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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
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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.

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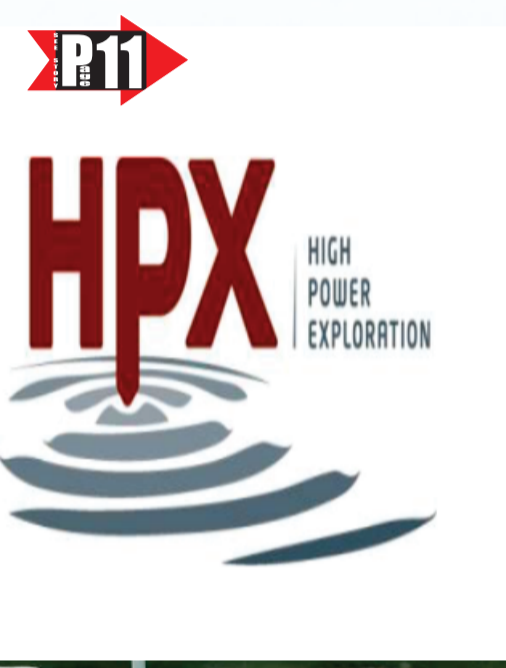
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US Embassy hails secret HPX deal

- As Boakai flies to meet Trump



"Childish and dangerous politic"



-Dillon chides Cllr. Kruah

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Continental News

Family 'in shock' after Zimbabwe scientist killed in UK

A 20-year-old man has appeared in court charged with the murder of a scientist who was found fatally injured in a Dundee street.Dr Fortune Gomo, 39, was treated by paramedics but

in a few weeks' time, and they had recently been discussing how she might celebrate.Speaking from Harare, he said his sister was the eldest of four siblings and was seen as the "deputy parent" of

was the kind of person you'd go to when you needed clarity, not just of mind, but of heart.

"We are heartbroken. We are angry. We are disoriented. But we are also united in one voice: Fortune Gomo mattered. Her life mattered. Her legacy must never be forgotten."

Collections have been started in Dundee to raise money for Dr Gomo's family and many floral tributes have been left at the scene of her death in South Road.A message attached to one of the said: "We're utterly shocked that this has happened in our community. May the angels watch over you."

Videos widely shared on social media showed members of the local black community seeking reassurances and more information from police officers on duty near the scene on Sunday.

Police Scotland acknowledged that Fortune Gomo's death had caused great shock throughout Dundee.

In a statement it said: "Police Scotland is committed to having safer communities and senior officers have met with representatives from the local community to provide reassurance and support during this incredibly difficult time."The statement said the 20-year-old suspect had been arrested shortly after the incident, and that police believed there was no wider threat to the public.BBC

South Africa's police minister accused of links to criminal gangs

Police Minister Senzo Mchunu has been accused of having ties to criminal gangs and of meddling in police investigations into politically motivated murders.

These explosive allegations were made by KwaZulu-Natal police boss Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi at a press briefing on Sunday.He said Mr Mchunu was receiving financial support from an allegedly corrupt businessman to fund his "political endeavours".Mr Mchunu has since denied what he says are "wild allegations" while President Cyril Ramaphosa said they were of "grave national security concern" and "receiving the highest priority attention".Gen Mkhwanazi detailed a sequence of events he claims led to the "orchestrated" disbandment of a task force set up in 2018 to investigate the killing of politicians, mainly in KwaZulu-Natal.Gen Mkhwanazi said the team's investigations had uncovered links to high-profile individuals – including politicians, police officials, and businesspeople tied to a drug

cartel syndicate - and this is why the team was disbanded.When he dissolved the unit earlier this year, Mchunu said it was not adding value in the province, despite many cases remaining unsolved.According to Gen Mkhwanazi, a total of 121 case files were allegedly removed from the unit on the minister's instruction and without the authorisation of his boss, the national police commissioner General Fannie Masemola."These case dockets have, since March, been sitting at the head office ever since without any investigation work done on them. Five of these dockets already had instructions to

[effect] arrests."The provincial police chief also alleged Mr Mchunu had ties to a controversial businessman who was "financially supporting" the minister's political career.

Vusumuzi Matlala had a lucrative contract with the police before it was abruptly cancelled when he was arrested for attempted murder in May. Gen Mkhwanazi shared copies of text messages and a payment allegedly made by Mr Matlala to prove this.

Gen Masemola, on his part, said he would address these allegations later in the week when he announces the appointment of the temporary crime intelligence boss.



Police Minister Senzo Mchunu has dismissed the "wild allegations"

At least 10 dead in Kenya protests as central Nairobi sealed off

At least 10 people have been killed in protests, according to a state-run human rights body - the latest in a wave of anti-government rallies that began last year.

Police opened fire on demonstrators and earlier on Dr Aron Sikuku, a medic at Eagle Nursing Home in Kangemi on the outskirts of Nairobi, told the BBC that two bodies had been taken to the facility and had died from gunshot wounds.He said hundreds of protesters had gathered outside his hospital demanding to take away the bodies.These demonstrations mark the 35th anniversary of the historic Saba Saba (meaning "seven-seven") protests of 7 July 1990 which launched Kenya's push for multi-party democracy.In a scathing report, the state-run Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KHRC) accused the police of using excessive force, as had frequently been the case during the current wave of protests.

"Police operated in plainclothes and unmarked vehicles" on Monday and collaborated with "armed criminal gangs in Nairobi,

cordons. Officers responded with tear gas and water cannon.

According to leading Kenyan newspaper, the Nation, demonstrations have spread to 17 counties out of 47.In Meru county, eastern Kenya, a shopping centre in the town of Makutano was engulfed in flames. Clouds of thick black smoke could be seen coming from the building.

In Ol Kalou town, one protester was shot dead and another who suffered gunshot wounds survived.

In Kamukunji, near the Nairobi venue where the original Saba Saba protests were held, police battled groups of protesters who lit fires on the streets.A planned appearance by former Prime Minister Raila Odinga was cancelled, with him saying "the roadblocks all over town which made it difficult for people to make it to Kamukunji" meant he could not "join Kenyans in commemorating this important day".But this did not deter him from blasting Kenya's "rogue police force that shoots people with impunity, a force inherited from the colonialists," while



Police fired tear gas to disperse protesters in Nairobi

Kajiado, Nakuru, Kiambu, and Eldoret", it said. The police have denied previous such accusations.It added that it had evidence that at least two people had been abducted, as well as reporting 29 injuries and 37 arrests in towns across the country.Police tried to pre-empt the protests by sealing off central Nairobi.From early in the morning, hundreds of commuters and overnight travellers were stranded at checkpoints, some more than 10km (six miles) from the city centre, with only a few vehicles allowed through.

Roads leading to key government sites - including the president's official residence, State House, and the Kenyan parliament - were barricaded with razor wire.Some schools advised students to stay at home.But clashes broke out in parts of the capital as demonstrators lit fires and attempted to breach police

calling for a national dialogue on reforming the country's police.He was arrested after the original Saba Saba protests in 1990 but last year threw his support behind the government.By mid-morning on Monday, hundreds of overnight passengers remained stranded.Some long-distance buses were parked in Kabete, about 13km from the city centre, with many passengers who could not afford to pay extra money for motorcycle rides to their destinations remaining there.Humphrey Gumbishi, a bus driver, said they had started their journey on Sunday evening only to find the police road block in the morning.

"We started travelling at 8:30pm last night... We want the government to engage in a dialogue with Gen Zs so all this can come to an end," he told the BBC

EDITORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENTARY

By Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

The BRICS+ Should Not Miss the Africa Opportunity

PORT LOUIS - The ten current BRICS+ members, more than most countries, can empathize with the economic and political injustices that Africans have experienced over the years. Many of them, including the continent's three members - South Africa, Egypt, and Ethiopia - are all too familiar with the disastrous effects of colonialism and exploitation, the difficulty of creating prosperity for millions of people while shouldering an unsustainable debt burden, and the inequality built into the global financial system.

These links have helped foster a closer relationship between BRICS+ members and African countries over the last two decades. For the past 15 years, China has been Africa's largest trading partner, with annual turnover now estimated at \$295 billion. The continent's trade with other BRICS+ members has also increased, reaching \$83 billion with India in 2024, and more than \$21 billion with Brazil in 2023.

These relationships have pushed many African countries toward industrialization. But only South Africa, Egypt, and Morocco have developed any significant amount of industrial power. For the rest of the continent, three major obstacles stand in the way: a huge energy gap, unsustainable debt burdens, and worsening climate change. To overcome these barriers, Africa must develop a strategic partnership with the BRICS+. This partnership would yield other mutually beneficial results, including economic growth and shared prosperity.

