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

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Continental News

Ugandan opposition files petition to quash legislation allowing military courts to try civilians

Opponents of Uganda's government have asked the constitutional court to quash new legislation that would allow military courts to prosecute civilians, over fears the law could be used for political purposes.

Uganda's main opposition party, the National Unity Platform (NUP) has filed a case in the constitutional court to nullify a new law that reinstates the right of military tribunals to try civilians.

"They violated all the processes that they should follow while passing laws," NUP's secretary general Lewis Rubongoya told

reporters outside court, citing a lack of sufficient public consultation.

The Supreme Court barred the prosecution of civilians in the tribunals in January, saying they lacked the legal competence to conduct criminal trials in a fair and impartial manner.

But in May parliament passed a bill to reinstate the right of military courts to prosecute civilians and President Yoweri Museveni signed it into law.

Local and international rights campaigners have long accused Uganda's government of using military courts to pursue political opponents of President Yoweri

Museveni, 80, who has been in power for almost 40 years. But officials say only civilians who use guns for political violence are prosecuted in those tribunals.

After Museveni signed the law, the then-army spokesperson, Chris Magezi praised it, saying it would "deter the formation of militant political groups" while Uganda's military chief Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is also Museveni's son, congratulated lawmakers for passing the law.

Many supporters and leaders of the NUP, including singer-turned politician Bobi Wine who is preparing to challenge Museveni in next year's election, have previously been charged or prosecuted by military tribunals.

January's Supreme Court ruling forced authorities to transfer the military trial of a major opposition figure, Kizza Besigye, for alleged offences including treason, to a civilian court.

Besigye is still in detention, almost nine months after his arrest, and has been repeatedly denied bail.



Ugandan opposition leader and four-time presidential candidate Kizza Besigye, stands in the dock at the Makindye Martial Court in Kampala, Uganda, Nov. 20, 2024.

Nigeria's Air Force strikes decimate terrorists: 592 Killed, 200 vehicles destroyed in 8 months

Nigeria's military has eliminated 592 terrorists in the northeastern state of Borno over the past eight months, marking a significant escalation in the fight against Boko Haram and Daesh-linked militants. The air force intensified air strikes across the restive region, destroying over 200 technical vehicles and 166 logistics hubs in a sweeping offensive aimed at crippling insurgent operations.

Chief of Air Staff Hasan Abubakar announced the milestone during a meeting with Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum on Tuesday, stating that the recent achievements have exceeded last year's operational results. The precision and frequency of air strikes have increased, targeting key terrorist strongholds and disrupting their supply chains.

Swift and surgical air campaign

"This year, our air campaign is quicker, more precise, and

more surgical," Abubakar declared. "We are eliminating high-value targets, crippling logistics networks, and dismantling cells that threaten peace in the northeast."

The operation included coordinated day-and-night strikes across critical locations such as Gonori, Rann, Dikwa, Damboa, Azir, and Mallam Fatori.

Nigerian Air Force aircraft conducted 798 combat sorties, logging over 1,500 operational flight hours under Operation Hadin Kai, the military's

counter-terrorism mission in the region.

Decades of terror and displacement

For years, Boko Haram and Daesh-affiliated militants have waged violent campaigns in Nigeria's northeast, targeting security forces and civilians.

The insurgency has led to widespread displacement, with thousands killed and entire communities uprooted.

The recent surge in military operations aims to dismantle remaining terrorist networks and restore stability.



In this Wednesday April 8, 2015 file photo, Nigerian soldiers man a checkpoint in Gwoza, Nigeria

In South Sudan, a new mobile court helps bring perpetrators to justice

In South Sudan's Pibor area, crimes are a frequent occurrence. But a new mobile court, supported by the United Nations mission to the country, is helping fight this problem.

Greater Pibor is rich with vibrant cultural traditions and history. The communities celebrate their identity through traditional attire, ceremonies, and spiritual practices that bind them together.

However, a more toxic and

disputes which are often a major source of tension and conflict, were also decided.

A need for a permanent justice system

It is the second time a mobile court has been deployed to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area this year, bringing the total number of cases addressed to 61, with 37 criminal and 24 civil cases.

Seeing justice served inspires more victims to come forward and helps prevent those seeking accountability for crimes from taking the law into their own



In this video still, the mobile court in South Sudan's Pibor area can be seen in action.

deadly shared experience is the phenomenon of cattle raiding, combined with sexual violence, and child abduction, which is also deeply embedded in the culture and a major source of conflict between communities.

Too often, the perpetrators of crimes, such as these, go unpunished.

However, a new mobile court, deployed to Pibor with the assistance of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization, Resilience Trust Fund, is helping combat this historical impunity.

Over four weeks, the court adjudicated 16 complex criminal cases, resulting in the conviction of five offenders.

Another 10 civil cases, mostly related to land

hands.

While there is a recognition that communities cannot be blamed if they have never experienced justice, there is also a need to demonstrate that formal systems provide a better form of accountability. It is vital to sustain the delivery of justice rather than relying on ad hoc mobile courts.

The South Sudan judiciary, therefore, plans to deploy a permanent judge to the area. UNMISS also helped by building a new courthouse to address the dire state of existing infrastructure.

The mission is also advocating for investment in a new prison and functioning police stations.

To secure the long-promised peace after decades of brutal conflict, it is vital that justice is delivered in places where it has been absent for far too long. Only then will those who have suffered immense harm, be able to rebuild their lives and move towards the better future they deserve.

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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 Resilience Is a Strategic Investment

By Mahmoud Mohieldin, Pepukaye Bardouille

BRIDGETOWN/CAIRO – For emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), investing in resilience is not a luxury; it is an imperative. Climate disasters and ecological degradation are impeding their economic prospects and straining their finances. Perhaps more importantly, these shocks are exacerbating unsustainable debt burdens at a time when donor countries are slashing development aid, making it harder for EMDEs to finance investments in climate adaptation.

Over the past two decades, the 74 economies comprising the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Vulnerable Group of Twenty have suffered more than \$525 billion in losses – equivalent to roughly 20% of their collective GDP – due to climate shocks. This includes acute disasters like floods, hurricanes, and droughts, as well as slower-moving events such as desertification and coastal erosion.

