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#### CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

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**BUYING SELLING** DATE L\$191.6533/US\$1.00 L\$193.9916/US\$1.00 THURSDAY 17, OCTOBER 2024

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

Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.



#### Read! Read! Read!

The Management of The NEW DAWN is proud to introduce a new column titled: "AS I SEE IT" with Professor Tom Kaydor, Jr., PhD on contemporary issues in Liberia.

Read this informative and educative column every Monday; you will enjoy it.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024





-Leaked documents contradicts his press sta



# Liberia now has a

IUXULY SUV for VIPs

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# OCTOBER 17 ontinental News

Niger drops French place names withdrew by the end of last to honour local heroes

renamed streets and former colonial power.

Avenue Charles de Gaulle in

iger's military spokesman Maj Col Abdramane leaders have Amadou.

monuments bearing French and other Western allies named after a French general, names, in the latest move to deteriorated after President as well as a war memorial that cut links with the country's Mohamed Bazoum was ousted in a coup last year.

Like its military-led World War Two. the capital, Niamey, is now neighbours, Mali and Burkina Avenue Djibo Bakary in honour Faso, Niger has courted Russia for of the Nigerien politician who military support as a jihadist colonisation to the present played a key role in the West insurgency threatens the region -African country's struggle for and the three countries have

year. A ceremony was held in Niamey on Tuesday to mark the various name changes, Niger's relationship with France including the avenue once was built to remember those who died in World War One and

It now pays "homage to all civilian and military victims of day".

Charles de Gaulle was a soldier and politician who formed a French government in exile during World War Two when the Nazi German forces overran France. He became leader of the Free French Forces.

Many Africans in French colonies volunteered to fight for the Free French Forces, though many were also drafted into service.

About 400,000 came from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and more than 70,000 from Senegal and other sub-Saharan colonies. They took part in the Allies' landings in the south of France in August 1944, which were crucial to ousting the Nazis from the area.

In fact as part of a reappraisal of its colonial past, France began to rename some of its streets and squares after African World War Two heroes four years ago. BBC



independence.

boulevards and streets... bear States. names that are simply

clubbed together to form what "Most of our avenues, they call the Alliance of Sahel

Under Bazoum, France had reminders of the suffering and more than 1,500 troops stationed bullying our people endured in Niger to help fight jihadist during the ordeal of groups linked to both al-Qaeda colonisation," said junta and Islamic State. They all

### Fire kills 147 people after fuel tanker crash in Nigeria

fuel tanker exploded overnight in northern Nigeria, killing at the scene of the accident to collect leaking petrol, officials an investigation.

overturned vehicle, which had been cordoned off by officers after it crashed, the police told the BBC.

About 100 other people injured in the explosion have been taken to hospital in the nearby town of Ringim in Jigawa state, many of them are in a critical condition.

Officers had warned people not to approach the tanker after the accident late on Tuesday night, but they were unable to contain the growing crowd, said police spokesman Lawal Shiisu Adam.

Nguru in Yobe state when the driver lost control of the vehicle."

The driver, who was not least 147 people who rushed to injured, has been taken into custody while the police conduct

A distressing video has been The fire engulfed the shared on social media showing the moments after the fire erupted.

"Fire service and other emergency units rushed to the scene to help after the incident," Mr Adam said.

Many of the victims have been burnt beyond recognition. The recovered bodies have been covered by tree branches to shield them from onlookers.

Rescue workers have been finding more bodies - some a considerable distance from the scene of the accident. They had presumably been trying to get help before succumbing to their



Onlookers came to scene in Majia on Wednesday as the work of the emergency services continued

#### **Ex-ANC spokesperson charged** even suspects - a municipality just east of the city even though the goods were

including local of Johannesburg. government officials and a former African Nation Congress (ANC) spokesperson have been charged with fraud in a South African court.

The defendants appeared in court following an investigation into a 27 million rand (£1.2m; \$1.6m) government tender.

The investigation found that five years ago the provincial government in Gauteng signed a contract with a company named Enviro-Mobi for waste management services.

Enviro-Mobi did not disclose that it had links to ex-ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe, who was an MP at the time, a police statement said.

The suspects were not asked to enter pleas but Mabe and his wife denied the allegations.

The court hearing took place on Wednesday after the seven suspects had handed themselves into South Africa's elite police unit, the Hawks.

Alongside Mabe and his wife, the defendants included two executives from Guateng's

provincial government. All seven accused were awarded bail at the hearing, which took place in Ekurhuleni,

Outside the courthouse, Mabe service provider". told local media he was stepping down from the ANC's executive who served as the ANC's committee, but "not because he is spokesperson from 2018 to guilty".

The contract in question corruption. stipulated that Enviro-Mobi should receive upfront payments was arrested in 2013 over and that money should only be handed to the company after a portion of its work was Security Agency (Sassa). The completed, police spokesperson trio were later cleared of all Thandi Mbambo said.

However, the Hawks' fined after a parliamentary investigation found that committee found that he had Gauteng's Department of benefited from a contract with Agriculture paid Enviro-Mobi 25 the state-owned rail company. million rand for 200 vehicles,

"still in the possession of the

It is not the first time Mabe, 2023, has been accused of

Along with two others, he allegations he had defrauded the South African Social charges. And in 2017 Mabe was BBC

"We tried our best to stop injuries, a police spokesman told people going to the vehicle to get petrol but despite cordoning [off] the area, we been buried in a mass ceremony. were overpowered and as erupted," he told the BBC.

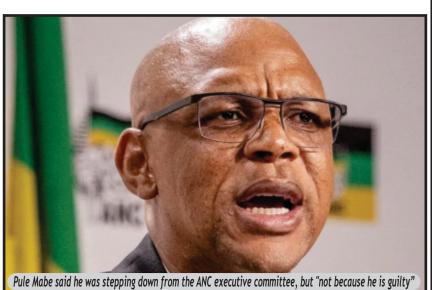
town of Majia in the northern state of Jigawa at around he said.

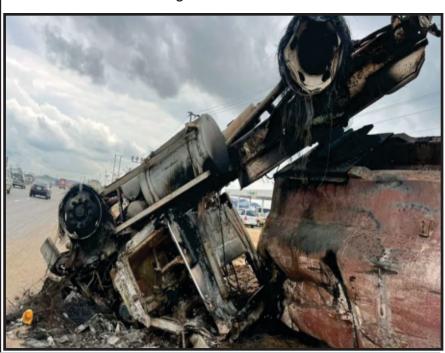
from Kano and heading to town of Ibafo. BBC

the BBC. Most of those who died have

Fuel tanker explosions and people were scooping fuel, fire accidents are common in Nigeria often caused by the poor state of The crash happened in the roads and badly maintained

As the clear-up operation was 23:30 local time (22:30 GMT), under way in Jigawa, there was another fuel tanker accident in "The fuel tanker was coming south-western Ogun state in the





By Richard Haass

# **Welcoming the ECOWAS initiative**

A US\$15 Million bridge project between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire is expected to boast integration and trade, not only between the two countries but countries within the entire ECOWAS bloc and beyond.

The project is an initiative of the ECOWAS Commission, funded by the African Development Bank. By all accounts, it is a peoplecentered project that would see not only greater cooperation and collaboration, but intermarriages between citizens of both countries.

Liberia that faces challenges of road connective is expected to benefit from this project in many ways by boasting trade between the two countries and peoples. The Peoples of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire share tribal, cultural, and economic ties that are expected to grow to another level thru the bridge project.

We say hats off to the ECOWAS Commission for envisioning regional integration thru connectivity that will go a long way in not just uniting West Africa, but dismantling barriers and promoting free movement of goods and services.

Liberia should do everything in availing itself for this project, as the Acting Director of Transport of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Chris Appiah, discloses that the Government of Liberia is yet to second engineers to collaborate with their counterparts from Côte d'Ivoire in providing supervision over the project.

It is very important that we as a country, do not seem to be lagging behind in such an historic project that stands to benefit generations unborn. With free movement of peoples, goods and services, regional economic activities will increase in the entire ECOWAS region, which has been a long-time dream.

President Joseph Boakai should see this bridge project with Ivory Coast as a great opportunity to begin to initiate future plans for more collaborative programs between Liberia and her French-speaking neighbor.

It also means the Ministry of Public Works here should put aside all prevailing internal wrangling and focus on service to the people particularly, the bridge project with Côte d'Ivoire, as it serves common purpose.

Already, official start of the project has been set for November with completion expected in two years. A Chinese road construction company, SHAANXI Construction Engineering Corporation LTD, has been selected for the work. Why should Liberia be dragging its feet? It is difficult in comprehending why!

The Government of Liberia should act now in rallying behind ECOWAS to see this milestone project kick off in the interest of current and future generations. We salute ECOWAS and all those behind this dream of promoting regional integration and cross border trade.