The timing is right. More than ever before, Africa is facing growth pressures as evidenced by its exploding working-age population. The BRICS+ bloc is also at a crucial point as it seeks to assert itself on the world stage, develop a new form of multilateralism based on mutualism, expand the New Development Bank, and admit more members. The group is attempting to do all this while navigating delicate relations with the United States.

A strategic partnership with Africa would allow the BRICS+ bloc to advance its vision for a world where all countries are respected and work together to solve common problems and pursue green development. But to drive growth, its members will need to become co-investors, rather than merely creditors. They must also help African countries address the

obstacles to their development, particularly the energy and debt crises.

To that end, China, one of the most powerful BRICS+ members and the world's clean-energy leader, could help Africa harness its abundant renewable-energy potential. The continent is home to 60% of the best solar resources globally, but only 1% of installed solar capacity. By contrast, 64% of all renewable-energy capacity added last year was installed in China, which accounts for 60% of the world's production capacity in green-tech sectors and dominates solar supply chains. As part of a strategic partnership with Africa, China and other BRICS+ countries could co-establish clean-tech manufacturing and assembly plants on the continent. This would create new markets for renewables while also lowering energy costs for Africans.

There is also the question of debt relief. Sovereign-debt restructurings have been inefficient and ineffective because powerful bilateral and multilateral creditors can't agree on how to handle them. Improving these processes requires political goodwill. China has shown that this is possible by forgiving \$3.4 billion in African debt, as well as 23 interest-free loans for 17 African countries.

Moreover, BRICS+ countries could oversee the creation of a multilateral framework, tailored to low-income countries, that would aim to convene all creditor classes, including private bondholders and multilateral development banks. This would also facilitate market creation and foster geopolitical ties between the bloc's members and African countries - the foundations of a prosperous future for all.

With the right strategic partners, Africa could become very wealthy in a short period of time. The BRICS+ bloc must begin laying the groundwork for this geopolitical and economic alliance with the continent at its upcoming summit in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil, as the current president, and South Africa, as the group's first African member, must ensure that an African partnership is at the top of the agenda.

From a practical point of view, deepening cooperation with African countries would create future economic benefits for BRICS+ members. But perhaps more importantly, it would signal the group's willingness to provide equitable opportunities to the broader Global South.

OP-ED

By María Fernanda Espinosa, Anita Bhatia

Financing for Development Must Account for Women

SEVILLE - The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) is taking place at a time of escalating debt crises, rising poverty, declining food security, and proliferating climate-related damage. These crises are all exacerbated by deep reductions in official development assistance (ODA), and they all disproportionately affect women and girls, especially in developing countries.

Almost half of humanity - 3.4 billion people - now live in countries that direct more revenues toward servicing interest on debt than toward education or health, where a lack of investment directly undermines economic opportunities for women and girls. Moreover, only 5% of ODA goes toward programs with gender equality as the principal objective.

Women’s options for improving their own economic circumstances are limited, not least because of limited access to finance. The total finance gap for women-led micro, small, and medium-size enterprises is an estimated \$1.7 trillion. Women running medium-sized enterprises, in particular, struggle to access both venture capital to support growth, and working capital, to support day-to-day operations. Some 740 million women worldwide lack access even to a bank account.

Compounding the problem is unequal access to the internet, which is essential for financial and digital literacy. It does not help that women continue to dedicate a disproportionate amount of time to unpaid care work, which, if properly compensated, would add at least \$10.8 trillion per year to the global economy. Female labor force participation amounts to just under 47% globally, compared to 72% for men.

These problems are set to worsen. For starters, the algorithms underpinning AI tools - which are being used in a growing range of areas, from assessing creditworthiness to making hiring decisions - may perpetuate existing biases. Furthermore, many developing economies will struggle to create enough jobs for their burgeoning youth populations: while 1.2 billion people are set to reach working age within the next decade, only 420 million jobs are expected to be created. Young women are more likely than young men to be left out. At the current rate of progress, it will take 134 years to close the global gender pay gap.

There is now a large body of evidence showing that everyone loses when women and girls are not given the tools and opportunities to reach their potential. Economies in Sub-Saharan Africa lose \$210 billion annually - more than 10% of the region’s total GDP - as a result of girls leaving school early. Low- and middle-income countries stand to lose \$500 billion over the next five years if they fail to close the gender gap in internet access and usage. Studies also show that gender-responsive approaches significantly increase the effectiveness of climate-adaptation finance. All told, investing in gender equality could increase global GDP by more than 20%.

FfD4 represents an important opportunity to build a global financial architecture that expands women’s access to finance, increases their labor-force participation, and contributes to shared prosperity. If done right, this process would harness the energy of young people and make the most of emerging technologies.

There is good reason for hope. The FfD4 outcome document (Compromiso de Sevilla), adopted on Monday on the first day of the conference, includes commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through poverty eradication, female entrepreneurship, and equal access to financial services.

But commitments are just the beginning; to deliver real progress, a robust framework for implementation and accountability will be essential. The “Sevilla Platform for Action” - which will mobilize partnerships among government, civil-society organizations, and private-sector actors to advance concrete initiatives - is a promising step in this direction.

Promising initiatives are already taking shape as part of this platform. One of them - called Investing in Care for Equality and Prosperity: A Global Initiative to Advance Gender-Responsive Financing for Development - aims to expand impact investments in care policies, infrastructure, and services. For example, partnerships with the private sector would focus on delivering supportive workplace policies and decent working conditions for care workers, and partnerships with financial institutions would drive investment in care infrastructure. This initiative is led by a small group of countries and civil-society organizations, and has been endorsed by many more, including our organization, GWL Voices.

Such initiatives have huge potential to advance gender equality. But closing the gender gap will require leaders to apply a gendered lens to policy debates across the board, not least when it comes to finance. And that can happen only if women have a seat at the table.

As it stands, women remain woefully underrepresented at the top of international financial institutions and in senior finance-related positions in public institutions. In 2023, only 26 of the International Monetary Fund’s 190 members had female finance ministers, and only 23 central banks were led by women (though the total rose to 29 in 2024). Many international financial institutions, finance ministries, and central banks have never had a woman at the helm.

The development community must address the structural barriers women face head-on, at FfD4 and beyond. This is not just a moral imperative; it is smart economics. The time to invest in women and girls is now.

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OPINION

By Hervé Goulletquer

Is Today's Market Exuberance Rational?

PARIS - Despite all the policy-induced uncertainty wrought by President Donald Trump’s administration, US stock markets seem to be sending a message of normalization. Major indexes have returned to where they were at the beginning of the year and continued to rise. What is going on? Are these new highs credible?

I think not. For starters, despite Trump’s recent policy reversals, uncertainty remains high, feeding fears that business and household confidence will suffer, slowing growth over time. Moreover, Trump is far from having completed his attempted trade negotiations and is nowhere closer to his stated goal of balancing the United States’ external account.

So large-scale an undertaking would require the world’s major powers to adjust their own savings-investment patterns and relationships vis-à-vis the US. Getting that to happen would entail an extraordinarily painful exercise, assuming it is possible at all.

Lastly, the Trump administration’s agenda needs to be considered in the deeper context of what the French economist and historian Arnaud Orain calls “finitude capitalism.” Orain distinguishes “between an open world carrying a promise of all-round and unlimited enrichment (for states, private companies, or individuals) and an ideology which argues the opposite - that the world is finite, that natural resources and global exports are in limited quantity, which entails that overall enrichment is limited, and even impossible.”

When the outside world seems to present fewer opportunities than risks, it becomes necessary to defend one’s territory. But if the economic system becomes less optimized and efficient as a result of this, so be it.

In any case, faced with continuing uncertainty and the threat of persistent inflationary pressures, all eyes will be on central banks. The US Federal Reserve has adopted a wait-and-see attitude as it monitors the effects of Trump’s trade war, and the European Central Bank is already signaling that the new uncertainty will drag down economic growth.

With major countries closing in on themselves, the global economy is being reshaped before our eyes. It is reasonable to expect less efficient management and less diverse supplies to push up prices and therefore interest rates.

Though attention inevitably will shift from demand to supply, the objective for monetary policy will remain the same: to anchor inflation expectations at a “sufficiently low level,” and to adopt a policy for bringing inflation back to the target rate in the medium term. The challenge, then, is twofold: in addition to keeping inflation expectations low, central banks will need to acquire analytical agility and new tools to stay on top of an ever-changing situation. In such an uncertain environment, forward guidance cannot be overly precise. Instead, a multi-scenario approach (a departure from the current practice) will ultimately provide more relevant information to all economic actors.

Another major factor is trade flows, which are changing fast. One clear development, judging by voting patterns at the United Nations, is a reduction in the geopolitical distance of trade. While the US reduces its trade with China, the People’s Republic continues to pivot more toward emerging markets and developing countries, becoming the top trade partner for many of them. Have US markets fully accounted for what this means?

