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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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# Govt. yields to Grigsby's family

**-Body to be buried in U.S.**

# Koffa, others file new motion

**-In Capitol Building arson trial**

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# Continental News

## Pilot suspended after being seen 'drunk and naked' in Cape Verde

EasyJet has suspended one of its captains after he was reportedly seen roaming a incident and a replacement pilot found.



luxury hotel drunk and naked. The unnamed pilot was witnessed walking through common areas of a five-star resort in Cape Verde without any clothes on in the early hours of the morning on 5 August, after an extended drinking session in a bar, according to the Sun.

He was due to operate a return flight to Gatwick more than 36 hours later, but was grounded after the budget airline received complaints about the

an investigation and that the safety of passengers and crew was its "highest priority". The captain arrived at the Melia Dunas Beach Resort and Spa in the West African island nation on 4 August and proceeded to begin drinking, the Sun reports.

At around 02:30 local time (04:30 BST) the following morning, hotel guests reportedly saw him strip off and wander into the reception, before moving on to the gym and spa,

according to the newspaper.

"The pilot did not have a stitch on and reeked of alcohol," an anonymous source inside the airline was quoted by the paper as saying.

"Anyone who saw the pilot cavorting naked in the early hours on the day before a flight would not dream of getting on a plane with him at the controls." He was scheduled to helm the 2,332-nautical-mile (4,318km) trip back to Gatwick on the afternoon of 6 August, but was removed from the flight.

An EasyJet spokesman said: "As soon as we were made aware, the pilot was immediately stood down from duty, in line with our procedures, pending an investigation." The safety of our passengers and crew is EasyJet's highest priority.

The airline's code of business ethics states that staff must behave "with integrity when dealing with our people, our customers, our partners and the communities within which we operate". BBC

## Dozens of Malian soldiers arrested over alleged coup plot against junta

Dozens of soldiers have been arrested in Mali accused of plotting to topple the country's military leaders, sources say. The wave of arrests, which reportedly went on overnight and are expected to continue, reflect increased tensions within the military government, with reports that a jihadist insurgency in the north is gaining ground. The authorities have not commented on the arrests.

Initial reports indicated that Gen Abass Dembele, the former governor of the Mopti region and Gen Nema Sagara, one of the few women at the highest levels of the Malian army, were among those detained.

However, a source close to Gen Dembele told the BBC that neither of them had been arrested. The source, who confirmed the ongoing arrests, told a BBC reporter in Bamako that he had just left Gen Dembele's house and he was "doing well".

The AFP news agency reported

that the detained soldiers were allegedly planning to overthrow the government, citing multiple sources within the military and junta-backed transitional council.

"All are soldiers. Their objective was to overthrow the junta," it quoted an unnamed lawmaker in the National Transition Council as saying.

He said there had been about "50 arrests", while a security source said there were at least 20 arrests, linked to "attempts to destabilise the institutions," AFP

reports.

The arrests have reportedly been going on over a number of days.

They come amid political tension heightened by the junta's crackdown on former Prime Ministers Moussa Mara and Choguel Maiga over accusations of harming the reputation of the state and embezzlement. Mara, a recent outspoken critic of the military government, has been in detention since 1 August, while Maiga is facing judicial sanctions.



Junta leader Gen Asimi Goita seized power through two coups in 2020 and 2021

## Outrage as baby dies after genital mutilation in The Gambia

The death of a one-month-old baby girl who was the victim of female genital mutilation (FGM) in The Gambia has sparked widespread outrage. The baby was rushed to a hospital in the capital, Banjul, after she developed severe bleeding, but was pronounced dead on arrival, police said.

Although an autopsy is still being conducted to establish the cause of her death, many people have linked it to FGM, or female circumcision, a cultural practice outlawed in the West African state.

"Culture is no excuse, tradition is no shield, this is violence, pure and simple," a leading non-governmental organisation, Women In Leadership and Liberation (WILL), said in a statement. Two women had been arrested for their alleged involvement in the

are social acceptance, religious beliefs, misconceptions about hygiene, a means of preserving a girl or woman's virginity, making her "marriageable", and enhancing male sexual pleasure.

The Gambia is among the 10 countries with the highest rates of FGM, with 73% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 having undergone the procedure, with many doing so before the age of six years. WILL founder Fatou Baldeh told the BBC that there was an increase in FGM procedures being performed on babies in The Gambia. "Parents feel that if they cut their girls when they're babies, they heal quicker, but also, because of the law, they feel that if they perform it at such a young age, it's much easier to disguise, so that people don't



An attempt to allow FGM in The Gambia once more was thwarted by campaigners last year

baby's death, police said.

The MP for the Kombo North District where the incident happened emphasised the need to protect children from harmful practices that rob them of their health, dignity, and life.

"The loss of this innocent child must not be forgotten. Let it mark a turning-point and a moment for our nation to renew its unwavering commitment to protecting every child's right to life, safety, and dignity," Abdoulie Ceesay said. FGM is the deliberate cutting or removal of a female's external genitalia.

The most frequently cited reasons for carrying it out

know," she said.

FGM has been outlawed in The Gambia since 2015, with fines and jail terms of up to three years for perpetrators, and life sentences if a girl dies as a result.

However, there have only been two prosecutions and one conviction, in 2023.

A strong lobby group has emerged to demand the decriminalisation of FGM, but legislation aimed at repealing the ban was voted down in parliament last year. FGM is banned in more than 70 countries globally but continues to be practised particularly in Africa's Muslim-majority countries, such as The Gambia. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## We must fight drugs with sincerity

President Joseph Boakai unveiled a comprehensive multi-prong National Anti-Drug Action Plan last Thursday to address alarming surge in drug abuse and trafficking across Liberia. The launch coincided with street parade by anti-drug campaigners, predominantly women and mothers, calling government's attention to the proliferation of trafficking, sale and abuse of dangerous substances in the country.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia said President Boakai described the proliferation of drugs as “an attack on our future” and reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to safeguard Liberia's youth, communities, and future generations from the scourge of substance abuse.

While we laud the launch of the National Anti-Drug Action Plan by the President, we sense a serious lip-service by the government to the entire drug war in Liberia that is being fought with more talking and less tangible actions. Drugs continue to come into the country thru various borders, including our international airport.

When President Boakai took office, he declared illicit drugs a National Health Emergency, and personally went for drug test. Not only that, he mandated all public officials to similarly report for test, but this instruction fell on deaf ears.

Nearly two years into the administration, the government has changed leadership at the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency almost thrice, without curbing widespread trafficking of illicit drugs that are killing the youths.

If the President's declaration of drugs as a National Health Emergency has been mere words, we wonder whether the so-called National Anti-Drug Action Plan would yield anything fruitful in our fight against drugs.

It is not enough to rally the population against drugs, but the law should be applied to serve as deterrence. However, we have observed over the last two years that culprits arrested are released subsequently without having their day in court, which is quite disappointing!

President Boakai emphasized that the fight against drugs will be “non-selective and relentless,” stressing that “no status, no title, no uniform, and no connection will protect anyone involved in drugs”, and that under his watch, Liberia will not lose another generation to drugs.

We call on the government to move from talk to stern practical actions to demonstrate its professed commitment to the fight against illicit drugs. We believe that doing so would demonstrate its pledge to rescue the country.

Two years after, it is time to address the National Health Emergency, with all resources at our disposal in saving not only the current youths, but generations to come. 'Action' must be the catch word in this fight.

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# COMMENTARY

## Climate Security Is Energy Security

By Gernot Wagner

NEW YORK - For all the uncertainties generated by Donald Trump’s administration over the past six months, one thing is clear: “climate” technologies are out, and “energy” technologies are in. But while going along with this rhetorical shift may appease some, it should be recognized for what it is: a change in wording. The fundamental economic and technological forces that are pushing the world away from oil, coal, and gas and toward low-carbon, high-efficiency technologies have not abated.

Over the past two decades, climate change has been a leading item on the global agenda, driving efforts to deploy technologies that will reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Those efforts are now facing headwinds, and not just in the United States. Geopolitical developments elsewhere, like Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, have called attention to the importance of energy affordability and security over other considerations.

