

'LIBERIA WILL LOSE, IF...'

-VP Koung On Contracts Cancellation

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**AFL RECRUITMENT SPARKS
EDUCATION, DISCIPLINE ARGUMENT**



PAGE: 10

**HOUSE REVISES VOTING
HOURS FROM 8AM TO 4PM**
 -As It Passes Major Amendments To Elections Law

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA



**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIA DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**



DATE
April 27, 2026

BUYING
L\$182.8946/1.00

SELLING
L\$185.0104/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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LRA DONATES MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO DUPORT ROAD HEALTH CENTER



By Stephanie M. Duncan

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has donated assorted medical supplies to the Duport Road Health Center as part of activities marking Taxpayers Appreciation Month 2026. The donation, made under the LRA’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, is aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery at the community level while recognizing the vital role taxpayers play in national development. Presenting the items, the Authority said the gesture reflects the institution’s commitment not only to revenue generation but also to giving back to communities that contribute to the country’s growth through tax compliance. According to the Authority, the Taxpayers Appreciation Month serves as an opportunity to

acknowledge and celebrate individuals and businesses whose contributions support public services, including healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Officials at the Duport Road Health Center welcomed the donation, noting that the supplies will help improve service delivery and address some of the facility’s immediate needs. The LRA emphasized that it will continue to undertake similar initiatives across the country as part of its broader effort to build trust with taxpayers and promote a culture of voluntary compliance. The initiative highlights the direct impact of tax contributions on community development, reinforcing the message that paying taxes plays a crucial role in improving the quality of life for all Liberians.

NOCAL EQUIPS JUDGES IN OIL AND GAS TRAINING



Company of Liberia (NOCAL), with its President and Chief Executive Officer underscoring the critical role of the Liberian judiciary in safeguarding the nation’s petroleum resources. Fabian Michael Lai comments were contained in brief statement delivered when he officially opened a groundbreaking three-day oil and gas training for judges in Ganta, Nimba County. Lai described the training as a historic day for Liberia during the gathering of members of the judiciary, including Chief Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, former Chief Justice Gloria Maya Musu-Scott, judges of circuit and specialized courts, and other distinguished guests. “This is something that has never been done in the history of our country,” Lai declared. “We are preparing our judges for the legal and economic realities of Liberia’s emerging oil and gas sector.” He emphasized that as Liberia moves closer to potential commercial oil production, the judiciary must be equipped to handle the complex legal, financial, and contractual disputes that often accompany natural resource development. According to Lai, the training is designed to

provide judges with a comprehensive understanding of the petroleum industry from the science of oil and gas exploration to the intricate legal frameworks governing resource ownership, licensing, taxation, and dispute resolution. Over the three-day session, participants will explore Liberia’s petroleum exploration history, the acquisition and transfer of petroleum rights, governance and transparency issues, and the fiscal structures that determine how revenues are shared between the state and investors. Lai stressed that judges must be prepared to interpret highly technical petroleum agreements, scrutinize financial arrangements, and ensure that Liberia’s natural resources are managed in the best interests of its citizens. “The Constitution makes clear that natural resources belong to the Liberian people,” he said. “Judges must be ready to ensure that the people’s wealth is protected and that no agreement undermines the nation’s laws or sovereignty.” He also highlighted the importance of understanding key contractual provisions such as stabilization clauses, force majeure, indemnity, assignment, and change-of-control clauses, noting that these provisions often become central points of contention in petroleum-related disputes. Warning of the challenges that frequently accompany oil development, Lai noted that multinational corporations often bring significant legal and financial resources to negotiations and litigation. However, he expressed confidence that a well-prepared Liberian judiciary can effectively uphold the rule of law.

“They may underestimate Liberia, but they will be wrong,” Lai said. “Our judges are preparing themselves to meet these challenges with knowledge, integrity, and confidence.” He further urged members of the judiciary to remain steadfast in their constitutional duty to administer justice without fear or favor, particularly as Liberia stands on the threshold of potential oil wealth. “The oil is coming,” Lai stated. “And when it does, the courts will play a decisive role in ensuring that these resources benefit the Liberian people.” Lai cautioned that petroleum companies may seek to move disputes outside Liberia through international arbitration mechanisms, but stressed the importance of asserting Liberia’s jurisdiction where appropriate. “This is not about nationalism,” he said. “It is about the rule of law and ensuring that disputes involving Liberia’s resources are handled in accordance with Liberian law.” He concluded by encouraging judges to actively engage in the training, ask difficult questions, and fully embrace the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the oil and gas sector. “We are not here to tell judges how to rule,” Lai said. “We are here to ensure that when they do rule, they do so with full knowledge, sharp minds, and clear consciences.” The training marks a significant step in Liberia’s efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and prepare key state actors for the legal and governance challenges associated with petroleum development.

By Jamesetta D Williams

Several Liberian judges have received fresh knowledge from a oil and gas training organized by the National Oil

By Stephanie M. Duncan

In an initiative intended to boost and strength operational capacity across the country, the Ministry of Public Works Liberia has announced the arrival of sixteen brand-new pick-up vehicles. The ministry in a statement issued Monday said fifteen of the vehicles will be deployed—one to each of Liberia’s counties—for use by Resident Engineers, while the remaining unit will be retained for general utility purposes at the central office. The move is aimed at improving mobility and oversight of road construction, maintenance, and other public infrastructure projects nationwide. Officials say the deployment will enhance supervision, speed up response times, and ensure that ongoing works in the counties are

more effectively monitored. The Ministry noted that Resident Engineers often face logistical challenges in accessing project sites, particularly in remote areas. The addition of the new vehicles is expected to ease those constraints and support more consistent field presence. Authorities at Public Works emphasized that strengthening county-level operations remains a priority, as the government continues efforts to improve road connectivity and infrastructure development across Liberia. The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to delivering quality services and ensuring that development projects are executed efficiently for the benefit of citizens in all 15 counties.

PUBLIC WORKS STRENGTHENS COUNTY OPERATIONS WITH NEW VEHICLES



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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:

Hello to you all from where your lives were cut short from sicknesses less expected of taking you away - curable sicknesses as simple as they are our hospitals can't handle. This is the problem of the country from time to time, even when incoming ruling parties promise to be different from the ones deposed. It will surprise you all, hearing that plenty of your countrymen and women are dying, going to the great beyond for plenty reasons, including lack of trained medical doctors to treat their conditions, no medication for their health conditions, no money to underwrite their medical bills or to seek medical attention, lack of beds to admit even at the point of death, lack of attention by medical staff, as well as negligence. The whole hospital business in the country is looking pay as you call, because once you don't have money, admission is not permissible. Great ones, plenty money is put in the budget for the Ministry of health but medical facilities at empty, no essential drugs and equipment to address simple medical problems. Small salary for trained doctors is also adding to the agonizing problem. Well, how are you guys doing behind the invisible curtains? We learn that you guys have the means to see us on the other side here, but we don't. Of course, we would love to see you - as relatives, as friends - when you are gone from here, but it is hard. Anyway, we are hopeful it will get better, and that the gap will be bridged one day. We are also certain that as we are bridging the divide, all other things will fall in place, will be bridged.

By the way, what is the news from your end? We are sure our former President, William R. Tolbert, who joined you guys on April 12, 1980 is doing fine. Where is the other man who killed him? Is he there? He thought he would not go there, but he forgot to know that town trap is not for rat alone.

Well, please you guys should let him know that those on this side of the divide are indeed missing him because during his time as president, he tried to fix the country. Some of you are aware that for the short time he was president, a lot was changed. Come and take a stroll in Brewerville and see the gigantic Hotel Africa Complex he built in 1979 for the OAU Conference. It is destroyed and that is the end of story. As we write you guys, the sea has taken good parts of the huge structure which was seen as symbol of the country's infrastructural renaissance or regeneration. But it is not only that, great ones! Also come and see the famous Unity Conference Center, another landmark structure that defined Liberia's development progress. It is in ruins, and no one cares about rehabilitating it. In fact, it will surprise to learn that staff of the Ministry of State are assigned there, as part of their official functions as civil servants. They just go, sit around and at times make small cash from people who go there for wedding photos taking.