Financial globalization is another major issue. The link between geopolitical tensions and financial stability is clear. There are two interdependent channels to watch here. The first is financial, as reflected in capital restrictions, heightened risk aversion, and other variables that affect liquidity.

The second channel is economic and concerns the extent to which new protectionist measures will disrupt value chains. Current trends (in both channels) suggest that geographical diversification in asset allocations could decline over the medium term, with the resulting risk-return balance likely settling at lower levels.

Finally, in a more unstable geopolitical environment, one must factor in risks that are less endogenous to the economic and financial sphere, such as cybersecurity threats and the complex transition to renewable energy sources.

In such a global economy, where the logic of abundance through globalization is giving way to finitude capitalism, there may be less tolerance for significant current-account imbalances. The more that governments perceive geopolitical and economic risks, the more they could limit trade and financial flows vis-à-vis regions of the world that are considered less friendly. If such insularity becomes too restrictive, we will have foregone the well-known benefits of diversification.

Given the big-picture, medium-term outlook, financial markets can remain unscathed for only so long. For US stock markets in particular, high and rising indices are not sustainable.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

A Call for Swift Confirmation of Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay as Liberia's Next Chief Justice:

BY: Austin S Fallah-
A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil:

In a moment of significant importance for the future of the Liberian judiciary, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has nominated the esteemed Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay as the next Chief Justice of Liberia. This nomination has been met with overwhelming support from his fellow legal minds and the meaningful community. The Senate must act quickly and positively in response to this nomination, reflecting the will of the well-meaning Liberian people. Justice Gbeisay's confirmation embodies the hope for a reformed justice system in Liberia. It represents a critical step toward protecting the rule of law, human rights, and democratic principles within our nation. To better appreciate the urgency and necessity of confirming Justice Gbeisay, one must first recognize

His commitment to promoting fair trial rights and upholding human rights is particularly noteworthy in a society striving to heal from its tumultuous past. The Need for an Effective Judiciary: The need for a skilled Chief Justice is related to the judiciary's effectiveness in Liberia. The country has long endured the consequences of legal ineffectiveness mixed with corruption and abuse, leading to widespread distrust among the public toward judicial institutions. Now, more than ever, the people of Liberia yearn for a judiciary that is transparent, accountable, and dedicated to protecting the fundamental rights of all individuals. President Boakai's nomination of Justice Gbeisay is a significant stride in this direction. His experience and vision for reform can lead to groundbreaking changes in a justice system that has

Public Will and Civic Responsibility: The Senate's role in the confirmation process is vital to upholding the principles of democracy in Liberia. Since Justice Gbeisay has been endorsed by various legal experts and recognized by well-meaning public members as a qualified candidate, the Senate must heed the people's support for his nomination. The Senate must urgently act to hold confirmation hearings and provide the necessary approval for Justice Gbeisay. Citizens across Liberia have expressed their desire for a competent and fair judiciary. The public's trust in the judicial system is foundational to the functioning of a democratic society. By swiftly confirming Justice Gbeisay, the Senate would fulfill its constitutional duty and embrace its role as the guardian of the people's interests. Such action would demonstrate to the citizens that



his qualifications, the need for an effective and trustworthy judiciary, and the historical context that underpins Liberia's struggle for justice and democracy. A Distinguished Legal Career: Although I have not met or seen Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, his resume shows him as a figure of utmost integrity and accomplishment within the legal community. Reseached as done thus far, with years of experience as a judge, he has consistently showcased his profound understanding of the law and his commitment to justice. His background is not merely a checklist of academic qualifications and professional titles. It is a testament to his mastery of the complexities of the Liberian legal system through hard work and determination. The significance of a capable Chief Justice can not be overemphasized. For a nation recovering from decades of civil conflict and hooliganism through unwarranted, baseless, ill-advised, undemocratic, and unconstitutional demonstrations, turmoil, the judiciary must function as a bastion of fairness and equity. Through his previous rulings and engagements, Justice Gbeisay has demonstrated an understanding of the law and an empathetic approach to justice that prioritizes the rights of all citizens.

often failed to safeguard the rights of the vulnerable. Justice Gbeisay's confirmation would represent a shift towards a genuine commitment to upholding the rule of law and respecting human rights, thereby enhancing public confidence in the judiciary. Historical Context of Liberia's Judicial System: To understand the importance of this nomination and the necessity for confirmation, we must look back at Liberia's history. Liberia has faced numerous challenges, including civil wars, political instability, and public distrust in governmental institutions. The judicial system has often been controversial, with political interference, corruption, and inefficiency allegations. The consequences of this systemic failure have been dire, leading to an environment where impunity prevails. Justice Gbeisay's nomination is not merely a chance for the Senate to confirm a candidate. Still, it is an opportunity for the country to demonstrate its commitment to overcoming a troubled past. A swift confirmation of Justice Gbeisay would send a strong message to the citizenry that the Senate is aligned with the people's democratic aspirations, values an independent judiciary, and is willing to support necessary reforms to ensure justice for all.

their voices resonate within the halls of power. A Collective Step Towards Justice: Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay's nomination represents a defining moment in Liberia's commitment to justice, accountability, and the rule of law. The combined factors of his distinguished legal career, the urgent need for judicial reform, and Liberia's historical context necessitate a prompt confirmation by the Senate. Justice Gbeisay stands ready to lead a judiciary that can restore faith in Liberia's legal systems and uphold the rights of all Liberians. The Senate has a moral and civic obligation to act swiftly in confirming Justice Gbeisay. This decision is not merely an administrative formality but a critical juncture for Liberia's pursuit of justice. In confirming Justice Gbeisay as the next Chief Justice, the Senate would honor the Liberian people's wishes and reinforce its commitment to democracy, justice, and human rights in our beloved country. As a collective society, let every well-meaning Liberian push for Justice Gbeisay's confirmation and pave the way for a brighter future where justice prevails and the rule of law is upheld. The time to act is now, and Liberia's judiciary deserves a Chief Justice who embodies integrity, competence, and the unwavering belief in justice for all.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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We're coming back

-Tweah dreams of Weah's return to power

Ex-finance minister Samuel Tweah is upbeat of a return of former President George Weah to power, as he criticizes the current Boakai Administration for bad governance.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Monrovia, Liberia, July 8, 2025 - Former Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., has better and we are coming back, but not with the same agenda. But to serve the Liberian people, and relief them from the evil.



cautioned here that the ruling Unity Party-led administration is not governing the country well, while hoping on former President George Weah returns to power. Addressing a news conference in Monrovia, Mr. Tweah facing charges for alleged corruption says things are going wrong under President Joseph Boakai, urging Liberians to rather, hope on Mr. Weah to solve the country's problems. "Liberians deserve

We're going to fix and address the ills of our people with a new agenda", he adds. He is overwhelmingly optimistic with a string conviction in an early Weah's ambition for 2029. He describes the Boakai-Koung Administration as blatant and fraudulent that he says has damaged the country just in a short while. At the same time he brags and argues that it was under former President Weah,

agreements were signed for roads construction across Liberia. "We signed the deals; we delivered on roads, electricity and every financing agreements that these bogus and blatant liars are boasting of", Tweah says.

In a fiery press briefing, the ex-finance minister pushed back against the Boakai administration's claims, noting that all major road and energy financing agreements, including a landmark 10-year World Bank electricity deal were secured under President George Weah.

"The credit belongs to the CDC," he declares, and describes the Boakai Administration as evil and manipulating against former officials.

Today, I will demonstrate how this evil information manipulation was deployed and weaponized against the administration of the CDC, and how people intent on sustaining this culture of lies to destroy people in our politics, he laments.

Those of us who have been caught in the crosshairs of these machination will fight back with every means at our disposal, intellectually, politically and of course, legally, he maintains.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

LoneStar Cell MTN contractor electrocuted in Kakata

A contractor of Lone Star Cell MTN has been electrocuted in Kakata, Margibi County.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Margibi, Liberia, July 8, 2025 - A LoneStar Cell MTN electric cable technician, Daddad Efrem, also known as "Tata" has died instantly, after electrocution on a company tower, while carrying out maintenance work.

The late Efrem, 45, was a contractor of Lonestar Cell MTN in Kakata, Margibi County.

The incident, which drew attention of the public and sympathizers' in Margibi County and across the Internet, occurred on Sunday afternoon 6th June 2025, in Telecom community, Kakata City.

Eyewitnesses said the deceased was a resident of Monrovia, but had gone to Kakata to perform maintenance work on a

LoneStar Cell tower as part of his normal duties, when unfortunately he fell from the pole as a result of electrical shock, and died instantly.

