



FROM 'SLEEPY' TO 'CHEEKY' JOE?

Pres. Boakai's 'Berated' Remarks Spark Concerns

When Liberians nicknamed then former Vice President and now President Joseph Nyuma Boakai ‘sleepy Joe,’ apparently it was because of what they saw as trail of dosing and sleepy-like posture shown during occasions. Later, “Sleepy Joe” became topical during the 2017 and 2023 elections. Opposition figures and Liberians not attracted to him used it as tool to dissuade other Liberians from putting their trust in him for the presidency of the country. Nevertheless, he was elected at all cost. But now as President, the head of state is reportedly changing from ‘sleepy to cheeky Joe’. As The New Republic finds out, this is because of series of “cheeky and sarcastic” comments he has made on national issues..

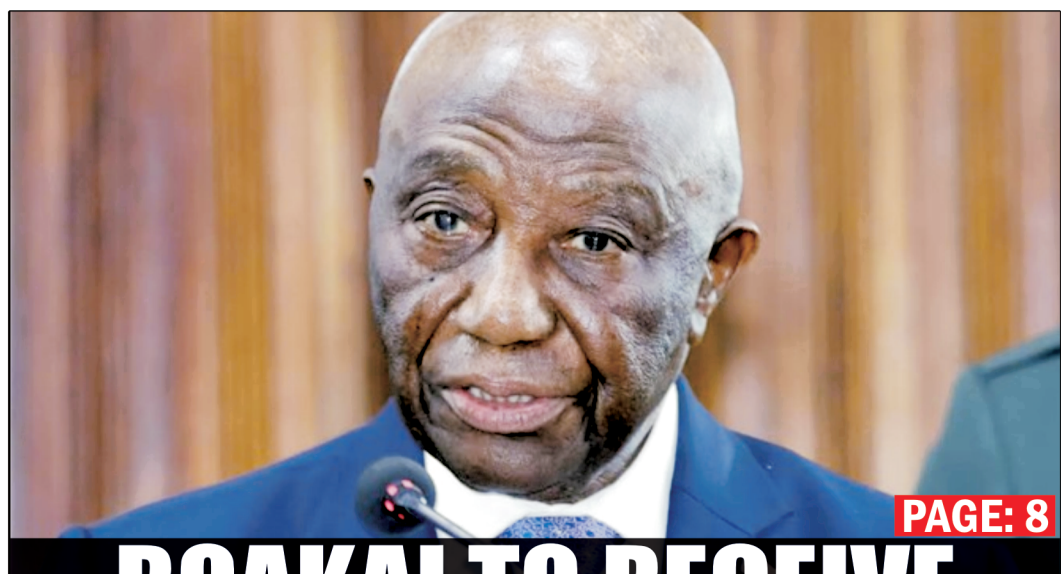
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CDC STILL SLIPPING

~Suspension, Expulsion Outside Due Process Becomes Trademark



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BOAKAI TO RECEIVE AFRICA PEACE AWARDS

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIA DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE April 22, 2026	BUYING L\$182.9937/1.00	SELLING L\$185.1058/US\$1.00

LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE TIE KNOT ON PUBLIC HEALTH



The Interim Director-General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Sia Wata Camanor, has concluded a high-level visit to the Sierra Leone National Public Health Agency, aimed at deepening regional collaboration on public health systems and disease response.

The visit forms part of ongoing efforts by Liberia and Sierra Leone to strengthen cross-border disease surveillance, enhance emergency preparedness, and improve coordinated responses to public health threats within the Mano River region.

During the engagement, Dr. Camanor and her delegation held discussions with the Executive Director of the Sierra Leone National Public Health Agency, Foday Sahr, at the agency's headquarters in Wilberforce, Freetown.

In his remarks, Professor Sahr welcomed the Liberian delegation and emphasized the importance of sustained partnerships in tackling shared health challenges.

He noted that collaboration in surveillance, emergency response, and research remains critical to improving health outcomes across the region.

Dr. Camanor, in response, reaffirmed NPHIL's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation,

highlighting opportunities for joint initiatives in workforce development, laboratory systems, and emergency response mechanisms. She pointed to Liberia's recent institutional progress as a foundation for expanding collaboration with Sierra Leone.

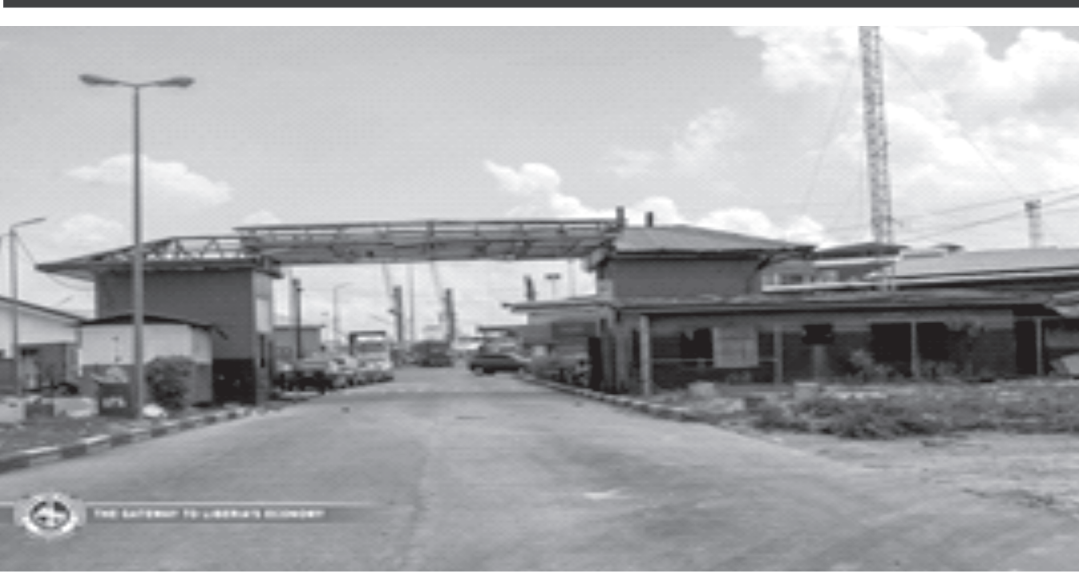
The visit also served as a platform for knowledge exchange and experience sharing, with both sides exploring practical ways to enhance resilience against public health threats, particularly along shared borders.

Health experts say strengthened coordination between the two countries is essential, given their deep historical, cultural, and epidemiological ties, as well as the frequency of cross-border movement.

Dr. Camanor was accompanied by a delegation of senior NPHIL officials, including Dr. Ralph Jetor, Director of the Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology; Fahn Taweh, Director of the National Reference Laboratory; Bode Shobayo, Director of Public Health and Medical Research; and Philip Bemah, Director of Planning, Research, and Evaluation.

The visit is expected to pave the way for stronger institutional partnerships and improved public health systems across the Mano River basin.

NPA BREAKS GROUND FOR DIGITAL GATE SYSTEM



By Jamesetta D Williams

The National Port Authority (NPA) has officially broken ground for the installation of Liberia's first Automatic Digital Gate System at the Freeport of Monrovia, signaling a significant step toward modernizing port operations and strengthening access control.

The new system is expected to enhance security, reduce congestion, and improve overall operational efficiency by replacing manual gate processes with advanced digital technology.

Once completed, it will incorporate facial recognition for pedestrian access and automatic license plate recognition for vehicles, enabling real-time monitoring and recording of all movements through the port.

According to the NPA, the automated system will provide stronger oversight of gate activities, improve accountability, and generate reliable digital records to support both security and management functions.

The initiative is also aimed at minimizing unnecessary human interaction, streamlining entry and exit procedures, and ensuring smoother traffic flow within the port.

Speaking at the groundbreaking

ceremony, Deputy Managing Director for Administration, James Richard Bernard, described the project as a major investment in the future of Liberia's port infrastructure.

