





CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR **BUYING** DATE **SELLING**

L\$191.6108/US\$1.00 L\$192.9353/US\$1.00 FRIDAY 18, 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.

French Version Inside

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.

VOL. 14 NO. 184

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

Plot at Capitol

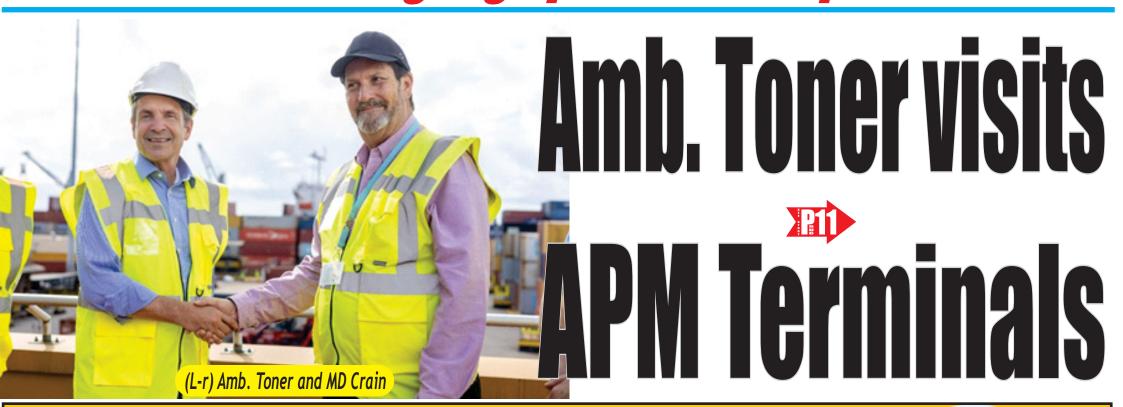








-Rebel lawmakers gang up to unseat Speaker Koffa



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ontinental News

Nigeria to review gasoline transport safety protocols after deadly blast

protocols for the punished. transportation of gasoline after a deadly tanker accident regulations will be. and explosion in Jigawa state Wednesday.

comprehensive," but some observers are skeptical that

uthorities in Nigeria partnership with various state have announced plans authorities and that offenders of to review safety the new regulations will be comes barely one month after

It is not clear what the new

The president also sent top killed more than 140 people government officials including his defense and transportation President Bola Tinubu said ministers, along with food aid and the review will be "swift and medical supplies, to the site of existing road transport Wednesday's crash.



safety standards will improve.

village of Majiya and a short authorities. time later burst into flames,

Onyekpere said he doesn't expect The tanker crashed in the any new measures from

"It is a very unfortunate killing and injuring many who situation and position because the had gathered around the leadership of the country has not wreckage to scoop up spilled been proactive about planning for fuel. Tinubu said a review of transporting of whether it's crude transport protocols for oil or refined petroleum," gasoline will be carried out in Onyekpere said. "The government

is not known to think through issues, they just latch on when there's a public outburst."

The accident in Jigawa another tanker exploded after it collided with a truck in Niger state, killing 48 people.

Tinubu has ordered the Federal Road Safety Corps, or FRSC, to strengthen enforcement of already protocols, including Economic analyst Eze regulations on night travels and official patrols.

> Energy expert Chukudi Victor Odoeme said the new measures are welcome, but is skeptical about compliance.

> "The federal government thinking at this point that it's the time to put policies in place is a good one, but the only snag I see in this is compliance," he said. "It has to do with enforcement, it's not actually about the laws. Load limits have always been there, but it has never been enforced. They have to do a lot of enforcement, I don't think it's in creating new policies."

