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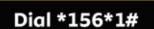
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Continental News

Forgotten 'weeds' prove a culinary hit in Kenya

vegetables in Kenya are now become a daily staple.

weeds and a "poor man's "stretch the week" in Swahili, as inferior - not realising they food", indigenous leafy reflecting how they have were often more resistant to



becoming much more common - grown on farms, sold in markets and gracing the menus of restaurants. At the busy Skinners Restaurant in Gachie just outside the capital, Nairobi, one employee says demand for "kienyeji" - as all local vegetable varieties are known - is higher than for other greens.

"Many people ask for kienyeji when they come here," Kimani Ng'ang'a tells the BBC, despite the fact the restaurant charges extra for them as he says they are harder to source.

Vegetables like cabbage, spinach, kale and spring greens, introduced by colonial authorities before the 1960s, are more readily available and cheaper. Spring greens are

But diners in Gachie are part of the growing wave of Kenyans who see the benefits of eating local, organically produced nutrient-rich varieties of greens. "It detoxifies the body and is good in weight loss," says James Wathiru, who ordered "managu" or African nightshade. Another person told me: "It's all about its taste, which is better."

According to horticulture professor Mary Abukutsa-Onyango, this trend is reflected in government data and some of the health benefits are backed by research. Over the last 10 years, production of local greens has doubled - with 300,000 tonnes produced by local farmers last year, she says.

It is a remarkable change in attitudes, given people used to

nce dismissed as wild known as "sukumawiki", meaning look down on traditional crops diseases and pests, meaning they can be grown organically. In the 1980s, when Prof Abukutsa-Onyango began her studies, she says she was perplexed to find them referred to as "weeds"."We never learnt about African indigenous vegetables. They were calling amaranth 'pigweed' [and] spider plant, they were calling it 'spider weed'," she tells the BBC.

Her postgraduate research on traditional plants was also tricky as there was no literature about them, but she persevered and now works with the government to promote them for food security.

She says managu and other local vegetables like "mrenda" (jute mallow) and "terere" (amaranth) have more essential minerals than sukumawiki, as well as "higher levels of vitamin A and C [and] antioxidants" that boost immunity and reduce the risk of disease.

Some varieties also contain protein, making them an excellent option for vegetarians. She notes for instance that 100g (3.5 ounces) of mrenda - known for its distinctive slimy texture when cooked - contains more nutrients than a similar portion of common cabbage.BBC

Kenya U-turn over charging prominent activist with terror offences

rominent Kenyan activist news agency AFP reports. Boniface Mwangi has been charged with illegal possession of ammunition linked to protests last month in which at least 19 people were killed. He denied the charge and has been released on bail.

with "facilitation of terrorist a Kenyan flag and wearing a Tacts", as the police had earlier said.

On Sunday, investigators said they had seized phones, a laptop, and notebooks from his Lukenya home on the outskirts of the capital, Nairobi, and hard drives, computers, tear gas canisters and a blank firearm round from his office in the city. His arrest - and especially the suggestion that he would face terrorism charges - sparked a wave of condemnation, with human rights groups denouncing it as aimed at suppressing opposition voices. The activist denied the accusations against him, saying in a post on X: "I am not a terrorist."

The alleged offences are linked to anti-government protests on 25 June when, according to the state-funded Kenya National Sunday, a coalition of 37 rights

Outside the court on Monday, Mr Mwangi told supporters and journalists: "The president think that the anger against his government is manufactured and people are being paid."

"People hate [Kenyan President Mr Mwangi was not charged William] Ruto for free. "Holding shirt bearing the words "I love my country", Mr Mwangi added that he had never worked with "goons" his "entire life".

> As he entered the courtroom, fellow activists and supporters, who had gathered to show their solidarity and support, sang the national anthem.

> At least 38 more people were killed in subsequent protests earlier this month, the KNCHR

> Since June last year, more than 100 people have been killed in successive waves of antigovernment protests, with police accused of using excessive force to quell each one, leading to further demonstrations.President William Ruto urged the police to shoot violent protesters in the leg, rather than killing them.On



Boniface Mwangi has been released on bail after denying the charge of illegal possession of ammunition

Commission on Human Rights organisations condemned Mr businesses were damaged. Most of those killed on 25 June died from gunshot wounds, with human rights groups blaming the police. However, Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen described the demonstrations as "terrorism disguised as dissent" and an "unconstitutional attempt" to change the government. He said that several police station had been attacked, with many officers injured and vehicles set on fire.The search warrant police used to raid Mr Mwangi's home and office accused the activist of paying "goons" to

stoke unrest at the protests,

The onus is now on the West (KNCHR), 19 people died when Mwangi's arrest on "unjustified Africans to back up that demonstrators clashed with terrorism allegations", describing it as the "latest escalation in a systematic crackdown that has seen hundreds of young Kenyans detained on fabricated terrorism charges". "What began as targeted

> persecution of young protesters demanding accountability has metastasized into a full-scale assault on Kenya's democracy," they said in a joint statement. James Orengo, a veteran politician and governor of Siaya county, said it was "ridiculous to charge Boniface Mwangi and our children who have demonstrated a high level of political consciousness with

terrorism".

Continental giants clash in

Wafcon 2024 semi-finals

face Ghana, the lowest-ranked improvement from their outings side remaining, at 19:00.

There is still a chance we could see a repeat of the 2022 final, when Banyana Banyana beat the Atlas Lionesses 2-1, back in the capital on Saturday evening.

Form and expectation would point towards a meeting between Nigeria and Morocco, while an all-West African affair could add an extra element to a tournament that has already provided plenty of talking points.Morocco and Ghana would be first-time winners, while the Confederation of African Football has doubled the

here are two intriguing prize pot for the victors to \$1m semi-final clashes in store and also unveiled a new at the 2024 Women's Africa trophy. Nigeria delivered a Cup of Nations in Morocco on statement to the rest of the Tuesday. First up, nine-time continent when they thrashed champions Nigeria have a much-fancied Zambia 5-0 in mouth-watering tie against Casablanca in the last defending champions South eight. Former Super Falcons Africa in Casablanca at 16:00 striker Desire Oparanozie described the scoreline as Then, in Rabat, hosts Morocco "unexpected" but saw a vast

from the group stage.

"The Super Falcons have that winning mentality - they show up for big games," she told Sportsworld on the BBC World Service."They showed who the African giant really is."

comprehensive performance police. Hundreds were also against another of the injured and property and continent's top sides when they return to the Larbi Zaouli Stadium.



EDITORIAL

2025

Justice may elude Liberian war victims

Then President Joseph Nyuma Boakai signed Executive Order #131 in 2024, establishing the Office of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia, it was greeted with hope, especially among victims of the Liberian Civil War that justice was in sight, but seems not to be the case now, in the face of serious funding challenges.

Despite formal opening of the Office and subsequent appointment of an Executive Director, the country's institution overseeing the establishment of a hybrid-Tribunal to prosecute key actors or perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity is glaringly cash-stricken, even before taking off for

The War and Economic Crimes Tribunal is gradually becoming a far-fetched dream, as Liberia's key partner, the United States of America seems less enthusiastic, particularly under current U.S. President Donald Trump.

Outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Mark Toner, has confirmed in Monrovia that while there had been strong backing from previous U.S. administrations, current support is waning due to shifting priorities in Washington.

"Before I arrived in Liberia and even after my arrival, there was considerable support from previous U.S. administrations. But now, because of shifting priorities, the U.S. government is offering more technical assistance and less financial support," Ambassador Toner said.

The Government of Liberia clearly lacks funding even to adequately support operations of the Office of War and Economic Crimes Court, let along establishment of a tribunal to prosecute perpetrators of war crimes that is the wish of war victims across the country.

This is the stark reality facing Liberians. "It's not an easy task, and I'll say this, it's lacking resources. I know President Boakai prioritizes this, but he and his administration also need to provide the resources required for it to function properly," Toner emphasized.

Currently, the OWECC is struggling to maintain operations due to inconsistent funding, as Ambassador Toner notes, "They get some money; it runs out, and then they have to go looking for more. That's not how you run a serious national priority."

Without a clear U.S.-driven support for the tribunal in Liberia, it may difficult for Liberia to see other friendly countries coming to her assistance in this endeavor especially, in the wake of global economic challenges that are being fuelled by Trump's war on trade, imposing taxes on nations that seem to have trade advantages over the United States.