"This project is about making the Freeport safer, faster, and smarter," Bernard said. "By digitizing gate access and movement records, we are reducing delays, improving accountability, strengthening security, and closing operational gaps that affect efficiency and revenue collection."

He disclosed that the project is expected to be completed and fully operational by the end of May 2026, after which it will be officially dedicated for use by port users.

The digital gate system forms part of the NPA's broader strategy to align the Freeport with international standards in maritime security and logistics. Authorities believe the upgrade will not only improve service delivery but also enhance Liberia's competitiveness within the global shipping and trade sector.

With this development, the NPA continues to push forward reforms aimed at building a more secure, efficient, and commercially viable port system.

KOBAZZIE ENGAGES DEFENSE MINISTRY

-To Promote Creative Sector Collaboration



By Jamesetta D Williams

Newly appointed Entertainment Ambassador, Korte D. Bazzie, has paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of National Defense Liberia as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships aimed at advancing the

country's creative industry.

Bazzie, popularly known as Kobazzie, was received at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia by Deputy Minister for Operations, Spencer Leeco, who represented the Minister of National Defense, Geraldine Janet George.

The visit forms part of a broader

outreach initiative by the Entertainment Ambassador to engage key government institutions and stakeholders in promoting Liberia's creative economy.

During the meeting, Ambassador Bazzie expressed appreciation to Minister George and her team for what he described as strong leadership and ongoing transformation within the defense sector.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the entertainment industry and national institutions, noting that such partnerships are critical to unlocking the sector's full potential.

He further highlighted the role of the creative industry in national development, calling for increased institutional support and cooperation to help expand opportunities for Liberian artists.

In response, Deputy Minister Leeco congratulated Bazzie on his appointment by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, describing the move as timely and reflective of the government's growing recognition of the entertainment sector as a key driver of development.

Leeco encouraged the Ambassador to use

his platform to promote unity, reconciliation, and social cohesion among Liberian entertainers, while also contributing to broader peace-building efforts.

He reaffirmed the Ministry's willingness to collaborate with the creative sector and challenged Ambassador Bazzie to develop a comprehensive roadmap that will guide engagement and partnerships with relevant institutions.

Ambassador Bazzie, born November 29, 1989, in Voinjama City, Lofa County, is widely recognized as one of Liberia's leading music figures, earning multiple awards both locally and internationally.

His appointment as Entertainment Ambassador on March 13, 2026, signals a renewed push to elevate the country's cultural and creative industries.

The engagement highlights growing efforts by the government to integrate the arts into national development strategies while fostering cross-sector collaboration.

The *Light for all*
New Republic

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NEW REPUBLIC NEWS PAPER IS PUBLISHED BY MEDIA LINK INTERNATIONAL INC.

Editorial

WHOSE FAULT: CONCESSIONAIRES OR GOVERNMENT?

THE RECENT VISIT BY Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung to the operation site of Bea Mountain Mining Company (BMMC) in Grand Cape Mount County sparked acrimony among Liberians and also heightened long-held suspicions about concessionaires having too much unprecedented and unregulated leverages in the agreements that brought them to the fore as opposed to the general interest of the country, let alone the affected communities of their operations. The debate, criticism, emotional arousal, suspicion and mindset, of course, might not go away so easily. It could even take more deleterious dimensions if the satisfying, wished-for or appeasing responses do not come forth from concerned officials.

EQUALLY SO, FROM THE unfolding developments, the reactions of Liberians to this rather raw discovery of how the country's gold is being shipped in an unimaginable manner and the huge accompanying financial benefits for the company, no amount of cemented placating comments can suffice. No one takes it lightly upon hearing about the irreparable harm done to his interest - be it children, business or close associates. The reason is shrouded in one reality. If what is extracted and benefits accrued are paired against the real conditions of the communities, anger is bound to rise to a near-kill level.

HOWEVER, AMID THESE CONCERNS is one protruding consideration which borders on the roles of those who negotiated these concessions and how they were approved and factored into the legal processes of the country. Mind us, it takes months, if not years, to negotiate some of these concessions, and, in most cases, the best minds are put at the front-burner of the negotiating table. Not only that, following these initial negotiations, the concessions are brought for scrutiny and ratification before the National Legislature - the Senate and House of Representatives. They are perused, reviewed and eventually approved before they are taken for presidential signature.

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE that the BMMC Concession duly signed during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf did not come into operation outside of all the national perimeters - the standards and criteria concessions are required to go through. While it hurts that the country's gold endowments are being depleted as it result of huge gold being scooped and shipped out of the country - with little to show in the communities - the government takes the deuce in all of this. This is because, it is impossible for officials who have access to the Agreement to whisk off knowledge of some of the critical provisions. More so, there are always government representatives assigned to these concessions, with the mandate to ensure that the rules are not bent and flouted. In the case of BMMC, is that not the case? If so, why not?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO state that instead of scolding the company for what many see as concession nefariousness, the government should take the blame for neglecting its responsibilities of ensuring that concessionaires comply with the rules, the laws and the terms of the concessions. However, if it is proven that BMMC oversteps the rules, is left with the government to correct same. The issue should not be about kilograms of gold and the amount of money accrued by the company, it should be about reshaping focus. Of course, all may not be rosy in terms of the concessionaires' contributions compared to what is being taken out, some of them are doing extremely well. What is required to upgrade what concessionaires need to do to reciprocate what is extracted. Be as it may, government bears greatest responsibility of the blame, not necessarily the concessionaires.

LETTER TO THE DEAD

Dear Great Ones In The Great Beyond:

Hope all is going fine with you all in different parts of the "great beyond" whose colors, whose shapes and outlooks remain unknown. Your people here on earth are indeed worrying about you because there is no information about where you are exactly. But if you guys are in heaven, as proclaimed, that is great. Hope the misunderstanding will be erased soon.

By the way, how are things with you guys there? How is the atmosphere, the associations, the interactions, the getting-along, and moreover, how is the economy there? Well, we are made to understand that food business is not there, but we need to know the truth about this so that we stop speculating. In fact, it is because of that some people hate to hear about dying because they are used to eating good and plenty food, which is not on that side of the divide.

While we await your response, we would like to abreast you with happenings here, too. In reality, it is not easy. No one can tell the captain that the ship is rocking, the storm is causing havoc that is really threatening the safety of the ship. The ship actually came to pick up your people from the shores of hardship, but it looks like the whole exercise is a shadow of itself. If anyone tells you that your people are being drenched in poverty far more than ever before. Great ones, are you aware that transportation fares wearing expensive coat suits? Are you aware that gas price is increased almost every week? Are you aware that the people put the blame on the problem in the Middle East? Are you aware that the sellers can hide the gas in the day, and only come out in the night to sell because it is when they sell at higher price? Do you know that the police people say they monitoring the market to arrest those who may try to sell gas above government price? But do you know that they too aiding the process? Well, Great ones, this is the situation your people are going through, and many more. So, your guys want to print additional money. They say the money getting small on the market because some of the money the other people printed are damaged because citizens not handling it good. The Central Bank people going around, trying to explain the reason because citizens are not happy with the whole idea of printing more because they know what can happen in the end. Do you still remember when the past government was accused of stealing billions of dollars. Aye, your people in government just looking for all kinds of ways to grab something besides the ones they already have in their pockets from shady operations. The last time, they changed the ArcelorMittal Deal, gave the people 50 years to mine iron ore in Nimba. Chey! Do you believe iron ore will still be there after fifty years? Do you think the whole thing is about getting kickbacks? You know exactly how the guys get free money from these kinds of arrangements. Great ones, it will surprise you also to know that the papay wants to change the agreement the government signed with one company, TIA. he is saying the company was not proper enough to get the contract, although he signed the very contract. The lawmakers say they must renegotiate the contract but the papay says they should undo the whole thing. That whole thing is creating confusion because there is a law that allows for how such confusion supposed to be handled. Do you know why we giving you this information? It is because of the lack of respect for the rule of law they supposed to be going by to do things correctly. The whole law-breaking that is going on here is too much. Everybody just crying about law breaking business. It is not easy here!