Not only that also, great ones! There are other important structures erected during his time in office but are no longer in good shape. This is how your people, governments elected to fix and maintain national assets treat them. But do you know that they put money in the budget to pay the people living within the vicinity of Hotel Africa, who they call squatters? According to them, they would use the money to pay for them so they can vacate the premises, but it is another story in reality. But do you think the money is in the budget or already expanded for quasi or ghost projects...

Great ones, it is not easy here. Your whole country is shaking once more for plenty reasons, including lawmakers expelling their colleague for "cussing" and "saying" the land problem Guinea and Liberia is not for Liberia. The expelled says your papay hand inside the whole expelling business. He said the papay will be expelled in 2029, too. So, let's wait and see.

Well, it is not the main thing we want to say here. The main thing is that the lawmakers do not respect the constitution. For any time, they are doing something and the Supreme Court tells them to hold on, they do not listen. In fact, they always insist they are a separate branch of government, they have their own rules. Yet, they often rely on the same provisions of the very constitution to carry on some actions. The Supreme Court asked them to come for a conference after their colleague's lawyers complained about the way they conducted the process to expel him. Yet, they went ahead with expelling him.

But do you also know that the President said something the other day that got some people vex and complaining.

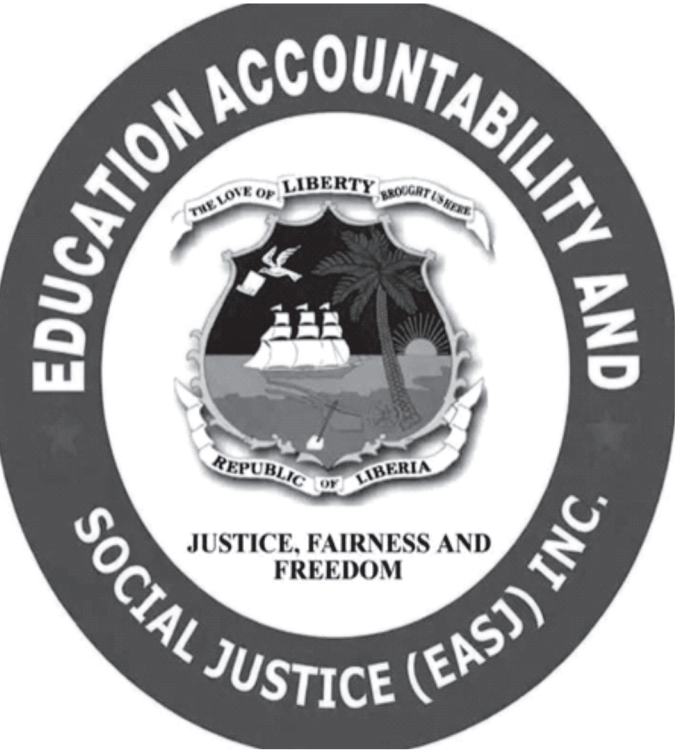
The papay said "when you going somewhere and dog is barking at you, do waste your time to control and get at the dog. Doing so will delay you." The whole statement claimed Liberian people attention, because they believed is an insult by the president. In short, they say he has referred to them as dogs because they are complaining of hardships and bad things in the country. The oldma not say swehn seh. He traveled to America for some kind of award. But some people said, something else, under it.

We want to stop here.

Thank you for your time

Talk to you next time.....

DEFENSE MINISTRY URGED TO SUSPEND LIVE STREAMING OF AFL RECRUITMENT



By Jamesetta D Williams

Hours after a video from the recruitment center of the Armed Forces of Liberia ongoing recruitment exercise went viral, calls for authorities to halt or suspend live streaming of the exercise immediately followed. The Movement for Justice, Fairness and Freedom Education Accountability and Social Justice (EASJ), Inc., a civil society organization, raised its voice against live streaming the recruitment process for it calls “national security concerns.” Apparently considering the evolving security implications of such undertaking, the CSO body said live online broadcasts of the ongoing recruitment exercise has potential national security risks and concerns over the integrity of the process. According to the organization, while transparency in public institutions remains important, the live broadcast of sensitive military recruitment

procedures could expose operational methods and compromise internal security protocols. The group warned that continued public streaming may increase risks such as manipulation of the process, impersonation of applicants, and possible security breaches during screening and verification exercises. “National defense institutions require controlled transparency, not unrestricted public exposure,” the advisory stated, emphasizing that recruitment processes involve background checks, identity verification, and other sensitive security assessments. EASJ further argued that while the public has a right to information, such access must be balanced with the need to protect national security interests and the safety of both applicants and security personnel. The organization has therefore called on the Ministry of National Defense, the High Command of the Armed Forces of Liberia, and other relevant security authorities to immediately discontinue live broadcasts of recruitment proceedings. Instead, it recommended that authorities provide summarized official updates through approved communication channels that maintain public confidence while safeguarding sensitive operational details. “Transparency must never come at the expense of national security,” the statement stressed. The advisory was issued by the Movement for Justice, Fairness and Freedom – Education Accountability and Social Justice (EASJ), Inc., and signed by its Founder and Executive Director, Amen Saakollie Sheriff. As discussions continue around the AFL recruitment exercise, the call adds to growing public debate over how Liberia balances openness in state institutions with the protection of national security and the dignity of applicants.

WB GROUP ED IN LIBERIA

– For High-Level Development Mission



The Executive Director of the World Bank Group representing Liberia and 21 other African countries, Mr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe, is expected to arrive in Monrovia on Monday, April 27, 2026, for a two-day official visit aimed at strengthening development cooperation and reviewing ongoing investment projects in Liberia. During his stay, Executive Director Kibwe will hold a series of high-level engagements with government officials, development partners, and private sector stakeholders. Key among these activities is a courtesy

call on His Excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, as well as meetings with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Hon. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, and other senior government officials. The mission will also include discussions with the World Bank Group country team, the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, and the Liberia Business Association. These engagements are expected to focus on assessing the impact of ongoing World Bank-supported projects on livelihoods, identifying implementation challenges, and exploring new investment opportunities aligned with Liberia’s national development priorities. A key emphasis of the visit will be on job creation, in line with the World Bank Group’s global strategy of promoting “more and better jobs.” Mr. Kibwe is also expected to engage private sector actors on ways to unlock domestic investment and entrepreneurship through IFC platforms and advisory support. In addition to Liberia, Mr. Kibwe serves as Executive Director for a constituency of 22 African countries, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, among others. In this role, he is responsible for representing member countries’ interests at the Boards of the World Bank Group while ensuring fiduciary oversight of institutional operations. He will be accompanied on the mission by his Senior Advisor, Dr. Plingloh Emmanuel Munyeneh, a Liberian national. The visit is expected to reinforce collaboration between Liberia and the World Bank Group as the country continues to pursue economic recovery and long-term development goals amid global economic uncertainties.