Policymakers in the US, Europe, and elsewhere initially responded to the war by doubling down on the shift from fossil fuels, and for good reason. Oil, coal, and gas are commodities whose prices will always be linked to geopolitical vagaries (that goes for not only global oil markets but also regional gas markets, which are increasingly linked by trade in liquefied natural gas).

As a case in point, the summer of 2022 brought massive inflation, largely driven by fossil-fuel price spikes. Europe’s gas prices peaked at ten times their long-term average, and US gas prices at around triple their long-term average. While the US Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is widely considered a misnomer, history will judge the name kindly: The only permanent way to address such bouts with “fossilflation” is to stop using fossil fuels.

Though the blowback against climate policies has been particularly strong at the federal level in the US, Europe, too, has undergone a retrenchment. This is somewhat understandable, even if it is shortsighted. Germany, Europe’s largest economy, has been in a recession for more than two years, with high energy prices a chief culprit. Climate technologies that are already commercially viable could help, of course. But taking full advantage of the lower prices of solar, wind, and (increasingly) batteries requires a willingness to reform power markets and pass these savings to households and industrial consumers. It also calls for more upfront public investment, an area where climate priorities compete with other priorities like national security that are often perceived to be more immediate.

In grappling with these tradeoffs, the European Union delivered the kinds of efficiency measures that Trump’s “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE) had promised but failed to achieve. For example, Europe dialed back its carbon border adjustment mechanism by requiring 90% fewer companies to comply.

On the surface, this seems like a decisive blow to the goal of establishing a carbon tariff for imports, commensurate with Trump’s DOGE hatchet. But unlike Trump and Elon Musk, the EU ensured that the remaining 10% of importers still accounted for over 90% of emissions. This outcome is far from ideal when viewed solely through a climate lens. But viewed from a broader climate-economic perspective, it is exactly the kind of surgical intervention that

DOGE promised but never delivered.

Still, fiddling at the climate-policy margins ignores the bigger picture. While Europe and America are taking steps back, China is leaping forward. It alone accounted for over 40% of the record \$2.1 trillion of global investment in the energy transition last year - more than the EU, the United Kingdom, and the US combined.

The balance is even more lopsided for specific clean-energy technologies. China produces around 75% of the world’s solar panels and 80% of its lithium-ion batteries. That dominance is the result of a concerted green industrial policy, in which innovation plays a key role. The claim that China only manufactures and assembles is woefully outdated. China’s electric vehicles, for example, are second to none. BYD, the country’s leading carmaker, recently unveiled a groundbreaking charging system capable of adding 470 kilometers (292 miles) of range in just five minutes, putting the company in a league of its own globally.

China’s dominance extends to technologies that are not yet competitive without price support. LONGi, one of the world’s top solar manufacturers, formed LONGi Hydrogen in 2021 to pursue green hydrogen production. It now leads the world in electrolyzer manufacturing capacity.

These are not isolated examples. China’s ambitious industrial policy has helped lift five other Chinese hydrogen companies into the global top ten. Have Europe and the US already lost this race for the future?

While the US now seems hellbent on turning itself into a petrostate, the EU has a chance to revive its clean-energy fortunes. It is even starting with a significant policy advantage: a CO2 price hovering around \$100 per metric ton means that most low-carbon technologies - from clean electrons and electrification to clean molecules like biofuels - are already economically viable. Others, like green hydrogen, will need further support to help climb the learning curve and slide down the cost curve. According to Bernd Heid, a senior partner at McKinsey & Company who leads its Platform for Climate Technologies, around 90% of climate technologies will be in the money by 2030 with a \$100 carbon price.

While China dominates with six top-ten global players, three of the others are European. The Swedish startup Stegra is building the world’s first low-carbon steel plant using electrolyzers made by ThyssenKrupp Nucera, in which the German steelmaker has a majority stake.

Despite recent political developments, the US, too, has shown that rapid change is possible. Although breaking China’s solar manufacturing dominance will be difficult, the US has made significant inroads just over the past three years. Earlier this year, it exceeded 50 gigawatts of panel manufacturing capacity, a fivefold increase since 2022. These 50 GW in panel supply roughly matched US demand.

True, onshoring the solar supply chain comes with costs that can be justified only by priorities other than the climate, such as national security or promoting domestic manufacturing. But that is the point. If political conditions require stronger emphasis on technologies like geothermal and nuclear, and if technologies formerly known as “climate tech” must be relabeled as more neutral-sounding “energy tech,” so be it. The larger forces propelling us toward decarbonization remain the same.

OP-ED

By Ioannis Ioannou

# A New Economic Logic for Sustainability

LONDON - Companies have long justified sustainability initiatives as a way to boost their reputation, comply with external and internal standards, or generate incremental profits. But the initiatives are rarely transformative, because markets disregard ecological limits and social goals, rewarding firms that burn through resources and often punishing those with regenerative models. No matter how compelling the business case, corporate sustainability strategies cannot escape their structural misalignment with the logic of our current economic system.

The problem runs deeper than many realize. In the absence of the narrative infrastructure needed to reshape economic logic, all the sophisticated sustainability standards and metrics we have developed - the technical infrastructure - are insufficient. Our efforts remain hostage to the quarterly earnings dance, and companies that should be leaders on sustainability are instead cautionary tales.

Consider a hypothetical manufacturing company that designs products for complete circularity: every material input retains value indefinitely through continuous reuse. This would dramatically reduce the company’s material costs and insulate it from volatile commodity prices. But today’s markets - which are accustomed to business models based on linear extraction - would see only the high upfront investment demands.

With investors favoring immediate returns over long-term value creation, and credit agencies struggling to price the benefits of resilience into ratings decisions, the circular manufacturer ends up starved of investment, while its resource-burning competitors have ample access to lower-cost capital. Rewarding companies for externalizing costs is economic insanity disguised as financial prudence.

That is why we must initiate a shift to what I call “aligned capitalism.” In such a system, ecological impacts would be priced into markets, regulators would reward ecosystem restoration, and investors would compete on resilience. Financial statements would capture natural and social capital, while credit ratings would factor in equity and environmental preparedness.

In other words, sustainability would move from cost center to profit engine. Under this system, our hypothetical circular manufacturer would flourish. The resource efficiency and supply-chain independence of such companies would deliver huge advantages. As materials become scarcer and more expensive, and trade becomes increasingly fractious, these companies would be able to build competitive moats that strengthen over time.

Of course, to change the economic logic, all stakeholders in the political economy - from board members to regulatory agencies, trade unions, local communities, and civil-society organizations - must do their part. But smart corporate leaders will not wait for others to act. They can demonstrate what good business looks like when systems align with environmental and social realities. The recent backlash against environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments makes this even more important.

The first and most important step is to construct the missing narrative infrastructure. Business leaders must engage in strategic, evidence-based storytelling that links corporate actions to broader realities, and build trust within and outside boardrooms by entering into dialogues with stakeholders that outlast political cycles. They should also invest in research that demonstrates the superior outcomes of aligned practices.

Some companies are getting it right. The Brazilian cosmetics group Natura’s partnerships with indigenous communities have improved business results and social outcomes. Interface, the global flooring manufacturer, has inspired other companies with its Mission Zero commitment, which resulted in a 74% reduction in its carpets’ carbon footprint. Schneider Electric, an energy-management and digital-automation company, has made sustainability a central part of its business strategy, embedding it deeply into its operations. These companies’ narratives helped create the economic logic that rewards their sustainability practices, setting the stage for regulatory and market shifts.

But corporate behavior is just one piece of the puzzle. To promote coordinated action, firms must adopt governance structures designed for advocacy, not just compliance, and then advocate for regulatory reform that entrenches environmental and social criteria in financial disclosures and decision-making. Regulators, for their part, must mandate the inclusion of comprehensive ecological-social disclosures in financial statements and set ambitious timelines for system realignment.

Investors also play a crucial role, especially because regulation follows, as much as it leads, market pressure. Investors must integrate resilience criteria into their mandates, develop new valuation methodologies, and compete on long-term value creation rather than quarterly profits. The smartest asset managers are already building these capabilities, recognizing that tomorrow’s winners will be companies that thrive within ecological and social boundaries.