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### essons and egacy of October 7

EW YORK - One year ago, Hamas killed some 1,200 people - overwhelmingly civilians - in Israel and took more than 250 hostage. Since then, Israel has reduced much of Gaza to rubble; more than 40,000 of its inhabitants reportedly have been killed, a figure that includes 10,000-20,000 Hamas militants. Over 700 Israeli soldiers have lost their lives fighting Hamas and other Iranian-backed proxies.

The conflict is obviously far from over. Rarely a day goes by without new military strikes and casualties. That said, the most intense phase of the Gaza conflict seems to be winding down: with Hamas degraded militarily, Israeli leaders have shifted their focus north, attacking Hezbollah's leaders and assets in Lebanon. It is not too soon, therefore, to attempt to summarize and assess the lessons and legacy of October 7.

For starters, assumptions can be dangerous. The attack surprised Israel for the second time in its history (the first being the launch of the 1973 October War). Although there were warnings about what Hamas was planning, senior military and political officials did not take them seriously. They continued to station most of the Israel Defense Forces' battalions in the West Bank, leaving the border with Gaza nearly unprotected. And as was the case 50 years earlier, complacency proved to be costly.

The October 7 attack also demonstrated that the enemy of your enemy is not necessarily your friend. For a decade, the Israeli government under the direction of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu provided substantial economic support to Hamas with the explicit hope that doing so would better position Hamas to compete with the Palestinian Authority (PA). Netanyahu's goal was to divide Palestinians, weaken the influence of the more internationally palatable voice of Palestinian nationalism, and thereby render a two-state solution impossible.

Israel succeeded all too well in contributing to the weakening of the PA. Where it failed was in thinking it could buy off Hamas.

Wars are as much political as military undertakings. It is possible to win a war on the battlefield and still lose it. Israel has done precisely that in Gaza, by choosing to fight a conventional war against an unconventional foe without a plan for what comes next. Military success must be translated into enduring security and governance arrangements. But Israeli officials have refused to advance a proposal for either, fearing that a viable plan would require a role for the PA, along with an Arab stabilization force, which would build momentum toward a Palestinian state and when its strategic priorities are to deter Chinese Netanyahu's government.

Making matters worse, Israel is defining success - the eradication of Hamas - in terms that cannot be met. Israel thus loses by not winning, whereas Hamas wins by not losing.

Hamas, which is as much an idea and a network as an organization, will inevitably survive in some form and retain the ability to reconstitute itself, especially in the emerging context of an open-ended Israeli occupation with no competition from more moderate Palestinians.

What has happened since October 7 also offers some lessons for would-be mediators.

Persuasion alone cannot be relied upon to The human, economic, and diplomatic price has incentives and sanctions, and sometimes carrots worse off.

and sticks ought to be abandoned.

Moreover, diplomacy cannot succeed if the mediator wants success more than the protagonists, who must conclude for themselves that compromise and agreement are preferable to continued conflict. When the protagonists conclude otherwise, no amount of mediation, no matter how well-intentioned, can succeed.

The legacy - or more accurately legacies - of October 7 provide little ground for optimism. A two-state solution is more distant than ever. Such an approach was already a long shot before October 7, but the last year has reinforced Israelis' doubt about the desirability and possibility of living safely alongside an independent Palestinian state. At the same time, Israel's response to October 7 has strengthened anti-Israel views among Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel proper, and strengthened the appeal of Hamas, which, like its backers in Iran, has no interest in peaceful coexistence with Israel.

The net result is that the future is likely to resemble a "one-state non-solution": Israeli control of the territory between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, an expanding settler population, and frequent clashes between Israeli security forces and Hamas in Gaza and with Hamas-like militias in the West Bank.

Israel has lost a great deal, not just in lives and economic output, but in reputation and standing in the United States and the world. A younger generation sees Israel more as Goliath than David, more oppressor than oppressed. Anti-Semitism has spiked. And with prospects for a two-state solution all but dead, Israel could well face a binary choice between being a Jewish state and a democratic one. The weakening of Hezbollah and the Houthis, however welcome, does not alter these realities.

Israel has also paid a price in the region. Iran has achieved what may have been one of its original goals for the attack: making it more difficult for Saudi Arabia, a powerful force in the Arab and Islamic worlds, to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel. Although condemnation of Israel's actions since October 7 will not prevent intelligence and military cooperation with select Arab governments facing the mutual threat of Iran, the kingdom's ruler has walked back his openness to normalizing relations in the absence of an independent Palestinian state.

The US has also paid a high price since October 7. It has lost standing in the Arab world for its inability to influence Israeli policy, and has alienated some in Israel with its criticism and independent moves. Moreover, the US finds itself once again deeply involved in the Middle East catalyze Israeli infighting that could topple aggression in the Asia-Pacific and counter Russian aggression in Europe. All this no doubt brings satisfaction to the anti-Western axis comprising China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

> None of this was inevitable. Successive Israeli governments chose to weaken the PA and underestimated the threat posed by Hamas, which took advantage by staging its brutal

Israel then responded militarily and not at all politically.

And the US expended most of its diplomatic capital advocating in vain for a ceasefire that neither protagonist wanted.

change the behavior of others, be they friends or been enormous, and what already was the enemies. Diplomacy must be backed by world's most troubled region has been left even

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By Eduardo Araral

# The Promise and Peril of Water Markets

SINGAPORE - In a landmark report, the Global Commission on the Economics of Water recently identified water markets as a fundamental solution to the world's escalating climate-driven water crisis. The logic is simple: When something is scarce, it becomes more valuable.

By pricing water appropriately and creating markets to allocate water based on demand, we could promote more efficient use and incentivize conservation. Yet while the concept of water markets appears promising, Chile, Australia, the United States, and other countries' experiences show that implementation can prove challenging.

Water markets have been heralded for their ability to allocate water more efficiently. When individuals or organizations are allowed to trade water rights, water is allocated to those who value it most. In Chile, one of the first countries to implement a national water market, agricultural producers can purchase water from other regions or industries that have a surplus. Owing to this flexibility, the system allows for high-value crops to flourish even during droughts.

By helping to reduce inefficient water use, Chile's water market boosted agricultural productivity over time. Between 1985 and 2018, water-intensive agriculture in the Atacama and Coquimbo regions grew significantly as water markets allowed for more flexible allocation to high-demand areas.

The same principle has been applied in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin, where farmers trade water rights to adapt to fluctuating water availability. As Bloomberg reports, the water trade in Australia is about AU\$4 billion per year (\$2.7 billion) and has made Australia the ninth-largest food exporter in the world. The same markets can also incentivize water conservation. California's Central Valley also allows agricultural water trading, enabling farmers to cope with periodic droughts by purchasing water from more resource-rich regions.

But Chile's experience also highlights the pitfalls of water markets. Far from being a panacea, Chile's water market has led to significant inequalities. Large agribusinesses have acquired substantial water rights, leaving smaller farmers and communities with little access. With wealthier players dominating the market, marginalized communities are priced out.

Such outcomes raise serious equity concerns. Water is not just an economic commodity; it is a basic human right. A system that allows the wealthiest to buy up the most water risks undermining access for those who need it most. After water rights in northern Chile's Limarí Valley were consolidated among a few large agricultural companies, smallholders lacked sufficient water during dry years. And similar trends have been observed in California, where a small proportion of water-rights holders control a significant amount of available water, disproportionately benefiting large-scale agriculture.

Moreover, water markets can lead to environmental degradation. In Chile, diverting water to agricultural use has at times compromised the ecological health of rivers and wetlands. In Australia, over-extraction of water has led to severe environmental consequences, including the collapse of river ecosystems and the depletion of surface water and groundwater resources, threatening biodiversity.

California has encountered similar challenges. Although water trading has helped balance supply and demand in some regions, it has also exposed deep inequities. The Central Valley's small-scale farmers struggle to compete with larger agribusinesses for water, while poorer urban communities face higher water prices. In times of drought, the market-driven system tends to favor those who can afford to pay, leaving behind the most vulnerable populations.

Speculative water hoarding is also a growing problem. In California, some entities have withheld water from the market, waiting for prices to rise, effectively turning water - a vital resource - into a financial asset. This has contributed to localized shortages and driven up prices in already water-stressed areas.

Beyond market failures, there are deeper issues of equity and justice to consider. Wealthier entities' ability to buy up rights means that water markets are prone to monopolization. This has been a persistent issue in Chile, where large agribusinesses and mining companies corner the market, especially in drought-prone areas.

Another challenge is that water markets often clash with traditional or prior water rights, leading to legal and social conflicts. In Chile, prior rights holders, including indigenous communities, have suffered displacement as water rights have been commodified and sold off to larger entities. Such injustices raise fundamental questions about the ethics of commodifying a resource that many communities view as a public good.