The victim was rushed to Kakata Health Center, where he was medically

pronounced dead. His body has been deposited at Solomon Tubee Funeral home, pending investigation.

However, family of the deceased and Lone Star Cell MTN through its Communication Department are tightlipped on the situation leading to Efrem's death up to press time.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



MoL reviews regulation on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

The Ministry of Labour, through its Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division, has convened a high-level national stakeholders' meeting to review Regulation No. 19 under Chapter 29 of the Liberian Labor Law.

By: Naneka Hoffman
Speaking at the closing of the two day event, at the Ministry of Labour, Minister Cllr. Cooper W. Kruah, Sr. pledged his administration's commitment to ensuring that every industrial site in Liberia has a designated safety officer. This, he said, is critical to protecting workers from hazardous and high-risk work environments.

Minister Kruah underscored the global importance of the worker health and safety, stressing that Liberia must not be left behind. "It is important that the Ministry of Labour takes the lead because Liberians are working in environments with dangerous materials and must be fully protected from the risks associated with their jobs," he

capacity building, policy direction, and technical support to ensure that the revised Regulation No. 19 aligns with international labor standards and best practices.

Presenting an overview of the process, Mr. Jimmy George, Director of the OHS Division, described the engagement as a vital step toward modernizing Liberia's OHS framework in line with global standards, especially those of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Director George urged stakeholders to embrace collective responsibility in transforming workplace safety nationwide. He outlined key priorities of the revised regulation, including:



stated. He highlighted Chapter 6 of the Decent Work Act of Liberia, which comprehensively addresses OHS but requires the Ministry to issue regulations to enforce its provisions at the workplace level.

Although the Ministry has an OHS Division tasked with enforcing workplace safety, Minister Kruah acknowledged that its effectiveness has been hampered by the absence of a formal regulation to support compliance efforts.

He announced the establishment of a dedicated training center to prepare and certify all health and safety personnel in Liberia once the regulation is finalized.

The Ministry reiterated its commitment to continuous

Extending coverage to critical sectors such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, food services, and transportation Institutionalizing certification and training programs for OHS personnel and workers at all levels

Establishing a robust compliance and enforcement framework to enhance safety, improve labor conditions, and contribute to national revenue generation

Stakeholders emphasized the strong link between safe workplaces, national productivity, family well-being, and sustainable development. They also

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from page 11 US Embassy hails secret HPX deal

Development Agreement (MDA) signed in 2021 between the Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) is at the center of this dilemma.

The agreement, originally valued at \$800 million and now expanded to \$1.2 billion, outlines a bold commitment by AML to invest in a modern iron ore concentrator, increase production capacity, create over 2,000 new direct jobs, and revitalize local supply chains and vocational training across mining communities.

The new MDA has been bedeviled with controversies and conspiracies over the claim that AML wants to monopolize the railway and serve as a player and referee, a claim the company has continued to debunk.

Recently, AML debunked claims that it is blocking other companies from using the Yekepa-Buchanan railway as false. "This is simply not true," the company said.

According to the company, AML supports a system where multiple companies can use the railway fairly, under clear rules set by the government.

"When AML first came to Liberia, the railway was not working, and the government didn't have the money to fix it. As part of its agreement, AML fully repaired and has been

maintaining the railway so that mining exports and other businesses could continue," it said.

Fear of legal issues

There are fears of potential legal issues, as the Government of Liberia signs a railway access deal with Ivanhoe amid an existing MDA with AML, which gives it 100 percent control over the Yekepa-Buchanan railway.

President Boakai left on Monday

Meanwhile, the Executive Mansion in a press released dated July 7, 2025, announced that President Boakai departed the country Monday morning for a working visit to Washington, D.C., United States of America.

Mr. Boakai was accompanied by a high-level delegation of government officials and technical experts, including foreign Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan, National Security Advisor Samuel K. Woods II, Major General Daniel Ziankahn (Rtd.), Military Advisor to the President, Mr. Jeff Bilbo, Chairman, National Investment Commission, Mr. Nathaniel Kwabo, Director General of the Cabinet and Mr. Bedell Sandi, Special Envoy. Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Starts from page 11 "Childish and dangerous politic"

that he inherited the seven thousand work permit. Now, he added it to ten thousand. There is no active work permit from the Weah administration because the work permit ended" Dillon asserted.

He, urged the Minister not to use one thousand United States dollar work permit fees to deprive Liberians of jobs, something he described as serious problem, while asking him to desist from raising revenue at the expense of Liberians.

"Where in the Budget Law or line that tell the Minister to go and raise ten million from work permit? There is other avenue to raise money. We want to give our people equal pay for equal work. Western Cluster, and Bea Mountain, the Minister of Labor five months ago told the Senate at a public hearing that the company have one hundred drivers

operating those heavy-duty equipment-fifty-five non-Liberians and forty-five Liberians. The Minister told us that there was no Liberian to operate the equipment for which no Liberian was awarded the entire job. Now, the pay grade between Liberians and foreigners is very far and inequality is high" he noted.

"Most times," Sen. Dillon continued, "our people say the government and our lawmakers are not doing anything for us. It's because they are not working, and they can't find job. We create the environment for the job and then we the very government or any branch thereof, we can't allow them to give the jobs out. This appear to our people as though we are not creating job."

Starts from page 6 MoL reviews regulation on

reflected on regional experiences and praised the Ministry for the progress made since the reform process began in June 2024.

Held under the theme "Strengthening Occupational Health and Safety for a Safer, Productive Liberia," the review aims to create a regulatory environment that ensures consistent OHS enforcement across all sectors.

In separate remarks, Mr. Erickson T. Brown, CEO of HSE Solutions Inc., and Madam Teta Lorpu Wormonue of TIBA Industrial Group,

both pledged their institutions' full support for the finalization and implementation of the regulation. They reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the dignity of labor and promoting workplace safety as a key pillar of national development.

The event brought together the Minister of Labour, Deputy and Assistant Ministers, senior Ministry technicians, representatives from organized labor, employer associations, development partners, and the private sector.

LACC and UN Partners empower local leaders in fight against corruption

Monrovia, Liberia; July 7, 2025: The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), in collaboration with UNDP and with funding support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), facilitated a three-day capacity-building workshop in Ganta, Nimba County, for local government officials from Bong, Lofa, and Nimba Counties. The training, held from July 1 to 3, 2025, in Ganta, Nimba County, aimed to promote ethical leadership by strengthening awareness of anti-corruption standards, enhancing transparency, and increasing accountability in public service delivery.

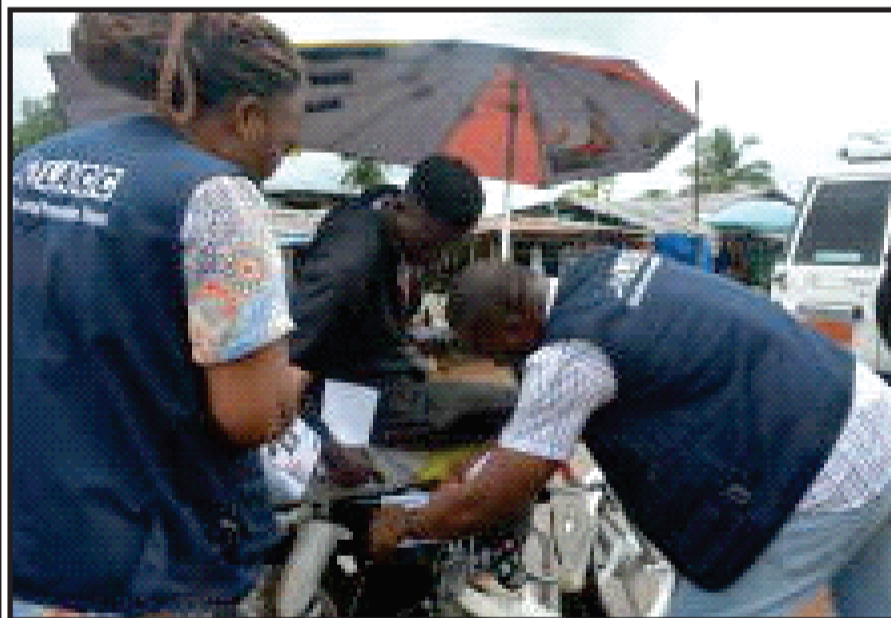
LACC Executive Chairperson, Counselor Alexandra Zoe, emphasized that asset declaration is not just a matter of procedural compliance, but also a reflection of integrity in public service. She encouraged officials to view transparency and verification as central components of accountable governance.

"This is more than a compliance

Kuukpen, recognized the workshop as a strategic initiative aimed at strengthening subnational resilience against corruption.

