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'YOU'LL BE EXPELLED TOO IN 2029'

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GONGLOE INSISTS ON ILLEGALITY OF KOLUBAH EXPULSION

-Urges House to Uphold Constitution

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA



MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIA DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR



DATE
April 20, 2026

BUYING
L\$183.1239/1.00

SELLING
L\$185.1977/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates base on the result of daily survey 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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ARTICLE

YEKEH IS EXPELLED VIA CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS:

Is There Any Law That Can Compel His Re-Instatement Without Violating the Constitution?

Yekeh pursued all these years a despicable career of spewing mischief on the national scene without regards to our culture, religions, traditions and laws. Truly, a sad thing happened here: elected to be a statesman, the former child soldier chose to be the epitome of lawlessness embarking on a career of spewing insults on all, a perverted career that has now truly come to the logical end he coveted.

The expulsion of the errant former representative brought to finality the worse career in the entire legislative history of Liberia as the legislature exercised its inherent constitutional power to police itself. However, the matter of the attempt by the judiciary branch via a statutory writ of prohibition to stop the House of Representatives in the discharge of its constitutional powers resurrects the recurring debate that portends to invoke a corrosive interbranch conflict since the Speaker Snowe removal saga in 2007 went to the judiciary.

The critical inquiry here is this: can the judiciary use the statutory prohibition power to stop the exercise of a Constitutional Powers by another branch of government under our Constitution?

I have always said no and in recent times the very Supreme Court has affirmed that constitutional powers are absolute and that statutory powers are at lower tier of laws in Liberia in two seminal cases. In the tray of the debate of the tenure officers' cases, the current Attorney General reminded the Supreme Court that in the exercise of the President's constitutional

powers as the Chief Administrator the judiciary cannot interfere. The court has agreed by its refusal to intervene when the President subsequently suspended tenured officers for administrative causes at the Liberia Telecommunication Authority and the Governance Commission.

The court has used the Attorney General's argument as well in the disposal of the uncultured Prophet Key contempt case where in the exercise of its inherent constitutional powers the Supreme Court acted both as the court of first instance and the court of last resort. Of course, the Supreme Court of Liberia is both a constitutional court and the highest court therefore it exercises powers over certain constitutional issues directly without it coming out of an appeal from a lower court.

In Article three the three branches are called 'separate coordinate branches' and the caveat follows immediately that no person holding office in one branch shall exercise the powers granted to another branch. Out of this caveat comes the rule that the President cannot pardon Prophet Key as that will be an intervention with the exercise of the Supreme Court inherent powers same as the Supreme Court cannot dictate to how a president remove appointed officials; and also too, the two branches cannot within this same constitutional scheme intervene in the rules making processes and the self-policing powers of the legislature.

Now it follows that the Writ of Prohibition derives out of a statute; then can a statute be used to set aside the result of the exercise of constitutional powers? In terms simple can the statutory Writ of Prohibition be legally used to stop or intervene where the legislature is exercising its inherent constitutional powers of self-policing its members as granted in Article 38? I am sure that a judicial officer who seeks to use the statutory writ of prohibition to intervene in the legislature use of its inherent constitutional powers would be upending our jurisdiction as the constitution is the supreme law.

The framers of our constitution to avert usurpation of the other branches' power in Article 66 says the legislature shall not use their law-making power to make laws that deprives the Supreme court of its constitutional powers; now can the Supreme Court on the flip of this and under the principles of Article 3 make or render decisions that subvert or deprives the legislature of its constitutional powers or frustrate the exercise thereof?

I have diligently traversed the Constitution of Liberia, 1986 but I am yet to see the text that grants the Supreme Court the powers as a coordinate branch to interfere with the other branches use of their constitutional powers. Clearly the Article two power of judicial review is merely the power to declare a law or an action of the other two branches as unconstitutional.

How does such review transformed into a power to halt or interfere with the forbidden fruit of Article three I am yet to be convinced.

On the other hand, many self-anointed pundits, professional talk shows callers and pseudo-policy experts, and even the yanna boys

have continuously regurgitate the fallacy of circular logic saying that the due process clause and multiple opinions of the supreme court provide legal foundation to intervene in the legislature use of its constitutional powers. But their vicious tautology founders on the craggy steels of the Article two caveat – it is required to be explicit textually granted power in the constitution to be constitutional. It is not constitutional because it allegedly espouses or is constructed on a constitutional ideal. Not only that, if for argument's sake we extend their argument, in other words they are positing that the Supreme Court can sua sponte amend the constitution and grant themselves power that was never given neither contemplated under the Sawyer-Wonsehleay gavel; obviously that would amount to a blatant violation of the constitution amendment clause.

Absolutely, the ultimate end of the Article 38 powers to police itself, a pure political power, has ended with expulsion and a vacant seat is declared thereby in the legislature. I am interested to see from whence the executive or the judiciary can obtain the constitutional power to overturn the result of the exercise of a constitutional power as such because in this jurisdiction the constitution is the supreme law and it overpowers all.

Or are we to see the promulgation of a new constitutional provision that will say that the statutory powers will overpower the textual, explicit, inherent, unshared-monopolistic power of the legislature to police itself?

Well, for me, as much as Prophet Key serves his six months at the notorious south beach as the result of the direct use of the inherent constitutional powers by the judiciary, the errant Yekeh has similarly been dishonorably retired as the direct use of the legislature inherent constitutional powers.

GOV'T DEEPENS ACCOUNTABILITY

-As Boakai Leads Performance Contract Signing



By Stephanie M. Duncan

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has presided over the Presidential Message and Performance Contract Signing Ceremony, marking a significant milestone in Liberia's push for accountability, transparency, and citizen-centered governance. Addressing government officials, development partners, and public servants,

President Boakai emphasized that the Performance Management and Compliance System (PMCS) is now fully operational and actively guiding how public institutions deliver services to the Liberian people. "The PMCS is no longer an idea—it is now an active framework shaping performance across government," the President declared, noting that Liberia has successfully completed its second full national appraisal

cycle. According to him, while several institutions demonstrated strong leadership and measurable results, others are still building capacity and will receive the necessary support to improve. He stressed that the ceremony was not merely symbolic, but a firm commitment by government institutions to meet clearly defined targets. "Today's contract signing is a public commitment to measurable results and to the principle that performance matters," Boakai said. The President also used the occasion to recognize outstanding institutions from the 2025 PMCS cycle, naming the Internal Audit Agency, National Road Fund, and Liberia Maritime Authority as excellent performers for their dedication to service delivery and institutional excellence. The PMCS, launched in October 2024 under the government's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), is designed as a flagship reform initiative to institutionalize results-based governance across Ministries, Agencies, Commissions (MACs), and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). Director General of the Cabinet Nathaniel T. Kwabo said the system provides a structured framework for setting performance targets, improving internal systems, and ensuring that citizens receive transparent and measurable

services. The first cycle focused on developing Service Delivery Charters and strengthening institutional systems, while the 2025 cycle expanded priorities to include strategic planning, resource mobilization, efficiency improvements, and capacity building. President Boakai highlighted that the PMCS is also intended to empower citizens by giving them a platform to monitor service delivery and provide feedback—an approach he described as central to rebuilding public trust in government. "Through the PMCS, we are promoting a culture of delivery and accountability while empowering citizens to engage with government services," he noted. The Liberian leader commended ministers, heads of institutions, and public servants for embracing the reform process, and extended appreciation to development partners, including the FUNDP, for their continued support. He concluded with a call for unity and purpose, urging all stakeholders to remain committed to building a government that delivers tangible results for its people. "Together, let us move forward with purpose to build a government that truly serves its citizens," President Boakai said.