More broadly, implementation of water markets is a fraught, complex process. Transboundary water conflicts - where water sources cross regional or national borders - are a growing concern. Markets that allow one region to trade away water that is needed downstream risk sparking conflict between jurisdictions. For example, the Colorado River Basin, shared by seven US states and Mexico, has become a source of rising tensions as upstream water trading affects downstream users. Strong regulatory frameworks are essential to prevent such conflicts, but creating them requires significant political will and resources.

The promise of water markets lies in their potential to address scarcity by incentivizing conservation and efficiency. But the risks they pose, especially to equity and environmental sustainability, cannot be ignored. Chile, Australia, and California provide valuable lessons on the limits of market-driven water management. Monopolization, speculative hoarding, and environmental degradation are all significant risks when water is treated purely as a commodity.

The key is to devise a balanced approach. Water markets must be carefully regulated to ensure fair access, prevent market concentration, and protect ecosystems. Hybrid systems that combine market mechanisms with robust public oversight and community management could offer a more equitable and sustainable solution. Governments should also uphold the rights of vulnerable communities and recognize water as a public good, not just a tradable asset.

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### OPINION

By Mariana Chilton

**NEW DAWN** 

# The Destructive Legacy of Mass Starvation

HILADELPHIA - In the year since Hamas's October 7, 2023, terrorist attack, Israeli forces have killed an estimated 41,200 Palestinians, including 16,700 children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. But a recent letter in The Lancet puts the true death toll in Gaza much higher, at more than 186,000, when counting those killed as an indirect result of the conflict.

Severe food shortages are certainly a contributing factor. Israel's blockade and devastating bombing campaign have prevented the entry and delivery of humanitarian aid. As a result, the United Nations World Food Program found that 96% of Gaza's population is facing acute food insecurity, with more than two million people at crisis levels of hunger or worse. This is forced starvation, a well-known tactic of genocide - and one with which Americans are all too familiar.

Many Americans first learn about such cruelty in elementary school. Textbooks explain how, in the early nineteenth century, the US military began systematically displacing indigenous people to steal their land.

That effort involved tactics intended to cause starvation - from slaughtering millions of buffalo to forcing these communities onto tiny plots of land - to weaken their resolve. Even so-called safe zones were attacked, such as when the US military massacred about 300 Lakota people at Wounded Knee in 1890.

Israeli forces are taking a similar approach in Gaza. They bombed - using US-made weapons - a humanitarian safe zone, killing at least 40 people living in tents. The military has also targeted health-care and aid workers, killing more than 1,000 of them, including seven World Central Kitchen team members who were attacked while delivering food.

To understand the consequences of these policies of expansion and domination, one need look no further than the United States. Genocide is a historic trauma - perhaps best understood as a "soul wound" - among indigenous people that still reverberates. The establishment of the reservation system, the scant provision of food, and other acts of ethnic cleansing in the nineteenth century eroded indigenous sovereignty.

That legacy can be seen in today's subpar housing, inadequate health care, and underfunded education programs for America's impoverished indigenous communities. Likewise, the Native American boarding school system, spurred by federal assimilation policies, harmed tens of thousands of children, leaving them more vulnerable to depression, suicide, and addiction, which can be passed down from generation to generation.

Moreover, rates of food insecurity among indigenous communities in the US have hovered around 25% for many years, but reached as high as 77% for the Navajo (who call themselves the Diné), and more than 90% for the nations of the Klamath River Basin in southern Oregon. By contrast, 13.5% of US households were food insecure in 2023, according to a report by the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, and that rate is even lower among white Americans, at 10%.

While researching food insecurity among women and children in the US over the past quarter-century, I have interviewed many Black women and women of color about their struggles to feed their families. Time and again, they provided insight into not only the previous year, but also their childhood experiences of violence and deprivation.

Often, their parents and their grandparents faced poverty; some even reported five generations' worth of hardship. These trajectories are shaped by America's history of slavery and genocide, which triggered cycles of racism and discrimination that continue today. The original harms are woven into American family life through lower wages for people of color and racially discriminatory health-care, welfare, and foster-care policies.

The US government can and should make some immediate fixes, such as reinstating the temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit and offering universal school meals (both of which provided vital support for American families during the COVID-19 pandemic), as well as improving access to health care.

But while these steps can lower overall levels of food insecurity, they cannot address the inequities that lead women and children of color to experience higher rates of hunger.

The mothers I interviewed want policymakers to address the root cause of hunger in the US: the exposure to racialized and gendered violence in the family and community, which can be traced back to America's legacy of slavery and genocide. The US government has not atoned for its past sins, and until it returns land and pays reparations, these original traumas will remain unhealed, and unequal food security will persist.

To witness the starvation and suffering in Gaza today is to be reminded of the enduring consequences of America's divisive history. The unbearable trauma should force US policymakers to ask how to end this cruelty and begin making amends. As in Gaza, an immediate "ceasefire" would be a good start.

But then the more difficult and more urgent task is for the US government to divert the money being spent on bombs to social programs that will provide food, education, and health care for all.

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# FEATURE

# ARTICLE

# Choices for women and girls for HIV prevention: So near and yet so far

#### SHOBHA SHUKLA - CNS

ongstanding gender inequalities, discrimination and poverty deny many women and girls bodily and economic autonomy - which deprives them of control over their sexual health, and increase the risk of preventable infections like HIV. Women and girls are still disproportionately affected with HIV. 4000 missed opportunities to prevent HIV among young women and girls every week In 2023, an estimated 1.9 million adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years were living with HIV, compared with 1.2 million adolescent boys and young men of the same age group. The estimated number of adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years who acquired HIV in 2023 was 210,000 —four times higher than the 2025 target of 50,000. This is equivalent to an estimated 4000 new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women every week. Of these, 3100 infections were in sub-Saharan Africa alone. In this dismal scenario it is somewhat heartening to see that the HIV

prevention field is focussing on funding long-acting prevention technologies for women. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, women must be able to choose among a range of HIV prevention options that address their different needs and preferences, at different stages of their lives and lived realities. Her body, her choice The importance of choice and access in combating the HIV epidemic was the dominant theme of the 5th HIV Research For Prevention Conference of International AIDS Society (HIVR4P) in Lima, Peru. Many clinical studies presented at the conference showed promising results of new HIV prevention tools made especially for women and young girls, which in addition to being safe and effective, will also be acceptable and affordable. Long acting dapivirine vaginal ring for HIV prevention The 3-months dapivirine vaginal ring is identical to the 1-month dapivirine vaginal ring (by way of its shape and size) except that it

contains 100mg of dapivirine instead of 25 mg. Just to recap, the monthly ring (developed by International Partnership for Microbicides and acquired by Population Council two years back), is the world's first female-controlled, longacting, non-systemic, microbicide product that substantially reduces the risk of getting

After a long

wait for women

and girls to get

health

technologies,

scientific R&D

pipeline gives

hope

**RHIVR4P** 2024

infected with HIV. Thus, it is also referred to as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) ring. The dapivirine vaginal ring is a flexible silicon ring that slowly releases the HIV prevention drug dapivirine into the target cells and substantially reduces the risk of her getting infected with HIV. Any HIV-negative woman, who is at risk of acquiring the infection, can herself put the ring in her vagina, leave it in place for 1-month and then replace it by herself. The ring is available as an alternative for women who are unable to take daily oral PrEP tablets. It received positive opinion from European Medicines Agency and a pre-qualification by the World Health Organization (WHO). It has been approved for use in eleven African countries and is available in six of them (Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe) through implementation and pilot studies. While research has shown that the monthly dapivirine vaginal ring is

appealing to many women, a longer-lasting version will have a lower annual cost and may be more convenient to users. 3-months ring Jeremy Nuttall of the Population Council's Center for Biomedical Research, shared findings from a clinical study (IPM 054). This study of the 3-month extended-use dapivirine vaginal ring was recently completed. This study is a phase-1, open-label, randomised crossover study, which investigated the relative bioavailability of a 3-month (100mg) dapivirine vaginal ring and compared it with the 1-month (25mg) ring. Of the 124 healthy women who enrolled, 104 have completed the study. Each participant used three consecutive 1-month rings, followed by single 3-month ring, or vice versa. Plasma vaginal fluid samples were taken regularly throughout the study period for drug-level measurement. Based on dapivirine concentrations in plasma after women used each type of ring, the study team determined that the 3-month ring is non-inferior

and pharmaco-kinetically superior to the monthly one. "These results show that the efficacy of 3-months ring is at least equal to that of the 1-month ring. While offering all benefits of 1-month vaginal ring, 3-months ring also means less number of rings per year - 4 rings in a year instead of 12 - which is a two-thirds reduction in number of rings and packaging materials required per year. The estimated cost is not more than US\$ 16, which represents a 60% price reduction per

estimated cost is not more than US\$ 16, which represents a 60% price reduction per year compared to 1-month ring," said Nuttal. Nuttal emphasized that the 3-months dapivirine vaginal ring will expand options and choice for women to protect their health and accelerate global efforts to end the HIV epidemic. By increasing convenience to women -in terms of fewer insertions and visits to the clinic, and lower costs - it is likely to increase acceptability and adherence, thus

leading to increased effectiveness.