He underscored the critical role of collaboration among public institutions, civil society, and community stakeholders in fostering inclusive and responsive governance systems. Kuukpen emphasized that confronting corruption at the subnational level demands a unified resolve where public officials, civil society leaders, development actors, and traditional institutions work together to champion a transparent, participatory, and citizen-centered governance system that truly serves all Liberians."

He expressed profound appreciation to the LACC and its implementing partners for their dedicated collaboration and technical leadership, noting that the partnership has been instrumental in advancing the country's anti-corruption efforts and in creating the conditions for inclusive governance,



measure—it is a mirror that reflects who we are as public servants," she asserted. Counselor Zoe urged officials to uphold the principles of integrity and accountability, emphasizing that, "By declaring our assets transparently, we affirm our integrity. By embracing verification, we demonstrate our commitment to accountability."

She encouraged participants to view the training as more than a mere obligation, describing it as a call to action—to rise, and to equip themselves with the tools, knowledge, and courage needed to lead with integrity. "We are here because we believe in something greater than ourselves. We believe in a Liberia where leadership is not tainted by greed but anchored in honor. We believe in communities where transparency is not just an idea, but a daily standard—giving each of us the power to make a difference." UNDP Liberia Deputy Resident Representative, Louis

empowered communities, and responsive service delivery.

"Each participant here today plays a key role in safeguarding public trust, as UNDP and its partners reaffirm their commitment to expanding and institutionalizing these efforts nationwide," Kuukpen affirmed. Technical sessions provided participants with tools to analyze corruption risks, understand legal frameworks such as the PPCC law, and explore the role of civil society in monitoring public sector integrity. During the training session, more than 50 local government officials from Bong, Nimba, and Lofa Counties formally endorsed Liberia's Code of Conduct for Public Officials. This collective commitment followed a presentation led by Counselor Findley Karngar, Chairperson of the Office of the Ombudsman. Liberia's Code of Conduct, enacted in 2014, establishes ethical standards and expectations for public officials.

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VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHY

Français

L'Ambassade des États-Unis salue un accord ferroviaire confidentiel entre le Liberia et HPX

L'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia a salué la signature, durant le week-end, d'un accord ferroviaire stratégique entre le gouvernement libérien et le groupe américain Ivanhoe Atlantic/HPX.

La déclaration officielle de l'ambassade intervient alors que le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a quitté le pays ce lundi à la tête d'une délégation gouvernementale, en route pour Washington où il participera, du 9 au 11 juillet, à une rencontre avec l'ancien

l'ambassade américaine s'est félicitée de la signature de cet accord, qu'elle qualifie de levier économique important pour le Liberia, avec une promesse d'investissement estimée à 1,8 milliard de dollars américains.

« L'ambassade des États-Unis se réjouit de la signature d'un accord de concession et d'accès ferroviaire entre Ivanhoe Atlantic, une entreprise américaine, et le gouvernement libérien. Cet investissement estimé à 1,8 milliard de dollars représente une étape cruciale dans la vision du président Boakai pour un réseau ferroviaire multi-utilisateur et marque une avancée majeure vers l'attraction d'investissements internationaux. En augmentant les investissements américains en Afrique, nous favorisons une pros

président américain Donald Trump et quatre autres dirigeants africains. Dans une courte publication sur ses réseaux sociaux,

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



L'accord, conclu en toute discrétion, prévoit la mise en œuvre d'un système ferroviaire multi-utilisateur.

Dillon dénonce les propos du ministre Cooper Kruah

Le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, a vivement réagi aux accusations du ministre du Travail, Cllr. Cooper W. Kruah, qui a insinué que ses critiques sur la délivrance des permis de travail visaient des intérêts personnels. Le sénateur a qualifié les propos du ministre de « politique infantile et dangereuse ». Invité lundi 7 juillet 2025 sur une émission radio locale à Monrovia, le sénateur Dillon a réitéré ses accusations selon lesquelles le ministre Kruah aurait sciemment violé la Loi sur le travail décent en attribuant des emplois destinés aux Libériens à des étrangers. « Je continuerai de me battre pour que les Libériens qualifiés aient accès aux emplois du secteur privé », a-t-il déclaré. Il a aussi accusé le ministre Kruah de vouloir détourner l'attention en introduisant des considérations ethniques dans le débat. « Lorsque le ministre Kruah affirme que mes critiques

sont motivées par le fait qu'il est originaire du comté de Nimba, je trouve cela non seulement puéril, mais extrêmement dangereux », a-t-il lancé. « J'ai soutenu sa confirmation comme ministre du Travail. Lors de son audition — dont la vidéo est disponible sur ma page Facebook — je lui ai demandé comment il comptait garantir l'emploi des Libériens. Il a répondu qu'aucun permis de travail ne serait délivré pour des postes pour lesquels des Libériens sont qualifiés. Je lui ai alors promis de revenir vers lui six mois plus tard pour faire le point. Aujourd'hui, alors que j'exerce simplement ma responsabilité de contrôle

parlementaire, il parle d'attaque personnelle », a expliqué le sénateur Dillon. Accusations d'opacité et de favoritisme Selon le sénateur, la comparution du ministre Kruah devant le Sénat n'a pas été marquée par une coopération sincère. Il l'accuse d'avoir manqué de respect en refusant de divulguer les catégories d'emplois pour lesquelles des permis ont été délivrés à des étrangers. Il révèle par ailleurs que plus de 10 000 permis de travail auraient été accordés à des non-Libér

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Éditorial

La doctrine Trump

NEW YORK – En à peine quatre mois de deuxième administration du président américain Donald Trump, les premiers signes d'une doctrine en matière de politique étrangère apparaissent d'ores et déjà. Comme bien d'autres aspects de la présidence Trump 2.0, cette doctrine marque une rupture majeure par rapport au passé.

Les doctrines jouent un rôle de premier plan dans la politique étrangère américaine. À travers la doctrine Monroe formulée en 1823, les États-Unis ont affirmé qu'ils s'imposeraient comme la puissance prééminente sur le continent américain, et qu'ils empêcheraient tout autre pays d'établir des positions stratégiques concurrentes dans la région. De même, au début de la guerre froide, la doctrine Truman a promis un soutien des États-Unis à tous les pays qui lutteraient contre le communisme et la stratégie de subversion soviétique. Plus récemment, la doctrine Carter a énoncé que les États-Unis ne resteraient pas spectateurs si une force extérieure cherchait à prendre le contrôle de la région du golfe Persique, riche en pétrole. La doctrine Reagan a promis assistance aux mouvements et pays opposés au communisme. Celle de George W. Bush, axée sur la liberté, a notamment adressé le message selon lequel ni les terroristes, ni ceux qui les protégeraient ne seraient à l'abri d'une intervention armée.

Point comme entre ces doctrines, elles font toutes savoir à différents destinataires quels sont les intérêts fondamentaux des États-Unis, et ce que le pays est prêt à faire pour les promouvoir. Les doctrines visent à rassurer amis et alliés, à dissuader ennemis réels ou potentiels, à galvaniser les agences en charge des questions de sécurité nationale, ainsi qu'à informer les citoyens.

Non formulée explicitement pas Trump, une nouvelle doctrine américaine émerge pourtant actuellement, que l'on pourrait qualifier de doctrine des « yeux fermés », du « rien vu, rien entendu », ou du « cela ne nous regarde pas ».

Quelle qu'en soit l'appellation, cette doctrine semble énoncer que les États-Unis ne chercheront plus à influencer ni à réagir à la manière dont les autres pays se comporteront à l'intérieur de leurs propres frontières. C'est ainsi que l'administration américaine s'est abstenue de condamner l'arrestation arbitraire d'un opposant politique de premier plan par le président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les manœuvres répétées du Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu pour affaiblir le pouvoir judiciaire dans son pays, ou encore la manière dont le Premier ministre hongrois de longue date, Viktor Orbán, ne cesse de malmenier les institutions démocratiques en Hongrie.

De même, Trump dénonce certes la politique étrangère du président russe Vladimir Poutine, ainsi que la politique économique du dirigeant chinois Xi Jinping, mais ne s'indigne en aucun cas de la répression que mènent l'un et l'autre contre leur propre population. L'administration Trump a par ailleurs décidé d'affaiblir voire de démanteler bon nombre des instruments – Voice of America, Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international, ou encore Dotation nationale pour la démocratie – employés depuis longtemps pour promouvoir la société civile et les mouvements démocratiques à travers le monde.