ON THIS DAY APRIL 28 EVENTS & HISTORY

- 0357 - Constantius II visited Rome for the first time.
- 1282 - Villagers in Palermo led a revolt against French rule in Sicily.
- 1635 - Virginia Governor John Harvey was accused of treason and removed from office.
- 1686 - The first volume of Isaac Newton's "Principia Mathamatic" was published.
- 1788 - Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the U.S. constitution.
- 1789 - A mutiny on the British ship Bounty took place when a rebel crew took the ship and set sail to Pitcairn Island. The mutineers left Captain W. Bligh and 18 sailors adrift.
- 1818 - U.S. President James Monroe proclaimed naval disarmament on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.
- 1896 - The Addressograph was patented by J.S. Duncan.
- 1902 - A revolution broke out in the Dominican Republic.
- 1910 - First night air flight was performed by Claude Grahame-White in England.
- 1914 - W.H. Carrier patented the design of his air conditioner.
- 1916 - The British declared martial law throughout Ireland.
- 1920 - Azerbaijan joined the USSR.
- 1923 - The British Empire Exhibition Stadium (or Empire Stadium) opened to the public.
- 1930 - The first organized night baseball game was played in Independence, Kansas.
- 1932 - The yellow fever vaccine for humans was announced.
- 1937 - The first animated-cartoon electric sign was displayed on a building on Broadway in New York City. It was created by Douglas Leight.
- 1945 - Benito Mussolini and his mistress Clara Petacci were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.
- 1946 - The Allies indicted Tojo with 55 counts of war crimes.
- 1947 - Norwegian anthropologist Thor Heyerdahl and five others set out in a balsa wood craft known as Kon Tiki to prove that Peruvian Indians could have settled in Polynesia. The trip began in Peru and took 101 days to complete the crossing of the Pacific Ocean.
- 1952 - The U.S. occupation of Japan officially ended when a treaty with the U.S. and 47 other countries went into effect.
- 1953 - French troops evacuated northern Laos.
- 1957 - Mike Wallace was seen on TV for the first time. He was the host of "Mike Wallace Interviews."
- 1959 - Arthur Godfrey was seen for the last time in the final broadcast of "Arthur Godfrey and His Friends" on CBS-TV.
- 1962 - In the Sahara Desert of Algeria, a team led by Red Adair used explosives to put out the well fire known as the Devil's Cigarette Lighter. The fire was caused by a pipe rupture on November 6, 1961.
- 1965 - The U.S. Army and Marines invaded the Dominican Republic to evacuate Americans.
- 1967 - Muhammad Ali refused induction into the U.S. Army and was stripped of boxing title. He cited religious grounds for his refusal.
- 1969 - Charles de Gaulle resigned as president of France.
- 1969 - In Santa Rosa, CA, Charles M. Schulz's Redwood Empire Ice Arena opened.
- 1985 - The largest sand castle in the world was completed near St. Petersburg, FL. It was four stories tall.
- 1988 - In Maui, HI, one flight attendant was killed when the fuselage of a Boeing 737 ripped open in mid-flight.

PERSPECTIVES

CRUISING THE APRIL APOCALYPSE

SUP GOES FOR THE FIRE
AN ANALYTICAL REFLECTION

BY SHERMAN C. SEEQUEH



April are not about chaos; they are about causation. To focus only on the disorder while ignoring the conditions that produced it is to misread history entirely. Thus, the optics being sustained by the University of Liberia students and other emerging voices are not accidental. They are deliberate reminders that Liberia stands at a crossroads—not unlike the one it faced in 1979. The difference today is that the country has the benefit of hindsight. It knows where neglect, arrogance, and suppression can lead.

Whether that knowledge will translate into wiser governance remains to be seen.

April, in its duality, continues to offer two competing meanings. To the establishment, it is a season of caution—an ominous reminder of instability. To the restless citizen, it is a season of reckoning—a platform for questioning power and demanding accountability. These meanings are not easily reconciled, and perhaps they never will be.

But one thing is certain: as long as the structural conditions that once ignited the nation persist—even in altered forms—April will never lose its relevance. It will remain a recurring signal, a national checkpoint, and, if ignored, a potential prelude.

Liberia is not reliving April by accident. It is reliving it because it has not yet resolved it.

The month of April has never been an ordinary passage in Liberia's political calendar. It is a season heavy with memory, consequence, and warning—a recurring mirror in which the nation is forced to confront its unresolved contradictions. Nearly five decades after the watershed of Rice Riots on April 14, 1979—when a mass protest against a proposed rice price increase turned violent in Monrovia, leaving dozens dead and exposing deep economic inequality—the ghosts of that upheaval have not been buried; they have merely evolved, resurfacing in new forms, new actors, and new rhetoric.

The tremors did not end there. On April 12, 1980, the 1980 Liberian coup d'état led by Master Sergeant Samuel Doe overthrew President William R. Tolbert Jr., abruptly ending over a century of Americo-Liberian political dominance. Barely ten days later, on April 22, 1980, the 1980 execution of former officials saw thirteen former government officials publicly executed—an act that signaled not reform, but the brutal consolidation of power.

There also is April 6, 1996, the cycle had deepened into full-scale national trauma. The April 6 1996 Monrovia fighting erupted as warring factions turned Monrovia into a battlefield, destroying parts of the city and reaffirming how unresolved political tensions could metastasize into violent collapse.

Today, under the leadership of President Joseph Boakai, April once again finds relevance—not as a relic of history, but as a living barometer of national stagnation and democratic strain. The actors may have changed, the language refined, and the institutions rebranded, but the underlying tensions that once ignited the streets of Monrovia remain stubbornly intact.

What is striking in this present moment is the re-emergence of student consciousness, particularly from the University of Liberia. Their posture—symbolic, vocal, and increasingly defiant—recalls a long tradition in which the student body has served as both conscience and catalyst of the nation. They are not merely protesting; they are preserving optics, reminding a forgetful society that the conditions which birthed past upheavals have not been fundamentally altered.

The resurgence of student activism, particularly through the Student Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia, deserves both acknowledgment and respect. For generations, SUP has stood as one of the most enduring platforms of ideological resistance and

civic awakening in the country—often at great cost to its members. From the days of confronting oligarchic dominance to challenging excesses in successive administrations, the movement has consistently reminded the nation that silence in the face of injustice is itself a form of complicity. Today's cohort, in raising their voices against perceived stagnation and inequality, is not acting in isolation; they are inheriting and sustaining a legacy that has long placed students at the center of Liberia's democratic conscience.

Yet, history also counsels caution. The same April that inspires activism is equally marked by moments when legitimate grievances were overtaken by escalation, miscalculation, or opportunistic infiltration. For SUP and the broader student community, the challenge is not merely to speak truth to power, but to do so with strategic discipline, moral clarity, and an unwavering commitment to peaceful engagement. The strength of their message must not be diluted by disorder, nor should their cause be hijacked by actors whose interests lie beyond reform. In navigating this delicate balance, the students carry both the burden of history and the responsibility of shaping a different outcome—one where advocacy compels change without inviting the tragic repetitions that April so often warns against.

The April narrative, therefore, is no longer confined to dates; it has become a pattern. The upheavals of 1979, the coup of 1980, the executions that followed, and the civil war fractures of 1996 were not isolated eruptions. They were consequences—products of accumulated grievances rooted in economic exclusion, political arrogance, and systemic inequity. The tragedy is not that these events occurred, but that their root causes continue to echo in contemporary governance.

In the current dispensation, there is a growing perception—rightly or wrongly—that governance has yet to decisively break from the patterns of the past. Public frustration around economic hardship, perceived elitism, and slow institutional reform mirrors the very triggers that once mobilized mass action. The rhetoric may be more measured today, but beneath it lies a familiar impatience.

The response of state institutions to dissent will ultimately define whether April remains a warning or becomes a prophecy fulfilled once more. History has shown that the manner in which governments engage citizen grievances—whether through dialogue or suppression—often determines the trajectory of national stability. Where fear replaces engagement, and where optics of control overshadow substance of reform, the seeds of confrontation are quietly sown.

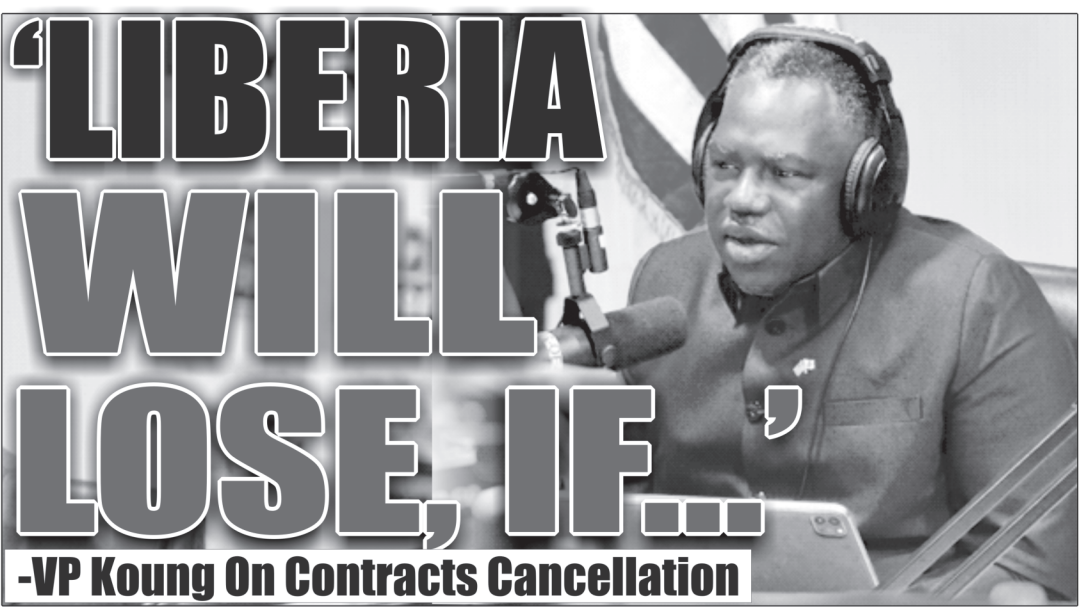
It is in this context that the symbolism of April becomes most potent. It is not merely a month; it is a test. A test of whether leadership can rise above inherited tendencies of defensiveness and instead embrace the difficult but necessary path of responsiveness and reform. A test of whether citizens, particularly the youth, will continue to accept incremental change or demand structural transformation.