Population Council is preparing to seek regulatory approval for the 3-months ring. It is expected to enter the market by 2026 potentially replacing the 1-month ring providing a more convenient and cost-effective option to women. It represents yet another important prevention option for women. Dual prevention pill When it comes to health, people may have more than one disease prevention needs. Can one pill reduce the risk of HIV as well as act like a contraceptive and reduce risk of unplanned pregnancies? The dual prevention pill, currently under development, is a single, co-formulated, daily oral pill containing oral pre-exposure prophylaxis

(PrEP) and combined oral contraception that prevents both HIV and pregnancy. Since both the ingredients of dual prevention pill are already approved for individual use, their combination pill just needs to undergo bio-equivalence study to determine if they are as safe and effective in combination. A recently concluded bioequivalence study has demonstrated the active ingredients functioned in the body the same as when PrEP and oral contraception are taken separately. Viatris, a manufacturer of generic antiretroviral HIV drugs and hormonal contraceptives, is developing the dual prevention pill as a bilayer tablet containing Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (300mg) and Emtricitabine (200mg) (also referred to as TDF/FTC), and Levonorgestrel (0.15mg) and Ethinyl Estradiol (0.03mg) (also referred to as LNG/EE). A pack will contain 28 tablets - 21 combination tablets (with HIV prevention medicines and contraceptive) and 7 antiretroviral-only tablets, which will need to be taken to maintain protection against HIV during the last week of the month/ cycle. The dual prevention pill is expected to be approved by regulators by late 2025 and could reach the market as early as 2026. It will become

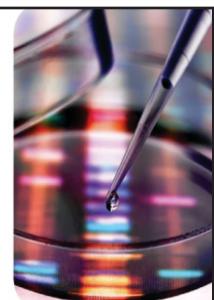
the first multipurpose prevention technology to go to the market since male and female condoms, and add to the contraceptive and HIV prevention toolbox. Longacting biodegradable hydrogel injectable system Dr Melissa Peet, a scientist at CONRAD (a nonprofit research organisation affiliated with Eastern Virginia Medical School), presented data of a long-acting (LA) subcutaneous injectable hydrogel depot platform (currently in non-human primates studies)- a drug delivery system capable of both: either providing HIV prevention alone, or as multipurpose prevention technology for simultaneous protection against HIV and unplanned pregnancies. It is biodegradable, provides lower injection volume and higher drug

loading capacity, and may co-deliver two drugs with discretely controlled release profiles. Formulations containing 515 or 616mg/ml of micronised cabotegravir, and 359mg/ml of micronised dolutegravir and 67mg/ml of levonorgestrel were administered to rats to assess pharmacokinetics, drug-drug interactions, and injection site reactions for up to 3 months. Cabotegravir and dolutegravir are HIV antiretroviral medicines whereas levonorgestrel is a contraceptive one. Both formulations showed high and sustained plasma concentrations. Dolutegravir and levonorgestrel plasma levels did not show drug-drug

interactions and there were no observed safety signals in any formulations. Peet and her team of researchers have now developed a silica-based hydrogel injectable platform loaded with high concentrations of cabotegravir or dolutegravir and

levonorgestrel, supporting subcutaneous administration and drug release for at least 3 months for protection against HIV and/or unplanned pregnancy. Peet explained that, "The silica-based hydrogel matrix is composed of silicon microparticles and water. Drug release is controlled by the silica erosion for the microencapsulated levonorgestrel and suspended antiretroviral drug. Silica is fully biodegradable - which means it does not need to be removed - and in this way it is different from silicon which is used to manufacture the silicon dapivirine vaginal ring. It is also capable of co-formulation with one or more drugs. It allows for subcutaneous injection in a low-dose volume. It is a stable suspension and does not require any cold chain storage." Additional studies are underway in non-human primates to better assess protective target drug concentrations and injection intervals. With the successful advancement of long-acting injectable cabotegravir for HIV prevention, development of a more clinically and regulatory congruent multipurpose prevention technology combining cabotegravir and levonorgestrel in this hydrogel gives hope. Also, inserts of two antiretroviral medicines (tenofovir alafenamide or TAF and elvitegravir or EVG are stable, easy to manufacture, lowcost, acceptable, and show highly promising preclinical and clinical results for ondemand topical pre- or post-exposure HIV prevention. Long-acting dissolving vaginal film for HIV prevention in women-the

MATRIX way The University of Pittsburgh and Magee-Women's Research Institute (MWRI) is collaborating with the Population Council in the development of a monthly dapivirine vaginal film, as well as a dapivirine and levonorgestrel monthly vaginal film for the protection of both HIV and



unplanned pregnancy.

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# LNBA, JES Engineering sign US\$121K MOU EU, IMF Delegations Hold Talks With

#### -To construct first floor of multipurpose headquarters

The Liberian National Bar Association and JES Engineering firm signed an agreement to construct the first floor of the LNBA's multipurpose headquarters.

By Lincoln G. Peters

to complete the first floor of its onrovia, Liberia, four-storey multipurpose October 17, headquarters in Tower Hill 2024—The Liberia Community, Roberts National Bar Association International Airport Highway.



(LNBA) and JES Engineering, a Liberian-owned company, have on Tuesday, October 15, by the signed an Exchange of Notes LNBA's President, Sylvester D. Agreement worth US\$121,000 Rennie, and the General

The agreement was signed Manager of JES, Mr. Joseph S.

Dennis, in the presence of the LNBA's project manager, Cllr. Bobby Livingstone.

Staffers of the Bar and JES witnessed the signing ceremony at the LNBA's office on Ashmun Street, Monrovia.

According to Cllr. Rennie, the project is fully funded from dues and other fees collected from its membership.

Delving into JES Engineering's selection process, Cllr. Rennie notes that it followed a competitive bidding process. "We announced a bid about

three months ago for contractors to express interest; we were able to get a company that is 100% Liberian-owned to carry out our project," he says.

He adds that the contract for the pending project will run for eight months, where the first floor will be completed.

LNBA President lauds his predecessors, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe and Cllr. Moses Paigar, whose administration contributed to the project.

He promises that, under his leadership, the project will be completed in time for official use by Bar members.

"Once it's completed, our leadership will go down in history as the first to complete the first floor."

CONT'D page 7

#### -LRA boss to boost revenue growth

CG Jallah meeting EU and IMF visiting delegation at the LRA Headquarters on Wednesday

Commissioner General Government Act. Paynesville.

The talks centered on economic growth.

announced the EU's allocation of distractions and external noise. US\$56 million in direct budget

aynesville, October 16, aligned with the implementation of 2024 - The elements from the Local

of the Liberia Revenue Authority In a subsequent meeting, IMF (LRA), James Dorbor Jallah, Resident Representative Joel Chiedu along with senior LRA officials, Okwuokei expressed his today hosted key discussions appreciation for the opportunity to with a delegation from the meet with LRA leadership, stating European Union (EU) and the that the LRA is crucial to Liberia's newly appointed Resident economic outlook. Mr. Okwuokei Representative of the reaffirmed the IMF's commitment to International Monetary Fund collaborating with the LRA, noting (IMF) at the LRA Headquarters in that its efforts are key to shaping the nation's economic future.

In response, Commissioner sustaining the LRA's recent General Jallah provided an achievements in revenue optimistic forecast for the LRA, collection and exploring new revealing that the Authority is on strategies to increase domestic track to collect at least US\$700 revenue, supporting Liberia's million in domestic revenue by the end of 2024. He outlined the LRA's Leading the EU delegation, long-term vision of reaching a Dr. Anna Brzozowska, Head of billion-dollar revenue milestone, Political and Economic emphasizing the institution's focus Governance Cooperation, on its goals amid political

Earlier in the day, Liberia's support to Liberia over the next Finance Minister, Augustine Kpehe three years, with an additional Ngafuan, held an extensive meeting US\$7 million earmarked for with the LRA's senior management



taxes on are those not produced from any of the During the dialogue, women

complained about the payment Community of West the ECOWAS Commission to of illegal taxes to border warehouses at those borders,

The dialogue ended with women agreeing to organize Speaking during the dialogue in within the region, and dealing themselves in order so that the ECOWAS Ambassador will take

institutional project support. team to discuss revenue forecasting She emphasized the LRA's pivotal and the finalization of the 2025 role in Liberia's economy and national draft budget. The highlighted the meeting's discussions aimed at aligning objective of identifying areas revenue projections with national

revenue growth. Liberia's significant untapped stated. Bassa and Margibi Counties, release.

where the EU could assist the priorities to ensure the timely Authority in enhancing its submission of the budget to the capacity to further drive President and the Legislature.