Ce qui se rapproche le plus d'une [formulation](#) publique de cette nouvelle doctrine a eu lieu en Arabie saoudite, le 13 mai dernier. Trump a en effet exprimé son admiration pour ce qu'il décrit comme une formidable transformation du Royaume, ajoutant que cette évolution n'était pas le fruit des efforts « d'interventionnistes occidentaux [...] qui vous donnent des leçons sur la manière de vivre et de gouverner vos propres affaires [...] Ces dernières années, trop de présidents américains ont considéré à tort qu'il était de notre devoir de sonder les âmes des dirigeants étrangers, et d'user de la politique américaine pour absoudre ou non leurs péchés ».

Les agissements de Trump, notamment sa recherche d'accords commerciaux avec plusieurs gouvernements autoritaires du Golfe et d'ailleurs, soulignent le poids de cette déclaration. À la différence de Reagan, de Carter, de Bush, de Barack Obama et de [Joe Biden](#), Trump adresse ici clairement le message selon lequel les États-Unis n'ont plus l'intention de défendre les droits de l'homme et la démocratie, de condamner les méfaits de dirigeants étrangers autoritaires, ni de faire pression pour la libération d'opposants politiques.

Cette doctrine du « rien vu, rien entendu » évite certes aux États-Unis une dérive caractéristique de la présidence Bush, durant laquelle le zèle dans la propagation de la démocratie avait conduit à une invasion irréfléchie et coûteuse de l'Irak. Elle facilite par ailleurs pour les États-Unis un travail constructif auprès de gouvernements appliquant chez eux des politiques qui, en temps normal, constitueraient un obstacle aux relations commerciales ou à la coopération sur des questions bilatérales, régionales ou mondiales essentielles.

Ce sont néanmoins les retombées négatives de cette approche qui l'emportent. La doctrine Trump accroît la probabilité que les gouvernements engagés sur cette voie redoublent d'efforts de répression intérieure et de subversion de la démocratie – régime politique caractérisé par davantage de liberté pour les individus, mais également par des marchés libres, soutenus par l'État de droit, et par une politique étrangère généralement moins agressive. La promotion de la démocratie est par conséquent bénéfique pour les investisseurs américains, et limite le risque que l'Amérique s'enlise à l'étranger dans des conflits coûteux ou prolongés.

Richard Haass, président émérite du Conseil des relations étrangères, conseiller principal chez Centerview Partners, et chercheur universitaire émérite à l'Université de New York, est l'auteur de la newsletter hebdomadaire Substack [Home & Away](#).

Français

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L'Ambassade des États-Unis salue un accord

périté partagée et soutenons la transition du Liberia de l'aide au commerce », indique la déclaration.

Une signature sous haute discrétion

Selon des sources concordantes, le président Boakai aurait été encouragé à conclure rapidement l'accord avec Ivanhoe Atlantic afin de disposer d'un projet concret à présenter à Donald Trump lors de leur rencontre.

Effectivement, l'accord a été signé à huis clos le dimanche 6 juillet entre le gouvernement libérien et Ivanhoe Atlantic, une entreprise enregistrée dans l'État du Delaware, aux États-Unis. Initialement prévue pour le samedi 5 juillet dans les locaux de la Commission nationale des investissements (NIC), la cérémonie de signature a été reportée au lendemain. Toutefois, les journalistes qui s'y sont rendus ont été interdits d'accès, les organisateurs évoquant un changement de protocole de dernière minute.

Un projet ambitieux mais controversé

L'accord prévoit la réhabilitation et l'extension du corridor ferroviaire stratégique reliant Tokadeh, dans le comté de Nimba, au port de Buchanan. Il inclut également la construction de liaisons ferroviaires vers la Guinée, afin de permettre le transport du minerai de fer guinéen via les ports libériens. Cependant, cette clause soulève des interrogations, la Guinée s'appêtant à inaugurer sa propre ligne ferroviaire d'ici décembre.

Selon certaines sources proches du dossier, l'entreprise Ivanhoe chercherait à obtenir un accès illimité à l'infrastructure ferroviaire dans le but de transférer l'exploitation à une tierce partie. Une stratégie qui rappelle l'affaire MedTech Scientific, dans laquelle une entreprise étrangère capte 80 % des recettes d'importation du pays.

Des craintes émergent également quant aux conséquences fiscales de cet accord : des entreprises comme ArcelorMittal Liberia pourraient considérer les frais de transport comme des charges, réduisant ainsi leurs impôts dus à l'État libérien.

Une absence totale de transparence

Jusqu'à présent, l'accord n'a fait l'objet d'aucune communication officielle de la part du gouvernement. Aucune déclaration présidentielle, aucun débat législatif, ni publication publique n'a été effectué, alimentant ainsi les soupçons et inquiétudes autour de cette entente.

Le chemin de fer en question représente pourtant un actif stratégique pour le pays –

l'un des rares en Afrique de l'Ouest à offrir un accès direct à l'océan Atlantique. Actuellement, l'infrastructure appartient à l'État libérien, mais son exploitation est assurée par ArcelorMittal Liberia dans le cadre d'un accord d'utilisation multi-utilisateur.

Le rôle d'ArcelorMittal Liberia

ArcelorMittal est le plus important employeur du secteur privé au Liberia, avec entre 3 000 et 3 500 employés directs, dont plus de 90 % sont des ressortissants libériens. L'entreprise génère également des milliers d'emplois indirects via des sous-traitants et fournisseurs locaux.

Dans le cadre de son expansion de la Phase II, ArcelorMittal prévoit de créer plus de 2 000 nouveaux emplois dans les domaines de la construction, de la logistique et des métiers techniques. L'entreprise gère également une académie de formation professionnelle à Yekepa (Nimba), spécialisée dans l'ingénierie mécanique et électrique, et les opérations industrielles.

Malgré cela, son contrat – le Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), modifié en 2021 – accorde à ArcelorMittal le droit d'exploiter la ligne ferroviaire pour une durée de 25 ans. Ce contrat, d'abord évalué à 800 millions de dollars et désormais porté à 1,2 milliard, comprend des engagements clairs en matière d'investissements, de production accrue et de développement des compétences locales.

Cependant, ce MDA est régulièrement critiqué, certains accusant ArcelorMittal de vouloir monopoliser le réseau ferroviaire. L'entreprise a formellement réfuté ces allégations, affirmant soutenir l'accès équitable à l'infrastructure selon des règles établies par le gouvernement.

« Lorsque nous sommes arrivés au Liberia, le chemin de fer était inutilisable, et l'État n'avait pas les moyens de le remettre en service. Nous avons entièrement financé sa réhabilitation dans le cadre de notre accord, ce qui a permis aux exportations minières et autres activités de se poursuivre », explique ArcelorMittal.

Risques juridiques à l'horizon

Des experts juridiques craignent que l'accord avec Ivanhoe Atlantic, signé sans consultation préalable, n'entre en contradiction directe avec les termes du MDA liant le gouvernement à ArcelorMittal. Ce dernier accorde en effet à la société un droit exclusif d'exploitation de la ligne Yekepa-Buchanan.

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Dillon dénonce les propos

iens, et que le ministre a mis plus d'un mois à fournir la liste demandée par le Sénat, ce qui selon lui laisse supposer des intentions dissimulées.

« Nous avons découvert que ces permis ont été délivrés sans diligence raisonnable. Le Sénat va désormais insister pour qu'aucun permis de travail actif ne soit renouvelé. Ceux qui sont en cours ne peuvent être révoqués, car ils constituent des contrats, sauf s'ils ont été obtenus de manière frauduleuse. Par exemple, si un permis est accordé pour un poste de plombier mais que le titulaire travaille comme gestionnaire, il y a abus. Or, tous ces postes sont des emplois que des Libériens peuvent exercer, comme l'a confirmé la direction de la Fonction

publique », a affirmé Dillon.

La question ethnique rejetée

Le sénateur a également critiqué l'utilisation de l'argument tribal par le ministre Kruah, rappelant qu'il avait appuyé la confirmation de plusieurs responsables originaires de Nimba.

« Quand j'ai voté pour lui, je n'étais pas Kru, et lui non plus n'était pas Bassa. Aujourd'hui, sous prétexte que je l'interroge sur son travail, il brandit la carte ethnique. C'est inacceptable. J'ai soutenu la nomination de plusieurs personnalités de Nimba, y compris le ministre des Postes. Ce que nous faisons, c'est du contrôle institutionnel, et ce processus ne tient pas compte de l'origine ethnique », a-t-il affirmé.

Samuel Tweah annonce le retour de George Weah

L'ancien ministre libérien des Finances, Samuel D. Tweah Jr., s'est exprimé ce lundi à Monrovia sur l'état de la gouvernance nationale, critiquant vivement l'administration du président Joseph Boakai, tout en affichant son espoir dans un retour au pouvoir de l'ex-président George Weah.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse, M. Tweah – actuellement poursuivi dans une affaire de corruption présumée – a déclaré que la situation du pays se détériorait sous la direction de l'actuel gouvernement. Il a exhorté les Libériens à « garder espoir » en George Weah, qu'il voit comme une alternative crédible pour résoudre les problèmes du pays.