Also, great ones, this one will shock you. Are you aware that the Vicpe President went to Cape Mount the other day to see what Bea Mountain Mining Company doing their gold mining business? Yes, o, he was there. In fact, they carried in one of the areas where they can refine the gold, and when he saw the gold, they said he almost fainted. Some of the people who were there said, he opened his mouth in disbelief upon seeing the process and the huge pile of gold. The other noise in the town now.... they are trading accusations of all sorts about who signed the contract and who did not sign it. Before we leave you, the papay went to open one Shopping Mall and started to talk about investors should come to Liberia to invest. But knows that the other investors on the ground are not happy because of the way they are being treated. The other people signed Agreement, and time for them to start operations, he the same person came back at them, saying the Agreement should be canceled or deratified.

Well, we want to stop here and give you guys the chance to go through the communication. We are sure you will respond to us. So, that is it.

Thank you for your attention

We see you, when we see you.

Bye-bye

TWO EPA STAFF COMPLETE REGIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS TRAINING



By Jamesetta D Williams

Two staff members of Liberia’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have successfully completed a regional training on climate change negotiations for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), strengthening Liberia’s capacity to engage in global climate discussions.

The training, held in La Somone, Senegal from April 13–15, brought together more than 60 negotiators from both Anglophone and Francophone African countries.

It focused on building practical skills under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process.

Liberia was represented by Mrs. Danise Love Dennis-Dodoo, Head of Media and Corporate Communications, who led the delegation, and Mr. Jeremiah Mulbah, Communications Specialist.

Throughout the program, both participants played active roles in simulation exercises designed to mirror real-world negotiations.

During one of the key sessions, Mrs. Dennis-Dodoo served as Chair of the African Group of Negotiators, guiding discussions and shaping engagement strategies, while Mr. Mulbah assumed the role of Chair of the European Union bloc demonstrating Liberia’s growing confidence and competence in international negotiation spaces.

The Liberian representatives focused on priority thematic areas critical to the country’s climate agenda. Mrs. Dennis-Dodoo worked on issues related to transparency, while Mr. Mulbah addressed loss and damage two central pillars in ongoing global climate talks, particularly for vulnerable nations like Liberia.

The training was organized by ENDA Énergie and International Institute for

Environment and Development, in collaboration with Legal Response International and the Least Developed Countries Group. It aimed to enhance participants’ ability to effectively advocate for LDC priorities, strengthen negotiation strategies, and promote collaboration across regions.

Beyond individual achievement, the training represents a broader step forward for Liberia’s climate diplomacy. Despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, the country continues to face severe climate impacts, including flooding, intense rainfall, and coastal erosion.

Upon completion of the program, both EPA staff members successfully passed post-training assessments and were awarded certificates, affirming their understanding of key negotiation frameworks and strategies.

Speaking at the close of the training, Mrs. Dennis-Dodoo expressed appreciation to the EPA for supporting their participation and emphasized the importance of such initiatives in amplifying Liberia’s voice globally.

“We may not be a large emitter, but Liberia is among those most affected by climate change,” she said. “This training prepares us to engage more effectively and advocate for the support our communities urgently need.”

The EPA is expected to leverage the knowledge and networks gained from the training to further strengthen its internal capacity and advance Liberia’s engagement in international climate negotiations.

ON THIS DAY APRIL 23 EVENTS & HISTORY

- 1900 - The word "hillbilly" was first used in print in an article in the "New York Journal." It was spelled "Hill-Billie".
- 1908 - U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt signed an act creating the U.S. Army Reserve.
- 1915 - The A.C.A. became the National Advisory Council on Aeronautics (NACA).
- 1920 - The Turkish Grand National Assembly had its first meeting in Ankara.
- 1921 - Charles Paddock set a record time in the 300-meter track event when he posted a time of 33.2 seconds.
- 1924 - The U.S. Senate passed the Soldiers Bonus Bill.
- 1945 - The Soviet Army fought its way into Berlin.
- 1948 - Johnny Longden became the first race jockey to ride 3,000 career winners.
- 1950 - Chaing evacuated Hainan, leaving mainland China to Mao and the communists.
- 1951 - The Associated Press began use of the new service of teletype setting.
- 1954 - Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit his first major-league home run on this day.
- 1964 - Ken Johnson (Houston Astros) threw the first no-hitter for a loss. The game was lost 1-0 to the Cincinnati Reds due to two errors.
- 1967 - The Soyuz 1 was launched by Russia.
- 1968 - The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.
- 1971 - The Soyuz 10 was launched.
- 1981 - The Soviet Union conducted an underground nuclear test at their Semipaltinsk (Kazakhstan) test site.
- 1982 - The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that consumer prices declined the previous month (March). It was the first decline in almost 17 years.
- 1984 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that Dr. Robert Gallo and his colleagues had found the cause of AIDS. It was a retrovirus labled HTLV-III.
- 1985 - The Coca-Cola Company announced that it was changing its 99-year-old secret formula. The New Coke was not successful, which resulted in the resumption of selling the original version.
- 1985 - The U.S. House rejected \$14 million in aid to Nicaragua.
- 1988 - A U.S. federal law took effect that banned smoking on flights that were under two hours.
- 1988 - In Martinez, CA, a drain valve was left open at the Shell Marsh. More than 10,000 barrels of oil poured into the marsh adjoining Peyton Slough.
- 1988 - Kanellos Kanelopoulos set three world records for human-powered flight when he stayed in the air for 74 miles and four hours in his pedal-powered "Daedalus".
- 1989 - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar played his last regular season game in the NBA.
- 1996 - An auction of the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' possessions began at Sotheby's in New York City. The sale brought in #34.5 million.
- 1997 - An infertility doctor in California announced that a 63-year-old woman had given birth in late 1996. The child was from a donor egg. The woman is the oldest known woman to give birth.
- 1999 - In Washington, DC, the heads of state and government of the 19 NATO nations celebrated the organization's 50th anniversary.
- 2003 - U.S. President George W. Bush signed legislation that authorized the design change of the 5-cent coin (nickel) for release in 2004. It was the first change to the coin in 65 years. The change, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, was planned to run for only two years before returning to the previous design.
- 2004 - U.S. President George W. Bush eased sanctions against Libya in return for Moammar Gadhafi's agreement to give up weapons of mass destruction.
- 2005 - The first video was uploaded to YouTube.com.
- 2009 - The iTunes Music Store reached 1 billion applications downloaded.

ACTING NEC CHAIRPERSON CONSOLIDATES AUTHORITY

Engages Staff to Strengthen Institutional Direction



By Jamesetta D Williams

Acting Chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Mr. Jonathan K. Weedor, is gradually consolidating his authority on the commission as he is taking practical actions aimed at strengthening operational and administrative policies. As part of these efforts, Mr. Weedor whose appointment has received mixed reactions across the social and political spectrum of the country, held a series of strategic engagements with staff aimed at strengthening the Commission's institutional direction ahead of future electoral processes. Since assuming his role, Weedor has held consultations with key stakeholders across the Commission, including fellow Commissioners in the Boardroom, as well as senior and general staff during broader engagements at the James M. Fromoyan Hall. His latest interaction brought together election magistrates and field personnel in a continued effort to foster inclusivity and collaboration within the institution. Speaking at a meeting held on Friday at the NEC headquarters on 9th Street in Monrovia, the Acting Chairperson welcomed the open and constructive

dialogue with field staff. He assured participants that the Board of Commissioners (BoC) would thoroughly review concerns raised and provide timely feedback to address key operational challenges. Weedor emphasized the importance of teamwork, accountability, and dedication to duty, urging staff to maintain professionalism and work collectively as the Commission advances preparations toward the 2029 General Elections. The engagement was attended by the full Board of Commissioners, who reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening the Electoral Management Body (EMB) and enhancing its effectiveness. These ongoing internal consultations are expected to play a critical role in shaping the Commission's strategic direction in the coming months and years as it positions itself to deliver credible and transparent elections. For more information, the public is encouraged to follow updates from the National Elections Commission through its official communication platforms.