> Nigeria's 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles) of oil pipelines are often prone to vandalism, and petrol suppliers mostly rely on tankers to transport fuel around the country. But due to poorly maintained roads and disregard for existing road measures, tanker accidents are common. VOA

Kenya deputy president in hospital ahead of impeachment vote - lawyer

President Rigathi Gachagua has failed to appear in the Senate to trial, with his lawyer saying that he has been taken ill.

was present in the house in the morning, had been due to appear from 14:30 local time (11:30 GMT) to defend himself before a vote was expected on Thursday evening about whether to remove him from office."The sad reality is that the deputy president of the Republic of Kenya has been taken sick, very sick, and is... in hospital," said his lawyer Paul Muite. The upper house has since rejected a proposal to adjourn the proceedings by two days - and the trial is continuing without the deputy

enyan Deputy lot of respect take your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of this honourable house."

Two-thirds of the 67 senators testify at his impeachment are required to oust Gachagua, who faces 11 charges, including corruption, inciting ethnic The deputy president, who divisions and undermining government.

> As the trial began on Wednesday, the deputy president pleaded not guilty to each of the charges as they were read out in the house. He has described the impeachment as a "political witch hunt".

> An overwhelming majority of MPs in the National Assembly last week voted to approve his impeachment, setting the stage for the Senate trial.

He has fallen out with President William Ruto, just two years after they were elected on a joint ticket. The row came to a



Suicide bomber kills 7 in Somali capital

suicide bomber killed at least seven people Thursday when he detonated an explosives-laden vest in front of a crowded restaurant in the capital, Mogadishu.

Somali police said the attack occurred around 3:30 p.m. local time, stating that the suicide blast occurred in front of a restaurant near the city's main police facility.

"The attack carried out by a suicide bomber targeted a resting shade in front of a café near the School Polizia Facility, killing at least seven people and six others were injured," said a statement from the police. It said the casualties included police officials and civilians. Witnesses said among those killed was a famous Somali comedian, Sugal Abdulle, and a police officer in charge of the security of Turkish-built Yardim Eli specialist hospital in Mogadishu. "The suicide bomber blew himself in the middle of civilians and members of the police officers, staying under trees in front of

the restaurant," Osman Nur

also near the city's heavily United Nations, while secured international airport that exploring ways to accelerate is home to some foreign UN efforts in support of embassies, and U.N. and African Somalia's priorities," a Union bases.

The attack also came during a visit to the city by the United responsibility for the bombing, Nations Under-Secretary-General but the police said it "has the Rosemary A. DiCarlo.

Agency, SONNA, reported that The Islamist militant group Somali President Hassan Sheikh has launched assaults and Mohamud met with DiCarlo suicide bombings against Thursday at the presidential dozens of public gathering palace. "The meeting focused on spots in Mogadishu over the further strengthening the past 15 years. VOA

olice in Somalia say a Aden, a witness told VOA Somali. longstanding partnership The location of the attack is between Somalia and the government statement said.

> No group has so far claimed hallmarks of al-Shabab" even The Somali National News without a formal claim.

A Somali police ambulance leaves from the scene of an explosion in a restaurant often patronized by police officers, near a police training camp in Mogadishu, Somalia, Oct. 17, 2024.

president.Before the vote, Mr Muite said Gachagua, popularly known as "Riggy G", Karen Hospital suffering from intense chest pains and he had not been able to talk to him.

Speaking to local Citizen TV earlier, Senator Daniel Maanzo said the deputy president "just appear for his defence.

Mr Muite had asked for an extension until Tuesday, but Senate Speaker Amason Kingi said the impeachment trial could not be legally extended beyond Saturday - a proposal turned down by the majority of giving a closing statement and left the hearing. "Arising from honourable Senate, we as the deputy president are not able

explained.

head in June when Gachagua, in an act seen as undermining the president, blamed the head of the had been admitted to The intelligence agency for not properly briefing Ruto and the government over the magnitude of mass protests against unpopular tax hikes.