Meanwhile, the degradation of natural ecosystems through deforestation and biodiversity loss has aggravated food and water insecurity and increased climate risks by eliminating natural carbon sinks. These dynamics create formidable obstacles – namely, limited fiscal space and high capital costs – that trap countries in a vicious cycle of vulnerability. Breaking free requires a significant scaling-up in financing for climate-adaptation efforts.

To that end, the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, launched in 2022, proposes 30 adaptation targets in key sectors such as agriculture, public health, and infrastructure with the goal of spurring inclusive, effective, and equitable action by 2030. The proposed outcomes are not merely defensive; they create jobs, boost productivity, and improve creditworthiness. Unfortunately, these benefits are not reflected in current macroeconomic frameworks.

The problem is structural. Existing macro-fiscal tools – such as the debt-sustainability frameworks used by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and, by extension, sovereign credit ratings – account for climate- and nature-related risks but do not sufficiently recognize the economic benefits of reducing those risks.

Natural disasters – climate-related or otherwise – are (rightly) treated as threats to fiscal stability. But the investments required to mitigate their effects are seen only as adding to the debt burden, rather than as critical for reducing losses or as driving the development of growth-enhancing strategic assets. For example, investments in flood-resilient infrastructure in Vietnam have not only reduced damage costs but also boosted land values, improved public health, and increased worker productivity. And investments in nature-based solutions such as restoring mangroves or wetlands can simultaneously address climate, food, and water challenges, and boost infrastructure performance.

As a result, high-impact interventions such as coastal defenses, underground power lines, and mangrove restoration are sidelined in favor of more conventional infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, and ports.

These perverse incentives are reflected in EMDEs' planning and budgeting processes. The environment ministries that oversee Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the Paris climate agreement tend not to engage systematically with finance ministries, meaning that these resilience strategies are not fully integrated into medium- and long-term national financial planning. That leaves NDCs and NAPs at risk of being aspirational, rather than actionable.

With critical adaptation investments overlooked in budgets, and with insufficient volumes of grant or concessional finance to plug ensuing gaps, many are calling for changes in how debt is treated, including reforms of fiscal frameworks so that investments in climate and nature resilience are treated as productive. A recent paper by the Bridgetown Initiative outlines four steps that governments can take to achieve this goal.

First, EMDEs must quantify acute and chronic climate and nature risks. A better understanding of the potential macroeconomic effects can help guide assessments of the financing required to reduce those risks. The paper offers a new typology to help categorize investments by risk type and sector, which would streamline the process.

Once policymakers have identified which investments are needed, they must assess their impact on the economy's growth trajectory. Spending on resilience measures can reduce future losses from climate disasters, boost productivity, and raise incomes. These benefits must be incorporated into forecasting models, as is already done for traditional infrastructure investments.

The long-term growth benefits of resilience-focused capital projects could then be factored into debt-sustainability analyses. This would show that such investments are, in fact, fiscally prudent with the right financing conditions, thus strengthening the case for more concessional and longer-term borrowing.

Lastly, with a more comprehensive understanding of the macroeconomic effects of resilience-based interventions, EMDEs can devise credible investment plans and financing strategies that align with fiscal and budgetary policy.

Factoring climate resilience into macroeconomic planning should strengthen, not diminish, a country's growth narrative. When done well, this empowers finance ministries to engage more effectively with donors, credit-rating agencies, markets, and international financial institutions, all of which play a critical direct or indirect role in supporting resilience and adaptation efforts.

With the IMF and the World Bank reviewing their Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, this is an opportune time for EMDEs to update their methodologies to reflect the benefits of adaptation measures. Climate and nature shocks are now an economic reality, not a distant threat. Building resilience to these shocks will form the foundation of sustainable development and fiscal stability for years to come.

OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

The Duty to Protect the Climate

LOS ANGELES – Although the International Court of Justice turned 80 this year, there is a sense in which it has never felt younger. In a David-versus-Goliath moment, the tiny Pacific Island state of Vanuatu recently changed international law forever by [bringing](#) the world's most important issue before its highest court. The result is an ICJ [advisory opinion](#) on “the legal obligations of states in respect of climate change,” as requested – at Vanuatu's urging – by the United Nations General Assembly (with [132 states](#) co-sponsoring the resolution).

The questions posed to the ICJ were as simple as they were seismic: What obligations, under international law, do states have to tackle climate change? And what are the legal consequences if they fail to do so?

The ICJ's answer was unequivocal. States have a duty to protect their citizens from climate change – a duty rooted not only in treaties like the [Paris climate agreement](#), but also in environmental law, human-rights law, and customary international law. “Climate change,” [said](#) the court's president, Yuji Iwasawa, speaking from the Peace Palace in The Hague, “is an urgent and existential threat of planetary proportions.” “The science is clear,” [notes](#) John Silk, the Marshall Islands' representative to the UN, “and now the law is, too.”

The fact that this bold message was delivered unanimously by the highest court in the international system would have been extraordinary enough. But the path that led to this outcome is even more remarkable.

The most significant climate case ever heard by the ICJ began not in a ministry or a think tank, but in a classroom. It was conceived by a group of 27 Pacific Islands law students who formed the [Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change](#) (PISFCC), led initially by [Solomon Yeo](#) and then by Cynthia Houniuh, both from the Solomon Islands, as well as [Vishal Prasad](#) from Fiji, Siosua Veikune from Tonga, and [others](#). These were not seasoned diplomats, nor were they backed by billionaires. But they were determined. “Whether you win or lose, some fights are worth fighting,” [argued](#) Justin Rose, a former lecturer at the University of the South Pacific (in Fiji), whose classroom exercise first planted the seed of this unlikely revolution in 2019.

The ruling delivers a resounding victory for the climate-justice movement that has been gaining momentum ever since the Swedish activist [Greta Thunberg](#) staged her first solo protest. Now, for the first time, the movement's intergenerational demand for dignity and legal recognition has a concrete judicial imprimatur.