Lastly, business schools should teach ecological and social literacy, as well as how to shape future economic realities as part of their core curricula. Today’s MBA students will inherit an economy in transition - whether orderly or disorderly - and need the tools to lead that transformation, instead of just managing resources within existing

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OPINION

By Shashi Tharoor

# The US-India Relationship Is Changing Again

NEW DELHI - India’s relationship with the United States has long been a careful balancing act between shared democratic values and sometimes diverging national interests. But recent diplomatic tremors have unsettled India, prompting it to question whether the partnership has reached a turning point.

In what Indian officials view as an unsettling display of geopolitical grandstanding, US President Donald Trump has taken credit for halting recent hostilities between India and Pakistan by threatening to disrupt trade ties. India has bristled at Trump’s claims, not only because it is fiercely protective of its sovereignty, but also because they lack merit. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar have noted, Trump did not even call them during the conflict. Bilateral trade was not mentioned by any US official while the fighting was underway.

Trump may well have pressed Pakistan to end the violence, but India did not need persuading. As a status-quo power focused on its own economic development, the last thing India wanted was a protracted conflict. So, after Pakistani terrorists slaughtered Indian civilians in Pahalgam in April, India devised a sharp, swift, and measured response. It was always clear that “Operation Sindoor” - which featured strikes on nine known terrorist basecamps and other facilities in Pakistani territory - was retribution against the terrorists who had targeted Indian tourists, not the opening salvo in a war against Pakistan.

When Pakistan retaliated with indiscriminate attacks, India initiated another decisive but carefully calibrated strike - this time, on 11 Pakistani air bases. It was this maneuver - possibly coupled with US pressure on Pakistan’s government - that prompted Pakistan to seek a cessation of hostilities. Trump hardly deserves credit for this outcome, and yet, true to form, he has sought to claim it. But Indian officials have unequivocally rejected Trump’s narrative. India is proud of its independence, and it will not tolerate the implication that it succumbed to Trumpian threats or blandishments.

This is not Trump’s only action that is giving India pause. In June, he hosted Pakistan’s army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir - whom India’s government and opposition parties alike regard as a hardline Islamist ideologue - at a White House lunch. Pakistan’s civilian leadership was not at the table.

Trump’s unpredictability vis-à-vis China is similarly troubling. Whereas he took a reliably hardline approach to the country during his first presidency, Trump 2.0 blows hot and cold. One minute, he is imposing extreme tariffs against China; the next, he is seeking to negotiate a trade truce and saying that he might visit Beijing at Chinese President Xi Jinping’s invitation.

Where India fits into these calculations - if it factors into them at all - is a mystery. During Trump’s first term - as well as during Joe Biden’s presidency - the US regarded India as a vital partner in the Indo-Pacific and a democratic bulwark against China. While India upheld its foreign-policy doctrine of strategic autonomy and avoided committing to any confrontation with China, it welcomed US engagement in the region, and supported the revitalization of the Quad, which includes Australia, Japan, and the US, in 2017. After all, India has its own quarrels with China, which has ramped up its encroachments on their disputed frontier in recent years and lent critical support to Pakistan.

Now, China is directly undermining India’s industrial ecosystem, by restricting the flow of engineers to the country and barring Indian factories’ access to high-end Chinese machinery. The impact on sectors like electronics and manufacturing is already visible. Meanwhile, China’s influence across South Asia is growing, extending from Bhutan and Nepal to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Indian officials and businesses see China as a threat. But it is difficult to know where the US stands, especially after Trump opted not to rebuke China publicly for offering intelligence assistance to Pakistan, including real-time satellite data that reportedly facilitated Pakistani strikes on Indian military targets during the recent conflict. When it comes to trade, moreover, Trump has often been tougher on partners than adversaries. On July 30, Trump announced a 25% tariff on Indian goods, effective August 1, together with an unspecified “penalty” - probably an additional 10% - for India’s ongoing purchases of energy and military equipment from Russia. If trade can be weaponized, defense ties could be, too.

Trump’s capriciousness has heightened India’s strategic anxieties. The US has proved to be an unreliable partner before. For example, during the 1999 Kargil conflict between India and Pakistan, the US denied India access to vital GPS data, leading the country to develop its own. Now, Indian decision-makers are split: Should India decouple from China, trusting the US to have its back, or pragmatically engage with it, for fear that the US will do the same? This raises an even more fundamental question: What is the value of a partnership that is subject to the whims of an outsize ego?

India will not panic, but it might pivot. Given its lack of treaty obligations, it has greater leeway to act independently than formal US allies like Japan or South Korea. It might use this maneuvering room to adjust its foreign-policy orientation. Jaishankar’s July visit to Beijing pointed to a desire to broaden channels of communication with China. While India is not downgrading its ties with the US, it is emphasizing self-reliance. This may lead to a more transactional bilateral relationship, shaped less by ideals than interests.

Indian foreign policy will remain rooted in deterrence, decisiveness, and non-tolerance of terror, outlined in Modi’s newly articulated strategic doctrine. As India’s strikes on state-sponsored terror hubs in Pakistan made clear, these commitments are foundational. As for the US, India will continue to walk the same tightrope, constantly aware that it may be fraying at one end.

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, is a member of the Indian National Congress.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES)

Republic of Liberia

Republic of Liberia

Assignment Title: Individual Consultancy for the Position of Monitoring & Evaluation to design, establish and implement an efficient results-based monitoring & evaluation (M&E) system for the Scaling up of participation of direct beneficiaries (ie Carpenters and Furniture makers) and keep track of the indicators in the results measurement framework of Needs Assessment for Association members/beneficiaries.

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Name of Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry\_ Phase II

Sector : Forestry

Project ID No :P-LR-AAD-002

Grant No : 5900155018403

Issue Date : August 1, 2025

End Date : August 15, 2025

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**BACKGROUND**

The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority has received financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the “Scaling Up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry Project in Liberia- Phase II, and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this *grant* to payments under the contract for **Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant**.

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- The services of the M&E consultant relating to the required duties and responsibilities are:
- The individual M&E consultant will be expected to design, establish and implement an efficient results-based monitoring & evaluation (M&E) system for the Scaling up of participation of direct beneficiaries (ie.Carpenters and Furniture makers)
  - Keep track of the indicators in the Results Measurement Framework (RMF) of Needs Assessment (NA) for the Eleven (11) Carpenters and Furniture Makers Association members/beneficiaries.
  - Coordinate and supervise project activities including keeping track of the indicators in the results measurement framework.
  - Monitor work of Data field collectors that conduct Needs Assessment &Data collection from field) on feedback from training from phase one (1) and current needs and prepare Periodic performance tracking progress report; Mid-term Report; Final Report for submission to the Project Coordinator (PC) and Project team.
  - Undertake the responsibility for working on field data collected, collating, analysis, and reporting.
  - He/she the selected M&E Consultant will work in close collaboration with the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) and will support the PIU to develop appropriate M&E processes, protocols and reporting mechanisms for the intermediate results that lead to the achievement in line with the Project Development Objectives (PDO) and outcomes, and as well as track project activities.
  - The consultant will consider how this system could be adapted/augmented with an overall efficient and effective results-based M&E system that would cater to the need of tracking all future AfDB projects.;
  - Develop Performance Indicators (PI), Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and measure project outcomes and outputs against data collected by Data Collectors in order to assess the impact of the project on the defined intended and desirable indicators in order to compare project performance against targets set in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and Budget;
  - Design a Result Based Logical framework that will lead to evidence-based decision making and improve accountability within the project implementation period;
  - Prepare and develop M&E System Operational Manual that guides the day-to-day operations of the project implementation.
  - Build M&E capacity of direct project beneficiaries, project team and others.
  - Develop monthly dashboard to illustrate progress of the project, achievements and challenges.
  - Conduct data quarterly review meeting to understand the project achievement and challenges and/or do a stock taking of the project.
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  - Prepare and develop M&E System Operational Manual that guides the day-to-day operations of the project implementation.
  - Build M&E capacity of direct project beneficiaries, project team and others.
  - Develop monthly dashboard to illustrate progress of the project, achievements and challenges.
  - Conduct data quarterly review meeting to understand the project achievement and challenges and/or do a stock taking of the project.