In a huge blow to his authority, Ruto had just been forced to looked tired" but had lunch at withdraw the taxes. He sacked his his office with other senators cabinet and brought in members who had said he was fine, with of the opposition to his everyone expecting him to government. Ruto has not commented on the impeachment of his deputy. Mwengi Mutuse, the lawmaker who had moved the motion, appeared in the Senate as a witness on Wednesday, accusing Gachagua of violating the constitution while taking the house through the various grounds senators. Gachagua's lawyer of his motion. He framed the then said he would not be accusations against the deputy president as "extraordinary" wrongdoing that would merit that decision of this impeachment. He gave the example of Gachagua's remarks legal team representing the that the government was like a shareholding company, suggesting to continue appearing without that only those who voted for the instructions," Mr Muite government would benefit in terms of development and "So we humbly and with a services. BBC

By Ambroise Fayolle

EDITORIAL COMMENTAR

Gay stigma is hurting United Methodists

The Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, headed by Resident Bishop Samuel Jerome Quire, Jr., seems to be caught between the scissors. Whether to ratify or embrace regionalization (same-sex marriage) and enjoy huge financial support from the church's global gay community or to disaffiliate and forfeit the tempting dollar of gay Methodists worldwide, it is a decision of money vs. morality in the Methodist Church.

In public, Bishop Quire and other leaders of the Liberia Annual Conference are opposed to ordaining gay bishops and gay pastors. But personally, he is against having an independent church or aligning with the Way Forward Commission that vehemently opposes the practice of homosexuality or officiating gay marriage in the United Methodist Church.

This divide is hurting the Liberia Annual Conference, I particularly United Methodists across the country, who sense a strange doctrine surfacing in the church that is totally against their cultural and moral values and the principles of the Holy Bible that they strongly uphold. What should they tell their children both in church and at home if there were an officiating gay marriage in a local church?

United Methodists in Liberia are between the rocks and the high places in making decisions that may affect the church's future. They need sober reflection and sincere guidance, which seem not to be forthcoming from the bishop they look up to amid more questions than answers.

While uncertainty looms, the stigma surrounding the Liberia Annual Conference and United Methodists is growing bigger and wider by the day, accompanied by serious public embarrassment. The prolonged vacuum is leaving room for rumors and innuendos, particularly when Bishop Quire seems not to be coming clear on a situation that is set to change the face of the United Methodist Church in Liberia forever.

The Liberia Annual Conference members are losing trust in the Bishop and his cabinet about whether the LAC should maintain the status code or regionalize. Bishop Quire has not been able to satisfy their doubts and suspicions. They are demanding explanations and clarifications that are not forthcoming.

As if this was not enough, pastors who appear to be vocal against homosexuality in the church are being replaced even before an annual conference, as it is traditionally done.

There are too many conflicting signals coming from Bishop Quire public development banks, as well as investments. The EIB-financed Land regarding this situation despite his professed opposition to same-sex marriage and the ordination of gay bishops and gay

The Liberia Annual Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Samuel Quire, needs to act or come clear on this to ease the psychological and traumatic pains United Methodists across Liberia are being subjected to.

We caution that failure to take a definitive stance on this matter could drag the once enviable image of the UMC as an institution of inspiration and hope into the mud with unimaginable consequences, as is being indicated with police going to quell protests at churches.

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Investments in Nature Will Decide Our Future

nature. But the greatest threats to activities that are harmful to nature. humanity come from crises affecting nature, not least climate change, investing more in it.

"Nature-positive" investments in marine conservation, sustainable land management, water security, and afforestation could deliver around 30% of the emissions abatement needed to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius - the target enshrined in the Paris climate agreement. Moreover, such investments not only improve our resilience to climate change; they also would help to prevent future pandemics.

Ahead of the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia, this month, we must remember that the crises affecting nature also pose structural risks to the global economy, our collective wellbeing and prosperity, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Fully 55% of global GDP is highly or moderately dependent on nature.

In Cali, delegates from nearly 200 countries will discuss how to accelerate action to protect 30% of the planet's land and maritime areas, reduce pollution, and restore degraded ecosystems by 2030. One of the key obstacles to meeting these ambitious targets is financing. Not only do we currently invest far too much in activities that harm nature and make our problems worse; we invest only one-third of what is needed to meet the 2030 targets for climate, biodiversity, and land degradation.