The *Light for all*
New Republic

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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

OPINION

SAYMA CEPHUS, FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL WRITES

My Reaction to President Boakai’s Tantrums: “Things Will Happen That Never Happened Before” and the Expulsion of Representative Yekeh Kolubah

I have always wanted to stay on the fence and watch the daily political drama of this government without any comment. The reason is simple: judging from our past inactions when opportunity unfolded, and a political demagogue blew it, landing us where we are, I mostly credit our difficult trek to sanity to our own misdeeds. And this is, we should cry our own cry! This is why I put myself in a position unworthy to criticize this government for all of its alleged excesses.

But the truth is I am a political being. And as a citizen who holds sacred the right to hold an opinion separate and distinct from others, as provided under Article 15(b) of the 1986 Constitution, I feel compelled by common sense to get off the fence and tell my government to respect the rule of law. The expulsion of Representative Yekeh Kolubah, absent due process, has again brought into the spotlight and into question the democratic credentials of this government.

As a former journalist and now a lawyer, I have learned that democracy is not a friendly form of government. It is combative, and its expression of free speech is often raw and unsavory. It is an adversarial contest over ideas, over voters, and over the truth. Speaking truth to power is not meant to decorate the system but to expose the rot masked under fantasy and the futility of irresponsible government — one drenched in the macabre of looting public resources for private ends.

Liberia is the freest democracy of the 21st century, incomparable by any stretch of imagination. Thanks to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for laying the foundation, and to former President George Manneh Weah for dismantling the vestiges of tyranny and the bastardized belief in presidential supremacy. In their place, Weah erected the right of citizens to openly criticize and challenge their government without fear or favor and still keep their heads on their shoulders. It was inevitable that such a system would produce a democrat to the core — to the disliking of old-fashioned, 20th-century politicians who still want to be relevant in the 21st.

Incredibly, Representative Yekeh Kolubah, a Lorma, from Lofa County is that prototype. He has gate-crashed onto the stage like the creature in Frankenstein, openly confronting the relics of bad governance, rampant corruption, nepotism, tribalism at every stratum of the current government, and, of course, the ineptitude of his creator — the Unity Party government. But unlike Frankenstein’s monster, who only chased his creator, Yekeh is going after the rot of the system itself and the abuses shrouded in pale rhetoric. In fairness, Yekeh Kolubah is a national hero who has risen from the rot of intolerance, poor judgment, and bad governance unleashed onto the public



space by this government. The real drama is not what Yekeh has said or done, but what President Joseph Boakai said in a recent interview: “Things will happen that never happened before.” The President was responding to a reporter’s question about the controversial expulsion of Representative Kolubah by the House of Representatives.

We do not need to strain our eyes or ears to see what is happening. This is the same President who said God is no longer redistributing land, so the Armed Forces of Liberia should take land even if it belongs to private citizens. And amid the wailing and despair, the AFL went on a rampage and seized private property as part of their “constitutional duties.” Yet behold, the AFL remains weak as a cooked potato in the face of Guinea’s territorial conquest inside Liberia.

Before that, the President dismantled all tenure positions and appointed his cronies and apologists. Then came the biggest blow — he stabbed Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa in the back with a legislative coup that ultimately forced Koffa’s resignation after months of standoff.

Crowning these missteps is the attempt to weaponize the Justice Ministry by targeting former officials without evidence, shamelessly extending the witch-hunt to the former First Lady.

Divisions now form rivers across Liberia. From Lofa, where President Boakai favors only two smaller border tribes — Kissi and Gbandi, with a combined population of 273,230 about 7.8% of Liberia’s population — for lucrative posts in the financial sector, to the exclusion of the entire Southeast, marginalized and deprived of jobs, the country is fractured along social, political, and tribal lines. All of it is credited to the regime’s lack of vision.

Then came the crisis with Guinea. The government has yet to explain why Guinea has suddenly encroached upon and is currently occupying Liberian territory. Instead, it is going after Yekeh Kolubah for saying what Guinea itself has said. So assuming Yekeh expressed an opinion different from everyone else, does that change Guinea’s occupation of Liberian territory? The answer is no.

What is sickening is this: whenever a Liberian citizen runs to the courts to defend his right to due process, this government flouts its own judiciary and renders the rule of law a “paper tiger.” The tenure rancor at the Supreme Court and rulings adverse to the government’s position were simply shelved and openly mocked as pathetic jokes. So it was with Speaker Koffa, and now it comes as no big surprise that Yekeh’s flight to the Liberian Supreme Court seems a complete fantasy.

So Yekeh is thrown out by a jungle-style legislative process now dubbed “expulsion,” and the President justifies it by saying, “Things will happen that never happened before.” What else is there to prove that this government is not serious about democracy and the rule of law, and can do whatever it wants? That is a question that awaits Liberians in 2029.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 21