"Our goal is to have the 2025 Commissioner General Jallah national budget approved and ready expressed his gratitude to the EU for implementation before the start for its support and pointed to of the new year," Minister Ngafuan

potential in the real estate The LRA's ongoing partnerships sector, which requires strategic with key international stakeholders investments to unlock. He underscore its commitment to underscored the importance of driving Liberia's economic growth establishing a national cadastral through robust revenue collection system, noting that the LRA has efforts, positioning the Authority as already begun decentralizing its a critical player in achieving real estate initiatives in Grand national financial stability. -Press

# **ECOWAS** meets with cross-bor

ECOWAS meets with women involved in cross-border trade to only goods that customs collect remove obstacles affecting them.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

African States of ECOWAS has minimize their suffering, as guards, the lack of housing and ended a one-day dialogue with they do in cross-border trade. women engaged in cross-border She indicates that ECOWAS is and the huge transportation trade here to minimize the an organization geared challenges they encounter in towards unifying the people, bringing their goods.

Monrovia on Tuesday, October with difficulties and illegal 15, 2024, ECOWAS Ambassador monies in cross-border trade. their leadership on a tour to to Liberia Josephine Nkrumah "These illegal monies reduce various borders to educate said the dialogue is intended to the profits and eventually security officers about the ascertain the challenges women transfer to the ordinary importance of cross-border engaged in cross-border trade people who buy these goods," trade. Editing by Jonathan unnecessary and illegal taxes they pay state security agents assigned at the borders while bringing their goods.

Ambassador Nkrumah explained that the ECOWAS heads of state have long since adopted a protocol for people in the West African region to trade without experiencing any hindrance.

She discloses that women from regional organizations will erect huge signboards at various crossing points, displaying goods for which they are not supposed to pay any money.

Ambassador Nkrumah countries in ECOWAS." onrovia, Liberia, October promises the women that she 17, 2024—The Economic will take their experiences to easing their movements

face and explain some of the she laments, adding: "The Browne Jnity. Paix e

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### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### DC Vice President ends visit to Liberia

Vows to train Liberian youths for self- employment and Youth Advance is working to make them marketable in the job market.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman October 17, 2024 -

Development Division of the onrovia, Liberia, Center, said her visit here has enabled her to acquaint with The Senior Vice the youth advance project, President of Education hold discussion with Development Center based in authorities of the Ministries of the United States has ended a Education, Youths and Sports,



five-day visit to Liberia with including key stakeholders in expression of satisfaction for Monrovia. performance of the EDC team in the country.

16, 2024 in an interview shortly young people for selfbefore departing Liberia, employment and make others Madam Nancy Devine, who marketable in the job market. heads the International

Madam Devine says the EDC will endeavor to provide Speaking Tuesday, October training and necessary skills to

According to her, the USAID

provide 21,000 young people with skills, experience, support and relationships to productively engage with local economies.

She reveals that the project is assisting nearly 8,000 youths to transition to employment or entrepreneurial activities.

Meanwhile, she notes that the program is reaching scale and sustainability by engaging them through system actors, including market actors, youthled and youth-serving organizations.

The EDC is an international non-governmental organization based in the United States that is currently operating in 30 countries.

The EDC Senior Vice President commends the team in Liberia for their dedication and 60 civil society organizations and institutions partnering with them.

She says the EDC has been working in Liberia since 2009, targeting economic selfreliance and resiliency of Liberian youths in targeted areas in Montserrado, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties. Editing by Jonathan Browne

#### **GVL** distances from **Freedom of Information Act**

#### -Says MoUs are exempt

Oil palm company Golden Verolume Liberia says its contracts are not subjected to the Freedom of Information Act.

automatically cover private environmental performance." contracts between parties, other entities in the conduct of by its operations. its business and operations.

the agreement.

in its Concession Agreement and agreements." the Principles and Criteria of the At the same time, it

onrovia, Liberia, ignore the overwhelming October 17, 2024 - conclusions of the 3rd party report, Golden Verolume which commends "GVL's Liberia (GVL) says the Freedom commitment to maintaining a high of Information Act does not level of compliance and

Management says commitments noting that MoUs between to communities are outlined in the communities and GVL fall under MoUs agreed with these groups, this category, along with other including an agreement to build commercial contracts entered hand pumps for each population into between the company and between 25 and 150 people affected

The company reveals that it has GVL says it is ready to share constructed over 40 hand pumps and its MoUs if requested by rehabilitated more than 70 existing interested parties, with consent hand pumps in six communities in of communities that are party to Sinoe County. "We believe we have gone beyond our MoU obligations, in some cases building hand pumps for GVL says it is committed to areas below the population fulfilling obligations contained threshold outlined in these

Roundtable on Sustainable Oil acknowledges feedback from Palm (RSPO), which includes communities that some hand pumps protecting water sources and it has constructed are not operating

# Bishop Quire rejected anti-gay report

Starts from page 11

Liberia Annual Conference held its 191st annual session in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, in February 2024.

The report said that at that Annual Conference Session, the

delegation head, Rev. Dr. Conference.

In response, the report said the Kulah, requested a mandate Resident Bishop Quire pointed out from the annual conference to that the Liberian Annual guide the delegation Conference was against same-sex regarding issues expected to marriage and the ordination of dominate discussions on the LGBTQ people becoming pastors, floor of the General leaders, and bishops in the denomination.

## **LNBA, JES Engineering sign US\$121K MoU**

Starts from page 6

While the project is ongoing, Cllr. Rennie discloses that funds company defaulted on the have been raised to complete project," he explains and complete the first floor before the first floor.

implementation to a lack of GeoScope." funding over the years and a previous contracting Liberian that, with a sound financial company will complete the company, GeoScope Limited.

GeoScope because the implement the project. adds, "Plan is underway to He attributes the delay in seek legal redress against

terminate the contract with amount has been collected to

He vows, "I will make sure to my tenure comes to an end."

In response, JES' General Manager Dennis assures the However, he is optimistic LNBA's membership that his policy currently being project within the agreed-upon "We were compelled to implemented, a substantial eight months. Editing by Jonathan Browne





ensuring that communities have properly and require maintenance, access to clean and safe drinking saying "We are working to provide water. The company notes that additional support for maintenance its environmental performance and upkeep. Improvements to this is independently audited every process will be reflected in revised year in accordance with MoUs that are currently being Environmental Permit granted negotiated with communities." by the Liberian government,

"These reports may highlight represent local interests. risks and include Agency (EPA)", the company says in the press release. in a release.

consumption.

GVLcontinues that it works adding that these permits, closely with communities through including for the Tarjuowon mill, regular community meetings and have been renewed every year, engagement with local stakeholders most recently following the including the communities' chosen submission GVL's Environmental Community Development Fund Audit Reports (EAR) in May 2024. Committee, that are deemed to

"GVL contributes to Community recommendations to prevent or Development Funds (CDF), in line reduce environmental impact. with our MoU commitments, and GVL has reviewed these supports communities in recommendations and followed administering these funds. The CDF up with action plans to remedy is one of the mechanisms through issues and reduce risks. These which infrastructure and other plans have been submitted to community development initiatives the Environmental Protection are funded", Management explains

The company says its response It reiterates that the specific followed concerns raised by a local case of elevated phosphate daily (The DayLight) that was levels quoted in media reports subject of a complaint lodged refers to water in POME ponds, against it with the RSPO, assuring explain that POME is used as a that GVL has and continues to work fertilser and is not a water to comply with the RSPO's decisions source intended for human and recommendations to resolve the complaint, which is currently closed

Media reports also chose to for monitoring. Press Release

## ran

Un prêtre catholique a été détenu à Monrovia pour

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son implication présumée dans un viol prêtre d'accusation datée du 15 c a t h o l i q u e octobre 2024, l'accusé George

en détention provisoire à la catholique Christ the King. prison centrale de Monrovia

libérien, Daniel L. aurait commis ce crime le 8 mai George, âgé de 32 ans, est 2024 dans l'enceinte de l'église

La police révèle également



à Monrovia.

L'accusé George, prêtre communauté d'Old Road. associé à la paroisse Christ police nationale libérienne que prêtre associé. le 12 octobre 2024 et accusé

pour avoir prétendument que le prêtre Daniel L. George a violé une mineure de 16 ans agressé sexuellement la victime à son domicile dans la

D'après la police, la mineure the King dans la et sa famille sont membres de communauté de Gay Town, l'église catholique Christ the Old Road, a été arrêté par la King où l'accusé exerce en tant

L'enquête révèle que le de viol statutaire, qu'il prêtre, l'accusé George, avait aurait commis sur sa gagné la confiance des parents de la victime et avait l'habitude Selon une feuille de téléphoner à sa mère pour

emmener la jeune fille au parc sportif Invincible près d'Old Road, avec le consentement de celle-ci.

Cependant, la mère a commencé à se méfier de ce comportement et a interdit à l'accusé de continuer à emmener sa fille dehors. Elle a également informé un autre prêtre, le père Patrick, de ne plus laisser l'accusé George rendre visite à sa fille à domicile.