In this all, the culture of impunity stares the faces of Liberians, including victims from the civil wars, who long to face perpetrators in court to recount their ordeals at the hands of gun-toting rebels. Making the war crimes tribunal a reality for Liberia, where two previous Liberian administrations failed, is the biggest challenge of the Boakai Administration that seems to have the willpower, but lacks funds needed to achieving this.

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By Serah Makka, Rosemary Mburu

The Cost of Capital Is a Public-**Health Emergency for Africa**

World Health Assembly (WHA) - International Development (USAID). the annual meeting of the World Health Organization's member states -(the event's theme): the high borrowing going to be very high." costs faced by African countries.

allocate a mere 1.48% of their GDP to multilateral banks. health, while 37% of health spending comes directly out of citizens' pockets.

Whereas high-income countries borrow at an interest rate of 2-3%, their African lives.

or personnel to use it.

In Ghana, where debt-service costs have and sending a loved one to an early grave.

scale back their development spending to health care. free up space for other priorities, and the United States dismantles its entire aid

ASHINGTON, DC - May's 78th apparatus, beginning with the US Agency for

In Malawi, those cuts have already forced ended on a self-congratulatory note. From critical programs, such as for HIV treatment an agreement on pandemic preparedness and prevention, to scramble for funds. to increases in assessed contributions to Local NGOs have been forced to lay off the WHO, there were plenty of outreach workers, and patients with achievements to tout. But there was an tuberculosis or HIV have gone without care. elephant in the room, hiding behind a As one community health nurse in South banner reading "One World for Health" Africa lamented, "My fear is mortality is

Africans' health cannot depend on the Despite being the world's youngest generosity of others. Governments must be continent, Africa bears 24% of the global able to invest in stable, resilient, selfdisease burden. Yet it accounts for less sustaining health systems. To raise funds, than 1% of global health spending. In 2001, Senegal and Zambia are experimenting with African countries decided to take matters "health taxes" on alcohol and sugary drinks. into their own hands, pledging to devote at Debt-for-health swaps in countries like least 15% of national budgets to health. Seychelles have shown promise. Nigeria's Yet, more than two decades later, only diaspora health bonds could unlock billions twocountries have reached that target. On in financing if they are matched with average, governments on the continent concessional capital and guarantees from

Ultimately, there is no substitute for affordable, predictable capital. That is why lowering borrowing costs must be a key Borrowing costs are a major reason why. priority at the G20 summit this November.

This means, first, tackling structural counterparts can face rates above 10%. factors such as outdated international This discrepancy - which reflects investors' regulations and biases in risk assessments. It perception of heightened risk in African also means delivering timely and economies - means that governments on meaningful debt relief. This will require the continent often must choose between innovative mechanisms, such as debt-formaking debt payments or buying health swaps, and increasing the use of medicines, hiring doctors, and building pause clauses in existing loans and new debt health clinics. The cost of capital costs contracts that allow for debt payment suspension when a pandemic strikes.

Consider Kenya's ill-fated Managed Athird priority must be to secure continued Equipment Services (MES) program, a political support for multilateral health public-private partnership aimed at programs - such as Gavi, the Vaccine enhancing service availability at hospitals Alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, through the provision of modern Tuberculosis and Malaria - thereby ensuring equipment. The program did provide high- continuity in the delivery of the relevant tech equipment to many hospitals. But, health services. Finally, the G20 must seek given the cost of capital for investment, to expand African countries' access to Kenya could not deliver the infrastructure concessional financing for health infrastructure through multilateral development banks.

left little fiscal space, nearly 75% of the The G20 is the right forum for these actions. government's health budget now goes to Its mandate includes addressing global health-care workers' wages, leaving little challenges, promoting economic funding for other crucial expenses, from cooperation, and fostering global stability. medicines to maternal-health programs. In The cost of capital is beyond any one 2023, a shortage of antimalarial drugs country's capacity to address, and it is forced some rural clinics to direct patients producing a destabilizing global-health to purchase the medicine they needed emergency. The upcoming G20 summit, the directly from private pharmacies. Many first to be held in Africa - and the second families thus faced a harrowing choice with the African Union as a permanent between being driven further into poverty member - represents a particularly fitting moment for such action.

For many African countries, high Within African countries, mechanisms borrowing costs have contributed to based on civil-society engagement - for dependence on the goodwill of foreign ensuring accountability for how funds are donors. But aid-dependent health-care spent are also essential. But the first step systems are fundamentally fragile. We saw must be to free up the funds. To achieve this during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we "One World for Health," all countries must are seeing it now, as European countries be able to access the means to invest in

OPED

TUESDAY

By Audrey Verdier-Chouchane

North Africa Must Look South for Trade

BIDJAN - Rising tariffs, geopolitical fragmentation, and persistent supply-chain disruptions are roiling international trade. The World Trade Organization projects a 0.2% contraction in global goods trade in 2025, which could deepen to 1.5% if tensions escalate. United Nations Trade and Development warns that policy uncertainty is eroding business confidence and will slow global growth to 2.3% in 2025. Against this backdrop, developing economies are under mounting pressure to diversify partnerships and reduce external dependencies.

The pressure is particularly acute for North Africa. The region - comprising Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, and Tunisia - has long been tethered to European economic cycles. In 2023, the European Union accounted for 45.2% of North Africa's trade, making the region vulnerable to any slowdown in European demand. At the same time, North Africa has played a marginal role in international commerce, accounting for only 3.7% of global trade in 2023.

But this moment of uncertainty also represents a strategic opportunity for North Africa to look southward, toward the fast-growing markets of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), which currently account for just 2.4% of North Africa's total trade. As I and others argued nearly a decade ago, stronger economic ties within the continent could reshape regional growth trajectories.

That continues to be true today. With SSA's economic growth estimated at 3.7% in 2024 and projected to rise to 4% in 2025, the rest of the continent offers many opportunities for North African businesses as an emerging market for manufactured exports and as a region to expand value chains. North African products - particularly from its automotive, fisheries, food processing, pharmaceuticals, and textiles sectors - would likely be well received in SSA, owing to their good quality and competitive prices.

Some progress has been made toward increasing intra-African trade and North Africa's role in it. Morocco recently became the continent's leading automobile exporter, with sales of \$6.4 billion in 2023. Many of these cars went to West Africa, partly owing to regional free-trade agreements. Some North African countries belong to other regional economic communities, such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).

But the ambitious African Continental Free Trade Area offers the best chance of deepening continental integration. In effect since 2021, the AfCFTA has been signed by 54 countries, making it the world's largest free-trade area by membership. North Africa could play an important role in driving growth and enhancing trade within this area. The region has around 200 million consumers and occupies a strategic geographical position between Europe, the Middle East, and SSA. It also possesses significant natural resources, a diversified industrial base, and relatively well-developed human capital and economic infrastructure.

The AfCFTA is widely expected to boost economic growth, private-sector development, investment, and capital flows across the continent. A forthcoming study by the African Development Bank (AfDB) assessing the AfCFTA's impact on regional economies using the Global Trade Analysis Project model suggests that this is especially true for North Africa. Under every scenario, North Africa's GDP and its components are projected to increase by 2031. The region's full integration with SSA would bring the largest gains in trade (+5.5%) and GDP (+0.77%). The study also predicts that implementing the AfCFTA will lead to a decline in poverty and an increase in wages for both skilled and unskilled workers in the region.

The AfCFTA's main downside is in the fiscal domain. The AfDB study anticipates a reduction in North African countries' customs revenues; the least affected will be those that have already entered into bilateral free-trade agreements, or that have relatively high levels of economic diversification and strong productive capacities. There are also major barriers to realizing the potential of intracontinental trade, including inadequate infrastructure, tariff harmonization challenges, and limited institutional coordination across Africa's regional economic communities.

But, given the overall benefits, North African economies should make implementation of the AfCFTA a high priority. Enhanced intra-African trade flows would promote further economic diversification, job creation, investment, and GDP growth, generating long-term prosperity and private-sector development in North Africa. In a fracturing world economy, regional solidarity has taken on new importance. By fully committing to the AfCFTA and strengthening ties with SSA partners, North Africa can chart a new path toward inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth.

This commentary is published in collaboration with the International Economic Association's Women in Leadership in Economics Initiative, which aims to enhance the role of women in economics through research, building partnerships, and amplifying voices.

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OPINION

By Sara Jane Ahmed, Pepukaye Bardouille

NEW DAWN 4

Realizing the Potential of Country Platforms

BRIDGETOWN - Every few years, a new idea captures the imagination of development experts and practitioners. Though often launched with noble intentions and great enthusiasm, many of these concepts fade quickly, leaving little lasting impact. Will the latest entrant - so-called country platforms - break this cycle and fulfill its promise?

