its vast salt pan that can be seen from space. It is also home to critically endangered black rhinos. The country's environment ministry believes the fire broke out on Monday at a charcoal production site outside the park's borders. Almost a week on, it has spread into the park killing at least nine antelope and destroying wildlife habitats, as well as hundreds of thousands of hectares of grazing pasture outside the park in regions bordering

*The full extent of the destruction remains unclear*

## South Sudan court rejects ex-VP's bid to halt murder and treason trial

A special court in South Sudan has ruled that it does have the jurisdiction to prosecute suspended Vice-President Riek Machar and seven co-accused, who are charged with murder, treason and crimes against humanity. The court dismissed all objections by Machar's legal team regarding its authority, the constitutionality of the proceedings, and the claim that he was immune from prosecution. The case will continue on Wednesday. Machar has dismissed the charges brought against him two weeks ago as a political "witch-hunt". They have raised fears of return to civil war.

The charges stem from an attack in March by a militia allegedly linked to Machar, which killed 250 soldiers and a general. Since then,

He also denied that Machar had immunity from prosecution, saying this was only enjoyed by the president.

"The First Vice-President does not have constitutional immunity, according to the transitional constitution," the judge ruled.

The court also expelled two of Machar's lawyers after the prosecution argued that they did not have valid licences. The presiding judge ruled that the two could only participate once they have renewed their licences.

After the ruling, Machar's SPLM-IO party said the entire case was "unconstitutional" - nothing more than a "rigged court case" and "sham trial" led by a "kangaroo court" that lacked "jurisdiction, legality and competence".

It also alleged that the motives behind the trial were "tribal".



*Riek Machar has been under house arrest since March*

he has been under house arrest.

Machar's defence team had argued that the alleged crimes should not be tried by a national court but by a hybrid court under the African Union, in accordance with the 2018 Peace Agreement that ended the five-year civil war between his forces and those loyal to President Salva Kiir. Presiding Judge James Alala however said that the special court did have the authority to try national offences, as a hybrid court had not yet been established.

"The special court enjoys jurisdiction to try this case according to the Transitional Constitution 2011 as amended," he said.

Machar's lead lawyer Geri Raimondo Legge Lubati told the court that his client and the co-accused had been "subjected to politicised media campaign" by ministers and other senior officials. "This conduct amounts to unlawful and prior conviction of our accused and a blatant violation of the constitutional guarantee of presumption of innocence," he said. The charges have sparked fears of renewed conflict in the country, with the UN, African Union and neighbouring countries all calling for calm in the world's newest country, which only gained independence from Sudan in 2011 following decades of war. BBC

## Madagascar's president dissolves government after 'Gen Z' protests

Madagascar's president has said he will dissolve his government, following days of youth-led protests over longstanding water and power cuts.

"We acknowledge and apologise if members of the government have not carried out the tasks assigned to them," Andry Rajoelina said in a televised national address on Monday. The so-called Gen-Z protests have seen thousands of predominantly young demonstrators take to the streets in cities across Madagascar since Thursday, under the rallying cry: "We want to live, not survive".

The UN's human rights chief condemned the "unnecessary force" used by security forces to quell the unrest, saying that at least 22 people have been killed and 100 others injured. Madagascar's foreign ministry has rejected the UN's figures, alleging the data is "based on rumours or misinformation".

Protests first started in the capital Antananarivo, but have since spread to eight cities across the country.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in Antananarivo after reports of violence and looting, with police firing rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowds.

UNCHR head Volker Türk said he was "shocked" by the security forces' violent crackdown that he said also saw arrests, beatings and live bullets used against demonstrators.

"I urge the security forces to desist from the use of unnecessary and disproportionate force and to immediately release all arbitrarily detained protesters," Türk said in a statement on Monday.

According to the UN, the dead "include protesters and bystanders killed by members of the security forces, but also others killed in subsequent widespread violence and looting by individuals and gangs not associated with the protesters". BBC





# EDITORIAL

## This is a voice of wisdom

Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's recent call for world leaders to move beyond treaties and deliver tangible results in the lives of people is a plea from the heart of not only a leader, but a mother, who had seen bloody conflicts firsthand from her own country, having served as Liberia's first elected post-war leader who endured the aftermath of conflicts. Her stern warning that silence over conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, and Africa betrays the UN's founding promise could not have been said any better, for the UN has watched Russia decimate Ukraine just as Israel decapitate Palestine or Gaza like a toothless bulldog.

At 80, this is not the kind of United Nations the world had imagined from the inception – a global body that observes and does nothing to halt carnage and destruction.

This is why we agreed with Madam Sirleaf that peace cannot be achieved through speeches alone, but through concrete actions in conflict zones that involve protecting civilians and building lasting security.

The former Liberian President lamented that multilateral structures, built to shield future generations from war, are underperforming, and global leadership lacks a unified effort to respond to a technology-driven world. A world in which a nation can direct hundreds, if not thousands, of drones mounted with missiles against another nation to kill people and seize territories, and the rest of us watch.

Addressing the UN General Assembly's high-level plenary on peace and security early last week in New York, Madam Sirleaf noted that global structures and leaders have failed the world by remaining silent, as women and children suffer from acts of inhumanity in Gaza, Ukraine, and elsewhere.

“Are we to continue to accept the imbalance of global power, as reflected in the Security Council and the use of vetoes that limit current tools for peacebuilding and peacekeeping?” She asked, noting that commemoration without candor is unaffordable. She continued that the world asks whether the UN General Assembly will protect civilians and uphold international humanitarian law, saying, “These are not words of despair; they are a summons to repair.”

The former first elected female President in Africa cautioned that the credibility of the multilateral system is at stake, as conflicts stretch from Sudan and the Sahel to Gaza and Ukraine.

Citing her own experience from Liberia's post-war transition as evidence of what international cooperation can achieve, she highlighted the role of UN peacekeepers, regional African bodies, and women-led initiatives in disarming fighters, reforming security institutions, and restoring public trust, stressing, “Where guns fall silent, skills training, jobs, justice, and dignity must follow swiftly.”

It is silent about dangerous weapons in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and the Sahel, and voices like hers that are filled with compassion for human lives, especially innocent women and children, are craving to give peace a chance.

Someone among the world's leaders should heed this plea from a voice of wisdom and act now to save lives in conflict areas across the globe, restoring peace and understanding among mankind.

# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## The Changing Face of Foreign Direct Investment

NEW DELHI - Although US President Donald Trump’s protectionist trade policies dominate news headlines, they are far from the only forces shaping global production. New investment patterns have been reshaping the global economic landscape since well before Trump’s tariffs.

Nowhere is this more evident than in flows of foreign direct investment. According to the latest World Investment Report from United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FDI inflows to Europe, South America, and much of Asia declined in 2024. By contrast, FDI flows to Africa surged by 75%, to \$97 billion, while those to Southeast Asia increased by 10%, to \$225 billion. Behind these trends lies a broader restructuring of multinational supply chains, which are steadily shifting toward Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central America. Consequently, FDI patterns are also changing: while the United States, Japan, and China remain the largest outward investors, the Middle East has emerged as a major source of FDI.

Flush with oil revenue, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates - invested roughly \$113 billion in Africa in 2022 and 2023, dramatically expanding their economic footprint on the continent. Most of this capital has gone into logistics and infrastructure projects such as ports, airports, and transportation networks, as well as oil and gas.

The center of gravity, however, is rapidly shifting toward China, especially when it comes to green investment. A new report from the Net Zero Industrial Policy Lab highlights the scope of Chinese outward FDI, showing how China’s push into clean energy is boosting its economic influence.

Drawing on a database of 461 China-backed greentech manufacturing projects announced between 2011 and mid-2025, the report finds that Chinese firms have invested more than \$220 billion in 387 projects across 54 countries since 2022. These include solar and wind power facilities, large-scale battery plants, new-energy vehicles, charging infrastructure, and even early-stage green-hydrogen startups.