It is also a triumph for the Global South. For decades, developing countries have called attention to the injustice of being exposed to the gravest consequences of a problem they did not cause. Now, the ICJ has acknowledged this asymmetry and taken the first step toward correcting it, vindicating, in particular, the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change: small island states with vanishing coastlines, salinizing freshwater, and intensifying cyclones. Countries long treated as voiceless victims have become the protagonists in a world-spanning legal story.

This was not the first attempt to bring climate justice to The Hague. Palau and the Marshall Islands made a similar effort in 2012, but it stalled for [lack of political backing](#). The difference this time lay not just in the Pacific Islanders' persistence, but also in their strategy for building solidarity. Refusing to follow the usual, stodgy diplomatic script, they brought the warmth of the South Pacific to international law. Houniuh always [wore a rorodara](#) (a seashell-studded ceremonial headdress) to address the UN, and her group treated the courtroom drama as occasion for song and dance. Hearings were celebrated as watch parties.

The Pacific Islanders also built coalitions across oceans and generations – working with Vanuatu's then-Foreign Minister Ralph Regenvanu, [Caribbean allies](#), and [youth activists](#) worldwide. With some countries even calling for financial reparations, the ICJ process became a movement in itself.

The ICJ's ruling comes at a time when other international courts are converging on similar conclusions. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has just [affirmed](#) that states must curb marine pollution from greenhouse-gas emissions; the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has, in an opinion on climate obligations, [recognized](#) the right to a healthy climate as a human right; and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights is in the process of [weighing in](#) on the matter.

The ICJ's opinion is not legally binding, but it is far from toothless. Its authority comes not from enforcement, but from amplification. It crystallizes a set of norms for courts, lawmakers, and activists around the world, and it sharpens the tools of transnational litigation. Hence, the ICJ decision is already expected to influence domestic cases, such as Greenpeace's [suit](#) against the Italian oil company Eni. It may also mean that countries can [sue each other](#) over climate change.

The evolution of climate justice from a slogan into a legal standard may be the most important signal yet that a genuinely [global legal system](#) is emerging. By that I do not mean a world government, but rather a legal system defined by what the legal theorist [H.L.A. Hart](#) called “the union of primary and secondary rules” recognized across jurisdictions. Climate law, once a patchwork of soft pledges and nonbinding resolutions, is being stitched into something more cohesive and robust.

What the Pacific Islands students lacked in money and influence, they made up for in conviction. They worked on shoestring budgets, faced visa barriers, and repeatedly were told that their campaign would go nowhere. But they kept going, proving that legal innovation does not have to come from men in suits; it can come from the margins and eventually change international law.

“We were there. And we were heard,” [said](#) Houniuh in disbelief when the opinion was published, speaking for the two communities most impacted by climate change – Pacific Islanders and young people. The [subaltern spoke](#), and the world's highest court listened. Flawed and slow-moving though it may be, international law still holds transformative potential. As Justin Rose told me, “International law is itself a repository of stories.” The ICJ's decision is a much-needed reminder that happy endings are still possible.

Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law and cognition.

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OPINION

By Sara Jane Ahmed, Pepukaye Bardouille

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, home-grown 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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FEATURE ARTICLE

The Call for a New Beginning in Liberia: A Comparison of Generational Leadership;

By: Austin S Fallah- A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil: fallahas@yahoo.com:

The call for new leaders and fresh perspectives grows louder amid global transformations and a rapidly shifting political landscape.

This call is particularly poignant in Liberia, a nation rich in history yet burdened by corruption and mismanagement.

As the nation approaches the second quarter of the 21st century, it is essential to reevaluate the approach to governance and leadership.

The mantra, "Stop fighting for government jobs with your children; it is time for a new beginning," echoes a critical sentiment shared by countless citizens who yearn for change and rejuvenation in their country's leadership.

As I ponder this issue, I shall explore the pressing need for a generational shift in governance, analyzing the consequences of prolonged political stagnation and the potential benefits of embracing new ideas and leaders in Liberia.

The Cycle of Political Entitlement:

Liberia has experienced its fair share of political turmoil, shaped by civil conflict, economic challenges, and systemic corruption.

One of the most striking observations in the current political climate is the disheartening trend of familial entitlement to government positions.

Many leaders in the past-past-past-past-past..... and recent past, and their families and close friends, struggle for control over state resources, creating an environment in which public service is perceived as a birthright/friendship right rather than a civic duty. This culture of entitlement inadvertently stifles creativity and innovation, ultimately limiting the nation's progress.

When political power becomes concentrated within a particular group of people, there is a tangible risk of governance becoming devoid of accountability.

Individuals who might otherwise bring transformative ideas to the table are sidelined in favor of those who inherited their positions, as seen in Liberia in the 1800s, 1900s, and some parts of the 2000s.

Hopefully, this will not continue for the rest of the 21st century.

The interests of the established so-called political elites and self-styled saviors of the masses/downtrodden often overshadow those of the general populace, leading to a disillusioned citizenry that feels betrayed by its leaders.

This dynamic fosters a culture of complacency among the young and aspiring political leaders, who may feel they have little chance of making impactful changes in a system dominated by favoritism, political connections, and other entrenched interests.

The Corruption of Youthful Ambition:

"Not the corrupt young people who once had power" refers to a disheartening phenomenon observed among young people in Liberia."

Many young leaders who entered politics with promises of reform and progress have succumbed to the allure of power.

They have become (became), as described, "a bunch of hooligans, looters, unfite, and leaders of

misinformation."

The initial hope for a new generation to dismantle corruption and promote transparent governance has been (was) eclipsed by betrayal and disillusionment.

Corruption does not reside solely among older generations.

Once they ascend to power, young people often perpetuate existing corrupt practices, and Liberians are witnesses to this ugly phenomenon.

This paradoxical reality underscores the importance of advocating for new leaders within the circumference of young people (not the noisemakers; they were in schools, in classrooms, but learned nothing, outdated knowledge, unprofessional, unproductive, very rude, pocket seekers, money-eating vampires-hyenas), committed to change and ethical governance.

Citizens' trust in their leaders is invaluable, and when that trust is broken, the path towards recovery and rebuilding becomes significantly more arduous for such leaders.