While there is no universally accepted definition of a country platform, the term typically refers to frameworks whereby developing countries take the lead in setting priorities for climate action and sustainable development, and coordinating with multilateral development banks (MDBs), donors, and the private sector to mobilize the necessary financing. It is a promising concept. But if country platforms are to avoid becoming just another fleeting development trend, they must begin to deliver tangible results quickly. Aligning diverse stakeholders is essential. But getting from alignment to impact depends on getting at least four imperatives right.

The first priority is careful consideration of the respective roles of government and the private sector. Country platforms will likely depend heavily on public-private partnerships (PPPs), which are most effective when governments make strategic decisions about where private investment and expertise can add the most value. Establishing strong risk-sharing frameworks and clearly defining the terms of engagement are also essential.

The Philippines' Public-Private Partnership Center, established in 2010, serves as a useful model. Operating under the guidance of the Department of Finance and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development, the Center offers early-stage project-development support, clear policy direction, and a trusted platform for aligning government and investor interests.

One key to the Center's success was early engagement with chambers of commerce. Another was the reform of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law, which allowed unsolicited proposals to be considered, provided they underwent a competitive challenge. So, instead of the government prescribing a specific solution, the private sector proposed approaches that were aligned with national priorities and delivered the best value for money.

The resulting partnerships allowed the government to optimize service delivery, taking advantage of private-sector efficiencies and innovation, on one hand, and the government's administrative capacity, on the other. The result was \$45 billion in financing mobilized over a decade - and the rapid transformation of the Philippines' infrastructure.

But country platforms extend beyond PPPs, which may not be well suited to advance certain priorities - such as social-service delivery or some aspects of climate adaptation - especially in less-developed economies or post-conflict and post-disaster settings. In these cases, the public sector must be able to deliver. This brings us to the second imperative: clear and granular delegation of ownership for agenda implementation.

After Hurricane Maria devastated the small island state of Dominica in 2017, the government passed the Climate Resilience Act and established the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD). Backed by just \$5 million in donor funding for its initial four-year mandate, the agency was up and running within three months, with highly experienced, motivated, and mostly local or regional staff in place. Despite this promising start, however, CREAD failed to live up to its potential in the first two years of its mandate, and insufficient ownership is a key reason why.

Officially, CREAD was mandated to lead the development and delivery of an ambitious, homegrown resilience agenda. But in practice, it was not given the full authority it needed to do so. Perhaps the agency's legal remit was considered too expansive. Or maybe its fast-paced operating style was too much of a departure from the civil-service norm. Whatever the reason, CREAD was essentially relegated to the role of adviser, even on projects where its in-house procurement or construction expertise could have been a game-changer.

Moreover, CREAD had little choice but to support initiatives that had previously been approved by development partners, with predetermined scopes of work and implementation modalities. So, while the agency did leave some positive legacies - it is credited with developing Dominica's Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan and building ministerial capacity - it was unable to complete the job for which it was created, causing its initial leadership team to resign.

The broader lesson from both the Philippines and Dominica is that alignment of external partners alone cannot deliver transformative change. If country platforms are to meet their potential, they must be truly nationally defined, mission-driven, whole-of-government-led mechanisms. And governments must be prepared to operate in new and possibly unconventional ways.

Success depends on intention, ownership, and capacity, but even more so on incentives, which constitute the third imperative. For governments, external incentives - like those used in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative or the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative - can help to drive progress. So can internal mechanisms, such as performance-based contracts for state-owned enterprises.

Development partners, for their part, must understand that their role is to support governments in achieving their priorities, not to elevate priorities of their own. And they need incentives to act accordingly at all levels. For example, technical assistance or grants from MDBs and donors should be directed to support project pipeline development and the establishment of locally-led implementation frameworks that will remain in place for the long term. There must also be incentives for MDBs to collaborate, rather than compete, with one another.

Country platforms stand a greater chance of gaining traction if they are tied to macroeconomic planning tools (such as medium-term spending frameworks and the IMF-World Bank debt-sustainability analyses) and other strategic financing instruments (such as debt-for-development swaps) - the fourth imperative. This would enable finance ministries to establish the platforms' value from a broader macro-fiscal perspective, credibly demonstrating the benefits of increased concessional financing for growth and resilience initiatives and, by extension, credit-rating improvements.

While there is no silver bullet for development, country platforms can help advance complex investment agendas, particularly where institutional gaps in delivery or coordination are hampering progress, not least by identifying and backing the most effective projects. But good intentions and elegant frameworks will not produce these outcomes without strong public leadership, context-specific delivery models, and a relentless focus on outcomes.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Boinsen farmers shift to lowland

2025

Farmers in Boinsen District, Electoral District One, Bong the lowland, we can increase County are shifting to lowland cultivation due to our yield," said Life D. Zeon, a challenges, including lack of access, seeds and tools.

By Judoemue M. Kollie

resources such as improved of

Boinsen is one of the received rice seeds, cash, and ong, Liberia; July 22, 2025 administrative districts of food to work, and they are - Smallholder farmers in Electoral District One, which anticipating the government Boinsen District, Electoral borders two counties: Grand to support the organization's District One, Bong County lack Bassa and Nimba. The population efforts. access to essential farming of the area is mainly comprised Besides support for lowland members of the Mano, rice, farmers from the district



productivity.

commercialization.

Foundation a few years ago, with motivating farmers in Bong County has been to fight hunger in his district.

yield, the organization is because of the support we hope to be recruited for the

languages.

However, with the help of Mr. Under the project, individuals "We are a recognized Kesseh Yeleboe, a district native are being provided with seed organization wanting to work now living in the United States, rice to plant, cash to hire with the government. We the farmers are hopeful of some laborers, and food to work. This invited the District Agriculture of their challenges being support encourages the farmers Officer (DAO) to our farms, addressed, to enable them to to shift towards the lowland, who conducted a survey in move away from subsistence which the government has some areas, but we are yet to agriculture practices to designated to boost domestic getany response," he said. production.

Mr. Yeleboe established the The assistance is reportedly Development Plan (NADP) the hope of forging a partnership committing to developing virgin designated for the cultivation with the Ministry of Agriculture swamplands within eight of 1,500 hectares of lowland in communities.

As part of an effort to improve "We are motivated to farm farmers of Boinsen District currently mobilizing the farmers received, but before the Ministry of Agriculture's rice to transition to lowland rice organization arrived, we grew projects to boost productivity. rice in the upland. However, with Editing by Jonathan Browne

youth farmer.

Zeon explained that they've

and bordering counties are also being supported in cassava production and various communities. Chair of Kesseh Foundation, explained that the organization's activities have been positively impacting lives

Minifah stated that the Ministry of Agriculture recently attempted to work yet fruitful.

of community members since

it was established.

Under the National Agriculture 2025. With this plan, the

Boakai commissions regional passport hub in Bong strategy spearheaded by the passport hub in Bong Ministry, of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Government of Liberia has commissioned a Regional Passport under the leadership of Application Center in Gbarnga, Bong County in commitment to Minister Sara Beysolow decentralization of public services.

By: Edwin N. Khakie reaffirmed his the people where they are." struggled to access these administration's commitment The Gbarnga center, along services due to a new Regional Passport broader decentralization Application Center in Gbarnga, Bong County. The commissioning, a major milestone in the government's decentralization agenda, is ahead of the 178th Independence Anniversary celebrations. Speaking during the dedication ceremony, President Boakai emphasized the urgency of delivering tangible development results that benefit ordinary Liberians.

"We want to see the dividends

Nyanti. The initiative is of this 178-year-old designed to expand access to ong, Liberia; July 22, country," the President biometric ECOWAS

to equitable development and with a similar facility in centralization in Monrovia. citizen-centered governance, Zwedru, Grand Gedeh Also speaking to a team of as he officially commissioned County, forms part of a Journalists during the

CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Boakai reappoints Dr. Jesse **Mongrue to Nimba University**

President Boakai has retained Dr. Jesse Noah Mongrue, as President of Nimba University in Nimba County, one of several public universities across Liberia.

By: S. Matthew M. Quoi, Jr., Nimba County

resident Joseph Nyuma Nimba University has grown Noah Mongrue, as President of a cade mically and Nimba University in Nimba infrastructurally. His focus on County.

processing, using a portable after a unanimous Speaking after his machine that is taken to the recommendation from the reappointment, Dr. Mongrue University's Board of Trustees, expressed gratitude to Emmanuel Minifah, Board led by its Chairman, Cllr. Boakai President Boakai and Vice Julius Paegar, Esq.