According to the report, Chinese investments are largely driven by firms’ search for market access and reliable supplies of raw materials. While ASEAN countries remain the leading destination for such projects, the Middle East and North Africa’s share rose sharply to over 20% in 2024; Latin America and Central Asia also attracted a significant share of Chinese FDI.

Importantly, this wave of Chinese FDI is not led by state-owned enterprises but by private companies that have relied neither on large loans from state-owned banks nor on subsidies from host governments. As one of the study’s authors observed, “Chinese government officials themselves may not be aware of the full range and aggregated total of these private-sector green investments overseas.”

Taken together, these developments signal a new phase in China’s global economic expansion. Unlike President Xi Jinping’s state-led Belt and Road Initiative, profit-oriented investments reflect both supply-side pressures - such as industrial overcapacity within China - and demand-side dynamics, with recipient countries increasingly tying market access to value-added processing

rather than natural-resource extraction.

Given that the full impact of these projects will become clear only years from now, many observers - particularly in advanced economies - could be caught off guard. While Chinese exports and extractive investments have often been viewed as threats to industrialization in recipient countries, the current wave of manufacturing FDI has the potential to strengthen domestic production, create jobs, and promote broader development goals. Even limited technology transfers could prove transformative, accelerating the clean-energy transition and reshaping global trade.

To be sure, China is not in the business of philanthropy. FDI - whether from the West, China, or the Gulf - is profit-driven, and sometimes motivated by rent-seeking. It can deliver significant benefits, but it also carries risks: environmental degradation, displacement, labor exploitation, foreign-exchange losses through profit repatriation, and costly technical fees or royalties. And when expected linkages and spillovers fail to materialize, the benefits remain highly localized.

As always, much depends on the policies adopted by host countries. Encouragingly, some export-oriented developing economies appear to have learned from Indonesia, where the government compelled Chinese firms to generate more domestic value-added production (particularly in nickel processing) as a condition for investment. Inspired by this, several governments are seeking to impose similar requirements on foreign investors, with greater emphasis on local production and knowledge transfer. For example, in Brazil, the consumer-electronics company Lenovo has established a joint research and development department to enhance its local digital intelligent manufacturing capabilities.

That said, even Indonesia’s relative success has not translated into higher real wages and better working conditions. Welcoming FDI is not enough; host countries also need stronger domestic regulation, public intervention, and regional cooperation to ensure that the gains are broadly shared.

A similar demand was at the heart of the 1955 Bandung Conference, hosted by Indonesia, which called for a fairer global economic order and greater cooperation among Asian and African countries. Notably, the resolution is still cited on Chinese government websites.

But fulfilling the Bandung Conference’s call for a fairer international economic order requires more than profit-driven investment. It requires governments that are willing to work together to develop markets that serve societies, not just shareholders.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome’s Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.



OP-ED

By Georgia Levenson Keohane

On Climate Change, Capital Must Follow Africa's Lead

NEW YORK - The postwar global development system has been dramatically altered - a source of conversation and consternation at last week's United Nations General Assembly and convenings on climate change. Multilateral development banks are stretched thin, while major donors like the United States and the European Union are slashing their foreign-aid budgets. The resource shortfalls are particularly pronounced when it comes to support for sustainable development and the green transition in emerging markets; African countries alone face a \$2.8 trillion financing gap to support their - and our - collective climate goals.

Yet despite the retrenchment, African leaders are writing this next chapter of climate action: entrepreneurs in Nairobi, fund managers in Lagos, grassroots innovators, public and private institutional investors, and political reformers across the continent are mobilizing to build a green economy.

With its abundant natural resources and rapidly growing workforce, Africa has the potential to achieve a clean-energy transition that powers sustainable, inclusive growth. But the loss of traditional development finance makes it more urgent than ever for investors, philanthropists, and other private-sector actors to support the region's green revolution. To this end, we at the Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF) are doubling down on African-led solutions as engines of sustainable economic growth and broad-based prosperity.

Clean energy is at the heart of these efforts. Today, roughly 600 million people across Africa still lack access to electricity, a major obstacle to propelling resilient economies capable of creating opportunities - jobs and mobility - for the millions of young Africans entering the workforce every year.

Fortunately, we know what works. Scaling proven technologies such as off-grid solar and climate-resilient infrastructure could help catalyze what Africa Climate Ventures' James I. Mwangi calls "climate-positive growth." But the large-scale deployment of these and other renewable energy technologies remains far too slow. For example, while Africa is home to 60% of the world's solar resources, it accounts for just 1% of installed solar capacity and 2% of global clean-energy investment.

These gaps stem largely from risks - real and perceived - that have discouraged public- and private-sector investors from committing capital to the region. At SEDF, we believe the greatest risk is inaction. Although Africa contributes only 2-3% of global carbon dioxide emissions, it is the world's most climate-vulnerable continent. By 2030, as many as 118 million of its poorest people - those living on less than \$1.90 per day - could be exposed to drought, floods, and extreme heat.

With Africa's population projected nearly to double, to 2.5 billion, by 2050, and urbanization accelerating, energy demand will surge. Without clean power and climate-resilient infrastructure, this demographic boom could become a carbon catastrophe. And as we have seen in countries around the world, governments that fail to deliver resilience and shared economic prosperity are vulnerable to instability, migration pressures, and political upheaval - all systemic risks for democracy and open society.

That is precisely why we invest - not in spite of the risks but because of them. To date, SEDF has committed \$55 million to initiatives led primarily by African investors and entrepreneurs, with additional commitments to follow. In some transactions, we take first-loss positions in blended capital stacks, encouraging more commercial partners to come on board.

In every case, we hope that, over time, proof of impact and financial returns will attract a broader set of investors, unlocking more capital for Africa's green growth. And with each investment, we seek to strengthen local capital-market infrastructure through innovative and enduring partnerships, like the recently announced Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa and Acumen's Hardest-to-Reach Initiative. It is essential to get this model right, particularly in light of the growing demand for the continent's critical and rare-earth minerals, and the opportunity to ensure this mineral wealth translates into broad-based prosperity.

In short, we are betting on a future in which African-led, inclusive, and pro-climate growth benefits us all.

Georgia Levenson Keohane is CEO of the Soros Economic Development Fund and Host of the Capital for Good podcast at Columbia Business School. She is the author of Capital and the Common Good: How Innovative Finance Is Tackling the World's Most Urgent Problems (Columbia University Press, 2016) and Social Entrepreneurship for the 21st Century: Innovation Across the Nonprofit, Private, and Public Sectors (McGraw Hill, 2012).

OPINION

By Shang-Jin Wei

India's Economy Is Stronger Than Trump Thinks

NEW YORK - India has long benefited from geopolitical arbitrage, maintaining working relationships with Russia, the United States, and Europe. But this delicate balancing act is now being tested by a series of policy shocks delivered by US President Donald Trump's administration. These disruptions, unlikely to ease anytime soon, raise a critical question: Can India retain its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy?

The most urgent challenge facing Indian policymakers is weathering the escalating trade war. In August, Trump imposed a 50% tariff on Indian imports, citing the need to reduce India's trade surplus with the US and punish the country for its massive purchases of Russian oil. Adding to the pressure, Trump has urged the European Union and other G7 countries to take even harsher steps - namely, to impose a 100% tariff on imports from India and China.

Trump's decision to hike H-1B visa fees to \$100,000 represents yet another blow to India's economy, particularly its IT services industry - one of the country's most dynamic growth engines. Currently, Indian nationals account for more than 70% of all H-1B holders, with most of them working in IT or technology-related sectors. Given this, it's hardly surprising that the share prices of Indian companies like Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and Wipro, which rely heavily on H-1B visas to access the US market, declined following Trump's announcement.