The Forestry Development Authority now invites eligible Individuals to express their interest in providing these services. Interested individuals must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the aforementioned assignment.

Applicants must have experience in Small Medium Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) in Secondary Wood Processing; should availability of appropriate knowledge skills of secondary wood processing is an advantage.

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- Qualification and Experience:**
- At least a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Environmental Science is an added advantage, in development field, monitoring and evaluation in natural resource, social science, economics, Business Administration, Statistics or in relevant discipline.
  - Strong quantitative and qualitative skills data collection and analysis;
  - Minimum of four (4) years of progressively responsible professional experience in performance monitoring and/or evaluation role with an international development organization
  - Demonstrate ability in data analysis, monitoring and evaluation of development activities.
  - Experience developing results frameworks, logical frameworks, M&E Plan
  - proven experience in excellent research and data collection methodology skills, and 11 worked with AfDB project or other projects is an added advantage
  - Excellent computer skills, including word processing, spreadsheet programs and data base management;
  - Familiar with Statistical Packages and Social Sciences (SPSS), should have experience in using Microsoft office including MS Word, Excel, Power point.
  - Experience working with mobile Android phone to collect quantitative data using KOBO collect soft word platform as well as excellent organizational and time-management skill.
  - Ability to read and interpret field data and specifications
- Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “Procurement Policy Framework for Bank’s Group Funded Operations” dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.
  - Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Liberian Time], Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays): emmanuellemw965@gmail.com with copy to: [wynnbryant12@gmail.com](mailto:wynnbryant12@gmail.com).
  - Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by August 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM and mention “Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant”
  - Duration Consultancy: Maximally 6 months, with possible extension
- Qualification and Experience:**
- At least a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Environmental Science is an added advantage, in development field, monitoring and evaluation in natural resource, social science, economics, Business Administration, Statistics or in relevant discipline.
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Attn: Project Coordinator  
Project Implementation Unit  
Forestry Development Authority  
Whein Town, Bernard Farm  
Montserrado County  
Liberia]

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Email: [wynnbryant12@gmail.com](mailto:wynnbryant12@gmail.com)  
0776-063-643/0886-551-249

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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# LNP indicts EcoBank robbery suspect

## -on multiple charges

The Liberian National Police has formally charged and sent to court Mr. Fobay Emery Johnson on charges of multiple criminal offenses in connection with the alleged armed robbery on August 6, 2025, at Ecobank Liberia.

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Incident Summary



On August 6, 2026, brought along with him. approximately 9:45 AM, However, the victim resisted, suspect Johnson entered the pressed the alarm button, and Private Banking Room of was rescued by her colleagues, Ecobank, disguised with a nose who restrained the suspect mask and a hoodie as captured until the arrival of the Liberia on CCTV footage, closed the National Police. office door behind him, pulled Releasing the police a single-barreled shotgun from investigation findings on his black backpack, and placed Monday, August 11, 2025, LNP victim Angeline L. Sillah, age Spokesperson, Cecelia Clark, 33, under gunpoint. said that they are excited to In the CCTV footage, he is seen release findings of a critical demanding the money stored investigation into a violent

incident that occurred on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at the Ecobank Liberia Limited, 11th Street, Sinkor Branch. According to her, the suspect, Fobay Emery Johnson, age 44, of Duport Road, Paynesville, was apprehended at the scene and has since been thoroughly investigated by the Anti-Robbery Unit of the Crime Services Division. "Following the investigation, the Liberia National Police has formally charged Mr. Johnson with the following criminal offenses: Armed Robbery, Chapter 15, Subchapter C, Section 15.32. Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder - Chapter 10, Section 10.1, Possession and Sale of Physical Objects for Lethal Use - Chapter. These charges are in accordance with the Revised Penal Code of the Republic of Liberia. Mr. Johnson will be forwarded to court immediately following this press briefing." She stated. The Police spokesperson assured Liberians that the Liberia National Police remains committed to protecting the lives and property of all citizens, while expressing appreciation to the

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# Liberia UMC Leadership moves to Protect Worship and Property amid S.T. Nagbe turmoil

The Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (LAC/UMC) has strongly condemned what it described as an "unfortunate and unwarranted" disturbance that occurred Sunday, August 10, in front of the Stephen Trowen Nagbe United Methodist Church (S.T. Nagbe UMC) on Tubman Boulevard, despite the church's recent closure. The Executive Committee of LAC/UMC said the disturbance, reportedly involving a group of dismissed and suspended church officers, underscored the necessity of the August 6 closure order, which was implemented to protect worshippers, safeguard property, and maintain public order. Months of Escalating Disruptions According to church authorities, S.T. Nagbe UMC has faced over three months of

sought to withdraw from the Liberia Annual Conference but are now attempting to occupy the S.T. Nagbe premises and exclude members who wish to remain in the UMC. "This dispute is not about faith or same-sex marriage, it is about church property, the building, and its rightful ownership," the statement read. The LAC/UMC also dismissed social media claims suggesting that the church's bishop was preparing to officiate a same-sex

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# GIABA Director General leads high-level delegation to Liberia

A high-level delegation of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) is in Liberia, for a three-day official visit.

By: Naneka Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia; August 12, 2025 - The Director General of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), Mr. Edwin W. Harris, Jr., is leading a high-level delegation to Liberia to engage Liberian authorities and stakeholders on strengthening the country's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. The visit that runs from August 11-13, will also initiate planning for the upcoming 44th Plenary and Technical Commission Meeting of GIABA, scheduled to be held in Monrovia later this year. Since the adoption of its Second-

about the November 2025 Plenary and begin preparations for the Third-Round Mutual Evaluation (MER3). Liberia's MER3 is scheduled for adoption in November 2031. In preparation, the country must implement reforms including: Extending money laundering investigations to foreign predicate offences; Criminalizing the financing of foreign terrorist fighters for planning or receiving terrorist training; Establishing frameworks for Targeted Financial Sanctions against Proliferation Financing (TFS-PF); Identifying non-profit organizations (NPOs) at risk of terrorist financing abuse and taking targeted preventive measures as well as



GIABA Boss, Mr. Edwin W. Harris, Jr.

Round Mutual Evaluation Report (MER2) in May 2023, Liberia has made progress in addressing deficiencies in its AML/CFT/Countering Proliferation Financing (CPF) regime. Key achievements include: Enactment of the Control Drug and Substance Act of 2023; Adoption of beneficial ownership regulation and the National AML/CFT Action Plan (2024-2028) on August 5, 2024; Conduct of sectoral risk assessments; Establishment of the Office of Asset Recovery via Executive Orders No. 126 (2024) and No. 145 (2025) and Admission into the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, among others. While Liberia received favorable ratings in some areas, it was placed under Enhanced Follow-Up by GIABA. The primary objective of this high-level mission is to sensitize political authorities

Strengthening supervision of designated non-financial businesses and professionals (DNFBPs) and financial institutions for compliance. Lead-up to MER3 will also involve capacity building for key agencies, stakeholder sensitization, the appointment of a National Coordinator, establishment of a National Mutual Evaluation Committee, and enhanced collaboration with the GIABA Secretariat efforts aimed at securing improved ratings. During the mission, Mr. Harris will meet with high-ranking Liberian officials, including President Joseph N. Boakai, GIABA line ministers (Justice, Finance, Internal Affairs), the Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, the Officer-in-Charge of the Financial Intelligence Agency, the Inter-Ministerial Committee, and the National Coordination

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LNP indicts EcoBank robbery suspect

management of Ecobank, the victim for her courage, and the public for their continued support. Providing clarification on Public Perception, she disclosed that they are aware of commentary surrounding Mr. Johnson's background, including his association with the University of Liberia. In case reference, the LNP reminded the public of J.J. Maloney, Educated, accomplished, and once a convicted armed robber, a respected American journalist and author who won multiple prestigious awards, including the American Bar Association Silver Gavel and the Sigma Delta Chi Award, and was nominated for five Pulitzer Prizes. But before all that, Madam Clark pointed out that Maloney spent over six years in reform schools and prison for murder and armed robbery. Still, his transformation came only after incarceration, where he educated himself and rebuilt his life. "Let it be made clear: no individual is above the law. The Liberia National Police remains committed to impartial enforcement, guided

solely by facts and the rule of law. This case is a powerful reminder that education, employment, and social standing do not exempt anyone from criminal behavior. Public perception can be misleading, and assumptions based on status must never override the facts uncovered through investigation. The Liberia National Police investigates based on evidence, not assumptions, and justice applies equally to all, regardless of background." She stated. Commenting on the evidence and investigation, Madam Clark stated that the CTV footage from Ecobank clearly shows Mr. Johnson entering the private banking room, retrieving the weapon, and threatening the victim. "During questioning, the suspect admitted to purchasing the firearm in Ganta, Nimba County, for USD 60, claiming it was for personal protection. Recovered items include: One black backpack, one single-barreled shotgun, three rounds of ammunition, one pepper spray, one duct tape, one nose mask," she concluded.