NRF RANKS SECOND AMONG TOP PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS



By Stephanie M. Duncan

The National Road Fund of Liberia (NRF) has been ranked the second-best performing public institution in Liberia under the 2025 Performance Management and Compliance System (PMCS), according to results released by the Government. The ranking places the NRF among the country's top-performing institutions recognized for efficiency, transparency, and adherence to national performance standards. The PMCS is an annual benchmarking tool used to assess ministries, agencies, and state-owned enterprises based on compliance, financial accountability, service delivery, and institutional management. The NRF, which oversees road user financing in Liberia, earned high scores in both compliance and service delivery during the 2025 assessment. Officials say the Fund's performance reflects its alignment with national

development priorities, particularly in advancing infrastructure. Reacting to the recognition, NRF Manager Joseta Neufville-Wento described the achievement as a strong endorsement of the institution's work and commitment. "This award belongs to the hardworking team of the National Road Fund," she said. "Their dedication, professionalism, and shared commitment to excellence made this achievement possible. It motivates us to do even more in supporting President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's priority on roads and infrastructure development across Liberia." The latest accolade builds on the Fund's earlier success in December 2025, when it topped the Auditor General's Annual Compliance Report with a 93 percent implementation rate of audit recommendations—the highest among 62 government institutions.

LLA CHAIRMAN PUSHES BOLD FUNDING DRIVE

To Strengthen Land Governance Nationwide



The Chairman of the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Hon. Samuel F. Kpakio, is intensifying efforts to mobilize financial support and strategic partnerships aimed at strengthening land governance and improving service delivery across Liberia's fifteen counties. As part of this initiative, Chairman Kpakio has been engaging high-level development partners, including the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP), to advocate for increased funding to sustain and expand the LLA's work particularly in customary land formalization. During a recent meeting with UNDP Resident Representative Hon. Aliuo Dia, the LLA head emphasized the urgent need for additional resources to scale up land services, enhance productivity, and broaden access to land rights, especially

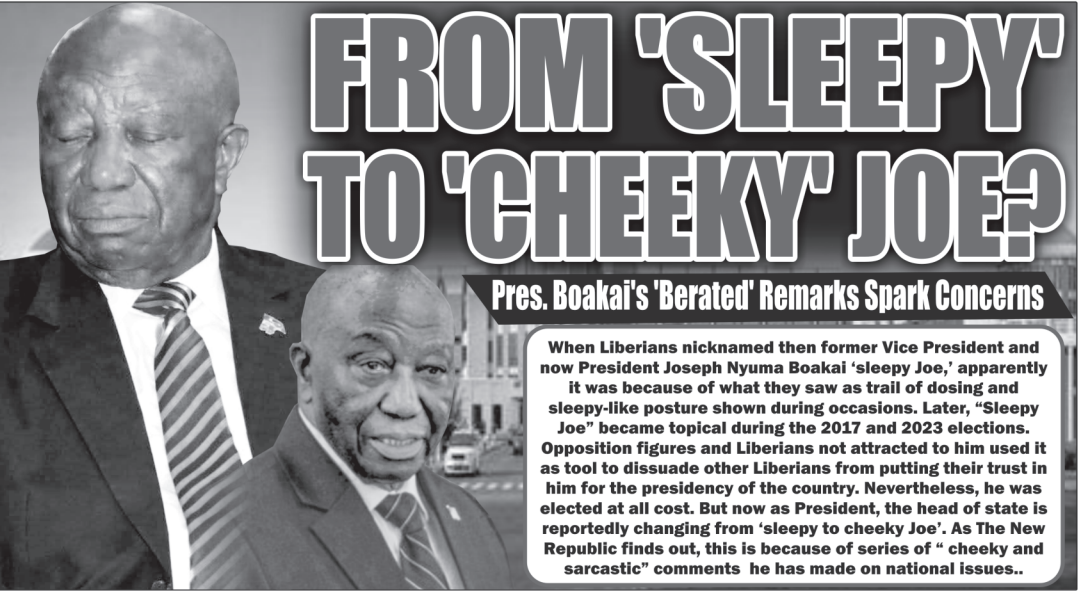
in rural communities. He noted that strengthening land governance remains critical to reducing land-related disputes and fostering long-term stability. Chairman Kpakio also expressed appreciation to the UNDP for its longstanding support to Liberia's land sector. He acknowledged the institution's contributions to strengthening County Land Offices and improving service delivery in various parts of the country. For his part, Mr. Dia welcomed the LLA delegation and reaffirmed the UNDP's commitment to supporting Liberia's land reform agenda. He underscored the importance of the land sector in national development, stressing that increased attention and investment are needed to enable the LLA to effectively carry out its mandate. Mr. Dia further disclosed that the UNDP is exploring opportunities to collaborate with the Embassy of Sweden, particularly in assessing the progress and gaps of the SIDA-funded SLSL project, with a view to identifying areas where additional support

can be provided. At the close of the engagement, Chairman Kpakio outlined an ambitious vision to formalize approximately 80 percent of customary community lands nationwide. He emphasized that achieving this target will require innovative financing, strong partnerships, and sustained political will. "This is not just about land reform," he noted. "It is about building peace, ensuring stability, and promoting inclusive national development." Discussions during the meeting also focused on identifying new funding streams and strengthening collaboration frameworks to support the LLA's ongoing and future initiatives. The UNDP has already played a key role in advancing land governance in Liberia, supporting efforts that have led to the formalization of land rights in at least 35 customary communities across selected counties. These interventions have reportedly contributed to reducing land conflicts, empowering women and youth, and improving social cohesion within affected communities. Stakeholders in the sector remain optimistic that continued collaboration between the LLA and its partners will yield even greater impact in addressing longstanding land challenges across the country.

Pillar	Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Promotion of the circular economy	Circular economy strengthened	Circular economy promoted	Coverage of circular economy	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	TBD	Promote Circular Economy Increase NDC targets implementation coverage to
			Strengthening environmental legal and regulatory framework to address, inter alia, management of chemicals, carbon footprint, biodiversity, green taxation and climate change	Enhanced capacity for monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations	Training programs for legal, regulatory, and enforcement personnel established	Percentage of regulatory staff trained in legal and enforcement procedures.	TBD	Strengthen of environmental legal and regulatory framework	
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Establishment of local climate market mechanism	Increased mobilization of private sector capital through carbon trading, offset programs, and climate adaptation projects	Local platforms that facilitate the buying and selling of carbon credits and offsets, allowing businesses to meet emission reduction targets established and functional A local digital or physical market where carbon credits, renewable energy certificates, and other environmental assets can be bought and sold	Total tons of CO2-equivalent emissions reduced annually through the implementation of climate market mechanisms	13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year	0	Increase by 50% the number of recycling business operators

ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development - AAID

Pillar	Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Support with the operationalization of green tax	Increased revenue generation from green taxes used for environmental protection and sustainable development	Public awareness campaigns created on the importance and benefits of green taxes	Percentage of businesses and industries covered by the green tax system	8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP	0	Operationalize Green Tax
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Strengthening the implementation of the NDCs	Increased climate finance mobilization to fund climate mitigation and adaptation projects	Establishment or scaling of financing mechanisms, such as climate funds, green bonds, and private-public partnerships to fund NDC implementation	Total amount of climate finance mobilized for NDC implementation (from both domestic and international sources)	13.a.1 Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025	TBD	Support the implementation of the NDCs
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Supporting the adoption of cleaner cooking technologies, particularly Improved Cookstoves (ICS) to efficiently convert biomass into heat	Improved energy efficiency on use of biomass, leading to reduced fuel consumption and less deforestation	Availability of high-quality, affordable improved cookstoves on local markets increased	Percentage of households adopting ICS in targeted communities	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	TBD	Support more than 200,000 affordable ICS
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Sustainably manage coastal erosion	Increased resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities to the impacts of coastal erosion and climate change	Construction or improvement of hard (e.g., seawalls, groins) and soft (e.g., dune restoration, beach nourishment) coastal defense systems	Number of coastal communities with enhanced protection against erosion	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	TBD	Engage 75% of coastal communities in participatory coastal management programs