The Board praised Dr. Koung for the trust and Mongrue's leadership, confidence placed in him to describing his tenure as continue leading the transformative and results-institution. driven. His performance, they He also extended said, has brought significant appreciation to the Nimba progress to the institution.

with the farmers of the Under Dr. Mongrue's for their support and the seeds and tools to improve Kpelle, and Bassa-speaking district, but such plan is not stewardship, Nimba University critical role they played in has seen major improvements advocating for his in both academics and reappointment. infrastructure. Several key Dr. Mongrue acknowledged projects were initiated and the hard work and dedication completed, strengthening the of the university's faculty, university's image both locally staff, and students, noting

students and staff alike. Over the past few years,

Boakai has officially tremendously under Dr. reappointed Dr. Jesse Mongrue's leadership, both development has been The reappointment comes consistent and commendable. President Jeremiah Kpan

County Legislative Caucus,



and nationally.

He has also played a vital role in have been key to the fostering community institution's success. 2025 - President Joseph declared. "The essence of passports, particularly for partnerships, creating a He reaffirmed his Nyumah Boakai has good governance is reaching rural citizens who have long stronger relationship between commitment to upholding the the University and its 'ARREST' agenda of the surrounding communities.

> reflects the confidence placed University's progress with the in his vision and commitment to broader national uplifting higher education in development agenda. Nimba County.

> President Boakai, in a the pivotal role Nimba statement, emphasized the University plays in the need for continuity and education system of Liberia, stability in Liberia's stressing that the institution educational sector. He said the will continue to serve as a reappointment aligns with his center of knowledge and administration's goal of innovation. promoting academic With this reappointment, excellence across the country. Nimba University is set to He expressed confidence that continue on its path of growth Dr. Mongrue will continue to and excellence, with Dr.

that their collective efforts

Boakai-Koung administration, Dr. Mongrue's reappointment pledging to align the

Dr. Mongrue also highlighted

lead the University with Mongrue at the helm leading integrity, innovation, and a its next chapter. Editing by deep sense of responsibility to Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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trainings at 3 institutions

The Independent Information Commission (IIC) has embarked on series of awareness, records management, and compliance training sessions at ministries and agencies for awareness purposes.

onrovia, Liberia; July Commission's latest FOI 22, 2025 - As part of its capacity-building initiative. ongoing efforts to Each training session was IIC and pledged the Bureau's strengthen transparency and aimed at deepening dedication to complying fully



conducted separate information. awareness, records Particular emphasis was placed strengthening public access management, and compliance on the Bureau of State training sessions for three key Enterprises, which has been enhancing public trust in government institutions.

beneficiaries of the session for its staff and

promote adherence to the institutional understanding of Freedom of Information (FOI) the FOI Law, strengthening Law of Liberia, the internal records management Independent Information systems, and promoting and accessibility systems. He southeastern Liberia. Commission (IIC) has proactive disclosure of public

instrumental in collaborating government institutions. According to the press release, with the IIC to ensure full the Bureau of State Enterprises implementation of the FOI (BSE), the Ministry of Public Law. The BSE, under the Works (MOPW), and the Liberia leadership of Acting Director Ministry of Public Works. Intellectual Property Office General Varlee F. Sanor, hosted That engagement, attended (LIPO) were direct a comprehensive training

management, showcasing its continued commitment to accountability in public service.

During the session, Acting Director General Sanor reaffirmed the BSE's unwavering support to the with the FOI Law. He emphasized that the BSE recognizes the law as a vital tool in promoting government accountability and has already taken steps to establish a robust FOI response team. This team, he stated, will be responsible for handling public information requests statutory obligations.

said the BSE is committed to The SRUMEF gathering seeks to accountability, and mission to information and

Prior to the BSE training, on Monday, July 20, the IIC also led a separate session at the

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Pres. Boakai to honor ECOWAS role in Liberia's 14-year civil war

By: Kruah Thompson

Country's 187th government under President was a multinational Independence Anniversary (on Samuel Doe was collapsing, peacekeeping force July 26, 2025) Independence and massive human rights composed mainly of troops celebration, President Joseph abuses were taking place. Boakai will make an official During the crisis, Tens of Senegal, Guinea, The statement to honor ECOWAS' thousands of civilians were Gambia, Mali, and Sierra Role in ending Liberia's 14-year killed, and hundreds of Leone. It was tasked with Civil War, which cost nearly thousands we restopping the fighting 250,000 deaths.ECOWAS displaced. The conflict was protecting civilians, and (Economic Community of West spilling into neighboring facilitating peace talks. African States) intervened in countries like Sierra Leone, Despite their intervention Liberia's civil crisis in August Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire ECOMOG faced heavy 1990, during the First Liberian when ECOWAS acted to resistance from rebel forces. Civil War, through a military peacekeeping force known as ECOMOG (ECOWAS Monitoring Group). They are the first regional body in Africa to launch a peacekeeping operation without a prior UN mandate. The intervention continued throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s during both the first (1989-1997) and second (1999-2003) Liberian

civil wars. The civil war, started by Charles Taylor's rebel group

onrovia, Liberia; July quickly escalated into prevent the entire region 22, 2025 - As part of the chaos. The central from destabilizing. ECOMOG

(NPFL) in December 1989, contain the violence and from Nigeria, Ghana,



7 United Methodist Churches **converge in Southeast Liberia**

transparency and Seven districts of the United Methodist Church in Southeast Liberia have ended a conference in Grand Kru County with a call to build stronger local churches through leadership training, evangelism, and collaborative development efforts.

rand Kru, Liberia; July services, revival meetings, districts in southeastern workshops. The sessions are Liberia have converged for the designed to equip local seventh annual Southeastern pastors, youth leaders, and Region United Methodist laity with the spiritual and Fellowship (SRUMEF). The four-practical tools needed to day spiritual and development-build sustainable ministries driven celebration was held at and vibrant congregations in the Bestman Poo Kolenky their respective districts. United Methodist Church in One of the notable teaching Weteken Township, Grand Kru sessions was led by Rev. County, from July 17-20, 2025, Brownell B. Konton, Sr., under the theme: "Keep Your District Superintendent of promptly and in line with Eyes on Jesus, Not the World" Nana Kru District and Co-Chair of SRUMEF, who spoke (Matthew 14: 26 - 33).

Mr. Sanor described the The participating districts speak on "The Sustainability training as timely and include Gee River, Barrobo, of a Local Church in the essential, as it empowered Cape Palmas, Sinoe, Nana Kru, Liberia Annual Conference of

playing its part in strengthen not only spiritual continuity. A major highlight

22, 2025 - Seven United community outreach, Bible Methodist Conference teachings, and Church growth

his compliance and records Kru Coast, and host Garraway, The United Methodist management staff with the representing the heart of Church." His teaching necessary knowledge to United Methodist presence and empowered local church improve information storage mission outreach in leaders to think strategically about resource mobilization,



local churches through on Saturday, when members leadership training, from all seven districts evangelism, and collaborative paraded through the principal development efforts. streets of Weteken, dressed

Speaking at the opening in the fellowship (SRUMEF) service, Rev. Wellity Tarlesson, colors and cultural attire. The District Superintendent of the parade intended as both a Gee River District and public witness of their faith Chairperson of SRUMEF, and a visual expression of the described the gathering as a unity and strength of the revival movement for the United Methodist Church in region. "This is not just a time the southeast. for worship and praise," he On Sunday, Rev. Gregory declared. "It's a time to unite Nimely, District as one body of Christ, to go into Superintendent of Barrobo communities and spread the Circuit, served as the message of hope, and to invest concluding preacher for the in the growth of our districts. event. His sermon reflected After this program, Cape on the gathering's core focus: Palmas and Garraway Districts evangelism, fellowship, and

will receive cash support to development, with a spiritual boost their development charge to participants to efforts." Throughout the event,

participants engage in prayer

ties, but also to build stronger of the celebration occurred

return to their communities

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are yet to be made public.

far," Dr. Johnny said. Liberian Senate and the demanded urgent renovation The Faculty says they Office of the President. They of all restrooms or toilet remain committed to resolved that the leadership facilities on campus, and to teaching, but will not allow must return with a clear construct additional continued disregard for update within a month, at facilities, where needed.their welfare and which time an emergency They call for implementation professional dignity to go General Assembly will be held of overdue promotions and unchallenged. Editing by to determine the next course full resolution of salary Jonathan Browne of action.