There is also a deeper, more uncomfortable truth embedded in Liberia's April history: revolutions, whether violent or symbolic, do not arise in a vacuum. They are reactions—often desperate, sometimes inevitable—to prolonged neglect of legitimate grievances. The lessons of

Pillar		Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Environmental Sustainability		Climate Change	Renewable Energy	Promoting private sector Off-Grid and Community-Based Renewable Energy Solutions	Increased energy access for off-grid communities	Off-grid renewable energy systems installed	Number of off-grid renewable energy systems installed Percentage increase in rural energy access		TBD	Support with renewable energy to more than 160,000 households and public social infrastructures; Increase private sector off-grid and community-based renewable energy solutions by 10%
Human Capital Development		Education	Educational Institution Management	Enhancement of school management capacity	Managerial Capacity in schools enhanced	Training sessions conducted for school administrators and leaders	Number of school administrators and leaders completing training on management of educational institutions		TBD	Train 1,400 school principals, and administrative staff in leadership, management and accountability
Human Capital Development		Education	Educational Institution Management	Strengthening teachers' capacity to deliver gender and disability transformative education	Increased retention of females and students with disabilities in schools	Teachers trained in gender and disability responsive pedagogy	Percentage of teachers trained in gender and disability responsive pedagogy		TBD	Enhance the capacity of 20% of the teacher population to deliver gender and disability transformative education
Human Capital Development		Education	Educational Institution Management	Recruitment and deployment of female psychosocial and career counsellors at all levels	Increased accessibility to gender-sensitive counseling services in schools and institutions	Psychosocial and career counsellors recruited and deployed	Percentage of school counsellors recruited and deployed by sex		2%	Increase recruitment of female psychosocial and career counsellors at all levels by 40%

ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development - AAID

Pillar	Strategic Policy	Program	Intervention	Outcome	Output	KPIs	Link to SDG	Baseline	Targets by 2029
Human Capital Development	Education	Educational Institution Management	Implementation of skill-based health education and strengthening the role of girls' and boys' health clubs	Improved health knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors among adolescents	Skills-based health education clubs established in upper basic and secondary schools	Number of skills-based health education clubs established in upper basic and secondary schools	4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	TBD	Establish 1,707 life skills clubs in upper basic and secondary schools
			Provision of relevant STEM equipment to upper basic and secondary schools	Increased enrollment in STEM-related upper basic and secondary education and career paths development	Laboratories and classrooms equipped with relevant STEM tools, such as computers, robotics kits, and laboratory apparatus	Proportion of schools equipped with functional STEM labs	4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service	TBD	50% of upper basic and secondary schools have relevant STEM equipment
			Equipment of TVET centers and HEIs with functioning IT infrastructure, including internet connectivity and computers	HEIs and TVET students digital literacy skills enhanced	TVET centers and HEIs equipped with IT devices and internet connectivity	Percentage of TVET centers and HEIs equipped with IT devices and high-speed internet connectivity	4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	30% of TVET centers and HEIs have IT infrastructure and high speed internet connectivity; Provide National Trade Test certificate to 1,500 TVET trainers	
Human Capital Development	Education	Educational Institution Management	Strengthening enforcement of the code of conduct to tackle school-related GBV in education institutions at all levels	Reduction in incidence of school-related GBV	Schools with designated GBV focal points	Percentage of reported SRGBV cases resolved		TBD	Incidence of SRGBV in education institutions at all levels eliminated



Vice President, Jeremiah Kpan-Koung has made it clear that Liberia stands to lose its integrity, and could be deemed unreliable if it were to cancel contractual agreements signed with foreign and local companies operating in the country. Several companies with which government signed agreements are under the radar due to what officials considered “irregularities” in those agreements. The Government of Liberia last year issued an Executive Order, ordering the cancellation of the TIA/LTA deal. The calls sparked debate and provoked legality concerns. Despite a Joint Legislative Committee’s recommendation for renegotiation of the contract, the President does not seem settle on the matter. There are reports that the government is considering hiring another company to take over the same role TIA supposed to play as per its contract. However, during his first live radio appearance Monday, VP Koung did not mince words spelling out what could happen should the government backtrack on agreements, though he did not mention TIA, he spoke generally on general contracts. Weighing in strongly on contractual agreements with companies, he said Liberia is obliged to have these deals in place because anything contrary will have negative impact, and will scare investors, as doing so would put the country in an awkward position of being unreliable. However, addressing CTM and ‘Medtech Scientific’ Deals that have long engendered national debate, VP Koung said he’s moving “with the speed I am moving with” to fix problematic port and customs contracts because he knows the terrain — and because Liberia’s reputation with investors is at stake. “That is my area; I told people I am an entrepreneur. God blessed me I am here; and as sooner it finishes, I will go right back because that somewhere I got passion for,” Koung said in remarks that have since circulated among policymakers and the business community. “If I done fix it and I go back there, my friends will tell me ‘my man you were there you did not help us with the thing, and you come back here with the same thing again.’ Then, I will be taking to somebody else, and that is why I am moving with the speed I am moving with.” He added: “With the President support and instruction, unless the president slows me because he is the only that can slow me down.” The comments were made as Koung addressed mounting concerns over two controversial operations at Liberia’s ports: CTM, which handles the Cargo Tracking Note system, and Medtech Scientific, the firm contracted for destination inspection and scanning services.

There are reports that CTM has stopped all brokers from making payments to the country to paying overseas, but he said “this is news to me.” The concern is seen as capital flight and loss of customs revenue at a time Liberia’s import cover is just 2.1 months. Amid calls for the cancellation of the Medtetch Deal, VP Koung also disclosed that the LRA boss advised otherwise. “The LRA boss has advised that look, METAR is building a center at the Port. They are having discussions to carry Liberia percentage up — or I think they have done that already because the percentage they were giving Liberia is low... After the construction, we will have discussions with them. But you can’t leave them in the middle and shut them down,” he quoted him as saying. The GAC said Medtech did not consistently apply approved fees and key deliverables — including 3D scanners, CCTVs, forklifts, and IT infrastructure — “were either not provided or lacked any documented evidence of delivery,” in violation of the contract. Senators have slammed the Medtech agreement as “unratified” and noncompliant with the PFMA Act. LRA Commissioner General Dorbor Jallah said the Boakai administration “has acknowledged the contract’s flaws and is committed to renegotiating its terms,” but legal proceedings at the Supreme Court have delayed the process. Revealing the administration’s dilemma, he said “Some of the problem we face is the issue of the law... The first thing is that the President has instructed we cancel these things. But then, the lawyers will advise that this is a contract. You signed a contract.” “For Liberia to be signing contracts and canceling them is sending a negative image out there that these people when you sign with a government, when the next government comes, they cancel it. Business people will be afraid to come in your country because you are not reliable.” His instruction from President Boakai, he said, is different: “When you sign a contract with government, regardless of what government comes in, what you can do is to fix it. So, I was instructed to look at the CTM and METAR.” That instruction puts Koung at the center of two of Liberia’s most sensitive revenue contracts. On CTM, the National Port Authority in 2025 renegotiated the Cargo Tracking Note and marine services agreements, saying the revised CTN contract “represents a significant policy shift aimed at enhancing government revenue, increasing local participation, and strengthening financial transparency.” The new terms took effect April 1, 2025. On Medtech, the LRA has been under

pressure to establish the transitory account required by Section 9.1 of the contract and to account for US\$1.3 million in undocumented expenditures. LRA boss Dorbor Jallah said negotiations will “address all anomalies,” including revenue share and equipment delivery. “I told people I am an entrepreneur,” Koung said, framing his role as technical, not political. His background is in business, and he served as Senator for Nimba before becoming Vice President. Koung’s response is that speed matters because he intends to return to the private sector. “As sooner it finishes, I gone right back... that somewhere I got passion for.” He told potential Chinese suppliers of the earth-moving equipment: “We aim to get value for money... We don’t want cheap items but quality with affordable prices.” Koung’s statement captures Liberia’s recurring bind - how to correct costly, opaque deals without branding the country as unreliable. “The lawyers will tell you that you sign a contract by your government, despite it was not you in office or power,” he said. According to legal experts, that principle — pacta sunt servanda — protects investors. “LRA advised... discussions to carry Liberia percentage up... or I think they have done that already.” Don’t “shut them down” mid-construction; fix the terms. He said canceling deals scares business,