While Trump has labeled India a "dead economy," it is unclear whether he meant this as a statement of fact or a threat he will make good unless India offers sufficient concessions in its trade negotiations with the US. Either way, there is little evidence to suggest the Indian economy is at risk of collapsing anytime soon.

On the contrary, India is among the world's most vibrant economies. In July, before the new US tariffs were imposed, the International Monetary Fund projected that India's GDP will grow by 6.4% in 2025 and 2026 - well ahead of America's projected annual growth rate of 1.9%. No other major economy comes close, with the exception of China, at 4.8%.

Barring external shocks, India is well-positioned to sustain its rapid growth rate over the next decade and become the world's third-largest economy by 2030. Given its vast population and growth momentum, India could even overtake China and the US to emerge as the world's largest economy within the next 50 years.

That said, the extent to which US policy shifts might affect India's growth trajectory remains unclear. In the early 2000s, India was far less exposed to global trade than China was, with exports accounting for less than 15% of its GDP, compared with China's 20%. Since then, however, India's reliance on trade has increased significantly. Exports now make up more than 20% of GDP, leaving the country more vulnerable to trade shocks.

Given that the US is India's largest export market, Trump's tariffs will likely hit harder than similar actions by other trade partners. Still, it is important to remember that India is a continental economy, with domestic consumption playing a far greater role than external demand. Moreover, the EU's trade significance for India nearly matches that of the US, and China and the Middle East are also important export destinations. Consequently, while US tariff hikes are disruptive, they are far from fatal.

This is not to say that Indian policymakers can afford to be passive. To mitigate the impact of US restrictions, they must pursue a dual strategy comprising stimulative macroeconomic policies and a concerted effort to deepen trade ties with the EU, China, and the Middle East.

It is also worth noting that the relative importance of the US market is likely to decline as a result of Trump's protectionist trade policies. Should his administration stay the course, the EU and China may well surpass the US as the world's leading import destinations by 2028.

Beyond short-term policy responses aimed at offsetting the fall in US demand, the Indian authorities would be well advised to implement structural reforms. Key priorities for sustaining long-term growth include raising the female labor-force participation rate from 33% to levels much closer to China's 60%, improving the investment climate by tackling bureaucratic corruption, and upgrading infrastructure - roads, railways, ports, and airports - to lower the cost of production and trade.

By adopting these reforms, India will not only be able to weather Trump's tariff war in the short term but also sustain its growth miracle for years to come.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



ARTICLEARTICLE

# His Honor Chief Justice Gbeisay is Wrong

By Seltue Robert Karweaye Sr.

Liberia's Chief Justice Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay responded to accusations of nepotism on Friday, firmly defending both his and President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's decisions regarding the appointment of his son as an associate magistrate. Notably, his son is currently a third-year law student, which has raised concerns among critics.

In his defense, Chief Justice Gbeisay explained, "The President of Liberia possesses the legal authority to appoint individuals to the role of associate magistrate. My son is a proud Liberian, currently pursuing his legal education, and the president made this appointment in good faith, adhering to his constitutional duties. I find no issue with this decision. If anyone can provide me with a specific law that prevents the president from appointing a non-lawyer to the position of associate magistrate, I would be willing to resign from my position immediately."

His remarks were made in the wake of a strongly worded letter issued by the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia (NATJL), headed by Judge Nancy F. Sammy. The letter cautioned President Boakai that circumventing the established training pipeline offered by the Judicial Institute for prospective magistrates undermines the integrity of the legal system and poses a significant risk of politicizing the judiciary, particularly at the lower levels. This situation has prompted a broader dialogue about the qualifications required for judicial appointments and the potential implications for the rule of law in Liberia.

Chief Justice Yormie Gbeisay's defense of his decision to recommend his son's appointment by the President is deeply troubling and unacceptable. This action reflects an alarming attempt to normalize nepotism within Liberia's judicial system, which should be founded on principles of fairness, integrity, and independence. The Code of Conduct that governs public officials is explicit regarding this matter:

- **\*\*Section 1.3.12\*\*** clearly prohibits public officials from leveraging their positions to grant preferential treatment to relatives or allowing personal interests to interfere with their responsibilities to the public.
- **\*\*Section 9.7\*\*** explicitly forbids public officials from recommending or influencing the appointment of family members in institutions over which they exercise official oversight.

The President must bear equal responsibility for this troubling situation. By appointing his own relatives to sensitive and influential government positions, and by failing to reject the Chief

Justice's questionable recommendation, he is effectively institutionalizing nepotism within the government. This practice not only contradicts the very spirit of the Code of Conduct but also perpetuates the entrenched, corrupt practices that have historically impeded the fight against graft and undermined democratic governance in Liberia.

The implications of these actions are profound; they set a dangerous precedent that threatens the rule of law and the public's trust in a fair judicial process. Without immediate corrective measures, the principles of justice and equality before the law may be irrevocably compromised, paving the way for continued corruption and favoritism in public service.

Liberians have experienced the detrimental effects of nepotism firsthand throughout their history. The regime of William Richard Tolbert was notorious for promoting nepotism and partisanship, which eroded public trust and impaired effective governance. Similarly, under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's leadership, the increased prevalence of family appointments significantly undermined the moral authority of her administration and compromised her government's initiatives to combat corruption. This alarming trend should have served as a cautionary tale rather than a model to imitate. Public office ought to be viewed as a position of responsibility rather than a family heirloom, and no amount of legal maneuvering can legitimize such a blatant abuse of authority.

Chief Justice Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay must confront the reality that the practice of

nepotism severely compromises the efficiency of state governance and violates the fundamental principles of social justice and fairness. When favoritism dictates public appointments, it skews the competitive landscape, creating an environment ripe for inefficiencies and unequal opportunities. This destructive practice not only suppresses the aspirations and potential of deserving individuals but also hampers overall economic growth and development within society, stalling progress and innovation.

Furthermore, the implications of nepotism extend well beyond administrative inefficiencies; they can deeply erode the moral fabric of society itself. By cultivating a culture of entitlement and favoritism, nepotism detracts from the values of competence, accountability, and transparency, which are essential for creating a just and equitable society. It fosters a system in which personal connections take



precedence over qualifications, ultimately undermining public trust in governmental and judicial institutions.

In endorsing his son's appointment, Chief Justice Gbeisay has categorically violated Section 1.3.12 and Section 9.7 of the Code of Conduct, which exist to uphold ethical standards and preserve the integrity of the judiciary. His actions not only jeopardize the fundamental independence of the judicial system but also significantly erode public confidence in its capacity to deliver impartial and fair justice. The public's trust in the judiciary is vital for the functioning of a healthy democracy, and such breaches of ethical conduct can have far-reaching consequences on the public's perception of justice, fundamentally altering the relationship between citizens and their institutions.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LDEA drug fight receives boost

**-Agency receives 15 new vehicles**

The Government of Liberia has delivered a fleet of 15 brand-new vehicles to the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), valued at approximately US\$456,000, to intensify the fight against drug trafficking and abuse nationwide.

By Kruah Thompson  
ONROVIA, Sept. 30, 2025 - The consignment includes 12 Toyota Hilux pickups,



two Toyota Land Cruisers, and one Toyota Fortuner. LDEA Officials say the vehicles are intended to enhance the agency’s ability to combat the rising wave of drug addiction among Liberian youth, particularly the abuse of the synthetic drug, which has been linked to increasing deaths nationwide.

The intervention comes at a critical time for the LDEA, which has for years battled severe

has recently intensified arrests and raids on drug dens in neighborhoods, the deepening crisis of youth addiction has complicated enforcement efforts, leaving the LDEA under pressure to respond effectively.