ULFA gives government 30 days

In their resolution, ULFA and support staff. "Dr. Maparyan promised to members called for the ULFA members said if share those reports to immediate settlement of all government failed to demonstrate her retroactive payments owed respond accordingly, they administration's sincerity, but them, including are prepared to disengage nothing has been provided so compensation adjustments from academic activities. for members, who have The emergency General Following heated served beyond five years. Assembly will determine deliberations at the Assembly, They also demanded a full whether classes will faculty members authorized refund of funds allegedly continue or be suspended carrying sirens across the the ULFA leadership to engage seized without due process by indefinitely, depending on all remaining channels of the university's progress made, they redress, including the comptroller. The faculty also maintain.

Information Commission conducts

disparities across academic

by senior management and the three institutions, commitment to uphold the communities.

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core responsibility.

technical staff, featured participants received principles of transparency detailed presentations on the presentations on FOI and open government. legal framework of the FOI Law awareness, legal compliance The IIC recently concluded a and the responsibilities of requirements, and modern separate two-day FOI training public institutions. Deputy records management involving 20 government Minister for Administration, A. practices. The interactive ministries, agencies, and Samukai Dunnoh, welcomed format enabled officials to commissions, bringing the IIC team and highlighted ask questions, identify together over 100 senior the Ministry's interest in institutional gaps, and officials and departmental enhancing outreach, propose practical solutions heads to promote a culture of particularly to rural for strengthening information access to information across the public sector. access and storage.

Last week Thursday, the Liberia In total, approximately 200 The IIC remains steadfast in Intellectual Property Office government employees its mission to ensure that all (LIPO) benefited from the IIC benefited from the trainings. public institutions respect training initiative, marking the Many participants expressed and implement the provisions first in a series of three appreciation to the IIC, of the Freedom of separate trainings conducted describing the initiative as Information Act of 2010, as part of the Commission's both timely and impactful thereby empowering citizens They also pledged their and strengthening Throughout the sessions across individual and institutional democratic governance.

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Boakai commissions regional

He noted that for years, efficient processing of services easily and without residents of Bong and passport applications. for a passport in the capital.

live." The new passport centers are and ensure no citizen is left President Boakai's presence temporarily housed at the behind. while permanent sites are believe the center will government to the people is being identified and alleviate economic burdens not optional it is central to developed. Each facility is on vulnerable populations, the vision of a functioning equipped with biometric

occasion, Mr. Paul Urey enrollment systems, high-including students, the Ngafuan, Director of speed internet connectivity, elderly, and people with Passports, underscored the and trained personnel to disabilities. critical need for the initiative. ensure the secure and "When citizens can access

stress, they are more likely surrounding counties have The launch aligns squarely to trust their government faced financial and logistical with President Boakai's and participate in national barriers, often spending national development development," said a civil substantial sums on travel and priorities, particularly his society advocate in Gbarnga. accommodation just to apply focus on decentralizing key In addition to enhancing services across various convenience, the

"With these new centers, we sectors, including decentralized passport hubs are removing barriers and education, health, and civil are expected to improve reaffirming our commitment registration. By extending national data collection and to inclusive governance," government services beyond planning, allowing more Ngafuan said. "No Liberian the capital, the citizens to formally register should be disadvantaged administration hopes to and engage in legal, simply because of where they rebuild public trust, close economic, and international the urban-rural service gap, travel activities.

at the Gbarnga launch was a official residences of the The initiative has been clear demonstration of high-County Superintendents in widely praised by residents, level political support for the Bong and Grand Gedeh. This is traditional leaders, and civil decentralization effort. In an interim solution designed society organizations in Bong his remarks, the President to fast-track service delivery County, many of whom emphasized that taking

Govt. bans unauthorized sirens across Liberia

By: Kruah Thompson

onrovia, Liberia; July 22, 2025 - The Liberia National Police (LNP) has announced an immediate halt to the unauthorized use of vehicles

The police say that, following growing concerns over public safety and traffic law violations, they have ordered the entire police unit to ensure that all cars carrying sirens are stopped and interrogated to verify their use "It's the right thing to do," is appropriate. The police also request that

government officials who are not authorized to carry sirens remove them from their cars, as using them requires a specific purpose. Disclosing this over the weekend, Information Minister Jerolinmek Mathew Piah believes that the 1972 trafficking law gives the LNP the legal right to do so. "So, from now on, no unauthorized vehicle will play the streets of Liberia." He states that Chapter 38, Subsection 6.21 of the 1972

the traffic and hit me," he said, adding that, "Sometimes it violates the traffic law and may be the cause of someone losing their lives." Despite the new policy, this

paper conducted a comprehensive evaluation over the weekend to get citizens' responses regarding the new policy.

In our many interviews, many residents who live in Fiamah supported the government's new policy.

Sampson Gonkarnue, a resident of Matadi, told our reporters. He believes that sometimes some vehicles, including those from private security, will cause unnecessary noise. "Maybe it will decrease the noise too

much." Additionally, an individual who claimed to be from a political party disagreed with the idea, stating that President Boakai is trying to "make the country look" like Taylor's time.



Vehicle and Traffic Laws only Isaac George says he strongly authorizes police, fire, or other opposes the idea because the emergency or official president is trying to make the government vehicles, and the country appear as though it's type of sirens must be approved Taylor's time. by the Ministry of Justice.

Charles Ghankay Taylor is a Therefore, he added that the former Liberian politician and police are now enforcing this warlord who served as the policy to restore discipline on 22nd President of Liberia from the road and safeguard public 1997 to 2003. He is one of the most controversial figures in property.

Speaking on the occasion. He modern African history due to narrated that under normal his role in Liberia's civil wars conditions, sirens should only be that cost the lives of over used when the vehicle is being 25,000 Liberians and his operated in response to a fire involvement in war crimes in alarm, or other emergency call, neighboring Sierra in the immediate pursuit of a Leone. George says the country suspected criminal, or on any has now gone back to the days other emergency basis. "The illegal use of sirens not only freely and are now being

endangers road users' lives, but hunted for expressing

it disrupts the free flow of traffic themselves. and undermines the effort of the Meanwhile, Minister Piah

police whom the public trust to believes that the decision was see green and get ready to cross, harmony to the country's

when Liberians will not live

then a man who thinks he's residents. and inclusive democracy.

uphold the rule of law." "I may the right one to make, and it look up at the traffic lights and will reduce noise and bring

carrying a siren may try to dodge

L'avenir de la Cour pour crimes de guerre au Liberia demeure

de guerre et les crimes économiques au Liberia semble s'étioler, en raison

'espoir de voir enfin administrations américaines, mise en place une l'engagement actuel s'est freinée par un déficit de ■Cour pour les crimes nettement affaibli en raison de changements de priorités à Washington.

« Avant mon arrivée au Liberia, d'un manque criant de et même peu après, il y avait un



financement durable, malgré la création d'un processus.

L'ambassadeur sortant des Etats-Unis au Liberia, M. Mark Toner, a reconnu que, bien qu'un soutien conséquent ait été apporté l'ambassadeur Toner.

réel soutien de la part des précédentes administrations bureau chargé de piloter le américaines. Mais aujourd'hui, les priorités ont changé, et le gouvernement américain propose davantage d'assistance technique que de soutien financier », a déclaré

par les précédentes Il a souligné que cette initiative

ambitieuse est aujourd'hui ressources adéquates:

« Ce n'est pas une tâche facile. Et je le dis franchement: les ressources font défaut. Je sais que le Président Boakai en a fait une priorité, mais lui et son administration doivent également fournir les moyens nécessaires pour que cette cour fonctionne réellement. »

Actuellement, le Bureau de la Cour pour crimes de guerre et crimes économiques peine à maintenir ses activités, confronté à un financement irrégulier. « Ils reçoivent un peu d'argent, puis cela s'épuise, et ils doivent repartir à la recherche de fonds. Ce n'est pas ainsi qu'on gère une priorité nationale sérieuse », a-t-il déploré.

L'ambassadeur a reconnu l'importance de la Cour pour les partenaires internationaux, notamment les États-Unis, l'Union européenne, la Suède et

Éditorial

L'ONU Femmes célèbre 15 ans de présence et d'engagement au Liberia

'entité des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes, plus connue sous le nom d'ONU Femmes, a célébré cette semaine quinze années de présence au Liberia, marquées par des actions concrètes en faveur des droits des femmes et des filles dans un pays encore marqué par les séquelles de la guerre civile.