EVENTS & HISTORY

- 753 BC - Today is the traditional date of the foundation of Rome.
- 43 BC - Marcus Antonius was defeated by Octavian near Modena, Italy.
- 1526 - Mongol Emperor Babur annihilated the Indian Army of Ibrahim Lodi.
- 1649 - The Maryland Toleration Act was passed, allowing all freedom of worship.
- 1689 - William III and Mary II were crowned joint king and queen of England, Scotland and Ireland.
- 1789 - John Adams was sworn in as the first U.S. Vice President.
- 1836 - General Sam Houston defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. This battle decided the independence of Texas.
- 1856 - The Mississippi River was crossed by a rail train for the first time (between Davenport, IA, and Rock Island, IL).
- 1862 - The U.S. Congress established the U.S. Mint in Denver, CO.
- 1865 - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train left Washington.
- 1892 - The first Buffalo was born in Golden Gate Park.
- 1895 - Woodville Latham and his sons demonstrated their Panopticon. It was the first movie projector developed in the United States.
- 1898 - The Spanish-American War began.
- 1914 - U.S. Marines occupied Vera Cruz, Mexico. The troops stayed for six months.
- 1916 - Bill Carlisle, the infamous ‘last train robber,’ robbed a train in Hanna, WY.
- 1918 - German fighter ace Manfred von Richthofen, "The Red Baron," was shot down and killed during World War I.
- 1940 - "Take It or Leave It" premiered on CBS Radio.
- 1943 - U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt announced that several Doolittle pilots had been executed by the Japanese.
- 1953 - In New York, the Sidney Janis Gallery held the Dada exhibition.
- 1956 - Leonard Ross, age 10, became the youngest prizewinner on the "The Big Surprise". He won \$100,000.
- 1959 - Alf Dean caught a 16-foot, 10-inch white shark that weighed 2,664 pounds. At the time it was the largest catch with a rod and reel.
- 1960 - Brasilia became the capital of Brazil.
- 1961 - The French army revolted in Algeria.
- 1967 - Svetlana Alliluyeva (Svetlana Stalina) defected in New York City. She was the daughter of Joseph Stalin.
- 1967 - In Athens, Army colonels took over the government and installed Constantine Kollias as premier.
- 1972 - Apollo 16 astronauts John Young and Charles Duke explored the surface of the moon.
- 1975 - South Vietnam president, Nguyen Van Thieu, resigned, condemning the United States.
- 1977 - "Annie" opened on Broadway.
- 1984 - In France, it was announced that doctors had found virus believed to cause AIDS.
- 1985 - Manuel Ortega proposed a cease-fire for Nicaragua.
- 1986 - Geraldo Rivera opened a vault that belonged to Al Capone at the Lexington Hotel in Chicago. Nothing of interest was found inside.
- 1987 - Special occasion stamps were offered for the first time by the U.S. Postal Service. "Happy Birthday" and "Get Well" were among the first to be offered.
- 1989 - The Game Boy handheld video game device was released in Japan.
- 1992 - Robert Alton Harris became the first person executed by the state of California in 25 years. He was put to death for the 1978 murder of two teen-age boys.
- 1994 - Jackie Parker became the first woman to qualify to fly an F-16 combat plane.
- 1998 - Astronomers announced in Washington that they had discovered possible signs of a new family of planets orbiting a star 220 light-years away.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Freeport of Monrovia performs a high-intensity security drill, underscoring heightened Maritime readiness.
April 16, 2026



Monrovia-Liberia-The Freeport of Monrovia yesterday briefly suspended normal operations as the National Port Authority (NPA), in coordination with the Maritime Security Service and the Joint Security Apparatus, conducted a high-intensity port security drill in strict alignment with the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS) Code. The exercise was a controlled, full-scale simulation designed to reinforce the port's security architecture, sharpen threat-detection capabilities, and validate rapid-response mechanisms against evolving maritime risks. Operating under elevated alert conditions, the drill tested layered defense systems, tightened access control points, and enhanced surveillance coverage across critical port infrastructure. The drill which was led by Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) Mr A. Famod Kanneh, informed the Public Relations Department of the NPA that the operation brought together a unified command of

national security institutions, including the Liberia National Police (LNP), the Liberia Seaport Police (LSP), the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), and the Liberia Fire Service (LFS). The coordinated deployment demonstrated strong inter-agency interoperability and a synchronized command-and-control structure. As part of the exercise, the port's security posture was escalated from ISPS Level 1 to Level 2, triggering reinforced screening protocols, increased patrols, and heightened monitoring of vessel and cargo movements. The simulation reaffirmed the NPA's readiness to safeguard port operations and ensure uninterrupted maritime trade under elevated threat conditions. The drill forms part of Liberia's ongoing maritime security collaboration with the United States Coast Guard and reflects the country's commitment to protecting critical sea lines of communication within the Gulf of Guinea. It also complements a broader strategy of

continuous capacity building, including specialized training programs throughout 2026 facilitated by Veteran Security Specialist Incorporated (VISSI). Further strengthening its regional leadership, the NPA remains an active participant in the European Union-funded SCOPE Africa Project, advancing port security standards and cooperation across Africa. Additionally, the Authority's rollout of an Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) and fire prevention program this year reinforces operational safety and risk mitigation across port facilities. Following the drill, a joint maritime security conference was held in conjunction with the drill convened key stakeholders to assess threat scenarios, enhance surveillance integration, and strengthen coordinated response

strategies. Speaking at the forum, Deputy Commissioner John F. Harvey of the Liberia Maritime Authority emphasized that maritime security remains central to Liberia's economic stability and global trade obligations. Deputy Commissioner Harvey noted that exercises of this nature are critical to maintain vigilance and ensuring that port facilities remain secure, efficient, and compliant with international standards. The National Port Authority reaffirms its commitment to sustaining a secure, resilient, and globally competitive port system, capable of responding decisively to emerging maritime threats while facilitating safe and efficient trade.

LIMA CROWNED FIRST TOP PERFORMING PUBLIC INSTITUTION UNDER PMCS



The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) has been awarded as the first top best performing public institution under the Government of Liberia's flagship Performance Management

and Compliance System (PMCS) for the year 2025. The award was received by Mr. John F. Harvey, Deputy Commissioner for Domestic Vessel Registration and Safety on

behalf of the Commissioner/CEO, Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr. This prestigious recognition underscores LiMA's unwavering commitment to institutional excellence, accountability, and

results-driven public service delivery. The award reflects the Authority's consistent efforts in meeting and exceeding key performance targets, strengthening governance systems, and enhancing operational efficiency across its various departments. Under the leadership of Commissioner/CEO Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr., LiMA has implemented strategic reforms aimed at improving transparency, boosting revenue generation, and aligning its operations with international maritime standards. These efforts have not only elevated the Authority's performance but have also contributed significantly to national development priorities. The Performance Management and Compliance System, a government-wide initiative, is designed to promote efficiency, monitor institutional output, and ensure that public entities remain accountable to citizens through measurable results. LiMA's achievement highlights its role as a model institution within the public sector and reinforces its dedication to advancing Liberia's maritime agenda through innovation, professionalism, and effective service delivery.