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Koffa, others file new motion

te, vindicate, or exonerate themselves from the crimes charged against them by the Prosecution, amongst other things. "Thus, the said Co-Movants/Co-Defendants have denied ever having met with the other Co-Defendants with the intent to commit the crimes charged. More than this, the Co-Movants/Co-Defendants, having denied any knowledge of the crimes charged, therefore pray this Court for a speedy trial consistent with their fundamental rights guaranteed in the 1986 Constitution of Liberia." They stated. The defense further indicated that the Motion for Discovery will lead to compel the Prosecution to furnish them with all the pieces of evidence the Prosecution relied on to indict them, while submitting that it's been more than forty-two (42) days since

the Co-Movants/Co-Defendants were served with the said writ of arrest and indictment, amongst other things."WHEREFORE AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, the Co-Movants pray Your Honor and this Honorable Court to compel the Prosecution to furnish them with all the pieces of evidence it relied on to indict and prosecute them, Order a speedy trial consistent with their constitutional rights and Grant unto Co-Movants all further relief and remedies this Court may deem proper, just and legal. Respectfully Submitted." Co-Movants/Co-Defendants by and through Their Counsel: Jonathan T. Massaquoi, Counsellor-At-Law in Association with:Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson, Cllr. M. Wilkins Wright dated this of August, A.D. 2025," the motion concluded.

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Liberia UMC Leadership moves

wedding. The Executive Committee labeled the allegation as "false and misleading," stressing that both the Liberia Annual Conference and the West Africa Central Conference uphold marriage as a sacred union between one man and one woman, consistent with biblical teaching and Liberian law. The statement cited resolutions passed at the West Africa Central Conference in Ghana (December 2024) and the LAC/UMC's 192nd Annual Session (February 2025), both of which reaffirmed the traditional definition of marriage and mandated the protection of all United Methodist properties across Liberia.Commitment to Law and Order

Church leaders pledged to ensure that United Methodists can worship without fear, warning that those who instigate unrest or vandalize church property will face legal consequences under Liberian law.In the meantime, members of S.T. Nagbe UMC are being encouraged to attend services at other United Methodist churches in Monrovia and surrounding areas under the guidance of the District Superintendent, who is coordinating with law enforcement to maintain safety and order. Founded over two centuries ago, The United Methodist Church has played a significant role in Liberia's history and maintains that its doctrinal and property policies will continue to be upheld.

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GIABA Director General leads

Team for Mutual Evaluation. The GIABA 44th Plenary and Technical Commission Meeting will take place in Monrovia from November 17-21, 2025. In keeping with tradition, the opening session will feature addresses by President Boakai and Liberia's three GIABA line ministers. Beyond strengthening

Liberia's AML/CFT regime, hosting the GIABA Plenary is expected to boost the national economy and raise the country's international profile. Liberia last hosted the Plenary in May 2017 during the 27th edition of the meeting. Editing by Jonathan Browne

LERC hosts national electricity curriculum synergy workshop

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC), in partnership with the Ministries of Education and Youth & Sports, along with the Agence Française de Développement (IECD), has opened a weeklong National Electricity Curriculum Synergy Workshop at the TVET Center for Professional Training, Research, and Innovation (TCPTRIA) on the BWI Campus in Kakata. The initiative marks the first unified national approach for a specific trade in Liberia, aiming to harmonize multiple electricity curricula currently used across Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions nationwide. Over the next five days, stakeholders from line ministries, TVET institutions, licensed service providers, civil society actors, curriculum developers and other partners will work to create a single, nationally recognized electricity

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, LERC Commissioner Amara M. Kamara underscored the regulator's role in setting clear, credible, and consistent frameworks that promote institutional growth and public trust. He lauded the Ministries of Education and Youth & Sports, as well as the IECD, for their technical support in designing the training process. "This curriculum will build a qualified and accountable workforce aligned with national priorities and international best practices. I urge participants to engage fully and take ownership of this process," Kamara said. Representing IECD, Senior Program Manager Patrick Adelphe N'Doman described the workshop as a model that could be replicated in other trades such as construction and mechanics. He stressed that beyond harmonizing curricula, the initiative aligns visions across ministries, regulators, training providers, and industry,



curriculum, a move set to transform the trade and boost the relevance of technical and vocational education in the country. The finalized curriculum will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval and subsequently implemented in TVET institutions nationwide. In his opening remarks, Deputy Minister for Energy Hon. Charles Umehai hailed the workshop as a milestone in strengthening Liberia's technical capacity in the energy sector. He emphasized the importance of preparing the workforce for sustainable and decentralized energy solutions, particularly solar technologies, while meeting national and global standards. "The establishment of a unified and robust National Electricity Curriculum is not just timely, it is essential. It will be the cornerstone for quality assurance, safety, and reliability across electrical engineering and solar installation in Liberia," Umehai stated.

fostering a stronger, more consistent, and more impactful skills development system. The workshop runs throughout the week, with the expectation that the resulting curriculum will elevate professional standards, ensure safety compliance, and instill greater public trust in Liberia's certified electricians. Mr. Patrick Anderson, Director for TVET at the Ministry of Education lauded the Commission for providing the leeway for the harmonization of the electricity TVET Curriculum noting that "this is a key step toward ensuring quality in the electricity sector of Liberia. Director Anderson noted that the synergized curriculum provides an opportunity for learners to have theoretical and practical skills that will allow them to compete with their peers nationally and internationally. He reiterated the Ministry of Education's support to endeavor to synergize the curriculum to put Liberian students on top of the map.

## « Weah ne m’a pas adressé la parole pendant quatre ans » — Le sénateur Saah Joseph rompt le silence

La vie politique au Liberia est souvent marquée par des changements d’allégeance, des rivalités internes et des confrontations parfois publiques, parfois privées, entre anciens alliés lorsque le pouvoir change de

Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) au pouvoir, multiplie ces derniers temps les accusations contre l’ex-président George M. Weah et plusieurs cadres du parti. Parmi ses révélations les plus marquantes, le sénateur affirme que l’ancien chef de l’État a cessé toute

Weah. Selon lui, ce silence délibéré l’a fragilisé sur le plan politique, mais ne l’a pas empêché de poursuivre son engagement auprès de ses électeurs.

Le sénateur Joseph accuse également des responsables de haut rang du CDC d’avoir orchestré une tentative d’assassinat en incendiant sa maison, de nuit, alors que sa famille et lui s’y trouvaient. Il soutient que cette attaque aurait été motivée par le fait qu’il a obtenu plus de voix que M. Weah dans le comté de Montserrado, un résultat qu’il attribue à ses efforts de campagne et au vote populaire, et non à une volonté de faire de l’ombre au président sortant.