Fondée officiellement en 2010, à la suite de la Conférence mondiale de Pékin de 1995, ONU Femmes avait ouvert un bureau national au Liberia dès 2009, amorçant des initiatives majeures dans des domaines tels que la participation des femmes aux processus de paix, la lutte contre les violences basées sur le genre (VBG), l'autonomisation économique des commerçantes et la promotion de la gouvernance inclusive.

Depuis 2011, l'agence onusienne travaille en étroite collaboration avec le gouvernement libérien — notamment à travers le ministère du Genre, de l'Enfance et de la Protection sociale — et les organisations de la société civile pour promouvoir l'égalité des genres, la participation des femmes à la vie publique, et l'éradication des violences faites aux

Une commémoration sous le signe de la transformation et des résultats La cérémonie commémorative s'est tenue le vendredi 18 juillet 2025 au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, à Monrovia, en présence de nombreuses personnalités issues du gouvernement, du système des Nations Unies, d'organisations de femmes, de la jeunesse et des communautés rurales. Le thème retenu cette année : « Jeune pour transformer, mûre pour agir », illustre le chemin parcouru par l'institution depuis ses débuts.

Une exposition photographique poignante retraçait les moments phares de ces 15 années d'action au Liberia, illustrant les visages, les succès et les combats menés aux côtés des femmes et des filles libériennes.

Des messages forts pour une cause universelle

Parmi les invités d'honneur figurait Dr Maxime Houinato, directeur régional d'ONU Femmes pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, qui a salué le parcours de l'organisation, tout en soulignant les défis persistants:

« Nous avons vu naître ONU Femmes en 2010 comme réponse à une volonté collective d'agir plus efficacement pour les droits des femmes. Quinze ans plus tard, notre combat continue. Beaucoup de pays, dont le Liberia, ont inscrit des lois progressistes en faveur de l'égalité, mais leur mise en œuvre reste un défi majeur. »

De son côté, la ministre du Genre, de l'Enfance et de la Protection sociale, Gbeme Horace Kollie, s'est dite honorée de célébrer ce partenariat exemplaire:

« ONU Femmes a été un acteur de changement fondamental, que ce soit en soutenant l'autonomisation économique, la participation politique des femmes, ou la lutte contre les violences sexistes. Grâce à son engagement constant, des femmes autrefois marginalisées sont aujourd'hui des décideuses, des leaders communautaires et des artisanes de paix.»

Elle a également salué les campagnes phares de l'agence telles que HeForShe, Génération Egalité et Unis pour mettre fin à la violence faite aux femmes, qui ont mobilisé à la fois les hommes et les femmes dans un combat collectif pour la justice sociale.

Un hommage aux figures disparues et un engagement renouvelé

L'exposition a également rendu hommage à deux figures importantes de l'organisation : Kathy Mangones, première représentante-pays d'ONU Femmes au Liberia (2012-2014), décédée en 2024 à Nairobi, et Robykeen Brown, associée de programme décédée en 2022. Toutes deux ont contribué de manière significative aux avancées obtenues au Liberia.

Comfort Lamptey, actuelle représentante d'ONU Femmes au Liberia, a clôturé la cérémonie en réaffirmant l'engagement de l'organisation à poursuivre sa mission:

« Ces photographies racontent une histoire de résilience, de solidarité et de transformation. Notre ambition est intacte : construire un Liberia où chaque femme et chaque fille peut s'épanouir, participer pleinement à la société et vivre sans violence ni discrimination. »

Un rôle clé dans la reconstruction post-conflit

La présence d'ONU Femmes au Liberia s'inscrit dans l'effort global des Nations Unies pour stabiliser et reconstruire un pays profondément marqué par les guerres civiles de 1989 à 2003, qui ont laissé derrière elles des institutions affaiblies, une pauvreté généralisée et une inégalité structurelle entre les sexes.

Aujourd'hui encore, ONU Femmes reste un acteur essentiel dans les domaines de la planification sensible au genre, de la promotion des droits humains, du renforcement économique, de la réforme politique, et de la prévention des violences fondées sur le genre, notamment à l'égard des personnes LGBTQ+, souvent marginalisées.

Boakai inaugure un centre régional de demande de passeports à Bong comté de Grand Gedeh, font Bong et des comtés

Le Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a réaffirmé l'engagement de son administration en faveur du développement équitable et d'une gouvernance centrée sur les citoyens, en inaugurant officiellement un nouveau Centre Régional de Demande de Passeports à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong. Cette inauguration, un jalon majeur de l'agenda l'Indépendance.

Lors de la cérémonie de dédicace, le Président Boakai a souligné l'urgence de fournir des résultats de développement tangibles qui bénéficient aux Libériens ordinaires. "Nous voulons voir les dividendes de ce pays âgé de 178 ans", a déclaré le Président. "L'essence d'une bonne gouvernance est d'atteindre les gens là où ils

se trouvent." Le centre de Gbarnga, ainsi qu'une installation similaire à Zwedru, dans le

partie d'une stratégie plus large de décentralisation menée par le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères sous la direction de la Ministre Sara Beysolow Nyanti. L'initiative vise à étendre l'accès aux passeports biométriques de la CEDEAO, notamment aux citoyens des zones rurales qui ont longtemps eu du mal à accéder à ces services en raison de la centralisation à Monrovia.

d e Lors de la même occasion, M. décentralisation du Paul Urey Ngafuan, Directeur déclaré Ngafuan. "Aucun gouvernement, précède des Passeports, a souligné la Libérien ne devrait être les célébrations du 178e nécessité critique de cette désavantagé simplement en anniversaire de initiative. Il a noté que depuis raiso des années, les résidents de n de 1

environnants ont rencontré des obstacles financiers et logistiques, dépensant souvent des sommes importantes déplacements et en hébergement simplement pour demander un passeport dans la capitale.

"Avec ces nouveaux centres, nous éliminons les barrières et réaffirmons notre engagement envers une gouvernance inclusive", a

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son lieu de résidence.'

Les nouveaux centres de passeports sont temporairement logés dans les résidences officielles des surintendants de comté à Bong et à Grand Gedeh. Il s'agit d'une solution intérimaire visant à accélérer la prestation de services pendant que des sites permanents sont identifiés et développés. Chaque installation est équipée de systèmes d'enregistrement biométrique, de connectivité Internet haut débit et de personnel formé pour assurer le traitement sécurisé et efficace des demandes de passeport.

Le lancement s'aligne parfaitement avec les priorités de développement national du Président Boakai, notamment son focus sur la décentralisation des services clés dans divers secteurs, tels que l'éducation, la santé et l'enregistrement civil. En étendant les services gouvernementaux au-delà de la capitale, l'administration espère reconstruire la confiance publique, combler le fossé entre services urbains et ruraux, et garantir qu'aucun citoyen ne soit laissé pour compte.

L'initiative a été largement saluée par les résidents, les leaders traditionnels et les organisations de la société civile du comté de Bong, nombreux à penser que le centre allégera les charges économiques des populations vulnérables, notamment les étudiants, les personnes âgées et les personnes handicapées.

"Lorsque les citoyens peuvent accéder aux services facilement et sans stress, ils sont plus susceptibles de faire confiance à leur gouvernement et de participer au développement national", a déclaré un défenseur de la société civile à Gbarnga.

En plus d'améliorer la commodité, les hubs décentralisés de passeports devraient

et la planification, permettant à plus de citoyens de s'inscrire formellement et de participer à des activités légales, économiques et de voyage international.

La présence du Président Boakai au lancement de Gbarnga témoigne clairement du soutien politique de haut niveau apporté à l'effort de décentralisation. Dans ses remarques, le Président a souligné que rendre le gouvernement accessible aux citoyens n'est pas une option, mais au cœur de la vision d'une démocratie fonctionnelle et inclusive.

"C'est un gouvernement d'inclusion, et ce que nous voyons ici aujourd'hui en est la preuve" a-t-il déclaré.

Il a en outre promis que le gouvernement étendrait l'initiative à l'échelle nationale, garantissant à tous les Libériens, quel que soit leur comté, leur district ou leur origine, un accès égal aux services publics essentiels. A l'approche du bicentenaire du Liberia, le lancement des hubs de passeports est perçu comme une étape audacieuse vers un modèle de gouvernance plus inclusif et centré sur le citoyen. En investissant dans la décentralisation, l'infrastructure et la réforme institutionnelle, l'administration Boakai pose les bases d'un avenir où chaque Libérien se sentira vu, servi et habilité.