On Monday, the new fleet was officially turned over to the agency. According to market estimates gathered by this paper, a 2023 Toyota Fortuner currently sells in Liberia for around US\$52,000, while a fully equipped Toyota Hilux 4x4 Double Cabin pickup costs US\$38,000. The combined cost of two Toyota Land Cruisers amounts to the government’s stated investment of about US\$456,000.

In a statement, the LDEA said the vehicles would be deployed to strengthen nationwide operations, improve mobility, and ensure quicker response times in communities hardest hit by the drug epidemic. The government, meanwhile, reaffirmed its commitment to backing law enforcement institutions in their battle against narcotics, describing the initiative as a “decisive step toward building a safer, drug-free Liberia.”

logistical and operational challenges, including Limited vehicles, insufficient funding, and porous border controls.

These challenges have hampered the agency’s efforts to curb narcotics trafficking and dismantle ghettos operating in urban and rural communities. While the new administration

Demanta Kokoyah residents demand immediate halt to “flawed” town hall project amid safety concerns

By Edwin N. Khakie  
Bong County, Electoral District #2 - What was intended to be a symbol of progress has now become the center of controversy, as furious residents of the Demanta Kokoyah Road community are demanding an immediate halt to the ongoing construction of their long-awaited town hall.

The US\$130,000 project, funded through the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) and contracted to Sesay Brothers Construction Company, is under heavy fire from locals who allege the building is being erected without pillars or angle bars a glaring omission they say compromises both safety and durability. “We cannot sit idly by and watch millions of Liberian taxpayers’ dollars wasted on a structure that may collapse on our children tomorrow,” declared community representatives Lincoln Morris and Joseph Gbaryan. “If nothing changes, we will shut this project down ourselves.” The allegations strike at the heart of public trust, with many residents accusing both LACE and the contractor of

cutting corners at the expense of human lives.

In a sharp rebuttal, Ansu Sesay, CEO of Sesay Brothers Construction, dismissed the claims, insisting his company is only working in line with the design provided by LACE. “We are building strictly according to the blueprint,” Sesay told reporters. “If the community

wants modifications like pillars, they should address that to LACE, not us.” But the explanation has done little to calm rising tensions. For many, the controversy revives lingering frustrations about mismanaged development projects and the lack of accountability from public

institutions. The town hall project, launched years ago under Senator Prince Moye when he served as District #2 Representative, was supposed to be a landmark of community pride. Instead, it now risks becoming a political flashpoint.

Meanwhile, Bong County Superintendent Loleyah Hawa Norris has stepped into the fray, urging residents to remain calm while promising swift intervention. “This project will be completed to the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Ex-Speaker seeks US\$4.5m in defamation & economic loss

**-In lawsuit against Bukonjehdeh Group**

Ex-speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa has filed a defamation lawsuit against the Liberian firm Bukonjehdeh Group of Companies and its CEO, claiming US\$4.5 million in damages.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; September 30, 2025 - Former House Speaker, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, has filed a lawsuit against Bukonjehdeh Group of Companies and its Chief Executive Officer, Elton Johns, seeking US\$4.5 million in damages for defamation, economic loss, and emotional distress.

Filed at the Civil Law Court for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Montserrado County, the suit alleges that the defendants have disseminated defamatory and malicious falsehoods intended to harm Koffa's professional reputation and economic interests.

In his complaint, Koffa alleges that the defendants made false public statements suggesting

Koffa with the intention of humiliating and economically harming him. The plaintiff states that he will rely on video and audio recordings to support his claims.

The suit outlines that Koffa was forced to sever ties with various local and international entities due to the defamatory campaign, resulting in economic hardship. He accuses the defendants of intentionally and recklessly causing him emotional trauma, including mental anguish, stress, and public ridicule.

Damages Sought: 4,000,000 USD in Special Damages, representing the loss of business relationships and economic benefits.

\$500,000 USD in General



Ex-speaker koffa

he engaged in financial misconduct and dishonesty, which severely damaged his public and professional standing. The statements were made with actual malice and reckless disregard for the truth, the complaint notes. The plaintiff cited Bakleh v. Greene, 14 LLR 204 (1960), asserting that the defendants’ comments fall under defamation per se, meaning they are inherently harmful without needing further proof of damage. Koffa claims the remarks ridiculed him publicly and led to a significant loss of reputation and professional esteem, both locally and internationally.

Elton John, the 2nd defendant, is specifically accused of making direct references to Jonathan Browne

Damages for pain, suffering, and emotional distress.

Filed through International Law Group, the plaintiff’s legal team has requested that the defendants be held jointly and severally liable, meaning each defendant could be responsible for the entire judgment.

The Civil Law Court has already issued a Writ of Summons for the defendants to appear in court to respond to the allegations. Failure to do so could result in a default judgment in Koffa’s favor.

This high-profile lawsuit is expected to draw significant public and legal interest due to the stature of the plaintiff and the serious nature of the allegations. Editing by





MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberia is stuck

**-PAP sounds alarm**

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; September 30, 2025 - The Organizing Chairperson of the proposed

develop the ambition to lift this country, nothing will change," Sirleaf said. He expressed disbelief that Liberia, after more than a century of independence, still

focuses on governance reform and social transformation.

"I'm here to talk about the vision and political philosophy of the PAP," he noted. "At some point, we will stop talking and start acting, implementing solutions that will transform lives." Sirleaf emphasized that PAP's ideology is social democratic, pragmatic, and action-oriented, aimed at truly representing the interests of the people.

He was critical of existing political parties, including the National Patriotic Party (NPP), Unity Party (UP), and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), accusing them of campaigning on people-oriented slogans, but failing to deliver meaningful results once in power. "Look at the state of our capital city. It's embarrassing that European diplomats have to point out how dirty Monrovia is. People go to hospitals and die because of poor healthcare. We cannot accept this anymore," he lamented. The PAP, Sirleaf explained, draws inspiration from countries like Malaysia and Singapore, once rural agricultural societies that transformed into high-income, tech-driven economies through strong leadership and long-term planning.

People's Action Party (PAP), Mr. Ahmed K. Sirleaf, has described Liberia as being "trapped" in a cycle of underdevelopment, pointing to the country's limited ambition and lack of strategic investment, as key barriers to progress. Speaking on OK FM on Monday, September 29, 2025, Mr. Sirleaf expressed deep concern about the nation's developmental stagnation, noting that Liberia continues to lag far behind other countries in terms of infrastructure and economic transformation.

"This country is going in circles. We are trapped. The kind of development we see in other countries isn't magic. Until we

does not have a national budget exceeding one billion United States dollars. "Are you kidding me? How can we invest in bold public projects like roads without serious financial commitment?" he asked. Sirleaf dismissed the narrative that Liberia lacks money, referencing the country's rich natural resources, particularly iron ores that are exported to the United States, Europe, and other regions, contributing significantly to the development of those nations, instead. He said the PAP is determined to change the current trajectory by presenting a bold and action-oriented platform that

## Lonestar Cell MTN ends MoMo Heroes of Change 2025

Monrovia, Liberia; September 30, 2025 - The curtain fell on the 2025 MoMo Heroes of Change efforts Sensitivity: Publicare The spotlight then turned to the everyday heroes whose selfless participation and recognition.

2025 MoMo Heroes of Change with a colourful and inspiring making Liberia a better place." Top 5 finalists, who returned to finale at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Monrovia.

According to Lonestar Cell MTN, the event held September 27, 2025 brought to a close weeks of identifying and

spotlighting Liberians, who are committed to touching lives and enabling progress in their communities and across the nation.

Hosted by celebrated compere MacDonald Nah, the evening embraced an African attire dress code that set the stage with the vibrant colours and cultural pride of Liberia.