AFL RECRUITMENT SPARKS

By Jamesetta D Williams

The national conversation surrounding the Armed Forces of Liberia’s (AFL) ongoing recruitment exercise continues to grow, with prominent Liberians calling for greater empathy toward applicants, urgent reforms in the education sector, and stronger protections for those seeking to serve their country. The debate was sparked by a viral video showing applicants participating in the AFL’s “Read What You See” assessment, where some candidates appeared to struggle during the reading exercise. The footage has generated widespread discussion on social media, with reactions ranging from criticism to concern. Among those weighing in is the Managing Director of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, Mohammed M. Ali, who stressed that the ultimate goal of military recruitment should be to build a disciplined and capable force. “I see all these posts about how people can’t read. What we need is a well-trained army, not mere sentence readers,” Ali stated. His comments have sparked debate, with many agreeing that military service requires discipline, courage, and physical readiness. Others, however, maintain that literacy remains an essential skill for modern soldiers, who must be able to understand written instructions, interpret operational documents, and effectively use technical equipment. Activist Martin K. N. Kollie also joined the discussion, linking the issue to broader concerns about public spending and the state of Liberia’s education system. “Are you still asking why a lot of AFL applicants can’t read?” Kollie wrote. “A few greedy politicians pocket almost everything every year.” He cited what he described as stark disparities in government spending, noting that schools such as Cape Palmas High School, Sanniquellie Central High School, and Frank Tolbert Public School have received relatively modest funding compared to other government expenditures. His remarks have intensified calls for increased investment in education. Adding her voice to the national discourse, Hon. Karishma Pelham-Raad urged

adding “You can do is to fix it” — renegotiate, don’t repudiate, to protect Liberia’s reliability. The Vice President’s “speed” is meant to reassure both Liberian entrepreneurs and foreign investors. His warning is blunt: if every new administration cancels old contracts, “business people will be afraid to come in your country because you are not reliable.” For now, CTM is “still operating,” as Koung acknowledged. Medtech is “building a center at the Port.” The Vice President’s mandate is to raise Liberia’s percentage and make the deals work, not void them. “With the President support and instruction,” Koung said, “unless the president slows me because he is the only that can slow me down.” Koung is positioning himself as the fix-it entrepreneur in government, arguing that Liberia must honor contracts to keep investor confidence, but must also renegotiate them to keep its share. The business climate, he says, depends on showing the world that Liberia can clean up deals without tearing them up. Whether the public sees “fixing” or “repackaging” will depend on what the renegotiated CTM and Medtech contracts actually say, and whether, this time, Liberians get to read them. Liberians to approach the issue with compassion rather than ridicule. “The current situation with the new applicants for the AFL is not something to be used to bully, throw shade, or make mockery of them,” she stated. Pelham-Raad emphasized that the struggles displayed by some applicants should be viewed within the broader context of Liberia’s longstanding educational challenges. “What we should focus on is how to fix the broken system we have had since the war,” she noted, adding that Liberia’s education system has faced significant structural weaknesses for many years. She further called for renewed efforts to motivate young people to prioritize education, regardless of the hardships or circumstances they may face. The public airing of the recruitment exercise has also drawn criticism. Pelham-Raad described the broadcasting of applicants’ evaluations on social media as inappropriate and potentially harmful. “It is completely wrong to carry out a recruitment process on social media,” she said, urging the AFL to remove such activities from Facebook and other digital platforms. She stressed that individuals seeking to join the military deserve dignity, privacy, and protection throughout the recruitment process. “People wanting to be recruited or joining the army should be protected in all forms and ways,” she added. Despite the controversy, Pelham-Raad commended the courage and patriotism of the young men and women who have stepped forward to serve. “To the young men and women who have shown interest in our Army, I wish all of you the very best,” she said. As the debate continues, the AFL recruitment exercise has become a focal point for broader discussions about educational reform, youth empowerment, media ethics, and institutional responsibility. For many Liberians, the moment represents an opportunity to address systemic challenges while reaffirming the dignity of those who aspire to serve the nation.

KOUNG HIGHLIGHTS TOP TAXPAYERS

directly finance and develop energy infrastructure capable of delivering stable and reliable electricity nationwide. He emphasized that Liberia’s broader economic growth is closely tied to resolving its electricity challenges, pointing to the ongoing struggles of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) as a major constraint on private sector development. “All of the sectors rest on LEC, which is the foundation for the nation’s progress,” he stated. “Business is not going, and LEC is a major factor.” The Vice President noted that

unreliable electricity continues to stifle business expansion and job creation, forcing many Liberians to depend on government employment due to limited private sector opportunities. Hon. Koung concluded by urging policymakers to prioritize foundational investments in energy, expressing confidence that collaboration with the country’s top taxpayers—Bea Mountain Mining Corporation and ArcelorMittal Liberia—could unlock sustainable growth and long-term economic transformation.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

agreements with foreign companies, and many others. Expanding on Liberia’s wobbling energy sector viewed as backbone to economic growth, VP Koung called for urgent investment in the sector, warning that failure to act could lead to “future embarrassment” for the country. The Vice President emphasized the need for a strategic shift in addressing Liberia’s electricity challenges. He pointed to Bea Mountain Mining Corporation and ArcelorMittal as the country’s top taxpayers and potential partners in solving the energy crisis. According to Mr. Koung, the government should collaborate with these companies to finance and construct a hydroelectric power plant that would ensure stable and reliable electricity supply across the country. “We just need to shift the focus and allow them, as the highest taxpayers now, to build the dam to supply electricity,” the Vice President said. He noted that the cost of constructing a hydroelectric facility ranges between US\$2 billion and US\$3 billion—an amount he said the government is

currently unable to shoulder alone. As such, he suggested that instead of collecting taxes from these major corporations, the government could allow them to invest directly in energy infrastructure. The Vice President stressed that the country’s development hinges on fixing its electricity sector, which he described as the foundation for national progress. He identified the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) as central to the issue, noting that persistent power shortages continue to hamper business growth and job creation. “All of the sectors rest on LEC, which is the foundation for the nation’s progress,” he said. “Our people all want to work in government now because business is not going, and LEC is a major factor.” Mr. Koung concluded by urging policymakers to prioritize foundational challenges in the energy sector, expressing confidence that resolving them would unlock broader economic opportunities and growth across Liberia.

PROSECUTION CHALLENGES

purpose intended or not. Now, the onus is on the defence team to establish whether the money was used as intended. State prosecutors continue to challenge claims that the disputed funds were used for national security purposes. The case, which is being heard before Criminal Court “C” at the Temple of Justice under Judge Ousman Feika, centers on allegations of economic sabotage, theft, and money laundering linked to the transfer of more than one billion Liberian dollars and over US\$500,000. During recent hearings, prosecutors questioned whether the transactions were properly authorized under Liberian law, particularly those involving the Ministry of Justice. They argued that investigators have so far been unable to trace the final destination or use of the funds, raising serious concerns about accountability and financial transparency.