Les centres de passeports de Gbarnga et de Zwedru ne sont désormais pas seulement des points de service, mais aussi des symboles de renouveau national, de dignité des citoyens et d'un gouvernement travaillant activement à combler l'écart entre promesse et réalisation.

"Ceci n'est que le début", a assuré Ngafuan. "Les Libériens méritent tous un accès aux mêmes services de qualité, quel que soit leur comté, leur district ou leur village."

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l'Allemagne, mais n'a pas pu donner de garanties quant au soutien futur de son pays. « Je ne peux tout simplement pas », a-t-il répondu avec franchise lorsqu'on lui a demandé à quel niveau d'aide le Liberia pouvait s'attendre.

L'espoir d'un appui américain fort s'était renforcé après plusieurs déclarations affirmées d'officiels américains. Toutefois. depuis la mort de l'ancien chef de guerre et sénateur influent Prince Y. Johnson, la dynamique semble s'être essoufflée et l'attention s'est visiblement déplacée.

L'ambassadeur Toner a cependant précisé que ce ralentissement ne résulte pas du décès du sénateur Johnson, mais bien d'un réalignement stratégique au sein de l'administration américaine. Il n'a pas exclu un soutien futur, tout en avertissant qu'aucune aide n'est actuellement garantie. En mai 2024, le Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai avait signé un décret présidentiel établissant un bureau chargé de poser les bases de la future Cour spéciale internationale, en coopération avec les partenaires mondiaux.

La mission de cette cour serait de poursuivre les auteurs présumés de crimes de guerre, de crimes contre l'humanité et de crimes économiques commis durant les guerres civiles libériennes entre 1989 et 2003.

Interrogé sur l'impact de la corruption sur le développement du pays, l'ambassadeur

L'avenir de la Cour pour crimes de Toner n'a pas mâché ses mots :

« La corruption est un obstacle majeur, profondément enraciné dans le système », a t-il affirmé.

Il a insisté sur la nécessité, pour le gouvernement, d'assurer un paiement juste et régulier des salaires aux fonctionnaires comme étape essentielle dans la lutte contre ce fléau. Un changement de mentalité est également indispensable, selon lui, pour que les agents publics privilégient le service au peuple plutôt que l'enrichissement

En outre, il a souligné que l'État devait être capable de mobiliser des ressources internes et d'allouer les budgets de manière appropriée aux ministères et institutions afin de stimuler le développement national.

M. Toner a conclu en rappelant que le Liberia dispose d'institutions solides, notamment des organes d'audit, mais qu'il est impératif qu'elles aillent jusqu'au bout des procédures judiciaires pour envoyer un message fort contre l'impunité.

Ces remarques ont été faites lors d'une émission-débat en direct à Monrovia laquelle l'ambassadeur a récemment participé.



Boakai inaugure un centre régional Affrontement entre le sénateur Konneh et le gouvernement améliorer la collecte de données nationales autour des manifestations et d'une pétition controversée

la suite de la manifestation anti-gouvernementale organisée conjointement par la Solidarity of Trust for A New Day (STAND) et le Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), un vif débat s'est engagé entre les partisans du pouvoir et plusieurs figures politiques, notamment autour de la portée réelle de la mobilisation et de la légitimité de la pétition soumise aux autorités.

Alors que certains membres et sympathisants du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party, qualifient la manifestation d'échec en raison de la « participation limitée », d'autres saluent le geste citoyen et jugent la pétition soumise comme porteuse de revendications légitimes.



Parmi les voix les plus marquantes figure celle du sénateur de Gbarpolu County, Amara Konneh, ancien proche allié de l'Unity Party. Dans un message publié sur sa page Facebook officielle, l'élu a estimé que, malgré les critiques sur la faible affluence du 17 juillet, les préoccupations soulevées méritent l'attention du gouvernement.

« Le 17 juillet n'a peut-être pas été un grand jour pour les manifestants, selon les partisans du régime, mais j'espère que notre gouvernement entendra leurs plaintes », a-t-il écrit. « Une majorité silencieuse, qui n'a peut-être pas manifesté à cause de ses dirigeants, pourrait bien se faire entendre dans les urnes en 2029 si elle ne constate pas d'amélioration tangible dans sa vie quotidienne. »

Le sénateur Konneh a également souligné que « la vérité observe en silence depuis 1980 », soulignant que les critiques extérieures révèlent souvent des réalités que les partisans eux-mêmes ignorent ou refusent de voir. Il a mis en garde contre l'illusion d'un soutien sans faille, invitant le gouvernement à prêter plus d'attention aux opposants qu'aux flatteurs.

Mais cette position a été vivement contestée par Daniel Sando, viceministre de l'Information en charge de la presse et des affaires publiques, qui, dans une publication sur son propre compte Facebook, a réfuté les affirmations du sénateur Konneh, dénonçant « une rhétorique politique déguisée en réflexion ».

« Monsieur le Sénateur, vos propos sont truffés de contradictions et de demi-vérités », a fustigé M. Sando. « Vous tentez de minimiser les progrès réalisés par le gouvernement tout en alimentant l'idée d'un retournement électoral en 2029, dans une stratégie politique bien calculée pour exonérer votre camp de toute responsabilité. »

Le vice-ministre a critiqué ce qu'il qualifie de « posture opportuniste » du sénateur Konneh, l'accusant d'avoir ignoré les abus du régime précédent mené par le CDC de George Weah.

« Où était votre soif de vérité lorsque le CDC plongeait l'économie dans le chaos ? », a-t-il lancé. « Prétendre aujourd'hui que l'économie était stable avant les élections de 2023 relève d'une grave falsification de l'histoire.»

Sando a ensuite dénoncé ce qu'il considère comme une tentative de réécriture de l'ère Weah, rappelant que la corruption, la stagnation économique et la mauvaise gouvernance sont largement documentées sous l'ancienne administration. Il estime que comparer la gouvernance actuelle à celle du passé constitue une insulte à l'intelligence du peuple

Saluant le professionnalisme des forces de sécurité lors de la manifestation, Sando a reconnu le calme et la discipline dont elles ont fait preuve malgré les provocations, y voyant une preuve du renforcement des institutions démocratiques sous la présidence Boakai.

Concernant les motifs de la manifestation, Sando a soutenu que, même si tout n'est pas parfait, le gouvernement a accompli des progrès significatifs, en particulier par rapport à son prédécesseur :

« Nous ne prétendons pas que tout est rose, mais il faut reconnaître les avancées. Le peuple comprend que les organisateurs de la manifestation sont animés par des intérêts personnels et politiques. »

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Drugs Abuse in Liberia

By Naneka A. Hoffman

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

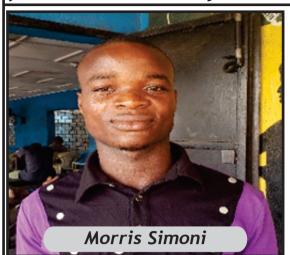
police arrested a lady and a

boy with drugs; it's good but

there should be more

enforcement."

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. know that drugs are spoiling good thing you need to do, you



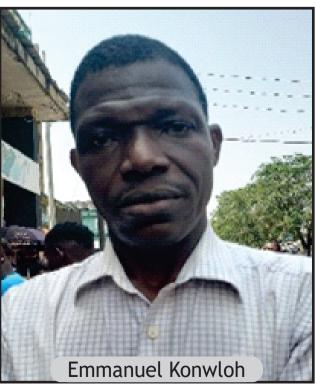
"I think the drugs business is getting serious in the country. We all need to fight this drugs business in the country; it's not about saying it, but the drugs law needs to be implemented. We all our youth, and secondly, not only the youth. We feel bad too at times, because often when our brothers and 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."

> 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."



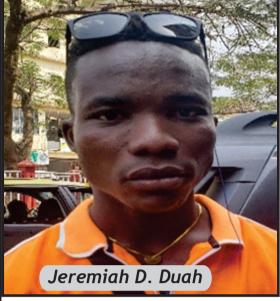
"The drug issue is serious in Liberia, so we are so happy; meanly I am

"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 ghettoes. 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."



www.thenewdawnliberia.com

"It is often said that for every

"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;

"This regime needs to go in ghettoes and break those ghettoes 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."



that is the only way drugs will be restricted in our country."





President Boakai has officially dedicated a modern secondary school in Bong County, Central Liberia, at an estimated cost of standards, in line with Liberia's hope to establishing a war and economic crimes seems to be US\$1.6 Million, as part of effort to boost education in the country.