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	Promotion of climate change adaptation measures	Increased public and institutional capacity to address climate change effectively.	Climate adaptation policies, strategies, or plans developed and formally adopted	Proportion of sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, health) with climate adaptation integrated into their strategies	13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	TBD	Increase climate change adaptation measures
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Expansion, decentralization and modernization of environmental services	Improved access to environmental services for rural or underserved communities	Environmental service centers established for regulation of permits, compliance and monitoring	Number of county-based environmental management committees established and functional	1		Decentralize the Environment Protection Agency Services
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Construction and equipping of institutional facilities and Climate Change Early Response Center	Enhanced effective institution capacity to monitor, assess, and respond to climate risks (e.g., floods, droughts, storms)	Climate Change Early Response Center (CCERC) constructed	Number of CCERC with a capacity to monitor and coordinate responses for up to 5 regions	13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	0	Construct and Equip institutional facilities and Climate Change Early Response Center

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	Strengthening of institutional capacity on environmental matters, including courts	Enhanced institutional and legal capacities to address environmental governance and enforcement	New or revised environmental regulations, policies, and legal frameworks that improve environmental protection and enforcement	Number of environmental laws, policies, and regulations that have been enacted, revised, or strengthened	15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting	TBD	Enact or update at least 5 new environmental laws (or regulations) Increase NDC targets implementation coverage to
Environmental Sustainability	Climate Change	Environmental Governance	Development of the inventory of carbon stocks in compliance with UNFCCC	Strengthened capacity for compliance with international climate agreements (e.g., UNFCCC and Paris Agreement)	Inventory of carbon stocks for forests, soils, wetlands, and other ecosystems completed	Number of carbon stock categories (e.g., above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, soil organic carbon) inventoried in compliance with UNFCCC standards.	15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	0	Conduct an inventory of carbon stocks



Reeling from the aftermath of what is viewed as sheer political decision to expel him by the House of Representatives, lame-duck lawmaker, Yekeh Kolubah has taken swipe at President Joseph Boakai, warning him to prepare for the scenario of ‘the same rope that hauls monkey can also haul bamboo.’

Addressing a press conference Monday, he made it clear that the same way he was expelled from the House of Representatives under the influence of the president, he too should know that he will be expelled in 2029. Turning his oust into a prophecy for 2029 elections, he warned that political precedent cuts both ways.

His comments are seeing as parting shot, not at the Legislature that expelled him, but at the Executive Mansion.

“You will be expelled, too, 2029,” Kolubah told a crowd of supporters and reporters outside his residence Saturday, directly addressing President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. “The same way they used power to carry me out, the Liberian people will use their power to carry you out. This is not finished. This is just the beginning.”

The remark, made one day before the Supreme Court’s scheduled conference on his expulsion, reframes his removal from a personal defeat into a political prediction. With Liberia’s next presidential election set for 2029, Kolubah is casting his case as Exhibit A in what he calls the Unity Party government’s intolerance for dissent — and warning that voters remember.

Kolubah’s expulsion was finalized by the House of Representatives on April 17 after the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration recommended his removal over comments he made about the Liberia–Guinea border dispute.

The House voted despite two Supreme Court communications ordering Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon and other officials to “halt all further proceedings and actions” pending a judicial conference on April 20 before Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba.

Kolubah had asked for 5 days to secure constitutional lawyers; the committee gave him two days.

When his legal team, including former Associate Justice Kabineh Ja’neh, was barred from speaking during the hearing, Kolubah walked out, declaring: “Capitol Building is not my house... I am prepared for anything. The battle has started.”

By Saturday, he was out of office but back on the offensive.

in a rather direct electoral threat, Kolubah told President Boakai that the same public that elected him in 2023 can remove him in 2029.

He’s positioning his expulsion as proof that the UP-led government uses state power against critics, a message designed to mobilize opposition voters.

Recall that ANC leader Alexander Cummings made a similar point, saying “Expelling Yekeh will not change the price of gasoline... It will only soothe some egos, cost taxpayers more money, and further undermine our young democracy.”

Kolubah argues that if the House can expel a lawmaker in defiance of the Supreme Court, then no official is safe from irregular process. “Today it’s me. Tomorrow it could be a senator, a minister. Even a president can be carried out without law,” he told supporters.

Former Solicitor General Tiawan Saye Gongloe echoed the process concern, saying the Legislature “is not a criminal court” and that irregular expulsion creates precedent. By invoking 2029, Kolubah signals he isn’t done with politics. If the Supreme Court voids his expulsion, he returns to the House. If not, he can run in the by-election his removal triggers. A win would be read as voter rejection of the expulsion itself.

“Expulsion by the House, election by the people,” one supporter shouted. “Let’s see which one is stronger.”

Legally, President Boakai did not expel Kolubah, it is the House of Representative that did, under Article 38.

But Kolubah’s team is drawing a political line from the Executive Mansion to the Capitol.

President Boakai called the special legislative session running through April 23 that allowed the fast-track investigation. He also publicly warned that “lot will happen” as the Kolubah saga unfolded.

To Kolubah’s base, that makes Boakai the architect of the process, even if not the executor.

“The House is the hand. The Executive is the head,” Kolubah said Saturday.

The Presidency has not responded directly to Kolubah’s 2029 comment. The Executive Mansion’s last statement on a related matter was on Prince Johnson’s death, stressing respect for institutions and mourning.

For Boakai: Kolubah’s expulsion was meant to remove a disruptive voice. But if it becomes a rallying cry, it could backfire. Liberia’s economy still faces double-digit inflation — 11.1% in Q2 2025 — and import cover of just 2.1 months.

Cummings warned that a by-election wastes money when “we lack the resources for such an exercise.” If voters see expulsion as misplaced priorities, “You will be expelled, too, 2029” becomes a campaign slogan.

The Supreme Court conference on April 20 would determine if he has legal standing. If Justice Kaba rules the House violated the stay order, Kolubah returns as a vindicated figure. If the Court sides with the House or declines jurisdiction, he must win at the ballot box to return.

His “2029” line bets that public opinion will be on his side regardless of the legal outcome.

Liberia has never seen a sitting lawmaker expelled in open defiance of a Supreme Court stay order. It also hasn’t seen an expelled lawmaker immediately frame his removal as a prediction of the president’s defeat three years out.

Kolubah’s statement collapses the timeline as his 2026 expulsion is now a 2029 campaign issue, telling Pres. Boakai that the same state power used to remove him can be trumped by voter power in 2029.

But observers say whether that’s prophecy or provocation depends on two things, what the Supreme Court says on April 20, and what voters say in 2029.

Until then, Kolubah is out of the House but not out of the fight. And he’s put the president on notice: in Liberian politics, expulsion isn’t always the last word.

Kolubah lost his seat but gained a message. “You will be expelled, too, 2029” turns his defeat into a deadline — and dares Boakai to prove him wrong at the polls.

Othello Sarweh Nimely

NO FEAR FOR COURT

The controversial expulsion of Montserrado County District #10 Representative, Yekeh Kolubah, has triggered a wave of political backlash, raising serious concerns about transparency, inequality, and respect for the rule of law within Liberia’s public sector, particularly the House of Representatives.

The decision, reportedly linked to statements made regarding the Makona River boundary dispute, has drawn reactions from legal experts, fellow legislators, and residents of District #10. Many observers argue that the manner and procedure used to remove Kolubah were not only questionable but potentially unconstitutional.

Critics widely believe that the expulsion was carried out outside the legal framework governing the Legislature. Some have accused members of the House of acting out of self-interest, suggesting that Kolubah’s removal was politically motivated, driven by his persistent criticism of the Executive and his allegations of corruption within the Legislature.