Ask the "once-upon-a-time there-lived political parties and more to join the storytelling", there used to be or there lived this or that political party," as the story of "Things fall apart, the center can not hold" becomes obsolete because of broken promises.

The allegations of corruption, spreading lies, and misinformation further complicate the political landscape.

A generation of young leaders who mislead and manipulate public opinion damages their credibility and exacerbates the nation's divisive political climate.

Misinformation, disguised as political propaganda, can incite conflict and create a palpable sense of distrust among citizens, undermining the foundational principles of democracy.

Therefore, the urgent message becomes clear: Liberia requires a new breed of leaders who untangle themselves from the webs of corruption and genuinely commit to transparent governance.

The Promise of New Ideas:

To propel Liberia into the second quarter of the 21st century requires more than just a change in personnel; it demands innovative ideas and positive progressive thinking.

A critical analysis of the existing political culture reveals a need for fresh perspectives that the so-called traditional political corrupt elites may have overlooked.

New leaders should possess a vision that embraces technological advancements, sustainable development, and social entrepreneurship, which present untapped opportunities for progress in Liberia.

In other parts of the world, younger leaders have harnessed technology to engage with constituents, promote civic involvement, and facilitate transparent governance.

The infusion of technology in governance can empower citizens and give them the tools to hold their leaders accountable.

Moreover, embracing sustainable development can enhance economic growth while emphasizing environmental stewardship.

Liberians deserve leaders who understand the current socio-economic challenges and are willing

to embrace forward-thinking solutions that prioritize the welfare of the people.

In addition to ideational innovation, young people's engagement in political processes offers tremendous potential benefits.

When young people willing to learn and not engage in plenty of empty talk are encouraged to participate meaningfully, they can offer invaluable insights and contribute to a more vibrant and diverse political discourse.

Initiatives that aim to mentor promising young leaders and provide them with the necessary resources can help to foster more engaged and empowered young people, paving the way for a more equitable representation in governance.

Acknowledging the Past, Embracing the Future:

While it is imperative to move away from the established patterns of leadership that have proven detrimental, it is equally vital to acknowledge the lessons learned from the past.

Liberia's history is fraught with challenges and tribulations; reflecting on these experiences can inform better decision-making.

A new generation of leaders must be equipped with knowledge and skills, an understanding of historical context, and awareness of the socio-political dynamics that shape their nation.

Navigating a post-conflict society demands patience, resilience, and a commitment to justice and reconciliation.

The scars left by past civil conflicts and economic hardships weigh heavily on the fabric of Liberia's society.

Thus, any new breed of leadership must prioritize national healing and unity while advocating for social justice and the rights of marginalized people, particularly women, children, and zogos.

The government's ability and willingness to address historical grievances will be critical in fostering trust between leaders and citizens, ultimately creating a stronger foundation for the future.

The Importance of a New Narrative:

The call to stop fighting for government jobs with the children emphasizes the need to propel Liberia into a new era of governance defined by integrity, innovation, and inclusivity.

As the country approaches the second quarter of the 21st century, it is essential for citizens, particularly the young people, to actively seek change and advocate for leadership committed to bettering the lives of all Liberians.

The importance of seeking new leaders and nurturing a culture of ethical governance and public accountability cannot be overstated.

Let me conclude by saying to every young person, including me, that embracing the idea of presenting opportunities to new breeds of leaders and ideas can pave the way for a brighter future for Liberia.

Transforming the political landscape is not merely about choosing fresh faces but rather about electing individuals who genuinely prioritize the welfare of their people over personal gain.

By actively engaging in the political process and holding their leaders accountable, Liberians can help shape a better narrative for their country that inspires hope rather than despair and ultimately leads to a more equitable and prosperous society.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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CDC is the hearts & minds of the masses

-Ex-speaker Koffa reacts to eviction notice

By Lincoln G. Peters

As the former ruling CDC faces court eviction, Ex-speaker Fonati Koffa, a CDCian, says the party is not the building it is being evicted from, but the hearts and minds of the people.

Monrovia, Liberia; August 14, 2025 - Former House Speaker, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, has sharply reacted to the current eviction notice issued by the Sixth Judicial Circuit Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice against the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), arguing that the CDC is not

eviction of the CDC on what the court described as legal group.

The Court instructed and commanded the Magistrate to put in complete possession in keeping with the law, the intestate Estate of Martha Stubblefield Bernard, by and thru its administrator, Ebrima Varney Dempster, in possession of the property occupied by the CDC. The Court stated that the execution of the writ of Possession is in keeping with the court final ruling dated 4 August, 2025 rendered by Judge George W. Smith, and the metes and bounds of the property.

“YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED TO OUST, EVICT AND EJECT THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT FROM THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IN KEEPING WITH LAW, THEREBY PLACING THE ABOVE NAMED APPELLEE/PLAINTIFF IN POSSESSION OF THE SAID PROPERTY SUBJECT OF THESE PROCEEDINGS. YOU ARE FURTHER



the building, rather, it is the hearts and minds of the masses. Following the eviction notice, Cllr. Koffa, currently Grand Kru County district #1 Representative, the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court of Montserrado in its June Term Sitting, through assigned Judge, George Smith, ordered the displacement and

Police send classroom Teacher to court

-For assaulting traffic officer

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberia National Police has taken a 67-year-old female school teacher to court, for simple assault and disorderly conduct here.

Monrovia, Liberia; August 14, 2025 - The Liberian National Police has formally charged and forwarded to the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice, Madam Klady A. Paul, 67, for simple assault and disorderly conduct against a traffic police officer.

Police Spokesperson, Cecelia Clark, addressing a press conference Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at the Liberia National Police Headquarters in Monrovia, said that on the morning of Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at approximately 7:15 A.M., a troubling incident occurred at the intersection of 12th Street Sinkor, involving the 67-year-old classroom teacher, when Patrolman Koilous N. Larmin approached her while Teacher Paul was in a visibly hostile and disruptive manner, as the Police Officer was actively regulating and diverting traffic.