Lors d'une interview avec la police nationale libérienne, la victime raconte qu'en mai 2024, alors qu'elle se trouvait à l'église Christ the King, George lui a dit qu'il avait des photos pour elle chez lui.

Elle poursuit en expliquant qu'il lui a alors demandé de l'accompagner pour les récupérer, mais elle lui a dit qu'elle devait d'abord voir sa mère. Toutefois, il a insisté et l'a convaincue qu'elle ne resterait pas longtemps chez lui.

La victime raconte qu'une fois chez lui, elle s'est assise dans le salon pendant que l'accusé George était dans sa chambre. Soudain, il lui a demandé d'entrer pour l'aider à trouver les photos, ce qu'elle a

"Immédiatement après être entrée dans sa chambre, il m'a poussée et je suis tombée sur le lit; il m'a déshabillée et a eu des relations sexuelles avec moi. En

CONT'D page 9

### Le gouvernement libérien lance des démolitions pour la construction de ponts aériens

Tubman, près du Complexe ministériel à Congo Town, et SKD. Ces opérations visent à préparer la construction des tout premiers ponts aériens du pays, un projet destiné à infrastructures urbaines.

Pilotée par le ministère des Travaux publics, cette initiative prévoit la démolition de structures se trouvant sur le tracé des futures infrastructures. Bien que présentée comme une avancée majeure pour le développement du pays, cette opération s'accompagne de frustrations et de pertes pour de nombreux résidents et occupants illégaux.

Abraham Rahim Bility, ministre adjoint chargé de la planification, des programmes et de la recherche au ministère des Travaux publics, a indiqué

e gouvernement que l'objectif est de démarrer les récalcitrants : « Vous devez a travaux de construction au début partir volontairement, sinon officiellement de l'année 2025. Il précise que les nous utiliserons nos machines lancé les travaux de occupants concernés ont été pour procéder à votre démolition sur le boulevard informés bien à l'avance des évacuation. » démolitions à venir.

à la jonction du boulevard privés ont été indemnisés, et aériens sont en phase finale et nous avons demandé aux la construction débutera en occupants illégaux de se reloger février 2025. Ce projet de manière volontaire. Faute de s'inscrit dans le cadre d'un quoi, ils seront évacués par une accord signé en 2021 entre le désengorger le trafic et à équipe d'intervention », a gouvernement libérien et moderniser les déclaré M. Bility. Il ajoute que la China Railway, avec un démolition a déjà commencé et financement assuré par la

concernées coopèrent.

Il avertit néanmoins les

Selon lui, les plans « Les propriétaires de biens géométriques des ponts que la majorité des personnes République populaire de



# ditorial

### Un pont pour l'intégration régionale : une initiative à saluer de la CEDEAO!

Un projet de construction d'un pont de 15 millions de dollars entre le Liberia et la Côte d'Ivoire se profile, avec pour ambition de renforcer l'intégration et les échanges commerciaux, non seulement entre ces deux pays, mais au J sein de toute la région de la CEDEAO, et même au-delà.

Portée par la Commission de la CEDEAO et financée par la Banque africaine de développement, cette initiative place les populations au cœur de son action. Elle vise à faciliter une coopération accrue, des échanges commerciaux plus fluides et, pourquoi pas, des unions interethniques entre citoyens libériens et ivoiriens.

Pour un pays comme le Liberia, confronté à des défis en l matière de connectivité routière, ce projet représente une véritable bouffée d'oxygène. Il promet de dynamiser les j échanges commerciaux entre les deux pays, tout en renforçant les liens tribaux, culturels et économiques qu'ils partagent depuis longtemps.

Nous saluons la vision de la CEDEAO, qui fait de l l'intégration régionale par la connectivité une priorité. Ce projet ne contribuera pas seulement à rapprocher les pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, mais aussi à supprimer des barrières l économiques, tout en favorisant la libre circulation des biens et des services.

Cependant, le Liberia doit s'assurer de ne pas manquer cette opportunité cruciale. Comme l'a souligné Chris! Appiah, directeur intérimaire des Transports à la CEDEAO, le gouvernement libérien n'a pas encore envoyé d'ingénieurs pour collaborer avec leurs homologues | ivoiriens sur la supervision des travaux.

Il est primordial que le Liberia ne prenne pas de retard dans ce projet historique, qui profitera aux générations à venir. L'augmentation des échanges régionaux est un rêve nourri de longue date, et ce pont pourrait être la clé pour p le réaliser.

Le président Joseph Boakai doit voir dans ce projet une opportunité stratégique pour renforcer les relations avec la Côte d'Ivoire, un voisin francophone essentiel. De même, le ministère des Travaux publics doit dépasser les querelles internes et se concentrer sur l'essentiel : l'avancement du ¦ projet de pont, un intérêt commun pour les deux nations.

Le lancement des travaux est prévu pour novembre, avec une durée d'exécution de deux ans. La société chinoise SHAANXI Construction Engineering Corporation LTD a été sélectionnée pour mener à bien les travaux. Alors, pourquoi ce retard du Liberia ? La lenteur reste incompréhensible.

Le gouvernement libérien doit agir sans délai et soutenir pleinement la CEDEAO pour garantir le démarrage de ce projet essentiel, qui représente une avancée majeure vers l'intégration régionale et le développement des échanges transfrontaliers.

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# r'rançais

#### Starts from page 8 Un prêtre catholique a

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menacer", raconte-t-elle.

"C'est ainsi qu'il m'a forcée à avoir des relations sexuelles agressée physiquement, lui a avec lui dans le salon de ma arraché le couteau, lui causant mère et a répété sa menace une blessure au poignet gauche. avant de partir. À cause de cela, je suis restée éloignée de chambre et m'a appelée. l'église pendant trois mois. Le Pendant ce temps, l'infirmière dimanche 6 octobre 2024, je suis est revenue, et alors que allée à l'église parce que ma j'essayais d'ouvrir le portail, il a mère a insisté. Elle a demandé à de nouveau menacé de nous une autre dame (Jessica) de tuer toutes les deux. Je suis m'accompagner à l'église", retournée vers lui et il a eu des rapporte la police.

lorsqu'elle est arrivée à l'église, remarqué que j'étais mal à elle a évité tout contact avec le l'aise et s'est précipitée pour prêtre, mais celui-ci n'a cessé informer ma mère (Mme Kebben de l'appeler, jusqu'à ce que Whesseh)", ajoute-t-elle. Jessica le remarque et l'informe que l'accusé la cherchait.

et a quitté l'office pour rentrer l'accusé George, qui tentait de chez elle.

dans l'après-midi, l'accusé l'église avant de signaler ses

juin 2024, l'accusé George est parents après s'être forcé à entré dans la cour de ma maison. entrer dans la cour. Je tenais un Je lui ai demandé de partir, mais couteau en pelant une orange, il a refusé et a commencé à me et lorsqu'il s'est approché, je l'ai averti de rester à l'écart et Elle affirme que le prêtre a l'ai menacé de le tuer. Mais à ce menacé de tuer sa mère, moment-là, l'infirmière affirmant qu'il avait déjà des (Patience Sumo) était partie personnes assignées à son acheter un médicament bureau pour la tuer, et que si elle (Flaggy) pour moi, donc il n'y refusait d'avoir des relations avait personne d'autre dans la sexuelles avec lui, sa mère serait maison sauf l'accusé George et moi", explique-t-elle.

Elle précise que le prêtre l'a

"Ensuite, il est allé dans ma relations sexuelles avec moi. La police ajoute que L'infirmière (Patience) a

La victime poursuit en expliquant que sa mère est Elle a refusé de le rejoindre entrée dans la cour et a surpris se cacher, mais elle l'a attrapé "Le mercredi 8 octobre 2024, et a appelé l'administrateur de George est venu chez mes activités présumées à la police.

### Absence des députés à la Chambre après avoir perçu 45 000 USD chacun



a Chambre des représentants est restée pratiquement vide ce mardi, alors que les députés ne se sont pas présentés à leur poste après avoir touché 45 000 dollars américains chacun pour l'achat de véhicules à la fin du deuxième trimestre de la première session de la 55e législature. La reprise des travaux parlementaires, prévue pour le 15 octobre avec l'ouverture du troisième trimestre, a suscité de vives attentes. Cependant, la session n'a pas pu avoir lieu en raison de l'absence de quorum, condition requise pour engager les délibérations. Sur les 73 représentants, seuls 20 étaient présents, alors que la loi impose un minimum de 37 députés pour la tenue d'une session. Malgré un appel nominal effectué par le greffier de la Chambre, 61 députés étaient absents. Le sergent d'armes a tenté, en vain, de localiser les élus dans leurs bureaux afin de les convoquer en séance, mais les locaux étaient désertés. Faute de quorum, le vice-président de la

Chambre, Thomas Fallah, a été contraint de lever la séance.