Renowned legal expert and political leader, Tiawan Saye Gongloe, has strongly condemned the House’s action, describing it as a clear violation of Liberia’s Constitution. In a recent statement, Gongloe emphasized that the expulsion contravenes Article 15(c), which guarantees the public’s right to be informed about the activities of government and its officials. He also cited the Kamara A. Kamara Law, a key legal instrument protecting freedom of expression.

Gongloe warned that such actions could accelerate democratic erosion, urging public officials not to forget Liberia’s painful history, including the 1980 Liberian coup d’état and the fourteen years of civil war. “When people are denied the right to speak, they eventually lose faith in lawful means of expression. That path must never be repeated.”

He cautioned.

GONGLOE INSISTS

By Jamesetta D Williams

As the rigmarole surrounding the expulsion of Yekeh Kolubah from the House of Representatives continues unabated, prominent Liberian legal scholar and human rights advocate Tiawan Saye Gongloe has insisted that the expulsion of lame-duck Rep. Kolubah does not meet any standards of law, describing the decision as unconstitutional and a threat to Liberia’s democratic principles.

The erudite lawyer, in a strongly worded statement titled “Law Must Be Above Politics: A Constitutional Advice to Liberia’s House of Representatives,” argued that the Legislature’s action raises serious concerns about the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights under the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

According to Cllr. Gongloe, the expulsion of Kolubah reportedly for expressing views on the Makona River boundary dispute goes beyond internal discipline and instead reflects a broader constitutional violation. He emphasized that Liberia must remain governed by law, not political sentiment.

“The issue is not whether Hon. Kolubah was right or wrong,” Gongloe stated. “The issue is whether Liberia continues to function as a constitutional democracy where law governs political action.”

Citing Articles 14, 15, and 11(c) of the Constitution, Gongloe underscored that freedom of thought, expression, and equal protection under the law are guaranteed rights that apply to all branches of government, including the Legislature.

He further referenced rulings by the Supreme Court of Liberia, including Wolo v. Wolo and Morlu v. House of Representatives, which affirm that legislative authority must not infringe upon fundamental rights.

Gongloe argued that Kolubah’s statement alleging that parts of the disputed Makona River area may belong to Guinea may be

Adding to the controversy are allegations of forgery within the House. Bomi County District #3 Representative, Samuel Jallah, has publicly denied signing any document supporting Kolubah’s removal, claiming that a signature attributed to him is fraudulent. Similarly, Montserrado County District #17 Representative, Bernard Benson, has also distanced himself from the process, insisting he did not endorse the decision. These claims have raised troubling questions about the integrity and legitimacy of the expulsion proceedings.

The situation became even more contentious following reports that the Supreme Court of Liberia had issued a stay order halting all actions related to Kolubah’s removal a day before it was executed. While lawmakers claimed they had not received the court’s directive, a signed copy of the writ later surfaced on social media-fueling allegations that the Legislature may have acted in defiance of judicial authority.

On the ground of district #10, angers are mounting. Residents who spoke to journalists over the weekend expressed strong dissatisfaction with the decision, warning that they will protests if their representative is not reinstated. Many argue that lawmakers should prioritize resolving national problems, including creating jobs.

Citizens also raised concerns over the cost of a potential by-election warning that citizens are already facing hardship; they don’t want the government to spend unnecessary money on elections.

Kolubah has vowed to challenge his expulsion through legal means. At a press conference on Sunday, he announced plans to seek redress before the Supreme Court, setting the stage for a constitutional battle.

As tensions continue to rise, the spotlight now turns to the Supreme Court whose decision could bring an end to this matter.

controversial but does not constitute a criminal offense.

“It is not treason, it does not incite violence, and it violates no law,” he said.

He also questioned the logic behind the expulsion, noting that national boundaries are determined through treaties and international law, not by the opinion of a single legislator.

Drawing comparisons with other democracies, Gongloe highlighted examples from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, South Africa, and India, where lawmakers have expressed controversial views without facing expulsion. He argued that dissent and open debate are essential components of democratic governance.

The legal expert further stressed that Kolubah’s statement was made outside the Legislature, meaning it falls under his rights as a citizen.

He added that even statements made within the Legislature are protected under Article 42 of the Constitution, which grants lawmakers immunity for official acts and speech within legislative chambers.

Gongloe warned that the House’s action could set a dangerous precedent, potentially leading to the suppression of dissent and undermining recent legal reforms such as the Kamara A. Kamara Law, which decriminalized offenses like sedition and criminal libel.

He also linked the issue to Liberia’s history, referencing the 1980 Liberian coup d’état and subsequent civil conflict, noting that restrictions on free speech contributed to past instability.

As a way forward, Gongloe called on President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to establish a special commission of inquiry to address the Makona River boundary dispute and provide clarity based on facts and international law.

ASST. MINISTER JABATEH



currently occupies the Assistant Minister position worked under Jabateh as director, and is a close confidant of the minister proper. Jabateh is said to be in the position owing to the fact that the new nominated Assistant Minister has not been confirmed by the Senate that is on break. Upon the Senate’s return and the gentleman in question is confirmed, Jabateh will completely be out of the picture. Apparently, this is one reason the issue of undermine is being suggested in Jabateh’s case, that someone wants him out of the position for reasons best known to them. Besides, this paper gathered from sources that Mr. Jabateh’s efforts to draw attention to his case involved a good number of people close to the Presidency. According to sources, Jabateh communicated to National Security Advisor, Kofi Woods, Deputy Minister of State, Mamakah Bility, Political Advisor, Macdella Cooper, Minister of State, Sam Steve Quioh, and others, seeking their intervention in the matter. He is reportedly yet to get redress, thus leaving him frustrated and traumatized. Though this paper could reach the officials concerned, however, the question remains why none of them has ever invited Mr. Jabateh to ask him the hard questions.

Alleged unfair treatment
Prior to these developments, it is gathered all is not being too well with him, in terms of how he should be treated as an Assistant Minister. Jabateh confirmed that he is not being given an official vehicle, and uses his own vehicle or, at times, rented vehicle to get to work. He also disclosed that he personally financed repairs of the air conditioner in his office, bought his own office furniture, and did so many things for office use from his own pocket. On many occasions, his requests had been turned down by concerned authorities for unexplained reasons. There is tight connection between his position being taken away and the alleged unfair treatments meted out against him, according to sources. One possible factor being considered

by sources is what they termed “Jabateh’s outshine of his boss” in the execution of his functions. Using his connections, Minister Jabateh met some Muslim Philanthropists in Egypt, who promised to provide two buses to him. The Minister, in return, promised to donate the buses to aid the work of city mayors.

Reaching out to the President
This paper could not independently establish whether Mr. Jabateh met President Boakai in person to convey his sentiments on the matter at bar - his tacit removal from the position of Assistant Minister to a new position that literally does not exist. However, it is gathered from sources that the under-fire Minister met the President on other matters of concern to him, far before this matter unfolded. It is alleged that one of the meetings was at the Roberts International Airport, during one of the President’s official trips. During those interactions, the President reportedly assured him that he would make intervention. Two years down the line, none of those commitments have been met, this paper learned, though unverified.