By: Edwin N. Khakie

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai creating schools that inspire

opportunities to ong, Liberia; July 22, 2025 succeed. "Boakai further style. In a landmark step reinforced his administration's toward strengthening goal of restoring public trust in uncompleted under my Liberia's education system, the education system by watch," Dr. Jallah stated



Sr. officially dedicated a US\$1.6 pride and ambition. He noted ultimately enabled the equity, and foster a skilled geography or background. workforce for the future.

President Boakai said.

collaborative efforts between learning conditions. the Government of Liberia, the Minister Jallah emphasized that authorities, school officials,

Association (IDA). conducive learning environment anvone else."

beyond construction; it means Under her leadership, she said, quality learning and a better giving our students the tools and the Ministry enforced stricter life.

needs," the President said.

million modern secondary school that education is a long-term Liberian government to in Gbarnga, Bong County, on investment with the power to respond to pandemic-related Monday, July 21, 2025. The transform not only individual challenges while also facility, described as one of the lives but also communities and improving infrastructure at country's most advanced the nation. "Education is the key more than 150 secondary academic institutions, is part of that unlocks the golden door," he schools nationwide. the government's broader quoted, stressing that every She explained that the strategy to enhance access to Liberian child deserves the best program's goals included quality education, promote education regardless of awarding scholarships,

The dedication ceremony, held Maley Jallah, who officially improving the quality of in front of a large audience of commissioned the school, instruction, and producing and government officials, educators, described the project as a model distributing Liberia's first students, and residents, marked for what Liberian education domestically published a significant milestone in the infrastructure should represent. secondary school Boakai administration's national She noted that the facility textbooks. President Boakai aligned with celebrations classrooms, science and to take ownership of the commemorating Liberia's 178th computer laboratories, a TVET facility, particularly in helping Independence Anniversary. "This (Technical and Vocational to maintain its quality and school is not just a building; it is Education and Training) space, a sustainability over time. a statement that education library, solar energy, genderremains at the heart of our sensitive and disability-friendly depends not just on development agenda," features, and modern water and government but on community sanitation systems.

The President emphasized that In addition, the campus includes personnel, proper integrating solar power within sports facilities, such as a maintenance, and the will to the school represents a forward- football field and basketball and see it flourish," he said. thinking approach to sustainable volleyball courts, and is designed The commissioning was energy use in public to accommodate up to 1,000 attended by a host of infrastructure. He also credited students, thereby addressing dignitaries, including the success of the project to issues of overcrowding and poor government ministers,

World Bank, and other the initiative reflects Pillar Four students, and ordinary international partners, of the government's Agenda for Citizens many of whom particularly through a US\$47 Reform and Excellence in expressed pride in seeing such million grant from the Education, which prioritizes an advanced educational International Development equitable access and improved institution in Bong County. stating that the new school focused on inclusion, and we are conflict development symbolizes more than committed to ensuring that narrative. It reflects a

fosters student success by She also acknowledged the Boakai administration minimizing distractions and challenges encountered in continues its push to transform promoting comfort and safety. executing the project, citing Liberia's public education This allows children to focus on delays in civil works, system, projects like this their education rather than inefficiencies in contractor signal not only a break from worrying about their basic performance, and overdue the past but a bold payments, which had previously commitment to a future where "Investing in proper schools goes stalled the school's completion. every child has access to

monitoring and accountability President Boakai's "no business as usual" governance

"No good venture goes firmly. World Bank Country Representative Georgia Wallen, speaking at the ceremony, lauded the project as a powerful investment in Liberia's future. "The atmosphere here will soon be filled with youthful energy, ideas, laughter, and problemsolving, most of all, learning," she said.

Madam Wallen noted that the the program. However, the US\$47 million investment

deploying trained female Education Minister Dr. Jarso guidance counselors,

> "The success of this initiative involvement trained

lawmakers, county

educational reforms. As the

Crimes Court's formation uncertain

losing momentum due to lack of badly needed financial support.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah onrovia, Liberia; July 22, 2025 - The establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia may be in jeopardy due to lack of sustained support, despite government's formation of an office to spearhead the process. Outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Mark Toner, disclosed that while there had been strong backing from previous U.S. administrations, current support is waning due to shifting priorities in Washington. "Before I arrived in Liberia and

original commissioning was even after my arrival, there was planned just before the onset considerable support from of the COVID-19 pandemic, previous U.S. administrations. But which delayed many aspects of now, because of shifting priorities, the U.S. government is offering more technical assistance and less financial support," Ambassador Toner said. He stressed that the initiative is being hampered by a lack of adequate resources.

"It's not an easy task, and I'll say this, it's lacking resources. I know President Boakai prioritizes this, but he and his administration also need to provide the resources required for it to function properly," Toner emphasized.

Currently, the Office of the War and Economic Crimes Court is struggling to maintain operations due to inconsistent funding. "They get some money, it runs development agenda and includes 15 fully furnished called on the local community out, and then they have to go looking for more. That's not how

attention seemingly diverted.

Toner, however, clarified that the shift in support has nothing to do with Senator Johnson's passing, but rather reflects changes within the U.S. administration. While he did not rule out future support, he said nothing is guaranteed at this

In May 2024, President Joseph Boakai signed an executive order establishing an Office for the War and Economic Crimes Court. The office is tasked with laying foundation for a special international tribunal, in collaboration with global partners.

The court is expected to prosecute individuals responsible for war crimes. crimes against humanity, and economic crimes committed during Liberia's civil wars between 1989 and 2003.

When asked whether corruption and poor governance are stalling Liberia's development, Ambassador Toner didn't mince words: "Corruption is a major obstacle, deeply rooted," he

He emphasized that the government must ensure timely and fair compensation for public servants as a critical first step in fighting corruption.

Equally important, he noted, is a shift in the mindset of public officials, away from self-



quality in senior secondary The dedication of this state- you run a serious national enrichment, toward genuine President Boakai commended education across Liberia. "This is of-the-art secondary school priority," the Ambassador noted. public service. He added that the Ministry of Education for its about the people of Liberia not marks a significant He said that while the United the government must be able to dedication and hard work, just politics," she said. "We're achievement in Liberia's post- States, along with partners like raise revenue and make the European Union, Sweden, and appropriate allocations to Germany, recognizes the ministries and agencies to infrastructure it embodies hope, children from disadvantaged government prioritizing importance of the court, he could promote national development. opportunity, and a commitment backgrounds have the same people-centered not provide a clear outlook on Toner concluded by saving that to the next generation. "A access to quality education as infrastructure and inclusive future U.S. support. "I just can't," while Liberia has the right he said candidly, when asked how institutions, including auditing much assistance Liberia should bodies, those institutions must expect from the U.S. Expectations follow through with prosecutions had been high for robust U.S. to send a strong message. backing, especially following The ambassador made these strong statements from American remarks when he appeared on a officials. However, following the live talk show in Monrovia death of former rebe leader and recently. Editing by Jonathan influential Liberian senator Prince Browne Y. Johnson, the momentum appears to have slowed, with



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Agives government 30 days

The Faculty Association of the University of Liberia has given a 30-day ultimatum to government to address salary disparities, unpaid retroactive benefits, and faculty welfare or it would go

By Lewis S. Teh apitol Hill, Monrovia; July 22, 2025 - The ◆ University of Liberia Faculty Association (ULFA) has issued a 30-day ultimatum to government and the University

General Assembly of the Faculty Association held over the weekend, July 18, at the UL's Capitol Hill campus, where members vented their frustrations over what they called persistent neglect by both the government and the



Administration, demanding immediate resolution of longstanding issues, including salary faculty welfare.

university's leadership.

ULFA President Dr. Edna Johnny, told the gathering that poor working conditions disparities, unpaid continue to plague the retroactive benefits, and faculty, including unsafe and unsanitary facilities, The deadline follows a inadequate office space, and

absence of essential teaching resources. She noted repeated unfulfilled commitments outlined in multiple resolutions dating as far back as June 2024, and a 2021 Memorandum of Understanding, all of which remain largely unaddressed. Dr. Johnny said ULFA had held several meetings with UL President, Dr. Layli Maparyan, in an effort to resolve challenges affecting faculty members, but noted that the administration has made little effort to follow through.

"We met with Dr. Maparyan several times to explore ways of resolving the pressing concerns affecting faculty and staff, but there has been minimal commitment from her administration," she said.

She disclosed that ULFA requested copies of two critical documents: the investigation report into the controversial "Dorr Cooper" matter, which resulted in faculty dismissals and Dr. Maparyan's 100-day deliverables, both of which

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