« Beaucoup de choses se sont passées, et j’en parlerai à mon retour. Mais sachez que ma maison a été incendiée parce que j’ai obtenu plus de voix que Weah. Cela touche à ma vie. Je ne l’ai jamais dit à pers

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maines. C’est dans ce contexte que le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Saah Joseph, figure autrefois proche de la

communication avec lui pendant quatre ans, et ce malgré son rôle stratégique de président de l’Exécutif au Sénat durant les six années du mandat

## Monrovia : vives protestations contre la fermeture de l’église méthodiste S.T. Nagbe

Une partie de la direction de la Stephen Trowen Nagbe United Methodist Church (S.T. Nagbe UMC) dénonce vigoureusement la décision de la Liberia Annual Conference (LAC) de l’Église méthodiste unie de fermer son sanctuaire, qualifiant cette mesure d’« unilatérale et injuste ».

La fermeture, annoncée le 6 août par communiqué de presse, a été ordonnée par l’évêque Samuel J. Quire Jr. et le comité exécutif de la LAC, au motif de « perturbations lors du culte, interruptions de la Sainte Cène et comportements hostiles envers les pasteurs nommés ».

Les responsables de S.T. Nagbe UMC rejettent ces accusations, affirmant qu’aucune notification écrite ni consultation préalable n’a eu lieu, en violation des protocoles établis de l’Église et au mépris de la dignité de la congrégation.

Dans une déclaration publique, ils estiment que le véritable point de discorde réside dans leur opposition ferme à un amendement controversé

adopté lors de la Conférence générale 2024 de l’Église méthodiste unie. Cet amendement, désormais intégré au paragraphe 161.G du Book of Discipline, redéfinit le mariage comme :

« Une alliance sacrée et à vie qui unit deux personnes de foi — un homme adulte et une femme adulte consentants, ou deux personnes adultes consentantes — dans une relation plus profonde avec Dieu et la communauté religieuse. »

Pour les dirigeants de S.T. Nagbe, cette formulation, en reconnaissant le mariage entre personnes de même sexe, contredit les Écritures et entre en conflit direct avec la définition légale et culturelle

du mariage au Liberia, perçu comme l’union exclusive entre un homme et une femme.

La congrégation accuse la LAC de contourner les implications théologiques et juridiques de ce changement en s’appuyant sur une résolution non contraignante des évêques de la Conférence régionale africaine. Ce texte réaffirme certes le mariage traditionnel, mais s’engage à respecter les décisions de l’Église mondiale, une position jugée « insuffisante et trompeuse » par S.T. Nagbe.

Les resp

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## Éditorial

### Lutter contre la drogue avec sincérité

Le président Joseph Boakai a présenté jeudi dernier un Plan national de lutte contre la drogue, ambitieux et multidimensionnel, destiné à répondre à la montée inquiétante de la consommation et du trafic de stupéfiants au Liberia. Le lancement a coïncidé avec un défilé dans les rues de Monrovia, organisé par des militantes anti-drogue — principalement des femmes et des mères — pour attirer l’attention des autorités sur la prolifération du trafic, de la vente et de l’usage de substances dangereuses dans le pays.

Dans un communiqué de l’Executive Mansion, le chef de l’État a qualifié cette prolifération de drogues d’« attaque contre notre avenir » et réaffirmé son engagement à protéger la jeunesse, les communautés et les générations futures du fléau de la toxicomanie.

Si nous saluons l’initiative présidentielle, force est de constater que la lutte antidrogue au Liberia semble souffrir d’un excès de discours et d’un manque d’actions concrètes. Les stupéfiants continuent de franchir nos frontières, y compris via l’aéroport international, sans réelle entrave.

Dès son arrivée au pouvoir, M. Boakai avait déclaré la drogue « Urgence nationale de santé publique » et s’était soumis personnellement à un test de dépistage, enjoignant tous les responsables publics à en faire de même. Mais cette directive est restée largement lettre morte.

Près de deux ans après, l’Agence nationale de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA) a déjà changé de direction à trois reprises, sans pour autant endiguer le trafic qui ravage notre jeunesse. Les arrestations annoncées se soldent souvent par la remise en liberté rapide des suspects, sans procès, ce qui alimente le sentiment d’impunité.

Le président Boakai a promis une lutte « implacable et sans distinction », affirmant qu’« aucun statut, aucun titre, aucun uniforme, ni aucune connexion » ne protégera les personnes impliquées dans le trafic de drogue. Mais pour que cette promesse inspire confiance, il faut passer des paroles aux actes fermes et visibles.

Nous appelons le gouvernement à mobiliser toutes les ressources disponibles pour traiter cette urgence nationale, protéger la jeunesse actuelle et préserver l’avenir du pays. La véritable clé de cette bataille se résume en un mot : Action.



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## « Weah ne m'a pas adressé la parole pendant quatre

onne, car ce n'était pas mon intention de dépasser le président Weah ni de l'empêcher de remporter l'élection », a-t-il déclaré.

Ces propos mettent en lumière un climat de rivalité interne au CDC, où les performances électorales semblent perçues comme des menaces à l'équilibre du pouvoir plutôt que comme une preuve de soutien populaire. La sortie du sénateur intervient après les attaques verbales de l'ancien représentant du district n°8 de Montserrado, Moses A. Gray, qui l'a qualifié de « traître », « espion » et « opportuniste politique », affirmant que c'est M. Weah qui l'a propulsé sur le devant de la scène.

Réagissant depuis les États-Unis, où il est en mission de travail auprès de la Jefferson Baptist Mission et d'autres partenaires, le sénateur Joseph a rejeté ces accusations, affirmant que M. Gray l'a, à plusieurs reprises, accusé d'espionnage pour le parti d'opposition Unity Party et a même orchestré son exclusion des canaux de communication internes du CDC, connus sous le nom de « chartroom ».

« C'est la cinquième fois que vous

m'accusez. La première fois, vous avez ordonné mon retrait du CDC et du chartroom parce que j'étais soi-disant un espion pour l'Unity Party. Deux mois plus tard, on m'y a réintégré. Une autre fois, vous avez déclaré que si Saah Joseph restait au CDC ou dans le chartroom, vous partiriez. Et, sur ce, on m'a de nouveau retiré. Depuis, je n'ai rien dit », a-t-il raconté. Le sénateur a également nié devoir sa carrière politique à M. Weah, affirmant qu'avant son engagement au CDC, il était directeur de la Mission pour l'Afrique de la Jefferson Baptist Mission et avait fondé quatre écoles au Liberia, où l'ancien président s'était rendu.

Saah Joseph a indiqué qu'à son retour des États-Unis, il tiendrait une conférence de presse pour fournir plus de détails sur ses accusations et sur son expérience au sein du CDC et du Sénat.

De son côté, M. Gray a rapidement réagi, démentant les allégations et qualifiant de nouveau le sénateur de « traître » et de « personne ingrate ». Cet échange alimente les spéculations sur les tensions internes et les luttes de pouvoir au sein du CDC.

## Starts from page 8 Monrovia : vives protestations contre la

onsables rappellent que le Book of Discipline reste la loi suprême de la dénomination et qu'aucune résolution ne peut le supplanter. Ils critiquent également l'absence de procédure transparente pour les congrégations souhaitant se désaffilier – une voie empruntée par plus de 8 000 églises dans le monde depuis 2024.

La S.T. Nagbe UMC formule trois revendications claires à l'adresse de l'évêque Quire et de la LAC :

1. Annuler immédiatement l'ordre de fermeture.
2. Engager un dialogue sincère en vue d'une résolution bibliquement fidèle et pacifique.
3. Respecter la conscience des congrégations qui rejettent la nouvelle définition du mariage inscrite dans le Book of

Discipline 2024. L'église appelle également le gouvernement libérien à garantir les droits des communautés de culte conformément à la loi nationale.

Fondée en 1967, la S.T. Nagbe UMC est depuis plus de cinq décennies un pilier spirituel, éducatif et social de Monrovia. La congrégation promet de continuer à se réunir dans son sanctuaire, à proclamer l'Évangile et à défendre ce qu'elle qualifie de « vérité immuable de la Bible ».

« Nous restons dans la prière, fermes et ouverts à un dialogue honnête, mais nous ne compromettrons pas la foi transmise aux saints », affirme la déclaration signée par les responsables de la jeunesse, des jeunes adultes, des organisations féminines et masculines, ainsi que par les délégués laïcs et le comité des finances.