When President Joseph Boakai told a Washington, D.C. diaspora audience in 2025 that he “does not even listen to criticism,” the room went mute. Not only that, the statement reverberated internally and externally. Since then, Liberians have been made aware that their leader, who they once nicknamed ‘sleepy Joe’ is adding another name ‘cheeky Joe’ to himself by the way he responds to issues. Over the past one and half year, the President has shown a characteristic said to be concerning and maybe off-the-wall, by the way he has been responding to issues of concerns. And, when he told Liberians that corrupt officials should at least “use stolen money to bless our people,” anti-graft groups called it an endorsement of theft. And when he fired back at critics of his infrastructure push with “You cannot eat roads or buildings,” opponents said he was mocking bread-and-butter hardship. Taken alone, each is a soundbite. Together, critics say they form a pattern: an acidic, dismissive tone toward dissent that is making allies nervous and opponents louder. Supporters call it straight talk from a leader focused on “action, not no action, talk only.” Either way, the President’s rhetoric has become a national story of its own. The President’s responses to issues with serious impact on the health and well-being the country and citizens have raised eyebrows in many quarters, with some suggesting that the 80-yrs-old leader has turned from being “sleepy to cheeky Joe.” These responses considered, at times, inflammatory, discouraging and unwelcoming of a leader, by far took Liberians aback at the time they look up to their leader for soothing position on issues of grave national concerns. From “I do not listen to criticism” to “You can’t eat everything,” a pattern of sharp retorts fuels debate on leadership tone and tolerance for dissent. While in Lofa County , his county of birth, in December 2024, the President struck the chord in a manner observers said left Liberians spellbound. During a redletter occasion organized in his honor in Foya, he said “We want to encourage those who want to remain corrupt and steal money, I beg, the money should be used to bless our people.” The statement, though not considered too acidic, became topical as it drew national attention. Reacting to the President’s comments, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) expressed disagreement and called it “embarrassing” and “completely unacceptable.” Also, NAYMOTE expressed concerns about the comments and asked: “What happened to the accountability platform on which you campaigned?” That the a sitting president saying corrupt officials should “bless our people” with stolen funds undercut Boakai’s integrity brand, according to critics. The statement came months after he suspended 457 officials for not declaring assets, a move regarded as “reactive” and “symbolic.” They stressed that the contrast between hard action and soft rhetoric confused even allies. While Liberians struggled to digest the impact and essence of the Foya statement, which was seen as smart endorsement of corruption, President Boakai hit another milestone in the United States. During the 2025 Liberia Diaspora Conference, Washington D.C. he said: “I do not

even listen to criticism... How can someone raise the issue of darkness when there is clear light all over the place?” He added that “zogoes are blaming me because electricity is all over the place, and as a result, they no longer have the opportunity to snatch people’s bags and phones.” The statement however sparked controversy and fueled debate among Liberians, particularly those in opposition. Considered by many as an expression of sarcasm on the hardship Liberians going through, the “zogoes” comment also read as tone-deaf to urban poverty. They also argued that with inflation at 11.1% in 2025 and import cover only 2.1 months, joking about pickpockets alienates struggling citizens. On many occasions, the President took a spiteful hardline position on issues of critical national importance, “I don’t care what people say, I am here to do what is right,” he said during a function at the Executive Mansion. According to critics, the comment shows a dismissive attitude of a leader who carries the greatest responsibility of listening to the cries of his people. Also, it cab be recalled that the President during a Cabinet meeting last year said “No matter what you do, people will talk, people will insult... Let them say, you do your work. God will judge you.” While observers argued that the statement shows resilience, it equally warned “genuine concerns could be dismissed as noise.” Harsh public reactions to slew of what observers termed sarcastic, inflammatory and cheeky comments did not sway the President from pursuing a more acidic tongue. During the dedication of the headquarters of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) in 2026, he threw another blow. Responding to critics of infrastructure spending, President Boakai said: “You cannot eat roads or buildings... These are the very things that give investors the confidence to come to your country,” while firing at critics who say he ignores “bread and butter” issues. “You can’t eat everything” remark was argued as policy defense, but the phrasing was seen as flippant to families facing food costs. “Bread and butter” is Liberian shorthand for survival, and critics said telling people they “can’t eat roads” sounded like “let them eat asphalt.” Also, the President, while meeting with Executive Mansion Press Corps this year, said “Write it or not, there is nothing you can say about me at this age that can destroy me. I have lived my life.” The statement was framed as both “defiant yet conciliatory,” but critics called it overly “acidic.” Also, when the president said “I do not listen to criticism,” it hit a nerve because Article 15 of Liberia’s Constitution guarantees free expression. Those in the opposition community argued that a president who won’t listen can’t correct course. Drawing attention to the statement, the Press Union of Liberia has warned the administration against “treading the oppressive paths of its predecessors” after journalists faced assaults and intimidation. When thousands of Liberians were faced with demolition of their homes said to be built on a property of the Armed Forces of Liberia in the 72nd Community in Paynesville, the President caused them more pains instead of

proffering solution. “If the land belongs to the Armed Forces of Liberia, let them take their land because, God not making new land,” the Liberian leader. The statement, according to most Liberians, left the already traumatized citizens completely dispirited and hopeless. Recently, the President went sarcastic while talking about escalating criticism of his government. He said, “If you are going somewhere and there are dogs barking at you, if you stop to throw stone at every dog, you won’t reach where you are going.” Critics view the statement as too condescending of who Liberians truly are, as it is also an expression of lack of concerns and interest in citizens wellbeing, especially those at the receiving end of what many view as ‘negative actions’ of the government. The statement came amid the controversy surrounding the expulsion of Representative Yekeh Kolubah. “As long as we live, things will continue to happen. Things we have not seen will happen under my administration,” he said, in a response critic said explain his role in a matter he had been accused of masterminding. Kolubah and many others believed proceedings against him, including recalling the House from break, was a makeup of the President to get rid of the him. It is held by members of the House of Representatives and many others that his actions run contrary to the administration’s policy. The president also threw jab at the management of MLG during a visit there, saying “If you pretend to pay people, they will pretend to work.” His statement was viewed as indirect disagreement with what was happening there, implicitly lending support to what had occurred. While dedicating the decentralization office of the Local Government Ministry, President Boakai was on target once more with his usual ‘sarcastic and cheeky’ response to issues. “If you are going somewhere and there are dogs barking at you, if you stop to throw stone at every dog, you won’t reach where you are going,” he

said. The latest has sparked sharp public reactions. While supporters of the President argued he did not mean harm, that he spoke figuratively, opposition elements termed it an outright insult to the Liberian people. By saying that, they contended that the head of state insulted Liberians as dogs, but his supporters reject the claims, saying he is only encouraging his officials, using metaphoric and figurative comments, to keep focus on their plans. While supporters see the “acidic” tone as honesty, that he’s not being a diplomat but a builder.” “He’d rather be accused of being cheeky than of doing nothing,” a supporter said. Analysts warn that repeated sharp retorts create three risks. If “I do not listen to criticism” is literal, critics say it means advisors may stop bringing bad news. The President allies say he’s always been blunt. As VP he was known as “Sleepy Joe” for low energy, not sharp words. But it appears the presidency has changed that. He told his cabinet sometimes ago. “That’s who we are, especially in the country that we’re in.” To him, insults come with the job, so he insults back. To critics, the presidency isn’t a street fight. The “cheeky” concerns mount because 2026 is shaping up as a stress test. His supporters hear a president who “tells it like it is.” His critics hear a leader who “lashes out” when challenged. However, in a young democracy with fresh memories of silenced voices, like Prophet Key jailed for contempt, Kolubah expelled, Prince Johnson dead before trial, critics say tone isn’t just style. “It’s substance”, another said. “And right now, a lot of Liberians think the substance is turning acidic.” It is reportedly becoming too concerning when the President continuously sounds cheeky on national issues, rather than proffering solutions to problems.