To scale up nature-positive investment, we need to do four things. First, we must build more effective public-private partnerships between countries and with nature organizations, companies, and private-sector financial institutions. This would help de-risk investments, prepare projects, and deliver impact at scale for climate, nature, and inclusive economic development. Second, we need to revive and mainstream regenerative practices and stewardship of biodiversity, particularly in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors.

Third, we need common principles, standards, and disclosure mechanisms to track nature-positive finance and its impact, and to disclose more information on the nature-related footprints, dependencies, and risk exposure of companies and financial institutions. Finally, to take nature into consideration

LUXEMBOURG - It is easy to think of in all policies and investment decisions, humans as existing separately from we must decrease the flow of financing to

Multilateral development banks will play biodiversity loss, and rampant pollution. a key role in scaling up green We cannot address any of these until we investments. Institutions like the stop taking nature for granted and start European Investment Bank are already stepping up support for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of nature with the launch of common principles for tracking nature-positive finance. Such information is essential for measuring and incorporating nature into multilateral lenders' operations, as well as informing other investors about what constitutes a nature-positive investment. Partnerships and joint efforts to put these principles into practice are ongoing.

> At the European level, the EIB is working closely with the European Commission to support the implementation of the European Union's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy worldwide. We strive to ensure that all the projects we finance cause "no loss" of biodiversity, and we are factoring biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into all our activities.

> Moreover, because one of the biggest challenges in scaling up nature-positive investments lies in structuring projects, we are providing advisory services to help nature-restoration and biodiversity initiatives get off the ground. In Morocco, the EIB advised and lent €100 million (\$109 million) to preserve and restore more than 600,000 hectares of forest.

> In Ivory Coast, we are gearing up to support sustainable cocoa farming in which forests are preserved, rather than cut down. And to support marine conservation, we are working with partner institutions on the very successful Clean Oceans Initiative, which is ahead of schedule in providing €4 billion for projects to limit plastic waste.

Innovative financial instruments that transfer risk can help mobilize more public and private finance for such Degradation Neutrality Fund, for example, provides finance and technical assistance for sustainable agriculture and forestry around the world, and the EcoEnterprises Fund supports probiodiversity businesses in Latin America. The EIB is also exploring a new investment in a fund that supports afforestation, forest management, and conservation projects in the region. At COP16, we hope to build on such initiatives to scale up financing for nature.

We urgently need to reduce the flow of finance to activities that harm nature. Doing so is central to overcoming the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

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Lord, surely, they will gather for the money

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father,

Hmm, they say it na easy at ley Traditional Council ooh. Ley chief them mom gather again to sell their signature them for mile. They say each chief got 25k Uncle Same money just to write their name down.

Bor my son then da whatin them putting their name down for all da money na?

Kpoo, you na hear ley news, they say they want to move their Paramount Chief from office. So, each chief who will put him name down to remove him with get ley 25k Uncle Sam Money jus like that.

You say whatin? So what thing ley Paramount chief really do na da some body will go pay all da plenty money for na.

Father, ley chief them say ley short man get plenty trick inside him. But da na da one hurting them ooh. They say all ley plenty stealing the did at the Traditional Council during the Kountry Giant time, ley Paramount chief say they mom come tell ley village about ley Money.

Kpoo, kpoo. He na put fire inside ley place oo.

Father da small thin! They say our village number two man him name inside. Ley other man da can sit right side him-I talking about ley Paramount Chief number two him hand also inside ley cookies jar. Ehn, you know they say wein you hurl rope, rope can hurl bush. Da ley none bringing this plenty noise.

Hmm, my son then weh play ley taking all da plenty money from na?

Father, ehn da ley same village money ley stealing that ley one ley gathering to be dividing among themselves. Weh-play you think ley Village number two get him money from and da from doing all kina shady deals at da Traditional Council there.

Every Goworment da can come ehn him used to be ley one da used to go collect ley money for him friend them. Da small stealing ley people them can do in this village here.

My son how you talking ley thing so?