Under cross-examination, former Finance Minister Tweh maintained that the expenditures were lawful, classified, and necessary to support national security operations during Liberia’s 2023 presidential and legislative elections. The defense has also argued that the details surrounding the expenditures remain confidential due to their sensitive nature and national security implications. As the trial resumes today, public attention remains firmly fixed on the proceedings, which continue to test the intersection of national security, public accountability, and financial oversight in Liberia. This developing story was among the major headlines read Monday on OK FM, reflecting the significant public interest surrounding one of Liberia’s most closely watched corruption and financial crimes cases.

WESTERN CLUSTER TURNS OVER

Western Cluster Liberia Ltd on Monday turned over a renovated annex building at the former UNMIL compound in Tubmanburg to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training department of Bomi Community College. The company’s Chief Executive said during the handover ceremony that the project fulfilled a promise to buttress the college TVET department to train and educate young people. Receiving the keys to the facility, the TVET Department Directress thanked Western Cluster for the renovation. She said the

building will be used to train and educate young people in courses including Electricity, Machinery, and Engine mechanics. Bomi County Superintendent Miatta Dorley, speaking at the close of the ceremony, thanked the company and praised Western Cluster for its numerous contributions towards the development of the county. The annex is located at the former UNMIL compound in Tubmanburg. Western Cluster did not disclose the cost of the renovation during the ceremony.

ANOTHER LAWMAKER FACES INVESTIGATION

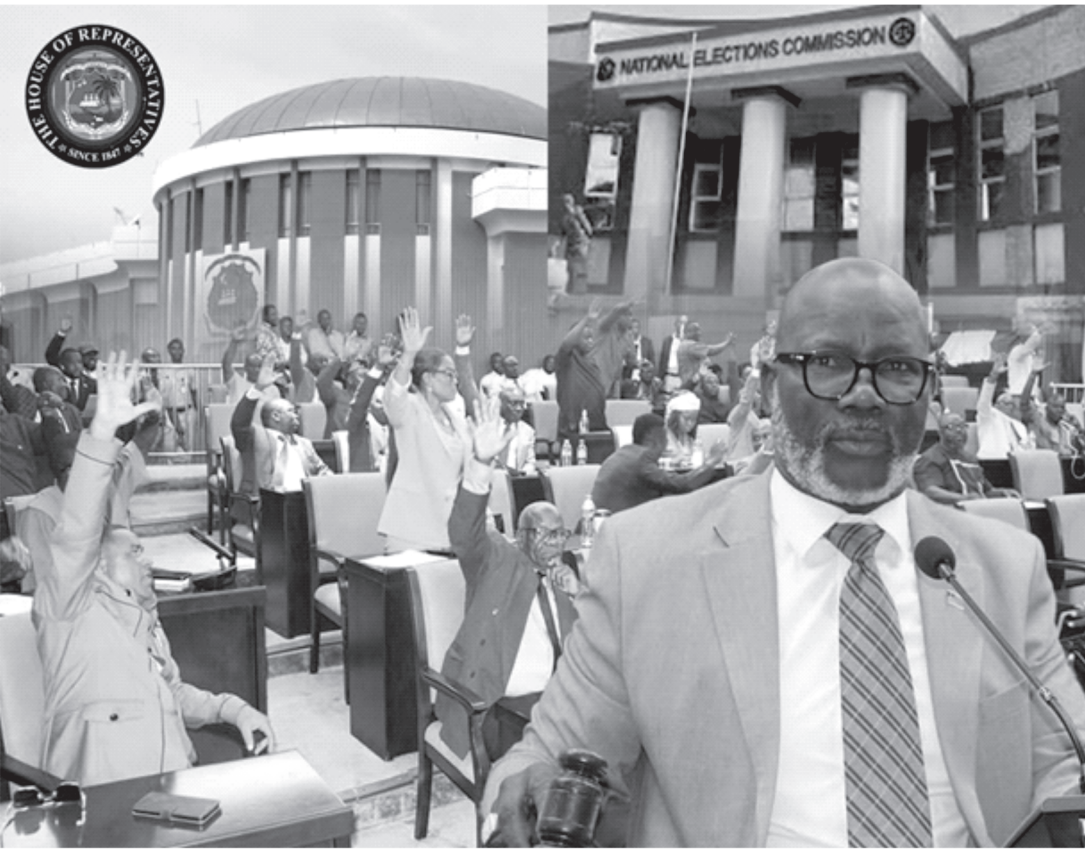
—As Sen. Konneh Complained To Senate

The leadership of the House of Representatives has forwarded Bomi County Electoral District #3 Representative, Hon. Sam P. Jallah, to its Committee on Rules, Order and Administration for investigation following a formal complaint from fellow lawmakers. The complaint stems from recent public remarks made by Rep. Jallah concerning the just passed supplementary budget, in which he was quoted as saying that “one person can just sit and sign the budget.” The statement has drawn concern among members, prompting calls for clarification and accountability. During a leadership meeting held on Monday, a motion was proffered by Bong County Electoral District #3 Representative, Hon. J. Marvin Cole, requesting that Rep. Jallah submit himself to the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration for a full investigation into the matter. The motion was subsequently endorsed, paving the way for the Committee’s review. According to the decision, the Committee will conduct its inquiry and report its findings and recommendations to Plenary for further legislative action. Meanwhile, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Richard Nagbe Koon has called on the Bomi County lawmaker to fully cooperate with the Committee throughout the investigative process, emphasizing the importance of upholding the integrity, decorum, and rules governing the House. The committee is expected to carry out its investigation and report to plenary upon the resumption of session in May. The action underscores the House’s commitment to maintaining discipline and ensuring that the conduct of its members reflects the standards expected of the Legislature. Meanwhile, the Liberian Senate has formally acknowledged receipt of a complaint from the House of Representatives regarding public statements made by Gbarpolu County Senator, Hon. Amara Konneh. In its response, communicated through the Secretary of the Senate and read during the House’s leadership meeting on Monday, the Senate emphasized its commitment to the principles of legislative propriety, mutual respect, and the broader national interest. The Senate further informed the House that it has engaged Senator Konneh on the matter and provided the necessary advisement in line with its internal processes. The Senate also reaffirmed its dedication to maintaining a cordial and constructive working relationship with the House of Representatives. The House’s communication, addressed to Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, formally registered its concerns over recent comments made by Senator Konneh on his official Facebook platform regarding the



House’s decision to expel Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative, Hon. Yekeh Y. Kolubah. According to the House, it takes serious exception to the Senator’s characterization of its constitutional action, particularly his assertion that “the expulsion of Yekeh represents yet more theater in the Chambers of the House of Representatives that risk grinding the whole system of Government to a halt,” and his further description of the proceedings as “not politics, it is madness.” The House described these remarks as deeply concerning and regrettable, noting that such statements undermine the integrity, independence, and authority of the Legislature as a co-equal branch of government. It maintained that the decision to expel a member was reached through established rules and procedures consistent with the Constitution and Standing Rules of the House. While acknowledging and respecting the right of lawmakers to express differing views, the House emphasized the importance of measured, respectful, and responsible public discourse, particularly on matters involving legislative actions. It warned that statements of such nature risk eroding public confidence and fostering unnecessary discord between the two Chambers. In its communication, the House called on the Senate leadership to take due note of the matter and advise Senator Konneh to exercise restraint and uphold the principles of inter-legislative comity and mutual respect. The House of Representatives reiterated its commitment to sustaining cordial and constructive relations with the Senate in the collective interest of good governance and national development.