Matthew Piah, Agriculture Minister J. Alexander Nuetah, and Inspector General of Police Gregory Coleman. Also traveling with the delegation is Professor Robert Sherman, Chairman of the Council of Liberian Experts in the Diaspora (COLED). While in the United States, President Boakai and his team will hold a series of high-level meetings with international partners and stakeholders aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and advancing cooperation in governance, investment, and human capacity development. In the President’s absence, Education Minister Jarso Maley Jallah will chair Cabinet affairs in consultation with the President and Vice President to ensure continuity in government operations. The President is expected to return to Liberia on May 1. The visit underscores Liberia’s ongoing push to deepen international engagement while reinforcing its commitment to peace, stability, and sustainable development.

BOAKAI TO RECEIVE



By Stephanie M. Duncan

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai Sr. departed Liberia Wednesday for a weeklong working visit to the United States, where he is set to receive a prestigious continental honor and deliver a keynote address at a major peace forum. According to a release from the Executive Mansion, President Boakai will be honored with the Peace Leadership Award at the 34th Annual Africa Peace Awards, scheduled to take place at California State University, Sacramento. The award recognizes his contributions to peacebuilding, democratic governance, and inclusive development both in Liberia and across Africa. The Liberian leader is also expected to deliver the keynote address at the ceremony, where he will outline his administration’s vision for sustaining peace and fostering development on the continent. The President is accompanied by a high-level delegation that includes Minister of State Without Portfolio Mamaka Bility, Cabinet Director General Nathaniel Kwabo, Information Minister Jerolinmek

LPP CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT PROBE

carry serious legal and diplomatic consequences. The LPP further called for a thorough and impartial investigation into the actions of all parties involved, including private entities, businesses, and public officials whose conduct may have contributed to the current tensions. Reaffirming Liberia’s sovereignty, the party declared that no individual or institution should be allowed to undermine the country’s peace and stability, which it said has been hard-earned over decades. The statement also highlighted the historically peaceful relationship between Liberia and Guinea, noting that both countries have long maintained mutual respect and avoided border conflicts even during periods of internal instability such as the Doe and Taylor administrations and the civil war years. The LPP, however, cautioned that this legacy of peaceful coexistence must be preserved through responsible leadership and diplomacy. Meanwhile, the party welcomed the reported decision by Joseph Nyuma Boakai to temporarily suspend mining activities in the Makona River area, describing it as a step in the right direction toward safeguarding national security and protecting the environment. Despite this move, the LPP insisted that more decisive action is needed. The party is urging the Boakai administration to establish an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the border incidents comprehensively. According to the LPP, the proposed commission should focus on clarifying the facts surrounding the alleged incursions, addressing security risks, confirming territorial boundaries, and ensuring accountability for any violations. It should also work toward preventing further escalation and safeguarding communities living along the border. “The establishment of an independent Commission of Inquiry is vital for ensuring peace, stability, and a clear understanding of the territorial dynamics between Liberia and Guinea,” the statement emphasized. The LPP concluded by calling on the government to act swiftly and decisively, stressing that restoring public confidence and protecting national integrity must remain top priorities.

CBL, STAKEHOLDERS



The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has convened a national stakeholders’ workshop aimed at shaping the country’s next Financial Inclusion and Education Strategy (NFIES 2026–2030), in a move to expand access to financial services across Liberia. The workshop brings together a broad range of participants, including government institutions, financial service providers, civil society organizations, and development partners, to identify key barriers and agree on practical solutions to deepen financial inclusion nationwide. Financial inclusion, according to the CBL, ensures that every Liberian—regardless of location or income level—can access affordable and reliable financial services such as savings, mobile money, loans, and insurance. The initiative is particularly focused on bridging the gap between urban and rural communities, where access to such services remains uneven. Deliberations at the forum are centered on addressing critical challenges that continue to hinder progress in the sector. Among the major issues under discussion are regulatory and policy gaps, limited infrastructure including connectivity and

digital identification systems, and weak coordination among institutions. Officials say tackling these challenges will require a collaborative and coordinated national effort. Participants are expected to propose actionable recommendations that will guide the development of a comprehensive five-year strategy. The outcomes of the workshop will directly inform the NFIES 2026–2030, which aims to improve financial access, strengthen consumer protection frameworks, and enhance financial literacy across the country. The CBL emphasized that the process is inclusive and participatory, describing it as an opportunity for stakeholders to collectively shape the future of Liberia’s financial sector. “This process is about listening, learning, and agreeing on the steps we need to take together,” the Bank noted, underscoring its commitment to building a more inclusive financial system. The workshop marks a significant step in Liberia’s efforts to promote economic empowerment and ensure that more citizens can participate meaningfully in the formal financial system.

OHCHR OFFICIALS ENGAGE

economy, a sector that continues to employ a significant portion of the country’s labor force but remains largely unregulated. During the engagement, both parties discussed key challenges confronting informal workers, including the lack of social protection, limited access to legal safeguards, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. The OHCHR delegation underscored the need for Liberia to align its labor practices with international human rights standards to ensure decent working conditions for all. For his part, Minister Kruah welcomed the visit and acknowledged the vital contribution of the informal sector to national livelihoods.

He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to promoting policies that ensure fairness, dignity, and protection for workers across all sectors. The discussion also highlighted potential areas of collaboration between the Labour Ministry and OHCHR, including capacity-building initiatives, policy reforms, and public awareness campaigns aimed at strengthening labor rights protections. The courtesy call forms part of ongoing efforts by OHCHR to support countries in enhancing human rights frameworks, particularly for vulnerable groups within the workforce.

HOUSE PASSES PAYNESVILLE

of the third session. The decision was reached on Wednesday during the 9th day sitting of the House’s special session, following the submission of a detailed report by the Committee on Education and Public Administration. The Committee said it conducted public hearings, reviewed stakeholder inputs, and undertook a comprehensive redrafting process before presenting its final recommendations. According to the Committee, while the initial draft of the bill was conceptually sound, it contained structural gaps that could have created governance challenges similar to those faced by the Monrovia Consolidated School System. However, lawmakers were assured that the revised version sufficiently addressed those concerns. The Committee emphasized that the

redrafted legislation establishes a balanced and functional governance framework, clearly outlining the roles of the Ministry of Education, the Paynesville City Corporation, and local community stakeholders. Based on these findings, the Committee recommended passage of the bill, which was unanimously endorsed by Plenary following deliberations. The passage of the bill signals a move toward strengthening local participation in education management, particularly in Paynesville, one of Liberia’s most densely populated urban areas. The bill has now been forwarded to the Liberian Senate for concurrence before it can be sent to the President for final approval.

EDUCATION MINISTER WANTS EARLY LEARNING PRIORITIZED



By Stephanie M. Duncan

Liberia’s Education Minister, Jarso Maley Jallah, has warned that the government risks failing its citizens if it does not adequately address early childhood learning, stressing that the foundation of every child’s education is critical to national development. Speaking as keynote speaker at the celebration of the National Week of the Young Child, Minister Jallah underscored the importance of investing in early learning, describing it as the bedrock upon which all future education is built. “If the issue of early learning in children is not addressed, it means government has failed its people,” she declared. The Education Minister highlighted the

harsh realities faced by many children, particularly those struggling to meet basic school needs, and called for urgent action to confront these challenges. She also placed responsibility on educators, urging them to adopt inclusive and adaptable teaching approaches. According to her, every child learns differently, and teachers must be equipped to respond to those differences effectively. “Some children are slow to learn, and educators must teach with patience and passion,” she said, emphasizing the need for a compassionate and supportive learning environment. Minister Jallah further stressed that the government has a duty to ensure that teachers are properly trained to handle the diverse challenges they may encounter in the classroom. She reaffirmed that education is a fundamental right, insisting that no circumstance should prevent a child from accessing knowledge. Her remarks come amid ongoing national discussions about improving the quality of education and expanding access to early childhood learning opportunities across Liberia.