But Father, da just ley truth. Ley only thing you can here noise at da Traditional Council for da money. Surely, no matter what time it is they will gather for ley money.

See oo, even somer ley people them da voted to make ley short man Paramount Chief, they all collected their first 15k in advance. So next week after they remove ley Paramount Chief they will go and collect ley balance 10k.

So, all ley thing then da happening weh-play ley Paramount Chief eh?

Farther, him went to Uncle Sam Village. Then from their na, he go follow ley Papay to see that Old White Pastor-he too him want prayer.

I see why ley people fighting him here.

Yes, ooh Father. They say ley Paramount Chief abandoned him job to go be bag boy to ley Papay. You know they say, ley play ley sun can shine, da ley play him can hang him jacket. So, him friend them say him can't be trusted.

Tell me something!

Father, da small thing. Ley man da businessman con politician, anywhere him see him opportunity he can go for it oo, Then ley man mom be lawyer again, everything spoil.

What do you mean?

Aah Father, ehn you know how ley lawyer them can be looking for small, small hole inside people cases to make plenty noise out of it-da ley same thing ley short man bring inside him politics. Da what hurting him friend them.

Bor my son, I hear ley Oldman hand behind it too ooh.

Father, it can be true ooh, but for me, ley only person da ley short man popularity hurting will ley Kountry Giant and ley Papay number two, because you see ehn, ley short man want be president in 2029 and ley Kountry Giant and ley Papay number two think say ley man trying to put their butt outside to make himself look leh hero. Look leh hero where?

Aah, Father da other question you ask da plenty thing inside it ooh. My name ooo.



The BRICS Still Don't Matter

ONDON - This month, Russian President Vladimir Putin will host the 2024 BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) summit. It will be the first annual meeting to include the four new members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates - that joined last year, and many other countries also reportedly will participate. But what will come of it?

The BRICs were originally an acronym that I used (in 2001) to describe what I saw as the world's key emerging economies. But former Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Brazilian counterpart, Celso Lafer, had the idea of building on my coinage, and the BRICs turned themselves into a political club, adding South Africa in 2009.

Putin undoubtedly will use this year's summit to signal to the world that he is not as isolated as Western governments want him to be. It is an ideal occasion for him and other leaders to promote a vision of a world that the United States does not lead. But it is worth noting that two other countries that were expected to join the expanded BRICS have not done so. After originally accepting the invitation, Argentina reversed course following Javier Milei's election as president in 2023; and Saudi Arabia still has not decided what it will do.

One can guess why the Kingdom would be reluctant to join. It still prizes its defense and security alliance with the US, and those ties will grow even stronger if it ever normalizes relations with Israel. More to the point, it is not clear what the Saudis, or any others, stand to gain from BRICS membership.

To be sure, there are photo ops. BRICS+ leaders can stand alongside Putin and decry their countries' underrepresentation in many of the big global governance organizations. They do this every year, and it appears to be one of the only real achievements that comes out of each meeting.

Meanwhile, the BRICS have done nothing to effect meaningful organizational or structural change within international institutions. In fact, they have done exactly the opposite. Owing to the evolving geopolitics around Ukraine and the rise of more nationalistic leaders in the West and within the BRICS, international institutions have been rendered even less effective.

The fact is that truly global challenges cannot be addressed through narrow groupings like the BRICS (or the G7 for the matter), and this will remain the case no matter how many members they add. What we really need is a rejuvenated G20, which proved highly effective in its earliest days, following the 2008 financial crisis. Despite being rather large (it includes all members of the G7 and the BRICS), it best reflects today's world in all its complexities.

Moreover, it is not clear to me that the BRICS had ever shared a purpose beyond symbolism. There are many areas where it could pursue collective action to benefit its members and the rest of the world. These include, but are not limited to, advocating freer trade among themselves (and others), and making stronger commitments to fight climate change and infectious diseases.

True, the launch of the New Development Bank - which was originally called the BRICS Bank - was a positive development; but the institution has never had a clear, powerful mandate linked to shared goals.