« Les Libériens méritent mieux. Nous reviendrons – mais pas avec le même programme. Nous reviendrons pour servir le peuple libérien et le libérer du mal. Nous allons corriger les injustices et répondre aux souffrances de notre peuple avec une nouvelle vision », a-t-il affirmé.

Attaques contre l'administration Boakai-Koung

M. Tweah s'est montré particulièrement virulent à l'encontre de l'administration en place, qualifiant la



gouvernance de « frauduleuse et destructrice ». Il accuse l'équipe Boakai-Koung d'avoir, en quelques mois, causé des dégâts considérables au pays.

« Ce sont des imposteurs. Ce dont ils se vantent aujourd'hui – routes, électricité, accords financiers – ce sont des projets que nous avons négociés et signés sous la présidence de George Weah. Ils récoltent les fruits de notre travail », a-t-il lancé.

Il cite notamment un accord historique de dix ans avec la Banque mondiale pour le développement de l'électricité, conclu, selon lui, sous le régime de M. Weah. Il revendique également des accords majeurs pour les infrastructures routières à travers le pays.

Une riposte contre les accusations

Face aux accusations de mauvaise gestion et de corruption visant d'anciens membres du gouvernement, Samuel Tweah dénonce ce qu'il qualifie de « manipulation malveillante de l'information » orchestrée contre les ex-responsables du régime CDC (Coalition for Democratic Change).

« L'administration Boakai s'adonne à une campagne délibérée de déformation des faits. Ils utilisent la désinformation comme une arme politique contre ceux d'entre nous qui avons servi sous George Weah », a-t-il déploré.

« Ceux qui sont devenus les cibles de ces manœuvres doivent résister. Nous allons nous défendre par tous les moyens à notre disposition : intellectuellement, politiquement, et bien sûr, juridiquement », a-t-il ajouté avec détermination.

Un regard tourné vers 2029

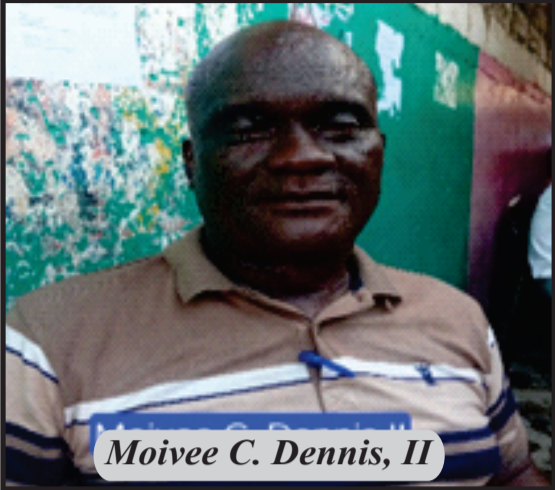
L'ex-ministre n'a pas caché son optimisme quant à une nouvelle candidature de George Weah à l'élection

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

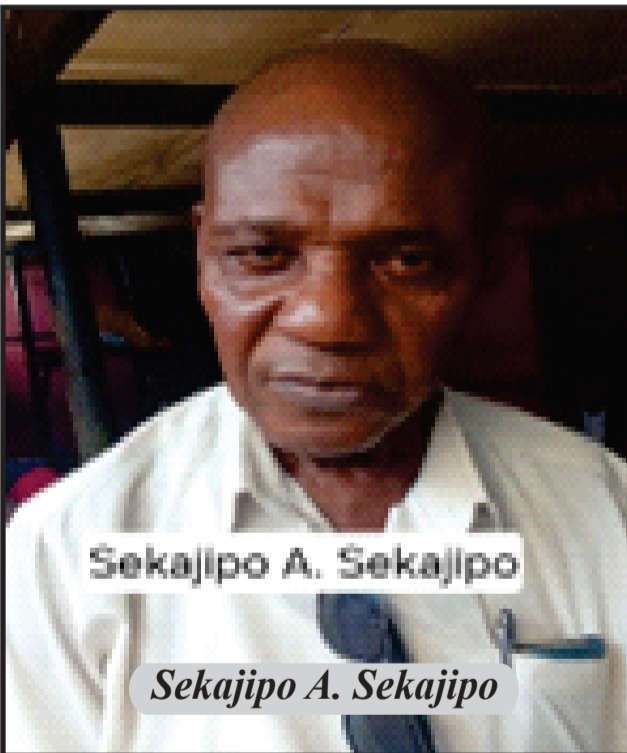
Topic: **The rice allegation against former officials** *By Naneka A. Hoffman*

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

**Moivee C. Dennis, II**

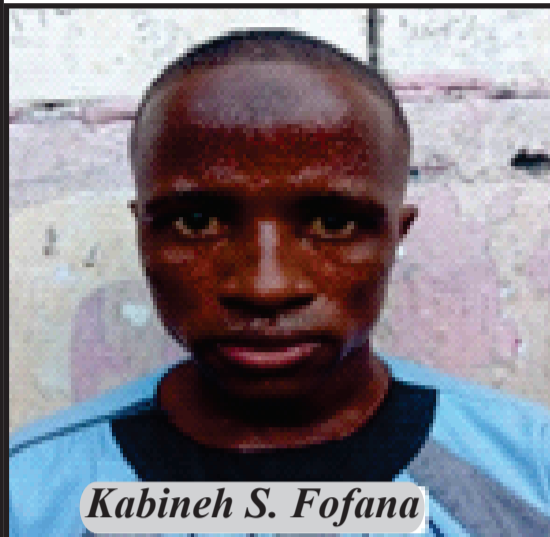
"I resigned from government in this country on June 27, 1990, and if I were still in government, if I had such a responsibility as department under me that has to do with this issue, I don't have to be involved like the disaster management is placed by the Internal Affairs Ministry. Does the minister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

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

**Sekajipo A. Sekajipo****Sekajipo A. Sekajipo**

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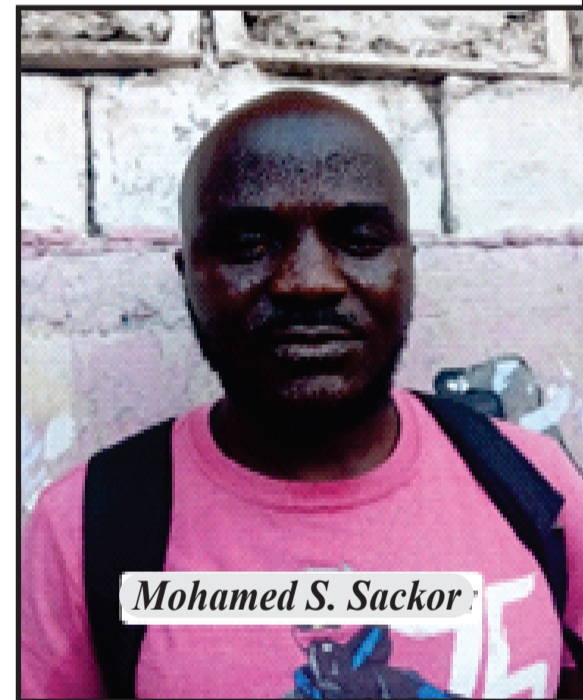
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**Kabineh S. Fofana**

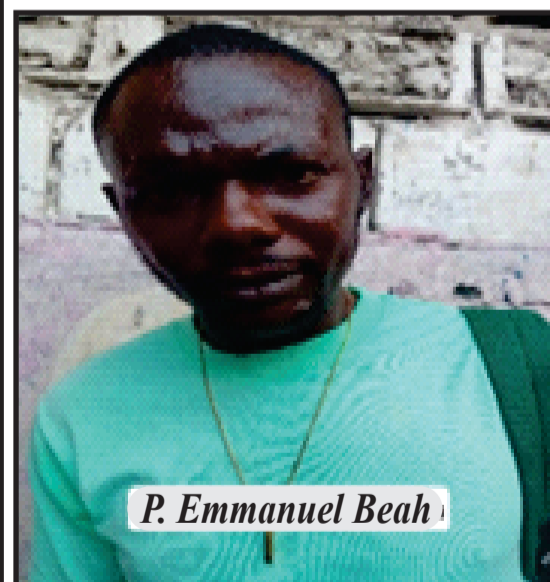
"I was too happy when I heard this news; happy in a sense that you know the backwardness today of Liberia has been caused by corruption. It is because of corruption today that we Liberians lack quality education, good road infrastructure and good medication. I was happy to hear the President coming down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

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

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

**Mohamed S. Sackor**

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

**P. Emmanuel Beah**

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

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US Embassy hails secret HPX deal "Childish and dangerous politic"

The United States Government, through its Embassy in Monrovia has lauded the weekend secret multi-user railway deal signed between the Government of Liberia and American owned -HPX/ Ivanhoe Atlantic.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, July 8, 2025: The US Embassy statement comes as President Joseph Boakai and delegation left the country on Monday for Trump's July 9-11 meeting with four other



African leaders. Meanwhile, in the brief release posted on the US Embassy social media page, the Americans expressed appreciation, and welcomed the controversial railway signing agreement, arguing that it will boost the Liberian economy by US\$1.8 billion investment package.