CDC STILL SLIPPING

Amid plethora of ad-lib disciplinary actions against its members, including suspension and expulsion, critics believe the former ruling party is still slipping, making the same mistakes that perhaps caused it political power at the polls in 2023. Before coming to power in 2018, the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) became embroil in series of internal wranglings for which most of its founding and dependable members were either suspended, expelled or resigned. It had been alleged these actions were done outside of party standards of affording affected partisans due process to defend themselves against what they had been accused of. As if it had not learned its lessons from these uncultured actions which observers and legal minds say do not align with the principle of law, a repeat is on the horizon once more. Doing so, according to critics, without due process is repeating old habits that cost it power and credibility. CDC is once again facing accusations that it is suspending and expelling members without due process. These actions are seen as the same internal governance flaw that opponents say weakened the party during its six years in power and contributed to its 2023 electoral defeat. Of recent, trails of CDC's actions against its members date back to April 15, 2025 when seven partisans were suspended for allegedly backing a rival candidate in Nimba County's senatorial by-election. The party, in a statement, accused the seven of "indiscipline and betrayal." CDC did not name those suspended, or provide detail about any hearing, let alone citing provision of the CDC constitution they violated. The party in the process took swipe at then Representative, now Senator Samuel G. Kogar, for being a "central player" in the "unconstitutional and politically motivated" removal of Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. Critics inside and outside the party said the move formed a pattern of swift and public punishment the party is fond of, far before members can defend themselves. In the case of defending its actions, CDC said it was "taking disciplinary action" against members who supported a rival, while reaffirming commitment to Nimba. Intriguing about it is that the suspension was announced via press release the same day the party accused Kogar of "dragging Liberia's democracy through the mud." Contrasting the party claims, one of the suspended partisan said "We heard about our suspension on Facebook. No one called us. No letter. No hearing." The same was in June 2025. In the wake of the removal saga of former Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, the CDC took another "appalling decision" of suspending and expelling its members without "due process." The CDC backstabbed itself when it complained that those same lawmakers were kept in custody until late evening on June 6, 2025, despite posing "no flight risk." Though it expelled it members without justification, CDC called the action "undemocratic" and "reminiscent of a time when the judiciary was manipulated for political gains." Critics see this as complete irony that the party demands due process from the state while suspending its own members without it. "You can't ask the courts for fairness and then run a kangaroo court in your party HQ," said one ex-CDC county chairman. "That's why we lost the middle in 2023." Recall that while fighting eviction from its Congo Town HQ, the CDC insisted on legal rights, stay orders, and Supreme Court review. It filed a Bill of Information, argued the lower court ignored evidence, and said eviction would "shake morale among supporters and disrupt party cohesion." The Supreme Court ultimately called CDC's Bill of Information a "legal charade and an affront to the Court." It fined its lawyers US\$500, and upheld the eviction. The LNP enforced it on August 23, 2025, bulldozing the HQ, vocational center, and the symbolic sycamore tree.

CDC called the demolition "political mischief" and an "assault on democracy." But observers contrasted the party's views, saying "the party demands strict legal procedure from courts and police, yet its own internal suspensions are issued by press release." Article 77(b) of the 1986 Constitution says political parties "shall be organized and operated on the basis of democratic principles." Legal scholars argue that includes notice, hearing, and appeal before sanctions. According to those familiar with the CDC Constitution, it contains similar provisions. Yet, they are ignored when leadership wants to send a message fast. A CDC district coordinated is quoted as saying "We keep making the same mistakes" Now, the stakes are high. Liberia heads toward 2029 elections with CDC as the largest opposition party. Its ability to present itself as a government-in-waiting depends on showing it can govern itself by rules. Critics say CDC's internal culture of loyalty over process spilled into government — ministers hired and fired by WhatsApp, contracts awarded without tender, officials suspended by press conference. Post-election reviews inside CDC cited "lack of internal democracy" and "arbitrary discipline" as reasons urban voters and youth drifted to UP. Suspending the Nimba Seven without hearings hands the ruling Unity Party a talking point, critics think. "They can't follow their own rules, but they want to run the country." It also demoralizes the base. The eviction from Bernard's Beach already cost CDC its physical center. Expelling members without process costs it human capital," it is argued. CDC's own 2017 constitution, per party lawyers, requires written charge served to the accused, grievance & discipline committee hearing with right to counsel, appeal to National Executive Committee, and public announcement only after exhaustion of appeals. As a defense, party officials argue that by-elections move fast and betrayal can't wait for bureaucracy. A member of the Executive Committee is quoted as saying, "If someone is campaigning for the enemy while eating CDC rice, we will act," "Due process doesn't mean we sit down while they kill the party." They also point to UP's 2021 eviction for US\$150,000 rent arrears as proof that "everybody has house problems." But UP didn't suspend members by press release that year; it admitted the debt in court. CDC is trying to rebuild after losing the presidency and its HQ. Every suspension without process becomes an exhibit for opponents. It is argued "They haven't changed." Every claim of being "political prisoners" rings hollow if the party jails its own without trial. As one ex-CDC lawmaker put it: "We told the people we were different from the old parties. Then we started acting like them. Voters are not blind. 2029 is coming, and due process is on the ballot too." A penalist on Spoon Talk, Gibson Jerue voiced his anger last week at the party, saying that it continues to make the same mistakes. His comments were in reaction to the suspension of lawmakers who reportedly signed the resolution to expel Yekeh Kolubah. Mr. Jerue disclosed plans to join the CDC any time soon, and to make sure that CDC operates in line with its own rules. "This is why I will join the CDC sooner than later," he said. The bottom line is that suspending members may be necessary for discipline. Doing it without due process is political self-harm. CDC lost power in 2023 in part because Liberians thought it governed by whim. If it disciplines by whim in 2026, it's making the same mistake, and giving voters no reason to believe it's learned anything at all

NAYMOTE REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT

As ED Participates In UNDP's 2026–2030 Country Programme Document Launch



The Executive Director of Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, Eddie D. Jarwolo, has joined key national and international stakeholders at the official launch of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Liberia Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2026–2030. The CPD is a results-driven strategic framework aimed at accelerating inclusive growth, strengthening democratic governance, and building climate resilience across Liberia. It aligns with the government's development priorities, including the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, Vision 2030, and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The framework places strong emphasis on key areas such as human capital development, democratic governance, and economic and environmental sustainability. It also seeks to promote digital transformation, expand opportunities for youth and women, strengthen public institutions, and support community-driven solutions across the country. Speaking following the launch, Mr. Jarwolo reaffirmed Naymote's commitment to supporting the successful implementation

of the CPD. He emphasized the importance of partnerships, accountability, and citizen engagement in ensuring that development interventions translate into tangible benefits for ordinary Liberians. The CPD is expected to serve as a coordinated roadmap for development actors, providing a structured pathway to transform policy into measurable impact, particularly at the community level. Also contributing to the process are key partners including UN Women, the Ministry of Local Government, and the National Endowment for Democracy, among others. Stakeholders at the launch underscored the importance of collaboration in driving national development, noting that sustained partnerships will be critical to ensuring the successful delivery of the CPD's objectives over the next five years. Naymote, through its ongoing governance and accountability initiatives, is expected to play a key role in supporting transparency and monitoring progress under the new framework.