The 2024 summit will surely include plenty of lofty statements about creating an alternative to challenge the US dollar-based global monetary system. But until the key members - namely China - are serious about opening up their own capital accounts and financial markets, this is not going to happen.

Similarly, until the two most important members, China and India, can agree to cooperate on joint initiatives, the BRICS will have almost no chance of delivering on its stated ambitions. As matters stand, these two major powers remain historic rivals, and have been engaged for years in military skirmishes along the Himalayan border.

For all these reasons, BRICS+ will come to little. The hodge-podge of new members appear to have been selected not for any long-term strategic reasons, but because they can be cajoled.

Egypt, Ethiopia, and Iran may be among the 12 largest emerging economies in terms of population, but they are hardly the most dynamic; equally, the UAE is much wealthier than the others, but it is a very small country. Where are Mexico, Indonesia, and the other exciting Asian economies from the top 12?

The answer hardly matters. Even if they - along with Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey, South Korea, and Vietnam - did join, the result would be little more than larger summits. The G20 would still be the more appropriate and effective vehicle for multilateralism.

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HIV response under lens of indigenous rights

SHOBHA SHUKLA - CNS

t is alarming to note that as per UNAIDS data the annual number of new HIV infections in the Latin American countries increased by 9% between

2010 and 2023, despite the advent of powerful new prevention tools like PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).

High HIV prevalence has been reported among non-migratin afro-descendant and indigenous populations in some countries, including Brazil, where the prevalence of HIV among afro-descendant women is two

times higher than in the overall female population, and Guatemala, where HIV prevalence among afro-descendant Garifuna indigenous populations is estimated to be five times higher (1%) than general population (0.2%).

High HIV prevalence has been reported among indigenous communities in Venezuela (Warao) (9.6%), Peru (Chayahuita) (7.5%), and Colombia (Wayuu women) (7.0%), with factors including geographical, linguistic and social inequity barriers affecting access to services for Indigenous people.

The issues and concerns plaguing them were highlighted at the 5th Conference on HIV Research For Prevention (HIVR4P) held recently in Lima, Peru. Representatives of Indigenous people from the Latin American, Central American, and Caribbean Coalition of Indigenous Peoples in Response to HIV and AIDS not only shared the challenges, vulnerabilities, and inequalities faced by Indigenous peoples in the LAC (Latin American Countries) region, but also proposed transformative, just, and equitable solutions to move forward together for ending AIDS by 2030.

Here are some takeaways from this interaction with Roberto Orellana from

Guatemala, Williams Morales from Chile, Fernando Chujutalli from Peru

and José Montano Ferrel from Bolivia:

Forty years into the HIV epidemic

Latin America is a region where the number of HIV infections is on the

rise. Since 2010, the number of people living with HIV in Costa Rica has

more than doubled, and has nearly doubled in Paraguay, Mexico, and Peru.

The alarming rate of high HIV prevalence in Indigenous communities -

with new cases of infections and mortality reported daily - puts them in an imminent state of emergency. If

governments and key actors in the HIV/AIDS response remain silent spectators,

the Indigenous Peoples face

being seen with the Warao

in Venezuela, the Aguapiru and Bororó in Brazil, the Ayoreo in Bolivia,

and the Awajún and Wampis in Peru.

Challenges galore: Lack of data

There is no segregated data on HIV/AIDS response for Indigenous people of the region. Current epidemiological data do not do justice to them as they are categorised as part of the general population. Hence their realities are rendered invisible. In the absence of data and surveillance of Indigenous people, they seem to be non-existent and no specific interventions in the HIV response are tailored to address the special needs of these communities.

One pertinent example cited by the group was that there was only one abstract on Indigenous Peoples in Latin America that was presented during the five days of HIVR4P 2024 conference, even though the conference took place in a Latin American country.

This is also an indication that researchers are not working in these communities and it does not seem important to them to send abstracts to the conference. Is this not invisibility of the Indigenous people?