## Liberia : le patron de l'ELBC suspend la couverture des conférences du MICAT

Le ministre de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, a instruit son adjoint, Daniel Sanoe, d'informer officiellement le président Joseph Boakai de la décision prise par le directeur général de la Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), Eugene Fahngon, de suspendre la couverture en direct par ELBC des points de presse réguliers du ministère.

Le mercredi 6 août, M. Fahngon avait annoncé que, faute de moyens financiers, la LBS interromprait la diffusion de plusieurs activités majeures du gouvernement, y compris les conférences hebdomadaires du MICAT. Il a toutefois précisé que des discussions restaient possibles avec la direction du ministère pour trouver un terrain d'entente.

Réagissant dès le lendemain, lors du point de presse hebdomadaire, le vice-ministre

Sanoe a critiqué une décision prise unilatéralement, affirmant qu'elle ne reflétait ni la position du conseil d'administration de la LBS, ni celle du gouvernement.

Il a exprimé sa surprise de voir un organe de communication publique – don't le ministre de l'Information est président du

conseil d'administration – agir sans consultation préalable.

« Nous ne sommes pas dans un bras de fer avec M. Fahngon, car il fait partie de l'équipe de communication gouvernementale. Peut-être qu'une correction est nécessaire quelque part.



## Libéria : Vers la création du premier Institut d'enseignement supérieur de police

La vice-directrice générale chargée de la formation et du développement des ressources humaines de la Police nationale du Libéria (LNP), Mme Sadatu L. M. Reeves, a annoncé l'ouverture prochaine du tout premier institut d'enseignement supérieur national de police du pays.

Commandante de l'Académie et École de formation de la Police nationale, Mme Reeves a indiqué que les préparatifs étaient déjà bien avancés pour la mise en place de cette institution. S'exprimant lors de la cérémonie de remise de diplômes à 166 agents du Service de protection exécutive (EPS) ayant achevé le cours de base en protection rapprochée – deuxième promotion –, elle a précisé que le Collège offrira des



diplômes, avant de développer à terme des programmes complets de licence en gestion des forces de l'ordre et en justice criminelle.

Mme Reeves a souligné que l'objectif est de doter les agents non seulement de compétences opérationnelles solides, mais également d'une formation académique approfondie, afin de mieux servir l'État.

Elle a par ailleurs réaffirmé son intention de créer une école de maintien de la paix, destinée à préparer les policiers libériens à des déploiements régionaux et internationaux. Elle a également lancé un appel pour obtenir un appui au développement de laboratoires de police scientifique, outils qu'elle juge essentiels pour renforcer les enquêtes criminelles et promouvoir une approche basée sur des preuves scientifiques.

« Nous voulons faire du Centre de formation de la police un pôle d'excellence reconnu non seulement au Libéria, mais dans toute l'Afrique », a-t-elle déclaré.

Présent à la cérémonie, le conseiller principal de la police auprès de l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia, M. Steve Kissik, a réaffirmé le soutien américain à la Police nationale. Il a qualifié cet événement d'« étape importante » dans les efforts du Libéria pour renforcer son secteur de la sécurité et améliorer la protection des personnalités.

De son côté, le président de la Commission sénatoriale sur la sécurité, la défense et le renseignement, le sénateur du comté de Lofa, Momo Cyrus, a assuré que le Sénat continuerait à soutenir la LNP dans ses efforts de renforcement des capacités et d'amélioration logistique.

« Avec les moyens limités que nous vous avons accordés, nous avons déjà constaté des progrès significatifs. En tant que président de la Commission sur la sécurité, la défense et le renseignement, je réaffirme l'engagement du Sénat à consolider cette institution et à garantir la sécurité nationale », a-t-il affirmé.

La création du Collège national de police pourrait constituer un atout majeur pour le secteur sécuritaire libérien. Depuis plusieurs années, de nombreux citoyens dénoncent le manque de professionnalisme de certains agents, accusés à plusieurs reprises d'excès de violence et de brutalités envers des civils pacifiques.

LIBERIANSDEBATE

7R S L

Drugs Abuse in Liberia

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Substance abuse in Liberia is taking a serious toll on the country's youths with far-reaching negative impacts. In this random view sampling, The NEW DAWN asked some Monrovia residents what they think of the situation that is draining the nation's future and what remedy is there to curb the habit.



Morris Simoni

"I think the drugs business is getting serious in the country. We all need to fight this drugs

business in the country; it's not about saying it, but the drugs law needs to be implemented. We all know that drugs are spoiling our youth, and secondly, not only the youth. We feel bad too at times, because often when our brothers and sisters take in drugs, they don't even want to know about human beings. They take [see] human beings as chickens. At times, they will even be walking and sleeping in the street. So, we all will help President Boakai to fight away drugs in our country. And we all are willing to go from ghetto to ghetto, to see how best we can take drugs from the various communities."



Jeremiah D. Duah

"It is often said that for every good thing you need to do, you who is pushing the good thing should be the first example of that particular thing. They should implement the drugs law by taking more actions against those drugs dealers, because we are still seeing more drugs coming to our country. These few days, the police arrested a lady and a boy with drugs; it's good but there should be more enforcement."

"The drug issue is serious in Liberia, so we are so happy; meanly I am happy that our President is actually saying that he will fight drugs from all angles. Most of the communities, if you observe, you will see young people just gathered together, getting hard and doing all types of things; so the drug issue in the country is very much important, because the youthful generation has to be fully prepared for generations to come. But if they are drugs-overwhelmed, that means they will not be able to do anything good."



Hartzel Seton

"Firstly, the issue of drugs will not finish now, because fighting drugs is a collective work. You can't be arresting drugs sellers then you say you want to fight drugs; I think they should be dealing with the drugs dealers then we know they are serious to fight drugs. The drug is not a very good thing, which I am not in support of. My advice is that everyone should be security on security, mostly the LDEA; that is the only way drugs will be restricted in our country."



Alex Tyee



Emmanuel Konwloh

"This regime needs to empower the LDEA and make each one of them is security on security. I think this is the only way this drug issue will be eliminated in the country. All LDEA officers need to do drugs test to show that they are serious in

fighting drug in this country, because drugs that are taking over this country are making our country to not have any youthful generation. It is affecting our children from even day one; we ourselves will have no future. The communities have to help because it is the communities that are keeping those ghettos. If they were bringing report to the government, saying oh; this person has ghetto in my area, I mean the government will help to stop those people. So, everybody has to put hands together to stop this drug business in our county."



George Willie

"This regime needs to go in ghettos and break those ghettos down and give more punishments to those drugs dealers, because these are some of the promises they made to us during the campaign, that they were going to take Kush out of the country; so we want to know who all in the Kush business, so we can arrest them until the kush leaves their body. When you talk the talk, you must walk the talk."

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# Govt. yields to Grigsby's family Koffa, others file new motion

**T**he Government of Liberia has agreed to have the late Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Sylvester M. Grigsby, buried in the United States, as desired by his widow.