The GAM company says the night began with welcome remarks from Ms. Nula Enders, Brand and Communications Coordinator at Lonestar Cell MTN, who underscored the company's



Winners Post With Lonestar Cell MTN CEO

## Budgit Liberia contributes 100K Liberian Dollars towards PUL Headquarters project

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; September 30, 2025 - In a powerful demonstration of commitment to press freedom and democratic values, Budgit Liberia, a Liberian-owned, youth-led and civil society organization, on Monday, September 29, 2025, donated L\$100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Liberian Dollars) to the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) toward the purchase of cement for the Union's long-awaited National Headquarters Project in Sinkor, Monrovia. This bold act marks the first donation by any Liberian civil society organization toward the PUL headquarters initiative, signaling Budgit Liberia's growing leadership not only in governance and fiscal transparency, but also in defending media independence and institutional sustainability. Presenting the cash donation, Budgit Liberia Team Lead Mr. Abraham Varney, described the contribution as part of the organization's unwavering belief in the importance of an independent press. "We believe

and exemplary gesture" that reflects the spirit of patriotism and partnership. "This is not just a donation; this is a call to action for the civil society community. It is a strong message that the future of independent media in Liberia matters," Kanubah declared.

He noted that the contribution was deeply symbolic, coming from a youth-led, Liberian-owned institution committed to transparency, inclusion, and national progress. "Budgit Liberia has shown that CSOs are not just watchdogs we are builders. Today, they are helping build the future of Liberian journalism," he added.

Kanubah expressed deep gratitude to Mr. Varney and the entire Budgit Liberia team, noting that their donation will help accelerate the PUL's goal of owning a permanent space free from political interference and operational uncertainty.

The PUL Headquarters project, which has seen limited progress due to funding challenges, has now received a new wave of momentum, thanks to Budgit Liberia's timely intervention.



that the Press Union must not rely solely on political actors to build its headquarters. If we want an independent media, then we, as civil society, must take the lead in securing that independence," Mr. Varney stated. Varney emphasized that the headquarters project is more than a building; it is a symbol of the Press Union's autonomy and integrity. He urged other CSOs and the public to step forward and join the effort, stating that "democracy is weakened when the media is dependent on politics for survival."

"This donation is our way of saying that Budgit Liberia stands for a free press, for truth-telling, and for national development driven by transparency and integrity," Varney added.

Receiving the donation, PUL President Mr. Julius Kullie Kanubah, lauded Budgit Liberia for what he termed a "historic

The headquarters is expected to house offices, a press center, training rooms, and provide a safe space for media practitioners across the country. Budgit Liberia is a non-profit civic-tech and advocacy organization committed to accountable governance, fiscal transparency, and inclusive development. A member of the Government of Liberia's Fiscal Transparency Advisory Group, the organization works across sectors to empower citizens and institutions to co-create a more just and sustainable future.

Over the years, Budgit Liberia has led numerous initiatives that strengthen public financial management, promote youth participation, and bridge the gap between the government and the people through access to simplified budget and development information. Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Français

## Conflit autour des institutions méthodistes

La crise qui secoue l'Église Méthodiste Unie (United Methodist Church - UMC) au Liberia a franchi une nouvelle étape. Le Département de

prétendant gérer l'École Méthodiste Unie Everlyn S. Chapman, située dans le quartier de New Georgia Housing Estate, et en délivrant de faux bulletins et certificats de fin d'études aux élèves et à



l'Éducation de la Conférence Annuelle du Liberia (LAC/UMC) accuse le groupe dissident, la Global Methodist Church (GMC), d'avoir mis en place un système frauduleux en

leurs parents. Dans un communiqué, la Conférence Annuelle du Liberia précise que le Bureau de l'Évêque Résident ainsi que le ministère de l'Éducation ont été officiellement saisis. « Il convient de rappeler que seule

l'administration officielle de l'UMC est habilitée à délivrer des bulletins et certificats valides de l'École Méthodiste Unie Everlyn S. Chapman », avertit le texte. Le communiqué rappelle également que la GMC avait déjà tenté de s'emparer par la force de l'établissement scolaire ainsi que du lieu de culte attendant, allant jusqu'à causer des actes de vandalisme. Face à ces attaques répétées, la LAC/UMC avait saisi la Cour de droit civil, laquelle a confirmé que toutes les propriétés de l'UMC au Liberia appartiennent légalement à la Conférence Annuelle du Liberia. Selon le document, la GMC entretient « une campagne de désinformation », laissant entendre qu'elle aurait demandé au juge saisi de se récuser, de revenir sur sa décision et qu'elle aurait porté l'affaire devant la Cour suprême. Ces affirmations, qualifiées de trompeuses par l'UMC,

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## Bong County : ArcelorMittal Liberia lance un programme de formation dans les communautés riveraines de sa concession

Bong County, 11 septembre 2025. Dans le cadre de ses efforts visant à renforcer les compétences en numératie et en littératie des habitants des communautés riveraines de ses sites d'exploitation, l'ArcelorMittal Liberia Training Academy (AMTLA) a lancé un nouveau programme de formation dans le comté de Bong. L'initiative a pour objectif de doter les candidats à l'emploi et les futurs stagiaires des compétences de base nécessaires pour réussir les tests d'aptitude exigés par l'Académie.

La cérémonie de lancement, tenue le 11 septembre à Greenhill Quarry, a réuni l'équipe de l'AMTLA conduite par son responsable de formation, Victor Loubser, des agents des relations communautaires, des chefs locaux ainsi que 22 candidats sélectionnés. M. Loubser a expliqué que de nombreux postulants échouent aux tests d'entrée en raison de lacunes en

anglais. Pour combler ce déficit, l'AMTLA a conçu un programme de huit semaines axé sur l'anglais, les mathématiques, la préparation à l'emploi, la gestion des affaires et l'intelligence émotionnelle. Chaque module est suivi d'évaluations Pour mesurer les progrès réalisés. Il a précisé que cette initiative s'inscrit dans la vision du PDG d'ArcelorMittal Global Mining, Kleber Silva, qui insiste sur la nécessité d'accorder la priorité aux populations des communautés riveraines dans les opportunités d'emploi et de formation. « Les opérations d'ArcelorMittal doivent profiter en premier lieu à ces

communautés, directement affectées par nos activités. Les bénéficiaires doivent prendre cette formation au sérieux, car elle leur donnera un meilleur accès aux opportunités futures », a-t-il souligné. L'AMTLA, en partenariat avec l'African Bible College University, a déjà formé et déployé des enseignants dans les comtés de Grand Bassa, Bong et Nimba pour mettre en œuvre ce programme. Les candidats ont été répartis en trois niveaux – P1, P2 et P3 – en fonction de leurs résultats aux évaluations initi

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## Éditorial

### Une voix de sagesse

L'appel lancé récemment par l'ancienne présidente du Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, en faveur d'actions concrètes plutôt que de simples discours, résonne comme un cri du cœur. Ce n'est pas seulement la voix d'une dirigeante, mais aussi celle d'une mère qui a connu de près les ravages de la guerre civile et a dirigé son pays dans l'après-conflit en tant que première cheffe d'État élue du Liberia.

Sa mise en garde ferme selon laquelle le silence de la communauté internationale face aux conflits en cours à Gaza, en Ukraine ou en Afrique trahit la promesse fondatrice des Nations unies est d'une justesse implacable. L'ONU, créée pour préserver la paix mondiale, apparaît aujourd'hui comme un « bulldog édenté », observant sans agir alors que la Russie dévaste l'Ukraine et qu'Israël ravage Gaza.

À 80 ans, Mme Sirleaf déplore une organisation qui ne ressemble en rien à ce que le monde avait imaginé à sa création : une institution mondiale capable de prévenir la destruction et d'arrêter les massacres. Elle rappelle avec raison que la paix ne peut être atteinte par des discours solennels, mais seulement par des actions concrètes sur le terrain – protéger les civils, instaurer la sécurité et reconstruire la confiance.