Geographical and social barriers

Indigenous populations live in isolated areas, facing high economic costs for traveling to urban health facilities to access comprehensive care and monitoring. The out-of-pocket expenses for transportation, food, accommodation, and medications add up, especially since many of them live in extreme poverty and face food insecurity, which hinders consistent intake of antiretroviral treatment, leading to more adverse effects and ultimately compromising adherence to antiretroviral therapy. Additionally, they have other health issues, making them more likely to interrupt or abandon their treatment.

Linguistic barriers

Language was cited as one of the foremost barriers. At the national level, all information and government decisions are in the official language. For example in the case of Peru, all work is done in Spanish, when many indigenous people do not speak Spanish. In Guatemala too, it is the same story-there are 22 different groups with different languages and everything happens in Spanish. And therefore information does not get to the communities. Likewise the gathered knowledge from Indigenous communities does not reach the government. There are different ways of understanding sexual diversity in Indigenous communities - beyond just two or three- and that is not even taken into account.

Disregard for traditional indigenous knowledge

Indigenous people have had traditional healers since long. For example women, who provide up to 40% or more of childbirth services, are well respected traditional healthcare providers in the community. But the government ignores to harness the power of these traditional healthcare

> workers to be part of the HIV response continuum- because of

> assumption that they are ignorant by virtue of being natives. So they are not engaged with HIV

testing and/or dispensing PrEP. This further

reduces their access to HIV and other healthcare services, especially

those who live far away from the mainland.

Stigma and discrimination

One example given was of the gay men in Indigenous communities. Along

with facing the same discrimination that many other gay men in the

general population face, they additionally face multiple layers of stigma-they are deemed 'ignorant', 'stupid' and 'rustic'. This prevents them from going to even a gay friendly clinic to get access to HIV services.

The way forward

A stronger political commitment is essential- one that recognises Indigenous Peoples as key populations in the response to HIV/AIDS. The 5% in each stage of the continuous care cascade of the 95-95-95 goals represents the Indigenous populations, and only through their inclusion can these global targets be achieved.

Indigenous peoples should have equitable representation in the governance structure of global bodies like UNAIDS and International AIDS Society (IAS). They should be included in all the discussions between governments and other stakeholders, because without their voices, the global response to HIV will remain invisible and silent, incomplete, and profoundly unequal.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

OCTOBER 18

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

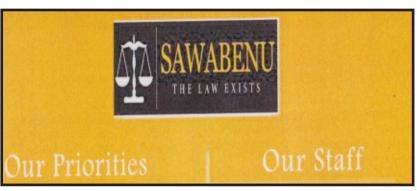
Carter Center gives birth to SAW

A new justice advocacy group, SAWABENU, has been launched to provide legal aid to rural women.

onrovia, Liberia, is delivered to the unjust. October 18, 2024 the rule of law across Liberia, their cases in court for trial. has been launched in Monrovia.

Cllr. Rennie laments the SAWABENU, a local huge presence of pretrial advocacy non-governmental detainees at prisons across the organization that seeks to country, which derives from promote access to justice and plaintiffs' failure to pursue

"We are hopeful as a bar



Monrovia, was graced by local resort to violence", he says. and international partners, CENTAL, and many others.

vernacular, is an offspring of Rennie continues. Carter Center Liberia, which

The official launch, held on that a new group has come out Thursday, 18 October 2024, in to assist in accessing justice. In Congo Town, on the outskirts of the absence of justice, people

"Without boring you, I want including Carter Center, SIDA, to officially launch SAWABENU as an organization... I want to SAWABENU, meaning "the declare this organization law exists" in Liberian officially launched", Cllr.

Earlier, the Acting Executive has supported legal education Director of SAWABENU, and services across the country Sarnyenneh M. Dickson, over the years. Performing the revealed that the organization official launch, the President was established in 2023 with a of the Liberia National Bar current skeleton staff of five, Association, Cllr. Sylvester D. including a Program Officer, Rennie said the Bar is Compliance Officer, committed to ensuring justice Administrative and Finance

Officer, and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, respectively.