Spokesperson Clerk indicated that despite the officer's efforts to maintain order, Mrs. Paul verbally attacked him, ranting profanities and inflammatory language directed not only at Patrolman Larmin but fellow officers assigned to the post.

Madam Clark disclosed that her behavior quickly escalated into physical aggression, as captured on

video footage that was presented during briefing in which Mrs. Paul is seen assaulting Patrolman Larmin while he was on duty, inflicting visible injury to his face and creating a scene of public disorder "Charges and legal action following a thorough investigation, the Liberia National Police has formally charged Mrs. Klady A. Paul, age 67, with Simple Assault in violation of Chapter 14, Criminal Mischief in Section 14.21(A) Section 15.5 of Chapter 17, Section 17.3; Disorderly Conduct in violation of Chapter 15, disruption caused to public order and police operations", the Police said.

However, immediately following

closure of the press briefing, Madam Paul was forwarded to the court to face her charges.

The LNP says it is always committed to upholding the principle of accountability, taking institutional commitment and officer commendation.

"But just as we hold our officers accountable, we are equally bound to protect them when they are unjustly attacked, while serving the nation. In this regard, we commend Patrolman Koilous N. Larmin for his resilience, professionalism, and restraint during the assault. His ability to maintain composure under pressure reflects the values and discipline expected of every officer in uniform, and a clear indication of improvement in Law-enforcement Service delivery", she said. **Editing by**

Jonathan Browne



Renowned Chinese Journalist seeks collaboration with Liberian media

A media entity in China is seeking collaboration with the media in Liberia, as China hosts Liberian Journalists for training.

By Lewis S. Teh

Changsha, China; August 14, 2025 – Ms. Tan Linjing, a renowned Chinese Journalist and member of the Editorial Board of Changsha Evening Newspaper, seeks a stronger collaboration with the media in Liberia.

"Today, we sincerely invite you to join us as overseas correspondents for the Changsha Evening News. Together, let us delve deeper into China - Africa storytelling—bringing Changsha's bustling life and Liberia's rich culture to global audiences, amplifying the voice of our friendship far and wide, and letting it resonate in every heart", she said.

The Veteran Chinese Journalist spoke when a 30-member Liberian Journalist delegation paid a courtesy call at the Changsha Evening News head office in Changsha, China.

Correspondents. This is not just a personal honor; it is a win-win development for all of us - an opportunity to serve as a bridge between China and Africa, and more specifically, between China and our beloved Liberia."

Reporter Nyantee disclosed that in Liberia, the media sector faces enormous challenges from limited resources to insufficient opportunities for professional growth, noting that "Yet, it is precisely opportunities like these that give us the platform to harness our potential, to sharpen our skills, and to contribute meaningfully to uplifting the media landscape back home."

He described their appointment as oversea correspondents for the Chinese newspaper as a significant milestone and a chance to tell the China-Africa development story with clarity, depth, and truth.



Journalist Tan said, "As we seek this collaboration, let's be looking ahead, may we walk side by side, wielding pens and cameras to co-author a new chapter of China-Africa collaboration, illuminating lives with the brilliance of mutual learning among civilizations; once again, you are welcome to Changsha Evening News."

Also Vice Chair of the Women Journalists' Division, Hunan Journalists Association, she described Liberia as a gem of West Africa, while referring to Changsha, as a vibrant hub in central China.

She said this may lie thousands of miles apart, "yet our hearts beat in unison for development and shared prosperity dear friends, media is both an envoy of civilization and a bridge of friendship."

Making brief remarks on behalf of the delegation, OK FM Legislative Reporter, Nyantee Togba, extended gratitude to the host team and termed the Liberian delegation's visit to Changsha evening news as crucial and timely.

"We want to thank you for the warm hospitality you have given us, especially where we have all been appointed as Overseas

"Through our work, we aim to become people-to-people envoys, using our cameras and our pens to capture and share the authentic voices of both regions.

We reaffirm our collective commitment to this mission to use our words and our voices as bridges, to spotlight the proud moments of China-Liberia cooperation, to document the heartwarming stories of cultural exchange, to deepen mutual understanding, and to expand the path of practical collaboration between our two peoples."

He lauded the Editorial Board of the Changsha Evening News, the Hunan International Business Vocational College, and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China near Monrovia for granting Liberian Journalists an invaluable opportunity to explore their talent.

About Changsha Evening News The Changsha Evening News is a municipal newspaper that is based in the state of Changsha Hunan Province. It was established by the Changsha evening news Press Group on July 1, 1956. **Editing by**

Jonathan Browne

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6WDUWV IUR **CDC is the hearts & minds of the masses**

COMMANDED TO MAKE YOUR OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE BACK OF THE WRIT OF POSSESSION AS TO THE MANNER AND FORM OF ITS SERVICE IMMEDIATELY UPON EXECUTING THIS ORDER. HAVE YOU THERE AND THEN THIS WRIT OF POSSESSION. COURT'S SEAL: GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS COURT, THIS 13TH DAY OF AUGUST A.D/2025. Victor G. Gallor, CLERK OF COURT" the write of Possession concluded.

The former ruling party has occupied the premises since 2005, paying rental to the administrator of the intestate Estate. But since the CDC lost the 2023 election that made former world football star a one-term President of Liberia, it has faced increased legal battle, leading to the current eviction notice. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

11 Liberian Civil Servants depart for South Korea

-For postgraduate studies at KOICA *By Lewis S. Teh*

A delegation of civil servants from Liberia, including seven men and four women are off to South Korea for postgraduate studies.

Monrovia, Liberia; August 14, 2025 – At least 11 Liberian civil servants from various governmental institutions are heading to South Korea to pursue master's degree programs in various disciplines. The team comprised of seven men and four women is heading the first cohort of recipients under the 2025 Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Scholarship Program, to pursue master's studies in key development fields, including Public Policy, Development Economics, Agriculture and Technology. Ahead of their departure, the Liberian scholars paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, at his office in Monrovia yesterday, August 13, 2025. Giving a brief words of caution at the event, Minister Ngafuan commended the Government of Korea for its continued support and collaboration with Liberia.