S'exprimant la semaine dernière à New York devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies, lors de la session de haut niveau sur la paix et la sécurité, l'ancienne présidente libérienne a dénoncé l'échec des structures multilatérales, incapables de répondre aux défis d'un monde façonné par la technologie. Elle a souligné l'injustice d'un système où une nation peut lancer des centaines de drones armés pour tuer et conquérir, tandis que la communauté internationale reste spectatrice.

« Devons-nous continuer à accepter le déséquilibre des rapports de force mondiaux, tel qu'il se reflète au Conseil de sécurité et dans l'usage du droit de veto qui paralyse les outils de maintien de la paix ? », a-t-elle interrogé, avant de rappeler que les commémorations sans franchise sont vaines. « Le monde attend de savoir si l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies protégera les civils et fera respecter le droit international humanitaire. Ce ne sont pas des paroles de désespoir, mais un appel à réparer. »

L'ancienne lauréate du prix Nobel de la paix a averti que la crédibilité du système multilatéral est en jeu, alors que les conflits s'étendent du Soudan et du Sahel jusqu'à Gaza et l'Ukraine.

S'appuyant sur l'expérience libérienne de sortie de guerre, elle a rappelé ce que la coopération internationale peut accomplir. Grâce aux Casques bleus, aux organisations régionales africaines et aux initiatives portées par des femmes, le Liberia a pu désarmer les combattants, réformer ses institutions sécuritaires et restaurer la confiance publique. Mais, a-t-elle insisté, « là où les armes se taisent, doivent immédiatement suivre la formation, l'emploi, la justice et la dignité ».

Face au mutisme sur les armes meurtrières utilisées en Ukraine, à Gaza, au Soudan et au Sahel, la voix d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf se dresse, pleine de compassion pour les vies humaines – en particulier celles des femmes et des enfants innocents.

Il appartient désormais aux dirigeants du monde d'entendre cet appel de sagesse et d'agir sans délai pour sauver des vies, rétablir la paix et raviver l'espérance d'une humanité solidaire.



# Français

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## Conflit autour des institutions

auraient encouragé de nouvelles tentatives de saisie illégale de biens, notamment des églises, des centres de santé et des écoles, qui desservent non seulement les membres de l'UMC mais également l'ensemble de la population libérienne.

La LAC dénonce par ailleurs une prise de contrôle forcée de la clinique de Weala dans le comté de Margibi, imputée à la GMC, et juge ces actes « provocateurs » et « contraires à l'État de droit ». Elle accuse la direction de la GMC de falsifier ou de modifier le nom d'institutions légitimes, telles que des cliniques et des écoles méthodistes unies, afin de les revendiquer indûment.

« Nous appelons les autorités compétentes – don't le Liberia Medical and Dental Council, le ministère de la Santé, le ministère de

l'Éducation, ainsi que le public – à prendre acte que l'Église Méthodiste Unie au Liberia n'a procédé à aucun changement de nom concernant ses institutions, y compris l'École Méthodiste Unie Everlyn S. Chapman », précise le communiqué.

La Conférence Annuelle met également en garde les parents, tuteurs et parrains contre l'acceptation de documents scolaires non reconnus par le ministère de l'Éducation et le système scolaire méthodiste, soulignant que de tels documents pourraient compromettre l'avenir académique des élèves et leur admission dans d'autres universités.

Pour l'heure, le groupe dissident Global Methodist Church, dirigé par le Dr Jerry Kula, n'a pas encore réagi officiellement à ces accusations.

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## Bong County : ArcelorMittal Liberia lance un programme de

ales. Chacun doit suivre huit semaines de cours de numératie et de littératie, avec possibilité de progresser vers un niveau supérieur selon ses performances.

Dans le comté de Bong, trois centres accueillent actuellement les sessions : Greenhill Quarry, Gbarta Public School et Rock Crusher. À Gbarta Public School, la formatrice Ruth Kamara a indiqué que, malgré les difficultés initiales de certains apprenants en lecture et en écriture, les 24 participants sont désormais sur la bonne voie. De son côté, Tony F. Gborlorwolo, formateur à Rock Crusher, a noté une nette amélioration de la fréquentation et du

rendement des participants après des débuts hésitants.

Dans le comté de Nimba, le programme se déroule simultanément à Lugbehyee, Gbapa, Zolowee et Zuluyee, avec des résultats comparables.

À travers cette initiative, l'AMTLA ne se limite pas à répondre aux besoins immédiats en alphabétisation et en calcul. Elle vise également à préparer les jeunes des communautés riveraines à accéder à des moyens de subsistance durables, à des emplois qualifiés et à de futures opportunités de formation professionnelle.

## Le Liberia accueille la 8 Conférence de l'Association des Administrations Maritimes Africaines

Plus de 200 délégués protection de l'environnement, le commerce, mais aussi le rôle de l'économie bleue dans l'avenir économique du continent. Pour la première fois depuis la fin de sa guerre civile, le Liberia s'apprête à accueillir la 8 Conférence et Assemblée générale de coopération internationale, L'innovation numérique au service du secteur maritime, L'autonomisation des femmes et des jeunes dans l'économie bleue, Le renforcement des capacités et le développement des infrastructures, La diversité et l'inclusion dans les professions

maritimes, La mise en place de guichets uniques maritimes pour faciliter les échanges, Ainsi que les mécanismes de financement durable des projets maritimes en Afrique. L'ouverture officielle sera marquée par une intervention du vice-président Jeremiah Kpang Kounk, qui adressera un message de bienvenue aux délégations. Le commissaire maritime et directeur général de l'Autorité maritime du Liberia, Me Neto Zarzar Lighe Sr., conduira la délégation nationale, insistant sur la nécessité de renforcer la coopération en matière de régulation et de sécurité maritimes.



## Cllr. Gongloe met en garde contre les dérives qui mènent à la guerre

L'ancien candidat à la présidence et éminent avocat défenseur des droits humains, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a mis en garde le gouvernement du président Joseph Boakai contre les dérives de la cupidité, de la corruption et de l'injustice, rappelant qu'elles ont été les véritables déclencheurs des quatorze années de guerre civile au Liberia. S'exprimant le 27 septembre 2025 lors d'une conférence organisée par le New Liberian Women Organization Skills Training and Advocacy Center, en partenariat avec la Universal Peace Federation, autour du thème « La paix commence avec vous », Cllr. Gongloe a affirmé qu'aucun progrès durable n'était possible tant que la violence continuait de détruire des vies.

« Mes chers compatriotes, la guerre qui a dévasté notre pays n'a pas commencé avec les armes, mais avec la cupidité, la corruption et l'injustice. La paix qui sauvera le Liberia ne viendra pas seulement des soldats ou des discours, mais de la décision de chacun : je ne tricherai pas, je ne volerai pas, je n'opprimerai pas. Je vivrai comme si chaque enfant était le mien, chaque vie ma responsabilité », a-t-il déclaré. Le leader politique du Liberian People's Party (LPP) a invité les participants à s'interroger : sont-ils des artisans de paix ou des auteurs de troubles, élèvent-ils les autres ou les abaissent-ils ? Selon lui, si chacun adopte cette attitude, la paix s'étendra



des foyers aux communautés, des écoles aux églises, et finalement à toute la nation. Un engagement personnel et politique

Revenant sur sa candidature à la présidentielle de 2023 et sur son intention de se représenter en 2029, Cllr. Gongloe a souligné que sa quête du pouvoir n'était pas une ambition personnelle, mais un engagement au service du peuple :

« Je veux balayer la corruption de notre gouvernement et démontrer que le Liberia peut être meilleur - avec de meilleures écoles, de meilleurs soins de santé, des logements abordables, davantage de nourriture, des routes décentes, plus d'emplois et une égalité de traitement pour tous, guidés par le respect de l'État de droit et des droits humains. » Il a appelé chaque citoyen, chaque leader et chaque communauté à incarner les valeurs de paix qu'ils proclament.