**NEW DAWN** 

Dans une déclaration aux journalistes après l'ajournement, M. Fallah a expliqué que ce retard était dû au fait que de nombreux députés étaient en déplacement dans leurs circonscriptions respectives. Il a toutefois affirmé que, désormais de retour, les représentants mettront les intérêts du peuple libérien au centre de leurs priorités.

La reprise des travaux s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'amendement de la Section 1 de la loi fixant la date d'ajournement annuel de la législature, établissant ainsi un nouveau calendrier pour les sessions parlementaires.

Pour rappel, la Chambre des représentants avait ajourné ses travaux le 18 juillet 2024, avant de les reprendre pour trois semaines à partir du 29 août, et de les clore le 19 septembre. Une prolongation exceptionnelle avait été accordée du 20 au 27 septembre pour traiter des dossiers urgents, don't le budget rectifié de 2024.

Les activités de ce troisième trimestre devraient se poursuivre jusqu'au 31 décembre 2024, marquant la fin de la première session. La seconde session débutera en janvier 2025.

#### Starts from page 8 Le gouvernement libérien

Chine. Cependant, plusieurs déception. « Ils nous ont dit de résidents expriment leur partir, mais sans aucun soutien. mécontentement face à ces Maintenant, je ne sais pas où démolitions. Edmund Kerkulah, aller », regrette-t-elle. un barbier local, déplore la

de rue, partage la même Chine au Liberia.

Malgré ces oppositions, le perte de son commerce sans directeur de la communication compensation adéquate. « Le du ministère des Travaux gouvernement aurait dû nous publics, Benjamin Myers, aider à repartir, même s'il nous estime que cette opération a informés à l'avance. Ce matin, marque une étape clé pour le ils sont arrivés avec des développement du Liberia. Il machines et ont détruit mon souligne que la démolition salon », confie-t-il, visiblement ouvre la voie à la construction des ponts aériens, tout en Hawa Kanneh, une vendeuse saluant le soutien continu de la

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#### Libéria (LNP) a décidé de ■révoquer et de suspendre plusieurs agents, accusés d'avoir volé deux hommes La Police nationale du Libéria a suspendu l'Assistant Commissaire de Police, ACP Sam Gballah - LNP-R2, ainsi que l'Agent Augustine Ben de la Division des Renseignements criminels. De plus, l'Agent Sansee C. Massaquoi a été révoqué. Ces agents sont accusés d'avoir dérobé 12 000 USD à deux hommes d'affaires étrangers, Nguyah Dean et

Selon le Commissaire général de la police, le Colonel Gregory Coleman, ces agents ont causé une humiliation nationale en

a Police nationale du

d'affaires étrangers.

Levan Tu.

procédant à l'arrestation illégale de Nguyah Dean et Levan Tu le 12 octobre 2024, sans motif valable.

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le 15 octobre 2024, le plus de cinq mille agents assermentés à Colonel Coleman a affirmé que les actions des agents ne respecter leurs responsabilités selon la reflètent ni la direction ni les valeurs de la LNP, contribuant loi qui a fondé la LNP. ainsi à ternir l'image de l'institution.

« Les agents de police se sont introduits illégalement au enfreignant les mandats de la police Luxury Hotel à Thinkers-Village, où ils ont arrêté ces sera soumis à une enquête rigoureuse. hommes d'affaires sans cause légitime, avant de les amener « Toute conduite en dehors de ces au quartier général de la LNP et de les forcer à poser pour mandats, qui relève de la criminalité, une photo sans aucune accusation formelle », a-t-il précisé. Bien que des suspensions aient été prononcées quelque forme que ce soit », a-t-il immédiatement, Coleman a assuré au public qu'une conclu. enquête approfondie serait menée pour établir les faits La LNP continuera de privilégier la entourant ces arrestations.

« Je ne suis pas fier de me tenir ici pour discuter de cet incident. Cependant, nous tenons à rassurer le public qu'une enquête détaillée sera conduite pour faire toute la lumière sur cette affaire », a-t-il déclaré.



Le Colonel Coleman a également souligné que la LNP est un service dédié au bien-être des citoyens, composé de

Il a insisté sur le fait que tout agent

ne sera jamais tolérée ni couverte sous

qualité à la quantité dans ses actions.

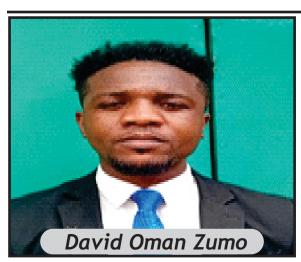
# BERIANS

OCTOBER 17

#### **Topic:** Suspension of foreign drivers' work permits

#### By Naneka Hoffman

The suspension of work permits for foreigners driving heavy duty machines and trucks by the Government of Liberia has been welcomed by ordinary citizens, as you may read below.



"I think the suspension of permits for foreign heavy-duty drivers, from Labor Minister Cooper Krahn is welcoming, because where I came from in India, the people prioritize their citizens when it comes to building their economy, so we as Liberians, we have to prioritize our own drivers. When it comes to other issues, we should be giving first preference when it comes to such thing, so the minister wasn't in error

"The decision by the Labor Minister Cooper Krahn is good,

because for foreigners to be

driving car and getting more

pay than Liberians, even in

Ghana, they can't employ you

to wash car before talking of

paying you higher salary than

their citizens. We suppose to

give them permits; we get

people here, who don't have

job then you are giving it to

foreigners. It is not good; it is

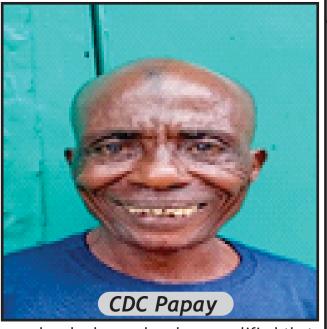
very wrong. I CDC Papay say so

I think the decision by the

minister should go further;

they shouldn't even give them

by suspending permits. They should go through the rightful procedure in order to get the rightful documents to be able to work in the country. In India, they don't allow foreigners to overrule their citizens, but in Liberia, we see these things here, so we as citizens, need to support the minister, to see how best it will give us priority. I am not saying that foreigners shouldn't get permits but, it should pass through the proper channel that they will be able to acquire documents because we noticed that more of the foreign heavy duty drivers are driving illegally in Liberia. They don't want to acquire license or permit to drive, and if anything goes wrong, they will escape from the country, and we will not be able to know their location, so the minister is right."

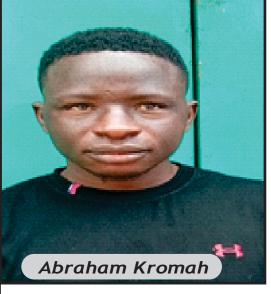


people who learned and are qualified that can do it, so they shouldn't give nobody job besides our children."

jobs before suspending their permits, because we get Rudolph G. Gborkeh

"If there's any wrong, the fact that those holding permits as foreign drivers for heavy duty, then the minister is in the right direction, because Liberia is a country of law and should follow the rule of law. It suggests that those holding those permits, they might have gone against the law of the land that the Minister of Labor is best seated to ensure that materials aspect of the law is obeyed. If this company that brought foreign drivers is refusing to give opportunities to Liberians then I will tap the minister on his back for ensuring that Liberians get those jobs because they supposed to be reserved for Liberians."

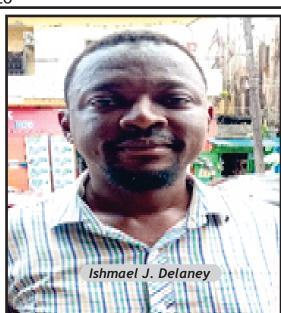




"To admit, the decision from the minister is good because from past time, we've been noticing that foreigners are getting well paid in Liberia than Liberian themselves. That is something we've been yielding for years, so we are very much happy to see such decision from the minister. And my advice is that they shouldn't only stop to

"Well, suspending permits of foreigners and prioritizing the Liberianization Policy, I think it is a good thing but, in my mind, he needs to do more than that in the sense where if you look at all our construction agreements and companies that failed to meet up with terms of agreement, he shouldn't be only suspending permits but rather effect closure. The Western Cluster deal has just received first-class or Class A License so that they can restart all their sisters are working for and they than that."

drivers; For me, I work with Lebanese, common work that Liberians can do even those that are involved in the frozen food business, they will take Lebanese man from Lebanon to come and work in stores just to see how many goods coming out and going in. Can you tell me that Liberians are not capable of doing that job? Yes, we can do it, but if our leadership is about to take that trend, where Liberians will be released from poverty actually, I encourage it. I listened to the minister on Spoon TV; he said the unemployment rate in Liberia is around 9.6 percent, can you imagine then we get foreigners that are well paid than Liberians. I think it is good and it is something that the minister has taken good step on. I am very much happy to see it."