Who is Mike Jabateh
Before joining the Unity Party prior to the 2023 elections, Jabateh was a bonafide member of the former ruling Congress for Democratic (CDC), where he played a pivotal role in pushing the party’s grassroots agenda. It is gathered from CDC officials that former President gave Jabateh a pickup for endorsing Thomas Fallah during one of the elections that kept him at the National Legislature, representing District Five. He resigned from the CDC due to policy differences and joined ranks with the UP, becoming one of the frontliners for the party’s quest to unseat the CDC during the 2023 elections. UP officials referred to him as “general” in recognition of the sacrifices he made, going from village to village in Nimba and other strategic counties, propagating the party’s “Rescue Agenda.” However, under the administration of the party for which he went against the CDC, Jabateh is facing problem with his position, and is not getting needed attention to redress. Considering the weight of the problem, Jabateh is growing frustrated, and according to sources close to him, he may resign any time soon, if the situation is not resolved. Whether his situation is a result of mere internal policy shift or the configuration of the new ministry, or an act of undermine for personal reasons will foretell what happens next. As it is, Mr. Jabateh is in the state of stress, needing answers to the matter that has evoked memories of what has happened to other supporters of the UP.

GOV'T WAIVES MVTC FEES

take immediate effect for an initial period of 12 months. According to the Minister, the initiative is part of a broader effort to reposition vocational training as a practical pathway for youth empowerment and job creation. She noted that students who had previously paid for uniforms will have those funds credited toward their graduation fees. “This is about removing obstacles and giving young people the opportunity to gain skills without the burden of extra costs,” Kruah said. The Ministry also announced additional support measures to improve learning conditions at the institution. These include plans to procure a bus for student transportation and the introduction of a monthly transportation allowance of US\$100 for instructors to enhance attendance and operational efficiency. Delivering the keynote address, Samuel A. Stevquoah, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and Chief of Staff

to the President, commended the initiative and described it as a critical step in strengthening Liberia’s human capital. Speaking on behalf of the President, Stevquoah officially launched the free materials and uniforms program and pledged the government’s commitment to providing a 64-seater bus to address transportation challenges faced by students. He also praised Minister Kruah’s leadership, highlighting her commitment to youth development and skills training across the country. The reform at MVTC forms part of the government’s wider agenda to improve access to education, promote skills development, and create opportunities for young Liberians to enter the workforce with practical competencies. Officials say the initiative is expected to boost enrollment, reduce dropout rates, and position vocational education as a viable alternative to traditional academic pathways.

MCC, NEWARK SIGN



populations. Officials described the initiative as a strategic move to address shared urban challenges such as climate change, migration, and infrastructure development through collaboration and exchange of ideas. Speaking during the ceremony, leaders emphasized that the partnership goes beyond symbolism and is expected to deliver tangible benefits for residents of both cities. Monrovia, known for its vibrant culture and youthful population, is expected to leverage the relationship to strengthen local development efforts, while Newark brings experience in innovation and urban governance. As part of the partnership, Newark has already provided support to Monrovia through the donation of two containers of medical and school supplies, along with additional logistical assistance currently being coordinated for

shipment. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and Deputy Mayor Ligia DeFrees were recognized for their roles in facilitating the agreement, alongside members of the Newark City Council. The contribution of the Liberian diaspora community in Newark was also highlighted, with special acknowledgment given to Mersony Grant for her continued support in strengthening ties between the two cities. Officials say the agreement is expected to open doors for sustained collaboration, knowledge sharing, and development initiatives that will directly benefit citizens in both Monrovia and Newark. The Sister City partnership underscores a growing trend of city-to-city diplomacy aimed at delivering practical solutions to global and local challenges.

MARYLAND TENSE



political hostility in the county, fueled largely by exchanges on social media and deepening divisions within communities.

“It goes without saying that toxic politics have taken over our county. It’s visible on Facebook and in action on the ground,” Prowd stated. “Public condemnations, insults, and sometimes threats to one another have become the order of the day.”

His comments come amid a noticeable rise in online confrontations between supporters of emerging political camps, as early alignments begin to form ahead of the 2029 general and presidential elections. Observers say these tensions are gradually spilling over into communities, raising concerns about long-term unity and stability in the county.

Reflecting on past interventions, Prowd recalled a peace initiative led by the late Bishop Boniface Nyema Dalieh, who once convened members of the Maryland County Legislative Caucus to address similar political divisions.

“This takes my mind far back to the time of late Bishop Boniface Nyema Dalieh when he called and assembled members of our County Legislative Caucus to a peace talk,” Prowd said. “The situation today appears even more complex and requires urgent, collective action.”

He emphasized the need for credible leadership to spearhead a similar initiative and suggested that a Maryland Peace Conference could serve as a platform for dialogue, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

While no official date, organizing body, or framework for the proposed conference has been announced, Prowd urged stakeholders, including political leaders, traditional authorities, civil society groups, and religious institutions to begin discussions toward making it a reality.

“Let us ponder on these questions and advance a way forward to ease and calm tensions that have characterized divisions, hate, indiscipline, and disrespect amongst us,” he added. “We must never forget Maryland County is all we have. I come in

peace.”

The proposal has since generated a wave of reactions on social media, reflecting both support and skepticism among citizens.

Mark Thompson welcomed the initiative, stressing the importance of unity and patriotism.

“We, as Marylanders, need to take this into consideration. Patriotism is the most amazing thing any citizen can offer to his or her county. Our county has been polluted by political leaders who claim to be honest and trustworthy,” Thompson said.

Similarly, Alfred Toe Wilson endorsed the call, emphasizing the urgency of reconciliation.

“My people, there is no special time for reconciliation or conferences. We as Marylanders need to act now. I don’t want us to shift blame. Reconciliation is the key to unity,” Wilson stated.

However, not all responses were supportive. Tumu Boniface Nelson questioned Prowd’s past leadership, referencing an allegation involving the rejection of hospital equipment during his tenure.

“Did you call for a conference when you, as Superintendent, refused hospital equipment that could have been used by our people?” Nelson asked.

In response, Prowd dismissed the claim as misinformation, clarifying that the issue in question involved campaign activities on the grounds of J.J. Dossen Hospital, not the rejection of medical equipment.

“Firstly, your information is wrong. There was no hospital equipment involved at the time. The Rescue Mission went on the hospital grounds to campaign, and our position was that the hospital premises were not appropriate for political activities,” Prowd explained.

He further defended his record, noting that his administration held multiple citizens’ meetings to resolve disputes, including tribal tensions, land conflicts, and boundary issues across the county.

“My witnesses are citizens across the length and breadth of the county. You can call from your residence in Europe to ask what kind of superintendent I was,” he added.

Prowd also expressed concern over resistance to the idea of dialogue.