SPEAKER KOON UNVEILS VEHICLE FLAG PROTOCOL TO STRENGTHEN LEGISLATIVE IDENTITY



The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Liberia, Richard Nagbe Koon, has introduced a new official vehicle flag protocol for members of the House as part of ongoing institutional reform efforts. Under the new arrangement, each lawmaker will receive two sets of flags and is required to display their respective county flag on the right side of their official vehicle, while the House

of Representatives flag will be mounted on the left. The measure is aimed at improving identification and reinforcing the link between legislators and the counties they represent. For the Speaker's official vehicle, the protocol provides for the display of the Liberia national flag on the right side, with the House flag positioned on the left. This distinction is intended to reflect national protocol and clearly signify the authority of the Speaker's office. According to House leadership, the initiative forms part of a broader reform agenda focused on promoting order, uniformity, and a stronger sense of institutional identity within the Legislature. Authorities say the move also aligns with ongoing efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, and effective representation in the legislative branch.

MOH REVIEWS NATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE POLICY IN GANTA TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC GAPS

By Jamesetta D Williams

The Ministry of Health Liberia has commenced a technical review and pre-validation exercise of the National Human Resources for Health (HRH) Policy in Ganta, Nimba County, as part of efforts to strengthen the country’s health workforce. The exercise, which runs from April 20 to 25, 2026, is being conducted by the Ministry’s Planning and Policy Unit with support from the World Bank. Speaking at the opening session, Deputy Minister for Policy, Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation, Atty. Malayah Tamba Chieyoe, said the policy is designed to transform the planning, development, management, and retention of Liberia’s health workforce. He noted that the initiative responds to longstanding challenges within the sector, including shortages of trained



health professionals, unequal distribution of staff, persistent skills gaps, and limited capacity in rural and hard-to-reach areas. According to Deputy Minister Chieyoe, the HRH Policy will serve as a strategic framework to strengthen the country’s health workforce system and address

service delivery gaps in a structured and sustainable manner. The proposed policy framework focuses on improving recruitment, deployment, and retention mechanisms for qualified health professionals nationwide. It also aims to enhance training systems, expand capacity-building initiatives, and

institutionalize continuous professional development for health workers. Additionally, the policy seeks to introduce stronger performance management systems and reinforce accountability measures across the sector. A key component of the framework is ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services across Liberia, particularly in rural and underserved communities where access to skilled health personnel remains limited. The ongoing review and pre-validation process provides an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute technical input, identify gaps, and ensure alignment with national health priorities and international best practices. The Ministry of Health says the process is intended to produce a final policy that is inclusive, evidence-based, and responsive to both current challenges and future demands within the health sector, while reaffirming its commitment to building a resilient and well-distributed health workforce.

REP. MENSAH BRANDS KOLUBAH MOST CORRUPT LAWMAKER

Othello Sarweh Nimely

Bong County District 6 Representative Moima Briggs Mensah has criticized expelled Montserrado County District 10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah, describing him as the most corrupt lawmaker she has encountered in Liberia’s legislature. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, April 22 at her capitol building office, Rep. Briggs Mensah addressed the circumstances surrounding Kolubah’s expulsion from the House of Representatives, alleging that while he projected a clean public image, he was corrupt undercover. She further characterized the outspoken lawmaker as dirty but acts like an angel in public. The Bong County lawmaker confirmed that she supported the decision to remove Kolubah, stating she signed onto the resolution that led to his expulsion and would sign a thousand times again.

“The Legislature is a serious place for business in the interest of Liberia, not a place for jokes and stealing,” she asserted, addressing Yekeh Kolubah was expelled on April 17, 2026, by his colleagues in the House of Representatives following controversial remarks linked to the Liberia–Guinea border dispute. His removal has since sparked intense national debate, with competing narratives emerging over the legality and fairness of the process. Rep. Briggs Mensah went further to suggest that Kolubah should relocate to countries where he said that he owns properties, including Dubai and Ghana. Since the expulsion, reactions have been mixed. Some argue that the action taken against Kolubah was justified to maintain order and discipline within the legislature. Others, however, ground again such action. Adding to the controversy, Montserrado County Senator



Abraham Darius Dillon has weighed in, arguing that Kolubah was denied his fundamental right to due process. According to Dillon, due process is a constitutional guarantee that must take precedence over internal legislative procedures. He emphasized that only the Supreme Court of Liberia has the authority to interpret constitutional issues, including alleged violations of due process.

While acknowledging public criticism of Kolubah’s conduct, Dillon noted that the expelled lawmaker had been repeatedly elected by his constituents with that same character. As the dispute continues to unfold, the Kolubah expulsion has evolved into a broader test of Liberia’s democratic institutions pitting legislative authority against constitution.



CENTRAL BANK PROPOSES L\$79 BILLION CURRENCY PRINTING PLAN THROUGH 2030

By Stephanie M. Duncan

The Central Bank of Liberia has announced plans to print L\$79 billion in Liberian currency over a five-year period, a move officials say is aimed at stabilizing the financial system rather than injecting excess cash into the economy. Appearing before the Senate during a recent hearing, Central Bank Governor Henry Saamoi disclosed that L\$14.7 billion of the total amount will be printed in 2026, with the remaining L\$64.3 billion scheduled for production in subsequent years through 2030.

Governor Saamoi emphasized that the initiative is part of a broader monetary strategy designed to address structural needs within the financial sector. He clarified that the exercise is not intended to flood the market with new money but to gradually replace old and damaged banknotes currently in circulation. “The objective is to ensure the integrity and efficiency of our currency system,” Saamoi told lawmakers, noting that a significant portion of Liberian banknotes in use are worn and require replacement. In addition to currency replacement, the Central Bank outlined several key goals tied to the printing

plan, including meeting the growing demand for cash transactions across the country and reinforcing confidence in the Liberian dollar. The initiative also aims to support the buildup of Liberia’s gold reserves, a move officials say will strengthen the country’s financial position and provide additional backing for the local currency. Economic policymakers further argue that the plan will enhance the Central Bank’s ability to conduct effective monetary policy operations, giving it greater flexibility in managing liquidity.

CBL, STAKEHOLDERS BRAINSTORM ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION



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OHCHR OFFICIALS ENGAGE LABOUR MINISTER

-On Protecting Informal Workers' Rights

By Jamesetta D Williams

Two officials from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, paid a courtesy visit to Liberia's Labour Minister, Cllr. Cooper W. Kruah Sr., at his office in Monrovia. The meeting focused on strengthening efforts to protect the rights of workers operating within Liberia's informal



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LPP CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT PROBE

-Into Liberia-Guinea Border Tensions

By Jamesetta D Williams

The Liberian People's Party (LPP) has expressed serious concern over rising tensions along the Liberia Guinea border, particularly amid reports of alleged incursions by Guinean troops into Lofa County. In a press statement issued on April 22, 2026, and signed by its National Chairman, Comrade J. Yanqui Zaza, the party pointed to claims that Guinean soldiers crossed into Liberian territory near the Makona River, seized equipment, and hoisted their national flag in disputed areas. The LPP described the situation as troubling and warned that it poses risks to national sovereignty and regional stability. According to the party, the situation reportedly escalated around March 2, 2026, when Guinean troops allegedly entered areas near the Sorlumba border crossing and Konadu Town in Lofa County. The LPP further noted that these actions are said to have disrupted ongoing development efforts, including the construction of the Foya Vahun road, a key infrastructure project aimed at enhancing connectivity in the region. The party also raised concerns over allegations that the troops confiscated sand mining equipment, a development that has heightened tensions among local residents and sparked questions about the

management of natural resources in the disputed zone. While acknowledging unverified claims that mining activities may have been conducted on the Liberian side of the Makona River without Guinea's consent, the LPP emphasized the importance of adhering to both international law and Liberia's mining regulations. The party stressed that any activities involving shared natural resources must be guided by transparency, mutual consultation, and legal authorization. "The principles of balance and transparency are essential in navigating this complex issue," the statement noted, adding that any violations could

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HOUSE PASSES PAYNESVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM BILL

By Stephanie M. Duncan

The House of Representatives has passed into law a bill seeking to establish the Paynesville School System, marking a significant step toward decentralizing education governance in Liberia. The legislation, titled the Paynesville School System Act of 2026, was introduced by Montserrado County District #5 Representative Priscilla Abram Cooper during the first quarter

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