"We engaged the Korean authorities and emphasized the need for educational opportunities for our people — and they listened," Minister Ngafuan said. "We appreciate this gesture and remain hopeful that KOICA and other bilateral partners will continue to open more doors for Liberians." On behalf of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, the Minister congratulated the scholars on their achievements and selection for the prestigious program. He also shared insights from his own professional journey, encouraging them to embrace their new roles as national ambassadors. "You are not just travelling as individuals; you are carrying the Liberian flag," he emphasized. "Remain studious, stay focused on your academic pursuits, and uphold the highest standards of discipline and integrity while in South Korea." Minister Ngafuan reaffirmed the

Boakai administration's commitment to creating opportunities for capable and prepared Liberians, especially within the civil service. He further charged the team to remain disciplined, focused, and serve as true ambassadors of Liberia as they embark on their studies in the Republic of Korea. Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Spokesperson Idris I. Holman, expressed gratitude to both the Government of Liberia and KOICA for facilitating what he described as a life-changing opportunity. "We are honoured and grateful," Holman said. "We pledge to work hard, stay disciplined, and remain patriotic as we represent Liberia on the global stage." The KOICA Scholarship Program is a key component of the growing bilateral relationship between the Governments of Liberia and the Republic of Korea. It aims to strengthen human capacity and support Liberia's path toward sustainable development. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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Saye Town residents act against drug abuse.

Residents of Saye Town, Sinkor, took matters into their own hands on Wednesday, August 13, launching a forceful campaign against drug users in their community.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, August 14, 2025: In a dramatic response to the persistent challenge posed by illicit drugs, locals banded together to break down ghettos, destroy makeshift homes, and chase away individuals suspected of drug abuse. This grassroots action came on the heels of a nationwide anti-drugs campaign that occurred on August 7, 2025. Community members, incensed by what they describe as daily threats to their safety, cited the urgent need to protect their children and restore peace to their neighborhood. "We are taking this action because we need a safe community. Our

safely," said one resident. Another, Philemeina Pennoh, recounted the dangers posed by so-called "Zogos"—a colloquial term for individuals involved in drug abuse—sharing her own experiences of being attacked while returning home late at night. However, the actions of the Saye Town residents have also drawn warnings from leaders of anti-drug movements. Mr. Samuel Mbuock, Chairperson of the Citizens Movement to Destroy Ghetto in Liberia, cautioned against the unilateral demolition of ghettos. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts, warning that unchecked destruction could lead to increased chaos.



children are dying, and we do not sleep every day," said Patricia Menson, a Saye Town resident. The operation saw several known ghettos, including a notorious hideout for suspected drug users, burned and dismantled. According to the residents, this was not an act of wanton violence but a necessary measure to curtail the spread of illicit drugs in Saye Town. "This is not about violence; it's about protecting our children and ensuring our neighborhood is safe again," said another participant in the cleanup. Papa Morris, a local community leader, emphasized that the initiative aimed to restore safety, peace, and order in an area long troubled by the negative effects of narcotics. "The action is a clear message that Saye Town will no longer be a haven for drug-related activities," he told the New Dawn. The community's action has been met with relief by many. "This is better for us, and we can now sleep

"We do not want these things to be casualties, but a wholesome move by the Movement, and in the coming days, an announcement will be made through the Police Inspector-General's office," Mr. Mbuock said. He called for an immediate halt to independent citizen actions, urging communities to work alongside government agencies and civil society to combat the scourge of drug abuse. The anti-drug campaign in Sinkor and across Liberia continues to galvanize communities, government bodies, and organizations in a united stand against narcotics. While many in Saye Town feel a renewed sense of hope and safety, the events of August 13 have also sparked a broader conversation about the dangers of vigilantism and the need for structured, legal approaches to fighting drug abuse. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*

Le gouvernement libérien accepte que le corps de l'ancien ministre d'Etat soit inhumé aux États-Unis

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 militants anti-droque — principalement des femmes et des jeunes — 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'Etat 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.

Crise à S.T. Nagbe : l'Eglise Méthodiste Unie du Liberia renforce la protection du culte et des biens

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.



Éditorial

Lutter contre la drogue avec sincérité

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, en formes 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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Procès pour incendie criminel au Capitole : les avocats de Cllr. Koffa exigent la communication des preuves

Les avocats de l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa, et de trois autres prévenus ont déposé une motion de communication de preuves devant le juge Roosevelt Willie, de la Cour criminelle «A». Ils reprochent à l'accusation de ne pas avoir produit les éléments à charge dans le procès relatif à l'incendie criminel du Capitole. Les accusations M. Koffa et les coaccusés Dixon W. Seboe, Abu S. Kamara et Jacob C. Debbie sont poursuivis pour conspiration, sollicitation criminelle, tentative de meurtre, agression aggravée, détention illégale d'arme à feu, destruction de biens, mise en danger d'autrui et vol. Arrêtés le 16 mai 2025, ils ont été libérés sous caution en déposant un titre de propriété comme garantie. Après un examen préliminaire, le tribunal municipal de Monrovia a estimé qu'il existait des motifs suffisants pour poursuivre, transférant l'affaire à la

Première circonscription judiciaire, Assises criminelles «A». La requête de la défense Dans leur motion, déposée le 1er août 2025, les avocats affirment que, 42 jours après la signification de l'acte d'accusation, le ministère public n'a pas communiqué les preuves à charge, en violation des règles de procédure. La défense souligne que cette communication est essentielle pour préparer la contestation des accusations et démontrer l'innocence des prévenus. Elle demande également un procès



rapide, conformément à la Constitution de 1986. « Les co-prévenus nient s'être jamais rencontrés dans le but de commettre les crimes qui leur sont reprochés et sollicitent une instruction accélérée », indique la motion. Les avocats demandent au tribunal d'ordonner au parquet de fournir l'ensemble des éléments utilisés pour l'inculpation et de garantir le respect des droits fondamentaux de leurs clients.

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.

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LIBERIANS

DEBATE

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

"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."

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."



Hartzel Seton



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."



Jeremiah D. Duah

"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."

"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."



Alex Tyee

"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."