“It is puzzling to see persons opposing a peace conference. Should it be about war before we agree that we need to talk peace?” he asked.

As discussions continue, some community observers are calling on current county officials, members of the Legislative Caucus, and local leaders to publicly respond to the proposal and take steps toward initiating broader consultations.

With the 2029 elections still years away but political alignments already emerging, many believe early intervention through dialogue could play a crucial role in preventing deeper divisions and preserving peace in Maryland County.

BOAKAI COMMISSIONS PLASTIC RECYCLING PLANT

-Breaks Ground for Steel Expansion in Monrovia

By Jamesetta D Williams

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has officially commissioned the Duraplast Plastic Recycling Plant and broken ground for the Phase II expansion of the Sethi Ferro Fabrik Steel Plant at the Monrovia Industrial Park, marking a major step in Liberia’s push toward sustainable development and industrial growth.

The event, held on April 17, brought together senior government officials, development partners, and private sector actors, highlighting a growing collaboration aimed at addressing environmental challenges while creating economic opportunities.

In his remarks, President Boakai reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to environmental sustainability, job creation, and private sector-led development. He stressed the need for Liberia to transition from wastefulness to productivity by converting environmental challenges into drivers of economic growth.

“These initiatives reflect our determination to build a cleaner, more productive Liberia while empowering our young people and strengthening local industry,” the President said.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Liberia, Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo, described the project as a direct response to the global “triple planetary crisis” of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

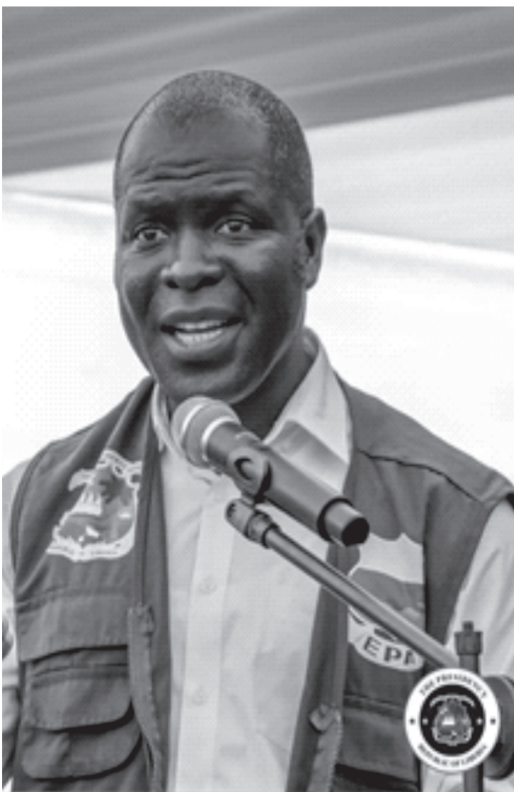
He noted that plastic waste remains a major environmental issue in Liberia, contributing to clogged drainage systems, soil degradation, and water pollution.

According to him, the project aligns with the country’s 2024 National Solid Waste Management Policy, which promotes private sector investment in recycling and waste-to-energy initiatives.

The Duraplast facility, developed by the Sethi Group of Companies, is expected to process up to 600 metric tons of plastic waste monthly.

It will convert materials such as water sachets, bottles, and containers into locally manufactured products, including pipes, buckets, and chairs, in support of the government’s “Buy Liberia” initiative.

The plant is equipped with



environmentally friendly systems, including a closed-loop water filtration process to prevent chemical discharge into the Mesurado River and high-efficiency thermal systems designed to minimize air emissions.

Beyond environmental benefits, the project is expected to generate over 200 direct jobs and more than 1,000 indirect livelihood opportunities, particularly for youth and women engaged in waste collection and recycling activities.

Dr. Yarkpawolo further disclosed that similar initiatives are underway, including a waste-to-energy project in Bensonville by Green Guard Eco Solution, as well as an organic waste composting facility in Fiamah established in collaboration with the Monrovia City Corporation and international partners.

He commended the Sethi Group for its investment, describing the project as a turning point in Liberia’s shift from traditional waste management to a circular economy and green industrialization.

“This is not just a plant; it is a symbol of a new direction for Liberia where waste becomes wealth and environmental protection drives economic transformation,” he said.

The commissioning of the recycling plant and the steel plant expansion underscore Liberia’s broader efforts to modernize its industrial sector, improve environmental management, and strengthen its position within the regional and global economy.

Lafa General Assembly Marks Significant Milestone for Liberia's Fisheries Sector



The Liberia Artisanal Fisheries Association (LAFA) has achieved a historic milestone with its General Assembly, the first in over twenty years aimed at uniting key stakeholders in a national effort to enhance governance and shape the future of Liberia's fisheries sector. The assembly drew a diverse group of participants, including distinguished guests, development partners, governmental representatives, co-sponsors, and community members from both coastal and inland fishing areas. Together, they reiterated their commitment to building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient fisheries sector that will boost livelihoods, improve food security, and foster economic growth in Liberia. While the assembly included elections for various leadership roles, officials emphasized that its purpose extended beyond simply transitioning leadership. It served as a crucial opportunity for participants to reflect on past achievements, tackle current challenges, and lay out a strategic vision for the future. A primary focus of the discussions was the necessity for credible, transparent, and representative leadership capable of advocating effectively for artisanal fishers on both national and international fronts. Additionally, the assembly aimed to strengthen unity among stakeholders and encourage collaboration among fishing communities, government entities, and development organizations. Key topics on the agenda included resource sustainability, climate resilience, market access, and capacity building. Organizers framed the General Assembly as a renewed commitment to inclusive governance and sustainable development within the fisheries sector, viewing it as a pivotal moment for establishing a more structured and empowered fisheries community in Liberia. During the assembly, Derek Adonai, Program Manager of the CERATH Development Organization, welcomed government officials, fisheries stakeholders, civil society members, and the media, emphasizing the importance of the three-day event for the future of the fisheries sector. He conveyed greetings from CERATH and the Liberia Fisheries Governance Project (LFGP), funded by the European Union, and commended LAFA's vital role in advancing

fisheries governance with the assembly's theme: "Strengthening fisheries governance for a sustainable and inclusive blue economy in Liberia." Adonai stressed the importance of collaborative efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources, highlighting that effective governance, accountability, and community empowerment are essential for the sector's success. He mentioned ongoing support for local governance initiatives, including the formation of the Sinoe Collaborative Management Association to enhance community engagement in fisheries management. Recognizing the assembly's significance, Adonai called it an embodiment of governance fostering inclusivity, accountability, and cooperative decision-making for the benefit of the fisheries sector. He noted that the assembly marked a crucial step for LAFA, with national elections contributing to the institutional democracy that would enhance representation for artisanal fishermen across Liberia. Newly elected president Jerry Blamo has pledged to work in the best interests of Liberian fishermen and the nation as a whole. Blamo emphasized that his leadership would focus on fairness and inclusivity, promising to advocate for a bill at the House of Representatives aimed at advancing the interests of Liberian fishermen and the fishing sector. The elections held during the assembly resulted in the following leadership appointments: Mr. Jerry N. Blamo - President, Mr. Sam Bedford - Vice President, Mr. Lewis Giwlah - Director for County Coordinators, Mr. James J. Logan - Secretary General, Vivian P. Karl - Financial Secretary, Mary Tumu - National Treasurer, Annette Johnson - National Chairlady, Marie Kollie - National Youth Coordinator. Additionally, the following officials were appointed: Theresa S. Kangba - Assistant Secretary, Rebecca Sonpon - Procurement Officer, Oretha Setro - Sinoe County Chairlady. The LAFA First General Assembly took place from April 15–17, 2026, in Greenville City, Sinoe County, with hopes that its outcomes will lead to a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous blue economy in Liberia.