HOUSE REVISES VOTING



By Jamesetta D Williams

As per major amendments to the election law passed by the Plenary of the House of Representatives, previous voting hours of 8:00am to 6:00pm has been reduced by two hours. The current voting will be from 8:00am to 4:00pm - approximately six hours. The august body cited better election-day management and security as prime reasons for the revision of of polling hours. The revision formed part of a series of sweeping amendments to Liberia’s New Elections Law (1986), as amended in 2014, following the submission of a comprehensive report by its Joint Committee on Elections and Inauguration. The decision was reached during the 9th day sitting of the ongoing Special Session, with lawmakers describing the move as part of efforts to strengthen electoral integrity, improve efficiency, and enhance public confidence in Liberia’s democratic process. Presenting the report, the Joint Committee recommended several significant changes aimed at modernizing election administration and addressing operational gaps identified in previous electoral cycles. One of the major amendments increases the maximum number of registered voters per polling precinct from 3,000 to 4,000, a move intended to improve voter distribution and reduce congestion during elections. The House also approved the revision of polling hours, reducing voting time from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., a change lawmakers say will support better election-day management and security. In a bid to accelerate dispute resolution, lawmakers amended provisions governing electoral complaints. The filing window for election-related grievances has been reduced from seven (7) days to forty-eight (48) hours after an alleged violation. The amendment also expands the submission channels for complaints, allowing filings with the National Elections Commission (NEC), magistrates, or polling officers. Additionally, new provisions strengthen the authority of hearing officers and magistrates assigned to electoral disputes, including clearer procedures for appeals and strict timelines for the Supreme Court review process. The House further reinforced gender inclusion requirements, making it

mandatory for political parties and coalitions to ensure that at least 30% of their governing structures and candidate lists are composed of each gender. Under the new amendment, parties that fail to meet the requirement risk being disqualified from legislative elections unless they resubmit compliant candidate lists within the prescribed timeframe. Another major change removes restrictions on who may be present at polling centers, a provision previously regulating access to voting premises. Lawmakers also clarified the roles of election officers, observers, and security personnel to ensure transparency while maintaining order. The amendments also introduce reforms in election financing and administration. Candidate filing fees have been revised upward across several categories, including presidential and legislative aspirants, with the aim of strengthening the operational budget of the NEC. In addition, procurement procedures for election materials have been streamlined, requiring the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission to process election-related requests within three days to ensure timely delivery of materials ahead of elections. The House also restructured the electoral appeals system, introducing strict timelines for hearings, rulings, and Supreme Court appeals. The reforms aim to reduce delays in resolving election disputes and ensure final decisions are made within defined legal timeframes. Other amendments include provisions governing the relocation of political party headquarters, enhanced procedures for handling election complaints involving criminal allegations, and clearer rules on sanctions imposed by the NEC. Lawmakers say the reforms are designed to close legal loopholes, improve accountability, and strengthen confidence in Liberia’s electoral system ahead of future elections. With the passage of these amendments, the House of Representatives says Liberia is taking a significant step toward improving the credibility, transparency, and efficiency of its electoral process. The revised law now awaits implementation by the National Elections Commission and other relevant institutions responsible for overseeing elections in the country.

FIRST-EVER DOCTORS' RESIDENCE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

To Boost Rural Healthcare



By Stephanie M. Duncan

The Ministry of Health Liberia (MOH), with support from the Government of Liberia, has begun construction of the county’s first-ever residence for medical doctors, in a move aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and improving staff welfare. The housing project, situated within the county’s main health corridor, is designed to provide safe and dignified accommodation for doctors serving in public health facilities, particularly in underserved areas. According to the Ministry, the initiative forms part of a broader national strategy to reinforce the health system by ensuring that medical professionals are adequately supported and retained. “This investment reflects government’s commitment to ensuring that doctors are supported, retained, and motivated to serve in all parts of the country,” the Ministry said in a statement. Local authorities confirmed that one housing unit has already been completed, while four additional units are at an advanced stage of construction, signaling steady progress on the project. Health officials believe the availability of on-site accommodation will significantly ease the burden of long-distance commuting for doctors, especially those assigned to rural communities where access to housing has remained a persistent challenge. The project is also expected to improve

emergency response times, as doctors will be stationed closer to health facilities, enabling quicker intervention in critical situations. For years, limited staff accommodation has hindered effective service delivery outside major urban centers. The Ministry noted that addressing this gap is essential to improving healthcare access and outcomes nationwide. Local health workers have welcomed the initiative, describing it as a long-overdue intervention that will boost morale and enhance working conditions. Community members have also expressed optimism, noting that the presence of resident doctors will improve access to quality healthcare services. The project is part of the government’s ongoing efforts to upgrade health infrastructure across Liberia, with a focus on decentralizing services and strengthening the healthcare workforce. The Ministry indicated that similar housing initiatives could be replicated in other counties if the current project proves successful, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring equitable access to skilled medical professionals across the country. “No part of the country should be disadvantaged when it comes to access to skilled medical professionals and adequate facilities,” the Ministry emphasized.

WORD PUZZLE GAME

Name: _____

3 & 4 Letter Words

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ➡ and ⬇ .

BELT
BEAR
SHOE
HAND
BALL
MICE

TOYS
BAT
DOG
TOP
HAT
COW

ZAP
GAL
BOY
CAT

ARTICLE

THE SEAS, OCEANS, RIVERS, NATURAL LAKES (NOT MAN-MADE) BELONG TO ALL:

A CALL TO ACTION AGAINST THE WEAPONIZATION OF WATERWAYS:

Protecting our shared waterways, seas, oceans, rivers, and lakes is a collective, urgent responsibility, as they are not merely resources but vital lifelines that belong to everyone and require protection from exploitation. These waters provide food and climate regulation, necessitating a united effort to ensure they remain safe and healthy ecosystems for all.

"Just as we share a common dependence on the ocean, we must join together in a common endeavor to save the ocean from the damage caused by humans." — [09-2014]

"Protect the sacred, save the Boundary Waters from short-sighted greed. Keep calling, keep writing, and keep sharing!" — [03-2026]

"There is a legal pathway to safeguard biodiversity in waters that belong to everyone and no one at the same time." — [01-2026]-U.S. Department of State (.gov).

"Stewardship means paying attention; not just to the big moments, but to the small things that sustain life every single day." — [04-2026]-U.S. Department of State (.gov).

"The ocean has no borders, but it needs protection. Nearly half of our planet lies beyond national jurisdiction." — [01-2026]- U.S. Department of State (.gov).

By: Austin S Fallah - A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil: fallahas@yahoo.com. In an era characterized by globalization, interconnectivity, and unprecedented collaboration, the fundamental rights to free movement and access to essential resources such as waterways should not be undermined by geopolitical ambitions or the whims of individual nations. The seas, oceans, rivers, and lakes(natural) are not merely natural wonders; they are vital arteries that facilitate the movement of goods, services, cultures, and people across borders.

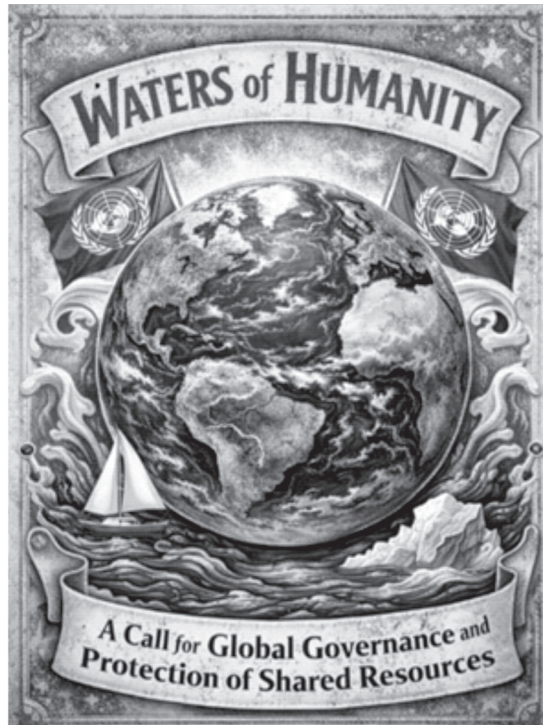
Yet, alarmingly, these waterways, gifts from the divine and essential for human sustenance, are increasingly being viewed as leverage by certain nations. The world cannot remain passive while specific groups seek to exploit these resources for political or economic gain. The United Nations, representing the collective will and responsibility of the global community, must step forward to prevent this dangerous trend from continuing.

The Basic Human Right to Access Waterways:

Waterways represent more than mere physical traits; they are, indeed, lifelines that sustain businesses, empower nations, and facilitate international relations.

The free movement of goods and services through international waters is essential for the world's economy, enhancing trade and fostering cooperation among nations.

The rivers, oceans, and seas nourish humanity, enabling fishing communities to thrive and supplying countless livelihoods reliant on transportation routes.