George Willie

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Extrajudicial killings, security brutality3 family members died in fire

The United States Government has recorded several human rights abuses in Liberia, including extrajudicial killings, security forces brutality and infringes on free speech, among others.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; August 14, 2025 - The American Department of State 2024 Human Rights Reports on Liberia has documented various arbitrary or unlawful killings on the country, but notes that the Government of Liberia took steps to identify and punish officials who



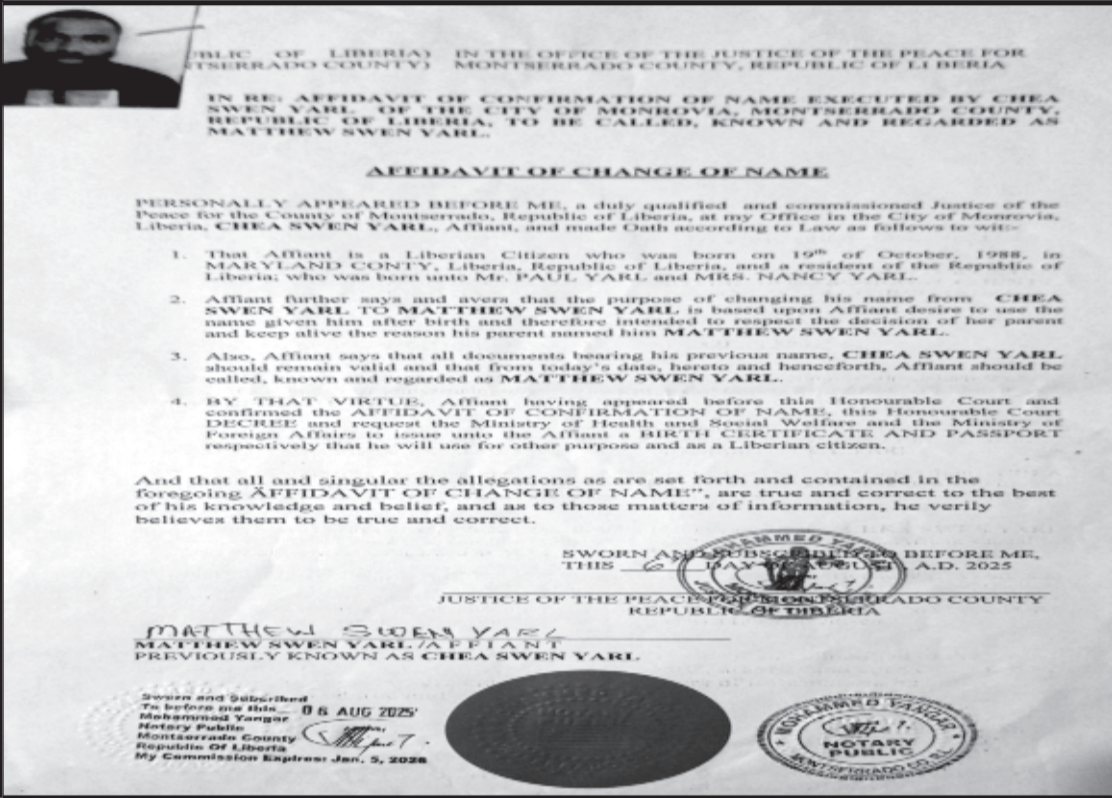
committed human rights abuses, including abuse from the civil war. The report published here by the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, detailed that in May, 2024, the Bureau of Rehabilitation and Corrections formally charged six officers linked to the death in April of an inmate at the Fish Town Central Prison in Rivergee County. “The inmate death led to community unrest as angry residents vandalized the prison, leading to the escape of some inmates. According to the prison bureau, several corrections officers aided the jailbreak and were under investigation by the Liberia National Police (LNP). Four of the six officers involved were cleared of any wrongdoing, one was dismissed for failure to cooperate with the investigation, and one remained under investigation”, the Report reads. On security forces heavy-handiness, the Report acknowledges that the Constitution and law of Liberia prohibited such practices, but there were credible reports of government officials employing them. It explains that the law provided criminal penalties for excessive use of force by law enforcement officers and addressed permissible uses of force during arrest or to prevent the escape of a prisoner from custody. However, it points that abusive acts by security forces including the Liberia National Police, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) were a significant problem, although it notes, the AFL generally acted more professionally and had fewer instances of abusive conduct than the other security agencies. “In May, the LNP dismissed Patrolman Jerome Tokpah from the force for alleged police brutality. Tokpah was charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault after he allegedly assaulted Courage Tarr with a machete. At year's end, the case remained pending.” On free speech, the Reports say while individuals were generally free to criticize

the government publicly or privately, state officials sometimes used dismissal or threat of dismissal from employment to place limits on freedom of expression for public servants, recording that in August, the Monrovia City Corporation dismissed nine city employees following allegations they used social media to criticize government officials and President Joseph Boakai. The State Department notes that press

associations reported government officials occasionally harassed newspaper and radio station owners, as well as individual journalists, because of their political opinions and reporting, citing “On June 26, the Association of Liberia Community Radios demanded the reinstatement of Radio Kakata Station Manager Jerry Quoi, who was suspended by Margibi County Superintendent Victoria Duncan for alleged financial malfeasance.” It says although generally able to express a wide variety of views, but some journalists practiced self-censorship to avoid harassment, while some media outlets avoided criticizing government officials due to fear of legal sanctions and potential loss of government advertising, a large source of media revenue. “A June 20 meeting between Presidential Press Secretary Kula Fofana and media executives turned contentious, leading several editors to walk out. The incident arose concerning new accreditation requirements for journalists covering the executive mansion, including police clearances and institutional tax clearance certificates. These policies, along with demands by the government for free website advertising, which impacted newspaper revenues, sparked concerns regarding media freedom and independence.” On prolonged detention without charges, the U.S. State Department observes that arrests often were made without judicial authorization, and warrants were sometimes issued without sufficient evidence. It argues that Liberian law required authorities to arraign or release detainees within 48 hours, and detainees generally were informed of the charges against them upon arrest, but were not always brought before a judge for arraignment within 48 hours. The Report continues that the law also provided that, once arraigned, a criminal defendant had to be indicted no later than the next succeeding term of court after arrest, but if the indicted defendant was not