Boakai Dedicates 'JNB Decentralization Building' Vows Accountability and Reform in Local Governance



By Stephanie M. Duncan

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has officially launched and dedicated the newly constructed Ministry of Local Government headquarters, named the JNB Decentralization Building, in a move aimed at strengthening accountability and improving governance across Liberia's counties. Speaking during the dedication ceremony in Monrovia, President Boakai described the new facility as a cornerstone of his administration's decentralization agenda, emphasizing that it will enhance oversight of local authorities and ensure that county leaders remain accountable to the central government. "The era of doing things the old way is no longer acceptable in the new Liberia," the President declared. "We will ensure that Liberia is transformed so that its citizens can benefit right here at home. We can achieve everything we need within Liberia if we commit ourselves to building the country." The President urged Liberians to remain focused on national development and not be distracted by external criticisms. "Do not mind those outside the country who seek to distract you from contributing to national transformation. They are not here—we are. It is our responsibility to

ensure that progress is sustained," he said. Beyond the commissioning of the building, President Boakai used the occasion to defend what he described as necessary "drastic actions" taken against some public officials. He said such measures are intended to reinforce discipline and stability within government institutions. "No one serves the public with a sense of entitlement," he stated. "Service delivery remains the hallmark of governance, and our intentions are clear—to ensure transparency, accountability, and public trust." The Liberian leader stressed that government must prioritize citizens above personal interests, warning that his administration will not hesitate to act against officials who fail to uphold their responsibilities. "The public must be served, not the other way around. We will remain intentional about delivering for the people," he added. President Boakai concluded by thanking dignitaries, government officials, and citizens who attended the ceremony, reaffirming his administration's commitment to decentralization as a pathway to inclusive development and improved public service delivery across Liberia.

World Puzzle Game

Board Games Word Search

P	R	Z	K	E	M	A	G	N	U	E	H	T	K
S	Y	S	G	S	M	O	N	O	P	O	L	Y	P
T	I	S	R	S	C	R	A	B	B	L	E	R	P
R	B	B	T	E	D	I	P	L	O	M	A	C	Y
A	L	A	A	H	K	V	A	D	T	W	S	I	T
T	H	I	T	C	G	C	E	R	A	W	O	S	I
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G	V	K	K	B	L	G	A	H	L	B	A	E	T
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C	N	G	O	G	D	X	P	H	M	E	R	R	I
D	A	G	G	R	A	V	A	T	I	O	N	A	O
I	H	O	K	I	S	I	H	C	A	P	N	P	H
G	B	L	D	N	I	M	R	E	T	S	A	M	Z

AGGRAVATION
BACKGAMMON
BATTLESHIP
BLACK BOX
BOGGLE
CHECKERS

CHES
CLUEDO
DAMAH
DIPLOMACY
DRAUGHTS
GOMOKU

HAVANNAH
HOITY TOITY
MASTERMIND
MONOPOLY
OWARE
PACHISI

PARCHEESI
RISK
SCRABBLE
STRATEGO
TAFEL
THE UNGAME

DIRECTIONS: Find and highlight the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

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GOV'T WAIVES MVTC FEES

The Liberian government through the Ministry of Youth and Sports Liberia has announced a major policy shift at the Monrovia Vocational Training Center aimed at expanding access to technical and vocational education by eliminating key financial barriers for students. At the official launch held in Monrovia, Minister Cornelia W. Kruah revealed that all fees associated with training materials and uniforms at MVTC have been abolished. The reform, approved by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, will



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MCC, NEWARK SIGN HISTORIC SISTER CITY AGREEMENT

The Monrovia City Corporation and the City of Newark have formalized a historic Sister City Agreement aimed at strengthening cooperation across key sectors including education, youth empowerment, public safety, and climate resilience. The agreement was officially signed at Newark City Hall, marking a new chapter of partnership between the two cities, both recognized for their cultural diversity and dynamic



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ASST. MINISTER JABATEH FEELS ABANDONED

-As No One 'Giving' Him Attention; A Matter Of Undermine?

As it stands, the fate of Assistant Minister Mike Jabateh hangs in the balance as he is fighting for his status within the newly created Ministry of Local Government. Due to the silence greeting his situation, he feels abandoned by the very people who celebrated as ‘general’ some times ago. Prior to the creation of the Local Government Ministry, Jabateh has been serving as Assistant Minister for Urban Affairs under the transmogrified Ministry of Internal Affairs, serving as engine of the Ministry’s effectiveness and connection to local municipal authorities. But status, condition, portfolio all changed with Mr. Jabateh under the new arrangement, leaving him confused, traumatized and unsettled as he does not know what is stake and why he is being treated in such outlandish manner that does not march his service and contributions to the government.



But Is It A Matter of Undermine?

Amid the unfolding developments, questions abound as to whether Jabateh is a victim of sustained undermining by his own bosses - be within the Local Government Ministry itself or the Executive Mansion. In social media video at the weekend, Jabateh voiced frustration over the situation, while also narrated series of efforts made to find answers from concerned authorities, including his boss, Minister Francis S. Nyumalin. During an interaction, his boss told him “you know, you are good in peace building and conflict resolution, so he will find one pastor and Eman to work with you in the Peace-building Office.” However, Mr. Jabateh has detected a network of undermine against him, directly pointing figure at one Minister Mulbah. Without disclosing the Minister’s direct role in the matter, he emphasized in an interview, “There is one element, there is one element.” This paper also learned that the gentleman who



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MARYLAND TENSE

-Fmr. Superintendent Prowd Proposes Peace Confab

By: Emmanuel Tobotinho Quiah

Rising political tension in Maryland County has claimed the attention of former Superintendent George A. Prowd, calling for a county-wide peace conference in order to ease and ameliorate the situation. All is not rosy in the County in terms of peace, unity and reconciliation ahead of the 2029 elections, but Prowd’s proposal has sparked mixed reactions among citizens. [In a statement issued on recently, Prowd raised alarm over what he described as increasing