**M**onrovia, Liberia; August 12, 2025 - The Government of Liberia says it has no objection to the death of the late Liberian diplomat and public servant was greeted here with unprecedented shock, amid condolences pouring on social media, following the pronouncement of his sudden death. Initially, when the news broke on Facebook, many



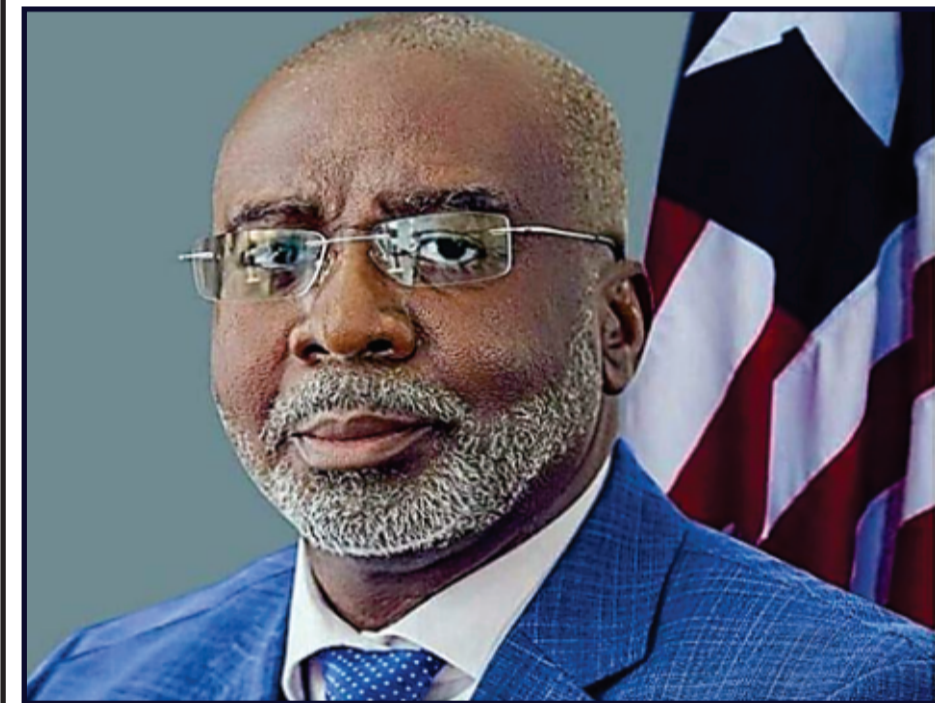
as she prefers. The government has been preparing to have the remains of the fallen Minister of State, who reportedly died at age 77 over the weekend in the United States following illness, returned home to be accorded a full state funeral and burial. The NEW DAWN reported Monday 11 August that seeming uncertainty looms over the pending burial place of the late Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Sylvester M. Grigsby, amid desire by his widow to have him buried in the United States, while President Joseph Boakai had planned to have the body brought home to Liberia for funeral and burial arrangements, as the state, family members and friends mourn his passing. Sources hinted The NEW DAWN that the widow of the late Minister, who resides in the U.S., wants her late husband's remains to be interred in America instead, rather than bringing him home to Liberia. According to sources, Madam Grigsby has been contending that her late husband spent more than half of his life in public service in Liberia, even up to his demise last weekend in the U.S., so she prefers his final resting place to be close to her. Speaking to this paper on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, the Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Jerolinmek Matthews Piah, said the government is prepared to respond to the wishes of Madam Grigsby, regarding her late husband. Most Liberian officials carry U.S. Green Cards and hold dual citizenship. The news of the

President is quoted as saying. In his public service life and duty, the deceased Minister is perceived to be arguably the most experienced in Boakai's Cabinet, having served multiple roles in successive administrations, dating back to the 80s. He was also the publisher of the SUN TIMES Newspaper during the administration of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe. He served in various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Deputy Minister of International Cooperation, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and would later climb to the top post of Minister of Foreign Affairs under the Administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Grigsby honored all his positions in public service with hard work, dedication, determination, humility, and patriotism. This mentality and posture catapulted him through the ranks and files of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during his tenure of service there. He would later move to the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs as Minister proper following his appointment by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to fill the vacancy left behind by the sad and shocking demise of former Minister of State Johnny McClain. Grigsby outstanding service to national duty over the years, coupled with his long-standing record of integrity in both public and private service spanning several decades, won the admiration and confidence of President Sirleaf, who would not only consider him for the Post of Minister of State, but entrusted him with important international responsibilities which he executed effectively and efficiently. He had earlier served in the Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU) under late Interim President, Dr. A m o s C . Sawyer, as senior Minister in the foreign ministry, and before that, he was Liberia's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the entire Benelux, a post he served with distinction. Editing by Jonathan Browne

By Lincoln G. Peters

**L**awyers representing former House Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa and others have filed a motion for discovery before Criminal Court 'A' presiding Judge Roosevelt Willie, indicating that the prosecution has failed to produce evidence in the ongoing trial. Defendants Koffa, Dixon W. Seboe, Abu S. Kamara, and Jacob C. Debbie were charged by the government for the crimes of conspiracy, criminal solicitation, criminal Intent to commit murder, aggravated assault, illegal possession of a firearm, release of destructive forces, recklessly endangering another person & theft of property. Subsequently, the defendants were arrested by the Monrovia City Court on May 16, 2025. However, having been arrested and placed under the jurisdiction of the Monrovia City Court, they posted a valid Property Valuation Bond to secure their day-to-day appearance in Court whenever they are required to appear for trial, as required by law.

"A", after the hearing of preliminary examination, and the said Magistrate Judge held that probable cause was established by the Prosecution consistent with the evidence adduced in court. Following the securing of the bond, the defendants, through their lead legal representation, Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi, on August 1, 2025, filed a motion for discovery in which he said that despite fulfilling all the legal requirements, the government has failed and refused to produce its evidence for the commencement of the trial. "Notwithstanding, the Prosecution has refused and failed to produce the said evidence relied upon to charge the said Co-Movants/Co-Defendants, contrary to our practices and procedures of this jurisdiction." The defense stated. The defense disclosed that the sole purpose of this Motion for Discovery is consistent with the principle of notice, and to afford them the opportunity to traverse the averments as



Thus, the Stipendiary Magistrate couched in the indictment, L. Ben Barco transferred the said along with the evidence, and to cause of Action to the First ex c Judicial Circuit, Criminal Assizes ulpa

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**JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

1000 5072

IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.I. SITTING IN ITS FIRST TERM 2025.

**BEFORE HONORABLE: SCHEAPLOR E. DUNBAR** ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

**THE PETITION OF JUSTINO OMENTUSE JOHNSON, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, ATTY. FRANCIS A. WISSAH PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "MANNATH J. D. JOHNSON".**

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME**

This Petitioner by and thru his legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of his name from Justino Omentuse Johnson, to Mannath J. D. Johnson.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true father's name. After considering the necessary legal requirements required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on September 3, 2006, Grand Cape Mount County, Republic of Liberia, and that he was born into the union of Mrs. Naomi Sawyer Johnson and Mr. Mannath J. D. Johnson, all of the Republic of Liberia, and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his true identity more firmly and that he has met all legal requirements for the change of his name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Justino Omentuse Johnson, be changed to Mannath J. D. Johnson, beginning this 24th Day of July, A.D. 2025. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documents within (30) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date, AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 24TH DAY OF JULY, A.D. 2025.

**SCHEAPLOR E. DUNBAR**  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, PRESIDING

**REGISTER OF**  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO RULE 107-2025

PAGE(S) 00015372

REGISTRAR NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.I.

## Revitalizing Yekepa: AML embarks on renovation of housing units

**Y**ekepa, Nimba County, August 12, 2025: Yekepa's Area R is undergoing a rapid transformation as ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) pushes ahead with the renovation of houses that were looted entirely during the Liberian civil war. Although residents say no direct battle occurred in

Earth-moving machines are clearing thick bush that has engulfed most of the abandoned houses, making them accessible to construction workers and delivery trucks transporting building materials. According to AML Site Engineer Rufus Dickson, different construction companies are working on the renovation of 21

Construction Company. Dickson disclosed that the work is expected to be completed within four months. "To stay on schedule, we are working daily and closely supervising the contractors to ensure they meet specific daily targets," Dickson said. During a site visit on August 7, senior estate managers were seen engaging with various groups of contractors on-site. Dickson emphasized that, given the urgent need for housing, his department is committed to avoiding lost time and any conditions that could delay the work. He noted that the goal is to dedicate the project before the end of the year.

Since the beginning of the year, ArcelorMittal Liberia has been actively involved in the renovation of housing across Yekepa. Earlier this year in EA, the residential area for senior management staff, several homes were redesigned into self-contained units to accommodate three to four individuals each. As renovation work progresses in Area R, it is expected that many awaiting accommodations will soon move in, bringing new life to the community.



Yekepa during the war, soldiers and others reportedly took advantage of the conflict to strip materials from many homes. Currently, construction engineers are busy roofing and painting buildings, while plumbing and electrical works are also underway.

three- and two-bedroom houses in the community. In addition, AML is restoring three buildings in EA that each contain four self-contained apartments. The companies contracted for the project include World Engineering and Construction Company, ECHO Group of Company, Zenith Group of Company, and Bleco

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