n door. We couldn't break in because the blast was huge, and we tried to use the window side. That's how the dog jumped out,” another witness explained. A New Dawn Reporter covering the early morning blast, counted three dead bodies at the scene, as they were recovered by rescuers. Our reporter details that the deceased family, including Emmanuel Bartee, Helena Bartee, and their son, Abraham Bartee, were crushed in the bathroom as they tried to escape for survival. Briefly, Noah Zarwu Gibson, Deputy Managing Director/Operation, National Transit Authority, described the incident as “A call for concerns”, saying it should be

declared as a national emergency. Gibson emphasized the importance of community vigilantes, who could have curtailed or remedied the situation. “I'm broken for the fact that these people are Liberians, and to die such a way is saddening, and a call for concern,” Gibson said. He called for police and a speedy investigation into the incident, while extending sympathy to the bereaved family. Meanwhile, the exact cause of the fire incident that took the lives of the three Liberians wasn't established, but eyewitnesses said it may have resulted from electrical shock. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



tried within the next succeeding court term and no cause was given, the law prescribed the case against the defendant be dismissed; nevertheless, cases were rarely dismissed on either ground, making this one of the most frequent abuses of the law. “Approximately 60 percent of pretrial detainees, especially those held for felony offenses, were detained for more than two terms of court, or approximately 180 days, without a hearing.” Quoting the National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia (INCHRL), the Report explains that a detainee's access to a hearing before a judge sometimes depended on whether there was a functioning court or available transportation in the area, adding that the INCHRL further stated some courts occasionally lacked both a prosecutor and a public defender, and the magistrate judge proceeded without them, while some magistrates solicited money from complainants to transport the accused or convicted to and from detention. It notes that detainees had the right to prompt access to counsel, and, if indigent, an attorney was provided by the state in criminal cases. The national public defender office was short-staffed and faced logistical constraints that hindered access to rural courts. Two domestic NGOs also provided legal assistance to some indigent defendants. The State Department adds that the bail system was inefficient and susceptible to corruption, while the INCHRL and other civil rights observers reported judges misused the bail system, viewing it as punitive rather than a way to regulate appearance in court. Some judges reportedly used the possibility of bail to solicit bribes. The Report points that although official policy allowed detained suspects to communicate with others, including a

lawyer or family member, inadequate telephone services resulted in many inmates being unable to communicate with anyone outside of the detention facility. “In November, a Monrovia criminal court judge chastised Ministry of Justice prosecutors for the handling of a case involving an alleged Guinean mercenary who was apprehended in Liberia for allegedly planning a coup plot against the Guinean president and military leader inside Liberian territory.” The document details that the suspect, Ibrahim Kalil Cherif, was taken into custody by National Security Agency officials and, according to his defense lawyers and the INCHRL, was held without charges for several days before transfer to Monrovia Central Prison. “According to the INCHRL, Cherif was later removed from prison by authorities without a court order; the government's information minister subsequently acknowledged Cherif had been turned over to Guinean authorities at their request and on the grounds that Cherif presented a national security threat to both Liberia and Guinea. The judge criticized the government's handling of the case and threatened contempt charges against the Justice Ministry. The case was closed as prosecutors dropped the charges and the defendant was no longer in the country.” It underscored that lengthy pretrial detention was a problem, and use of detention as a punitive measure, failure to issue indictments in a timely manner, lack of a functioning bail system, poor court record keeping, failure of judges to assign court dates, ineffective assistance of defense counsel, and a lack of resources for prosecutors and public defenders all contributed to prolonged pretrial detention. Report

-As dog becomes only survivor

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

of Health, Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS), and the Liberia National Police (LNP) recover bodies of the victims.

intervention, were unable to rescue any of the victims except their charred bodies.

Witnesses said the blast started around 3:30 am on Wednesday, 13th August 2025, after they noticed huge smoke in the community.

They detail that more than 12 occupants lived in the house, mostly children, but luckily, there were only three slept there during bedtime.

"Jamima Flomo, a close neighbor, said the incident shock the entire community, as they were asleep when the blast sounded.

"I lived right next door and usually go sell in Red Light, so I came and everything was normal, LEC on, and everyone went to bed; it was 3 am, when we started hearing people shouting fire, but others were already out", Jamima narrated.

Described the incident as saddening. According to Jacob, the incident occurred between 3 to 4 a.m., and there was no way to rescue any of the victims.

“There was no way to rescue; when the fire started, we rushed as neighbors, but there was no way. The fire was too much,” Jacob said.

"It's sad; they died because of the iron [bar] and the fire," says a



The incident left witnesses in shock and despair as they mourn, while watching rescuers from the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) of the Ministry

the victims when the animal, covered with bruises, sneaked out. Rescuers from the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS), the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team of the Ministry of Health, and the Liberia National Police (LNP), despite swift

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A person with dark hair and glasses is seen from the back, reading a newspaper. The newspaper is held in front of their face, obscuring it. The newspaper has two main sections visible. The left section is titled "Dawn Sports" and features a headline "OWAS raises red-flag" with a sub-headline "Minister says 'No' to American flag" and a photo of a man in a blue uniform. The right section is titled "New Dawn" and features a headline "Uncertainty dominates over schools" with a sub-headline "As authorities weigh options over closure to" and a photo of a person. Below this, there is a large headline "Nephew butchered uncle" with a photo of a person. The background is a solid yellow color. In the top right corner, there is a red door handle. The overall image is a composite of different elements.

A photograph showing two large Heidelberg printing machines in a workshop. The machine on the left is a smaller, older model with a yellow bed. The machine on the right is a larger, more modern model with a black frame. The text "2 Colors Heidelberg Machines" is overlaid in the center of the image.

A collage of various printed materials including New Dawn newspapers, a calendar, a brochure, and a magazine, displayed above a large industrial printing press. The materials are arranged in a fan-like pattern, showcasing the range of products the press can produce. The press itself is a large, complex machine with multiple rollers and a control panel, typical of a high-speed offset or digital printing press.