"The U.S. Embassy welcomes the signing of a concession and access agreement between U.S. owned Ivanhoe Atlantic and the Government of Liberia. This estimated \$1.8 billion deal is a crucial step towards President Boakai's objectives of developing Liberia's multi-user rail policy and securing new international investment. By increasing U.S. investment in Africa, we drive mutual prosperity and support Liberia's move from aid to trade," the US Embassy post read.

Reports over the weekend suggested that President Boakai was being pushed to sign the Ivanhoe Atlantic deal to enable him to have something to present to President Trump during their meeting.

Exactly as was reported, on Sunday, July 6, the Liberian government secretly signed the deal behind closed doors with Ivanhoe Atlantic, a Delaware-based company.

The signing ceremony was initially scheduled for Saturday, July 5, at the National Investment Commission but was later postponed to Sunday, July 6. However, when reporters

arrived at the NIC on the new date, they were denied access and informed that media coverage had been revoked due to a last-minute change in protocol.

According to reports, the deal seeks to rehabilitate and

expand Liberia's critical railway corridor from Tokadeh, Nimba County, to the Port of Buchanan.

The agreement also includes the construction of new rail links into neighboring Guinea to facilitate the transport of iron ore from Guinean mines through Liberian ports.

The sticky issue here is that Guinea may no longer have use of the Liberian rail, as that country is set to commission its own rail in December.

Pushing for a deal to swing Liberia's railway.

Sources clothed with information about the HPX deal, which have seen former Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah unjustly slapped with a US-Travel restriction because of US\$30 million paid to the Weah regime in good faith for a deal that was never sealed say Ivanhoe's push for unlimited access to the railway is to swing it to a third party.

The source stated that Ivanhoe's push for unlimited railway access aims to increase its value for sale to a third party, which would, in return, operate the railway in a deal reminiscent of the MedTech Scientific deal, which continues to divert 80 percent of the country's import revenue to a foreign company.

This would also, in return, reduce revenue intake from existing companies like ArcelorMittal Liberia, which will now count such payments as expenditures, thereby reducing their taxes owed to

the Liberian Government. No public disclosure of the deal yet

However, public disclosure of the agreement remains nonexistent. There has been no press release from the Executive Mansion, no legislative debate, and no formal communication to the public.

Liberia's railway is a strategic national asset — one of only a handful in West Africa with direct port access to the Atlantic.

Under current arrangements, the Government of Liberia owns the infrastructure while ArcelorMittal, a longstanding investor, operates it and shares access under multi-user terms.

ArcelorMittal Liberia is also one of Liberia's largest private sector employers, directly employing between 3,000 and 3,500 workers, with over 90 percent of them being Liberian nationals. The company also supports thousands of additional jobs indirectly through contractors and local suppliers.

Its ongoing Phase II expansion project is expected to create more than 2,000 new jobs, particularly in construction, logistics, and technical fields, as the company moves to triple its iron ore production.

In addition to direct employment, ArcelorMittal operates a vocational training academy in Yekepa, Nimba County, where young Liberians receive training in mechanical and electrical engineering, plant operations, and other industrial skills, with many graduates securing long-term employment within the company or related sectors.

The deal comes amid Arcelor Mittal Liberia's existing MDA

Despite the secret deal between the Government of Liberia and Ivanhoe Liberia, an existing agreement exists between the Liberian Government and ArcelorMittal Liberia, which grants the latter the right to operate the railway for 25 years.

The amended Mineral

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has sharply reacted to Labor Minister Cllr. Cooper W. Kruah allegation linking his continuous Work Permit advocacy to personal gain, while terming the Minister statement as childish and dangerous politic.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Speaking on a local radio talk-show in Monrovia on Monday, July 7, 2025, Sen. Dillon repeated his allegation Cllr. Kruah, accusing him of deliberately violating the Decent Work Act by giving Liberians jobs to foreigners

He, added that he will continue to push for jobs in the private sector that Liberian are qualified for.

" In closing on the labor issues, Minister Kruah gives an appearance that Sen. Dillon is personally attacking him because he is from Nimba County. I want to make this very clear here, this is not only childish but a dangerous politic he needs to stop. You know, I confirmed the Minister of Labor. In fact, I championed his confirmation. During his confirmation hearing, which the video evidence is on my Facebook page, I asked him about how we are going to get job for Liberians, he said that as Minister of Labor, he will ensure that no work permit will be issued for job that Liberians are

list, he took more than a month, which he said indicated sinister plan.

The Senator further explained how the Senate Committee later discovered that Cllr. Kruah provided work permit without doing due diligent.

" Now, the Senate is going to insist that no active work permit will be renewed. The current active work permit can't be revoked because it's a contract already. Once we received the work permit fees, it's a contract. The only way it can be revoked or expired before a timeline, is when you deceived the country. Where a person took plumber work permit but doing a manager job. All of the ten thousand work permit are jobs that Liberians can do. It was shown and justified by the Civil Service boss," Dillon added.

Addressing the tribal card

Sen. Dillon being bemused by Cllr. Kruah's tribal card, wonders as to whether when he voted on the record and confirmed Minister Kruah, he



available and qualified for. During that hearing, I told him that I will call him back after six months to get update. Now that I am doing my oversight responsibility, he sees it as attack," Sen. Dillon stated.

Providing update regarding Minister Kruah appearance at the Liberian Senate, Sen. Dillon argued that Minister Kruah didn't appear to be honestly cooperative during his appearance at the senate.

Dillon explained that the Minister was very disrespectful because he failed to tell the categories of job for which he gave work permit to foreigners.

Dillon noted that Cllr. Kruah issued work permit to more than ten thousand non-Liberians and when he was asked to bring the

was not a Bassa-man, neither Kru but when he asked him how the job is going, he is talking about tribe.

" Now, his poor performance on the job should not be used as Dillon is running after Nimba people. I confirmed Post Minister from Nimba and all those from Nimba nominated by President Joseph N. Boakai. Whether you are from rescue Mission or not, our oversight will have to work. When we go deeper in this labor related issues, Cooper Kruah will not be Minister before the close of today. Kruah is giving work permit on waiver, which violate the law. I told the senate to pass vote of no confidence in the Minister when he said

3 persons mobbed to death in Sinoe

-Over alleged witchcraft activities

Three suspects of witchcraft activities have been killed by angry mob in Sinoe County, Southeastern Liberia.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Sinoe, Liberia, July 8, 2025 - At least three (3) of six (6) persons, including Malachi Nepa Teah accused of witchcraft activities in Sanquen, Sinoe County, Southeastern Liberia have been mobbed to

in his 40s and his alleged accomplices were unmercifully beaten, tortured and forced to carry the dead bodies of Vivian and her two children, as they were manhandled by a mob led by one Harriton Blamo, who is said to be on the run. The Liberia National Police in the

a witch, and took responsibility for her death along with the children, something that prompted angry mob to act in apparent revenge, torturing and brutalizing Teah and his alleged accomplices. According to reports, the late Vivian and her two children were allegedly drugged before they were drowned in the Cestos River.

Sources told the New Dawn on Sunday that the alleged torture that led to the death of Malachi Nepa Teah, and two others took place in Sanquen Village, Kpanbee Town, Sinoe County.

Information gathered by this paper says Harriton Blamo, who led the torture of the six individuals over accusation of witchcraft activities without proper investigation, absconded.

Meanwhile, the brutal treatment and death of the accused persons have raised questions about arbitrariness especially, since Teah and his alleged accomplices died at the hands of mob.

Mob violence has been on the increase across Liberia, and the latest incident in Sinoe County arguably suggest there is more to be done in educating people about such crime. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Teah and an accomplice carrying the body of the late Vivian

death. The late Teah, and five others had been accused of involvement in witchcraft activities that led to the sudden death of a woman identified as Vivian Nyemah and her two children, in Yarnee District Area, on the outskirts of Sinoe.

The late Teah, believed to be

country has launched a hunt for him. Report indicates that Teah and others died when they were thrown into a hole, after carrying the corpses of the lady and her children.

Further reports emerged that he was husband of the late Vivian and had openly confessed to residents of being

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