« Que ce soit dans cette institution ou au plus haut sommet de l'État, du village le plus pauvre au quartier le plus riche, que chacun devienne une bougie de paix pour éclairer l'obscurité de la violence », a-t-il exhorté. es leçons du passé

Rappelant l'histoire récente du pays, l'avocat a souligné que le recours répété à la violence n'avait jamais apporté de solution durable.

En 1980, le coup d'État militaire a mis fin au régime de parti unique, mais il a fallu attendre cinq ans pour des élections, jugées par beaucoup ni libres ni équitables.

Le 12 novembre 1985, une nouvelle flambée de violence a éclaté, sans résoudre les problèmes, mais au prix de nombreuses vies.

Le 24 décembre 1989, à la veille de Noël, la rébellion armée a plongé le pays dans 14 années de guerre civile, jusqu'aux premières élections véritablement démocratiques de 2005. Pour Cllr. Gongloe, la leçon est claire :

« Si chaque Libérien s'engage à ne jamais utiliser la violence comme solution, alors la violence disparaîtra de



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## U.S. Chargé d’Affaires visits APM Terminals

Zadrozny emphasized this point, noting: “It is encouraging to see the critical role APM Terminals Liberia and the Freeport of Monrovia play in supporting Liberia’s growth. A well-functioning, efficient port does more than move goods; it creates opportunities, attracts investment, and strengthens the foundation for long-term development. The United States is proud to support efforts that make Liberia a place where businesses can thrive.”

He further underscored the importance of competitiveness in port operations, adding: “For American businesses to choose Liberia, efficiency and reliability at the port are essential. Ensuring that Liberia remains competitive makes it possible to attract more trade and investment, and that is where we see

significant opportunities ahead.” The visit reflected the shared commitment of the United States and Liberia’s private sector partners to fostering stronger economic ties. Both sides aim to create conditions that support trade growth and wider economic opportunity for Liberia by working together to promote efficiency and sustainability at the Freeport of Monrovia. APM Terminals Liberia reaffirmed its commitment to invest in long-term capacity upgrade, safety, and skills development, including training programs to strengthen local expertise and to collaborate constructively with the National Port Authority (NPA) and Government of Liberia, on future plans that keep the Freeport of Monrovia competitive as Liberia’s primary economic gateway.

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## Demanta Kokoyah residents demand immediate halt

expectations of the people,” she assured. Norris vowed to engage both LACE and Sesay Brothers to make immediate adjustments and restore public confidence. As the standoff deepens, the Demanta Kokoyah town hall project is no longer just about bricks and mortar; it has become a litmus test for government credibility, and the safety of ordinary Liberians. For now, all eyes are on LACE and Bong County authorities: will they act decisively to address the people’s concerns, or allow another development project to collapse under the weight of poor supervision and public distrust?

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## Chief Justice Gbeisay, Judge Sammy face off

her, saying that non-law school graduates had been appointed as Associate Magistrates in different areas. Commenting on the issues related to nepotism in her family, regarding her husband and brother-in-law serving in government, she said that her husband had occupied that position for a long time. “Your Honor, you also raised the issue while you were speaking, saying that those who speak equity must come with clean hands, and you mentioned my husband. Yes, my husband is an Assistant Minister, and he has served in that capacity for 18 years. I met him while he was already serving in that position, before I even became a judge or married him. His job has nothing to do with the work I am doing now. So, I do not see any conflict of interest between his job and mine.” She contended. “We are talking about the integrity of the Judiciary, Your Honor. So, when they gave me that information, I told them: whatever information you are giving me, let it be credible, because I don’t want to be raising issues on your behalf before it turns out to be false. Let it be legitimate.” She stated. Accordingly, she added that they gave her the list of eight persons, and that is


how she wrote a communication, requesting the Chief Justice’s intervention to safeguard the integrity of the Judiciary, something she claimed was the tone of her letter. “What made this issue get out of hand, I don’t know. My letter was not a bad letter. But how it got to the public is what disappointed all of us. I don’t feel good about it. In fact, I even wrote the Associate Magistrates, telling them: You can’t be doing this to me after you complained to me and then allowed the communication to leak to the public. Your Honor, I was very angry with them, so I did a lengthy communication to them, expressing my disappointment that the letter had leaked.” She stated. She clarified that she has nothing to do with the leakage of that letter, adding that the one who mentioned his son’s appointment, and noted that she is a sixty-year-old woman, a judge, and a lawyer, so she would not be so unprofessional as to send him a letter and then release it on social media thus distancing herself. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Public outrage

not for how long he was abroad, but because the country was hard and he kept traveling with bloated delegations that cost taxpayers’ money,” another source added. Minister of Information Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, however, dismissed the criticisms, stating that the focus should be on national development, not comparisons with previous administrations. Despite the official defense, the optics of luxury spending and grand infrastructure for presidential use are casting a long shadow over the Boakai administration’s credibility, especially in a nation where basic services remain inaccessible to many. Editing by Jonathan Browne



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### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB. NO/LCU/ RB/ 005/24/25)

**For the Installation of 100 kVA Solar Farm at Lofa County University**

**Date of Issue: September 24, 2025**

Lofa County University (LCU) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified contractors for the **installation of an 100 kVA solar power system (solar farm)** at its main campus in Voinjama, Lofa County. The installation aims to ensure reliable, clean, and sustainable energy for university operations.

#### 1. Scope of Work

The project includes but is not limited to:

- Design, supply, and installation of a 100 kVA capacity solar photovoltaic (PV) system with inverters and battery backup
- Mounting structures, charge controllers, wiring, protection systems, and safety switches
- Training for university maintenance staff
- Testing and commissioning of the system
- Provision of six (6) months **defect liability coverage** upon commissioning

#### 2. Bid Eligibility and Requirements

Bidders must meet the following minimum criteria:

- a. Valid business registration
- b. Valid tax clearance
- c. PPCC Certification of Registration
- d. Experience in at least three (3) similar solar installations in the last five (5) years
- e. Technical and financial capacity to undertake the project
- f. Valid Ministry of Mines and Energy or Public Works license for electrical/solar work in Liberia
- g. Past performance records including the names and contact numbers of at least five clients.
- h. Demonstration of access to equipment and qualified personnel
- i. Bid Securing Declaration

#### 3. Bid Submission and Opening

- a. **Deadline for Bid Submission:** October 24 2025 @ 3:00 PM
- b. **Place of Submission:** Office of the Procurement Unit, Lofa County University, Voinjama City
- c. **Opening of Bids:** same as submission shortly after the deadline at the LCU Conference Room
- d. **Mode of Submission:** Scaled hard copy in one original and two copies

#### 4. Bid Security

All bids must be accompanied by a **bid security** of not less than **2% of the total bid price**, in the form of a Bank Guarantee or Certified Manager’s Check, valid for **90 days** from the bid opening date.

#### 5. Contract Duration and Defect Liability

- a. The project shall be completed within **90 calendar days** from the date of contract signing.
- b. The **Defect Liability Period** shall be **six (6) months** following the date of final acceptance and commissioning.

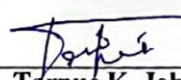
#### 6. Clarifications


Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address below during office hours (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday):

**Office of the Procurement Director**  
Lofa County University, Voinjama City  
Email: [tarnuek.johnson84@gmail.com](mailto:tarnuek.johnson84@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0770409279/0880685984/0777126660

#### 7. Reservation of Rights

Lofa County University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

Signed by:   
**Tarnuek K. Johnson**  
Procurement Director

  
**Danwolo B. S. Catakaw, Sr.**  
Vice President for Administration/ LCU



# Chief Justice Gbeisay, Judge Sammy face offPublic outrage

Bad blood is boiling between His Honor, Chief Justice Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay, and the President of the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia, Judge Nancy F. Sammy, over allegations of nepotism.