processes. Are you forgetting are unpaid, and when they are that there are even foreigners, trying to raise their cases, they go who are at Western Cluster doing through a lot of bureaucratic manual work that Liberians processes. These are things he supposed to do, so he needs to needs to look at. The bureaucracy go beyond that. He shouldn't do at the Labor Ministry is too much. thing as if to say that they have When people have issues relating received money for such to labor, and you failed to act, purpose; it should go across. If imposing lot of bureaucracy, it you go around, you know makes too many Liberians feel Lebanese our brothers and disappointed. He needs to do more

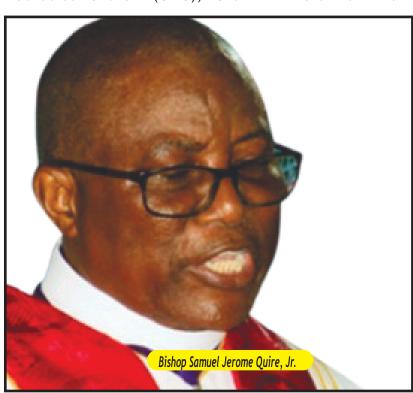


#### OCTOBER www.thenewdawnliberia.com 17

Before attending the UMC General Conference in the United disqualified," he argued. States, the Delegation representing the Liberia Conference said it was mandated to vote against same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ people becoming pastors, leaders, and bishops.

onrovia, October 17, Methodist Church. 2024: Exchanges of

However, Bishop Quire's communications August 9, 2024 letter stated show that the Resident Bishop that the UMC delegation's of the Liberia Annual recommendation to align with Conference of the United the "Way Forward Methodist Church (UMC), Commission's"



reject the UMC Delegation's order and should be deleted. Report from the Postponed 2020 General Conference.

headed by Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah submitted its report Church to become an dated 29 July 2024 to Bishop Quire, he replied to the delegation questioning why its report downplayed the issue of the ratification of the World- from July to October 2023. Wide Regionalization Plan.

regionalizing the annual conference. denomination.

Starts from back page

doing," he adds.

Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr., did recommendation was out of

This recommendation, which Bishop Quire opposed, After the UMC delegation called for the Liberia Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Independent Denomination to align with the recommendation posited by the Way Forward Commission's survey conducted

Bishop Quire observed that According to the UMC the Liberian delegation delegation representing the downplays and even condemns Liberia Annual Conference in the major decision passed at the United States for the the General Conference General Conference, concerning Worldwide conservatives in the UMC had Regionalization, which is strongly voted against supposed to be ratified by each

"Let it be known that by The report indicated that unanimous vote, the there had been unsuccessful Committee on Reference attempts by liberals in the past declared and the General to regionalize the Conference approved, that all denomination in 2008, 2012, petitions from individuals, 2016, and 2019 to allow the local churches, and practice of same-sex unions in conferences no longer certain regions of the United associated with The United CONT'D page 7 Methodist Church are

"Hence, the Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, cannot accept a report that mimics those groups that advocated and [are] still advocating for disaffiliation in the UMC," Bishop Quire continued.

Therefore, he implores the Bishop Kulah-led delegation to revise its report and be more objective rather than subjective so that the members attending the 192nd Session of the Annual Conference in February 2025 will make informed decisions about voting positively for the ratification.

According to the Liberian Delegation's report, the UMC worldwide has legalized LGBTQ practices, including their ordination as clergy and leaders and election and consecration as bishops.

LGBTQ stands for lesbian (a woman who is having sex with another woman); gay (a man who can have sex with another man); and bi-sexual (a man who is having sexual affairs with both women and men or a woman who is having sexual affairs with both men and women).

The report added that the Transgender is (a male who feels or thinks that he is a woman and therefore changes his sexual organs to that of a female, or a female who feels or thinks that she is a male and hence undergoes operations to change her sexual organs to that of a male.

Queer are a group of people

who belong to the queer society, a strange group of people who live a carefree life.

In this society, a person may be sleeping with a woman and a man who are also sleeping with other women and men without any disagreement.

Before the Liberian delegation left for the General Conference, the

**GoL denies losing bid for UN Security Council seat** commitment to the mantra of "towards a just and peaceful world," emphasizing that securing the seat would enhance

He expresses Liberia's ambition to secure a non-permanent seat on the UNSC to lead global discussions on peace, security, climate change, and sustainable development.

voting, we must campaign to get those

votes, and that is what we have been

"If we win the seat and become a member of the Security Council, which has only fifteen members-five permanent and ten rotating, this will demonstrate our competence and significance." He reiterates Liberia's

the country's visibility on the global stage and position it as a strategic partner for international engagement and business.

Dr. Nyei is optimistic that this success would signal to the world that Liberia has moved beyond its war-torn past. It is now a peaceful, progressive, and democratic nation, ready to contribute to global stability and peace, contrary to a negative campaign. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberia now has a luxury SUV for VIPs

President Boakai wants controversial SUV turned over by former Commerce and Industry Minister Amin Modad to be used for VIPs.

By: Kruah Thompson

onrovia, Liberia, October 17, 2024 -President Joseph Boikai has directed the General Services Agency (GSA) to take custody of a luxury SUV recently purchased by former Commerce Minister Amin Modad.

This decision follows Modad's recent resignation amid scrutiny over the vehicle's procurement, which totaled over US\$90,000, significantly exceeding the government's estimated cost for such purchases.

Modad resigned following weeks of controversies surrounding the purchase of the vehicle,

characterized by a lack of transparency and accountability.

In a statement on Tuesday, Robert Wilson, the GSA's Deputy Director for Operations, confirmed that the vehicle is now in their possession.

Mr. Wilson said the GSA has begun placing temporary plates on the SUV and is preparing it for official use to accommodate VIPs visiting Liberia.

Wilson, who emphasized the GSA's commitment to executing the President's mandate, stated that all necessary protocols for the vehicle's usage will be finalized by Monday. Editing by Jonathan Browne



JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

COURT SEAL:

IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L BEFORE HIS HONOR: SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR.... ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE THE PETITION OF PRINCESS PRECIOUS DABIEH NIMELY PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "PRINCESS PRECIOUS DABIEH"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

THE PETITIONER BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL FILED A PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT REQUESTING THIS HONORABLE COURT TO ORDER THE CHANGE OF HER NAME FROM PRINCESS PRECIOUS DABIEH NIMELY TO "PRINCESS PRECIOUS DABIEH"

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified among other things that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reclaim her biological and parental name; that she was born on September 12, 1989, in Grand Bassa County, Republic of Liberia, unto the union of Mr. Peter Dabieh and Mrs. Doris Dabieh of Yekepa, Nimba County, Republic of Liberia; and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings. The witness testified that she has met all requirements for the Change of her name.

This Court says after conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in thes proceedings, the Court observed that the petitioner's intention is just and legal, and that there being no objection to the change of name proposed by her, and the testimony being supported by the records, the same is hereby ordered granted. By that, we now render that the name Princess Precious Dabieh Nimely be changed to "Princess Precious Dabieh" beginning rincess Precious Dabieh Nimely be changed to "Princess Precious I is 8th Day of October A.D. 2024. All documents signed by the Petitic is decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized newspapers operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO, R.L.





VOL. 14 NO. 183

# Goldenies losing bid for UN Security Council seat

The Government of Liberia dismisses reports that it lost its Security Council is well on bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council as course, and our path to entry is baseless.

By Kruah Thompson

October 17, 2024—The seat. Integration, Dr. Ibrahim Nyei, and Tourism in Monrovia on "That election was conducted

Deputy Foreign However, during a press pertains to the UNSC election Minister for International briefing at the Ministry of that was conducted in June of Cooperation and Economic Information, Culture Affairs, this year.

unstoppable," he says.

Dr. Nyei clarifies that Liberia presence is insufficient for an did not participate in any onrovia, Liberia, effective campaign for a UNSC elections this year; rather, the circulating information

> in June 2024, in which five countries were elected. Of these five countries, Mozambique will be vacating its seat at the end of this year, necessitating a replacement."

> He emphasizes that on September 27, Liberia officially launched its campaign at the UN headquarters in New York, utilizing the General Assembly to engage with all UN member states voting in the upcoming elections.

> However, he says that foreign minister's constant

"Since these members will be

CONT'D page 11



refutes media reports that Tuesday, October 16, 2025, Dr. currently, Liberia's candidacy Liberia has lost its bid for a Nyei described these reports as has garnered endorsements non-permanent seat on the misleading, noting that the from the African Union and UN Security Council (UNSC) allegation stems from ECOWAS, and the government following the election of five individuals focusing solely on is receiving commitments from non-permanent members.

Recently, local media outlets Government of Liberia. and some individuals claimed "On behalf of the Minister of engagement.

negative narratives about the countries worldwide due to the

that Liberia lost this bid Foreign Affairs, I would like to because the West African inform you that our campaign country's international for the seat on the UN General