Each vessel navigating the vast expanse of oceans, seas, and rivers carries not just cargo, but also the hope of prosperity and a better future for people everywhere.

When these waterways are threatened by blockade or restrictive practices imposed by a select few, the consequences are dire.

A blockade of a significant ocean, sea, lake, or river can devastate an economy, leading to enormous shortages of vital food and medical supplies for entire populations.

When nations weaponize waterways, they gamble with the lives of those who depend on these routes for survival.

This dangerous trend should be unequivocally condemned: it violates the most fundamental tenets of human rights.

Humanity was endowed with these natural resources by Hala-Na-Meleka-God-Almighty, and it is our duty to protect their accessibility for the benefit of all.

History of Waterway Weaponization:

History has shown us that the control of waterways can lead to devastating humanitarian crises.

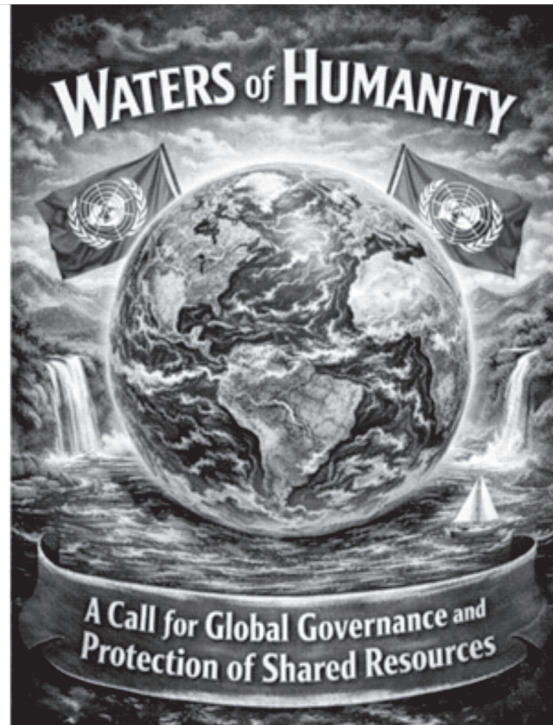
Throughout the ages, from the Venetian control of the Adriatic Sea to the British naval supremacy over the trade routes of the 19th century, nations have often turned waterways into instruments of political power.

In the modern context, such control persists, often at the expense of vulnerable nations and their populations.

One only needs to look at the disputes in the South China Sea, where geopolitical tensions have escalated as nations assert claims over waterways, threatening the very stability of trade that allows economies to flourish.

Additionally, recent conflicts in the Middle East have highlighted the perilous consequences of controlling critical waterways, with nations leveraging their strategic advantages to manipulate access.

Other examples are the unlawful closures of the commercial river crossing point at Makona River in



Solumbah, Foya District, Lofa County, Liberia, and the Yenga River crossing in the Republic of Sierra Leone by the Guinean Military Junta, which claims to be a democratically elected Guinean government.

In these scenarios, civilians bear the brunt of these decisions, suffering from famine, displacement, and economic devastation. Our global community must not allow history to repeat itself; instead, every well-meaning son or daughter of this planet must actively advocate for a system that ensures shared stewardship over some of our planet's most precious resources.

UN Intervention: A Moral Imperative:

In light of the pressing need for equitable access to waterways, it is paramount that the United Nations take decisive action to prevent countries from being strangled by the weaponization of water resources.

The UN is uniquely positioned to address this issue, as it represents a collective conscience that transcends national boundaries.

The resolution the UN needs to pass must enshrine a universal commitment to outlaw the use of waterways as bargaining chips in international relations.

Such a resolution would affirm that any nation that intentionally restricts access to waterways, thereby causing suffering to others, is committing an affront to humanity.

A clear framework for understanding and addressing violations of waterway control can also be established through this resolution.

It should stipulate that actions hindering free access to these vital resources will be categorized as "crimes against humanity," deserving of international scrutiny and response.

The world of today operates in an interconnected manner, rendering it vital that nations uphold each other's rights to access and navigate through shared resources.

International sanctions must be enacted not only against the nations directly involved in such egregious acts, but also against those who support the behavior, whether covertly or overtly.

This broad approach ensures

accountability and reinforces the international community's commitment to safeguard the rights of all human beings against opportunistic exploitation.

The UN General Assembly should be empowered to act collectively based on a more equitable representation of member nations, rather than being led by a select few with vested interests.

Promoting Global Solidarity:

Ultimately, the call for collective stewardship over waterways resonates with the broader themes of global solidarity and shared responsibility.

By invoking a shared sense of humanity, air-breathing human beings can mobilize global citizens to recognize the intrinsic value of cooperative resource management.

Waterways are not merely regional concerns; they are global assets that enrich every living human being.

Humanity must work diligently to cultivate awareness of the common interests that unite everyone, even as political ideologies may differ.

Campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the importance of free access to waterways can foster understanding and solidarity among nations.

When people recognize the interconnectedness of their struggles and their triumphs, they are less likely to be swayed by nationalistic rhetoric that seeks to marginalize others.

Education, advocacy, and international partnerships can prime the global populace to hold their governments accountable to a standard that prioritizes universal human rights.

A Unified Stand Against Hostage-Taking:

The world must not sit idly by while any nation or group seeks to hold humanity hostage by withholding access to waterways.

These vital routes, crafted by nature itself and intended for the sustenance of life, must remain open and secure for the free movement of goods and individuals.

The United Nations must codify this principle into a binding resolution, firmly articulating that the weaponization of waterways will entail severe consequences for those who engage in such conduct.

As global citizens, we carry the moral responsibility to advocate for comprehensive safeguards that ensure shared access to these critical resources.

The voice of humanity must resonate across borders, united in opposition to any individual nation's strategy to undermine the collective good.

In the spirit of Hala-Na-Meleka-God-Almighty, every well-meaning earthly human being must strive for a world where waterways are freely accessible, a world where suffering is not a bargaining chip, and peace is upheld as a fundamental right for all.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT NEEDED TO STABILIZE POWER SUPPLY

—VP Koung Says

By Stephanie M. Duncan

Appearing on national radio Monday for the first time since assuming the office of Vice President, Mr. Jeremiah Kpan Koung, unearthed a good number of issues affecting the state, including power supply and stability, private sector investment in energy, mineral development agreements, contractual



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WESTERN CLUSTER TURNS OVER RENOVATED ANNEX TO BOMI COMMUNITY COLLEGE TVET PROGRAM



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KOUNG HIGHLIGHTS TOP TAXPAYERS BEA MOUNTAIN, ARCELORMITTAL IN PUSH FOR ENERGY INVESTMENT

By Stephanie M. Duncan

Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung has underscored the critical role of major concession companies, particularly Bea Mountain Mining Corporation and ArcelorMittal Liberia, as he renewed calls for urgent investment in the country's struggling energy sector. Speaking Monday on the state broadcaster ELBC, the Vice President described the two companies as Liberia's highest taxpayers, stressing that their financial strength positions them as key partners in addressing the nation's electricity crisis. Mr. Koung warned that failure to take decisive action in the energy sector could lead to "future embarrassment" for Liberia, urging a shift in strategy that leverages the capacity of top revenue contributors like Bea Mountain and ArcelorMittal. "These are the highest taxpayers now," he said. "We need to shift the focus and allow them to build the dam to supply electricity."

According to the Vice President, the government should explore a model that enables these companies to reinvest part of their tax contributions into critical infrastructure—particularly the construction of a hydroelectric power plant. He noted that such a project could cost between US\$2 billion and US\$3 billion, a figure he acknowledged is beyond the government's current financial capacity.

Rather than relying solely on traditional tax collection, Mr. Koung proposed a partnership approach that would see these major corporations



Bea Mountain Mining Corp.

A Subsidiary of Aureus Mining Inc.



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PROSECUTION CHALLENGES DEFENCE CLAIMS

— In \$6.2 Million Economic Sabotage Trial

By Jamesetta D Williams

As legal back and forth continues in the high-profile US\$6.2 million economic sabotage case involving former Finance Minister Samuel Tweah and several others, both prosecution and defence teams are mounting sustained pressure on each other to establish the verity of what happened to the money in question, whether it was used for the

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