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, His Honor, Yamie QuiQui Gbeisay, the



National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia (NATJL) and the Resident Judge of Lofa County, Nancy F. Sammy, have faced-off here publicly, in a heated argument over nepotism, conflict of interest in the judiciary and government, revealing deep secrets about their families thus, bringing the judiciary to public disrepute.

Section 9.7 of the Code of Conduct for Public Official says, "A public official may not appoint, employ, promote, advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement, in a civilian or military position in the agency or branch of Government in which he or she is serving, or have jurisdiction or control, any individual who is a Relative, as defined in Section 1.3.21 of this Code. An individual who is a Relative of a Public Official may not be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a military or civilian position in an agency or branch of Government if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement has been influenced or advocated by the Public Official. Any such appointment upon investigation shall be declared null and void. Upon being declared guilty in accordance with due process, the appointing authority shall be subject to dismissal, suspension or impeachment in accordance with due process."

Chief Justice Gbeisay, over the weekend in Lofa County during an acquaintance visit to the County, sharply reacted to the NATJL communication signed by their President, Judge Sammy, regarding the appointment of his (Chief

Justice Gbeisay's) son by President Joseph N. Boakai to serve as magistrate in the judiciary, something they see as illegal and nepotistic.

But, responding to the Trial Judges through its President during the meeting, Chief Justice Gbeisay said that it's very wrong for Judge Sammy to have accused him of such an allegation and raised such an alarm when in fact, she is part of the same practice.

He quoted that it's wrong for one who is living in a glass house to throw a stone, and he who preaches equity should come with clean hands, and if anyone shows one finger at a person, an additional four are coming in return; therefore, she should refer to herself on the subject matter.

"You are a Resident Judge; your husband, Cllr. Aaron Kpanlie is an Assistant Minister for Taxation. Also, his brother, who is your brother-in-law, Stanley S. Kpaline, is a member of the Good Governance Commission. So, if you say my son couldn't serve, you have to resign. I have not violated any law."

Justice Gbeisay countered. Defending his son's appointment by President Joseph N. Boakai as Magistrate and the subsequent appointment of non-lawyers as Magistrates, he argued that President Boakai and he have violated no law.

According to the Chief Justice, a few weeks ago, he recommended some magistrates to President Boakai, including his son, most of whom he claimed are law school graduates and students.

He explained that his son is a third-year law school student at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia, but he has been receiving calls following the appointment of those magistrates and his son, especially after receiving the letter from the NTJA, which

was shared on Facebook, raising alarm.

He argued that the law and Constitution grant President Boakai rights to appoint people to the judiciary, but when it comes to a stipendiary magistrate, the law mandates that the person shall be a law school graduate; therefore, if the President makes an error in that direction, the Chief Justice can call the President to order.

Therefore, he contended that when it comes to the appointment of Magistrate and Associate Magistrate, the President has the power to do so, while defending the fact that his son is of age and is also a Liberian in law school, which he sees as qualifying him. He stated that the judiciary still has Magistrates, who are not lawyers, and they are on the payroll, while arguing that the fact that they decided to train university graduates to serve as Magistrates didn't take away the President's appointment power to appoint associate magistrates.

The Chief Justice further indicated that there are precedent cases in the judiciary where law school students were appointed to serve as magistrates; therefore, the President is not wrong in appointing his son.

"So, I nominated him to the President, and the President sees him fit to appoint him. I don't see anything wrong with that, Madam. So, the President and I didn't violate any law; therefore, I can't intervene and advise him. Now, if you can show me any law that prohibits the President from appointing a non-lawyer as an Associate Magistrate, I will resign; I challenge you. I know what the law is, but it's unfortunate that the judges, who should interpret the law, don't know the elementary basis of the law. Don't make statements that will undermine the reform that my administration is undertaking." Chief Justice Gbeisay concluded.

However, responding to the Chief Justice, the President of the National Association of Trial Judges, Judge Nancy F. Sammy, stated that a few days after the appointments were made by the President, the Associate Magistrates brought their complaint to

A new Presidential Villa constructed in Foya District, hometown of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Lofa County, reportedly at a cost of US\$10 Million, is raising outrage from ordinary Liberians.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; September 30, 2025 - A newly constructed Presidential Villa, reportedly valued at over US\$10 million, has sparked controversy in Liberia, raising questions about its funding and prioritization amid national economic hardship.

The project is located in Foya District, Lofa County, birthplace of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

The construction was carried out by MUSNS Groups Incorporated, headed by Joe Mulbah, a known associate of the President. Edward Yamba is said to have served as Chief Engineer for the project. He broke ground on September 10, 2024, according to Eddie D. Jarwolo, a social activist and civil society leader at Naymote Partners for Democratic Development. Source of financing for the villa remains

people from economic deprivation, the administration is prioritizing personal comfort and loyalty to its political allies.

This perception was further fueled by reports that the President had recently acquired a US\$1.2 million armored vehicle, a 2025 Lexus LX 700HR Super Ultra Luxury SUV.

Critics argue that the expenditure contradicts President Boakai's earlier promises of modest government spending.

The Executive Protection Service (EPS) defended the vehicle purchase, citing the deteriorating condition of the previous presidential fleet and the necessity of high-level security for the head of state.

Yet, the public backlash has continued, exacerbated by reports of the President leading a delegation of over 40 people to Japan for the Ninth Tokyo



unclear, and the involvement, or lack thereof, of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) has not been publicly addressed. Currently, the site is under tight security, guarded by state forces. Activist Jarwolo criticized the project as a misplaced priority, stating that a US\$10 million investment could have funded a factory that would generate employment and economic growth for the people of Lofa County.

"What rationale exists for spending over \$10 million on a Presidential Villa when the residents of that district are deprived of fundamental public services and economic prospects?" Jarwolo wrote in a public post on Facebook.

President Boakai, who campaigned on a platform of "rescue" and reform, has faced growing scrutiny here for what critics call self-serving governance. Many argue that, instead of rescuing the Liberian

International Conference on African Development (TICAD-9) and Expo 2025. The trip occurred amidst delayed salaries for civil servants and university professors, further deepening public frustration. Sources indicate that the government claims Japan requested over 50 participants from Liberia, but no official documentation has been made public. The Unity Party, now in power, previously criticized former President George Weah for leading similar large delegations abroad, calling them wasteful and hypocritical in times of economic hardship.

"It seems that all the justification of the Joseph Nyuma Boakai and Jeremiah Kpan KOUNG administration is not necessary," said a source familiar with the internal debate. "The Unity Party used to criticize ex-President Weah,



## ***-Highlights Port efficiency as key to Liberia's growth***

delivery.

Discussions highlighted operations and ongoing investments supported by the Government of Liberia through the National Port Authority (NPA), such as the recent introduction of nighttime sailing, upgrades to navigational aids, acquisition of modern cargo-handling equipment, and local capacity development of the Liberia Marine sector. These measures are designed to improve efficiency at the Freeport of Monrovia, increase cargo handling capacity, and enhance overall safety standards.

The engagement also focused on the broader role of the Freeport of Monrovia in facilitating trade and supporting businesses in Liberia. The U.S. delegation noted that Freeport's progress is closely linked to broader economic ties, underscoring the United States' role as a key partner in Liberia's growth.

Chargé d'Affaires Joseph

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What are we doing today?

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A collage of various New Dawn publications, including a letterhead, a calendar, a magazine cover, and a brochure, all featuring the New Dawn logo and branding.

The photograph shows a laboratory setup for measuring the rate of reaction. A water bath is used to maintain a constant temperature. A reaction vessel is placed in the water bath, and a gas syringe is connected to it via a delivery tube to measure the volume of gas produced. A thermometer is also present to monitor the temperature of the water bath.