Mr. Dickson explains that the organization aims to enhance access to justice, particularly by educating rural women on accessing justice and building the capacity of Civil Society Organizations.

He discloses that SAWABENU is currently present in four counties: Margibi, Bong, Nimba, and Grand Bassa, thanks to a US\$300,000 seed fund provided by the Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Providing an overview, the Program Officer of Carter Center Liberia, Johnny Ndebe, says Carter Center is in eight counties, working with chiefs, elders, and other local authorities to promote the justice system in Liberia.

"Carter Center's decision is to build local institutions for sustainability. The group is new as an organization but not new to Liberia's justice system or the rule of law. It is a new kid on the block", he adds. In remarks, Press Union of Liberia's newly inducted President Julius Kanubah says that for Liberia to make progress, adherence to the rule of law is critical, stressing, "Without the rule of law, democracy will fail in Liberia.

Liberians to endure extreme poverty?

-As Finance Minister laments over US\$2.5 billion debt stock

It appears that poverty and economic hardship among Liberians will remain here for long, as the Ministry of finance paints s very grey picture of the Liberia's debt portfolio at US\$2.5 Billion.

hopelessness and extreme therefore, it's a gape. poverty under the Budget at US\$721.5 million.

Providing key economic government. updates on the status and health Coalition for Democratic Change the country." government as scaring, but narrative.

Suggesting pathway for Liberia debt portfolio reduction, two persons can take a loan but the

debt profile has tremendously

increased.

onrovia, Liberia, purchasing power, but bluntly notes October 18, 2024 - that it not possible when the country Liberians are most revenue envelop is around seven likely to live in a condition of million United States dollars,

However, he discloses that administration of President Liberia is on a growth trajectory Joseph N. Boakai, as Finance and with the economy expected to Development Planning Minister experience growth by around 5% this puts the country's current debt year and 6% if continue next year, stock portfolio at US\$ 2.5 billion, adding that the mining sector is with the country's National picking up and it is his hope to extract revenue from there for

"If you look at revenue offof the Liberian economy on budget that is coming to government Thursday, October 17, 2024 to what is happening in the sector, when he appeared on State we are short. We have an ambition Radio, Finance Minister agenda. We have to robustly deal Augustine Kpehe Ngafun with the constraint of growth. described the nation's debt Actions have been taken but it is just stock portfolios and challenges to consolidate those. The roads and inherited from the former ruling electricity agenda. We must open

He describes debt as an added that he is not scare, while instrument that is not good or bad committing to change the based on the purpose for which it's contracted.

The university lecturer cites that

person who will be diligent and transform the loan in a way that his/her small business grows bigger, in that respect, is good than the man who has party and damaged the money, which makes it bad.

Therefore, he believes that debt becomes good and friendly when it's used and enables the

he says that the country will economy to expand but also need to deal with between five unfriendly when not contracted to ten million United States well, adding that because of debt, dollars to deal with its debt the government has lost it portfolio, on grounds that the creditability with venders.

In time past, when government committed by doing Local Purchase "Liberia's debt stock is Order, venders used to accept. Now, around 2.5 billion. However, out people no longer value that because of that, External debt should be it has been misused. Why? Because 51% while Domestic debt is 49%, the government has lost its debt to Gross Domestic Product credibility over time and now owes ratios (GDP) is now around 56%. private institutions, including banks There are debt indicators, once and the media, he explains.

you start to hit 60%, they start to Media houses here thru the declare you high risk of debt Publishers Association of Liberia distress. At this point, Liberia is imposed a blockage on the Ministry moderate but the yellow light is of Finance and Development blinking to red. We hope that we Planning for indebtedness in the check the break and reduce the tone of thousands of dollars. Editing



Reiver Gee Senatro Dopoh seeks amendment of the Revenue that this discrepancy has

Code of Liberia to ease burdens on citizens.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Dopoh is introducing a bill before Revenue Code, specifically the Liberian Senate seeking to focusing on the Personal reflect current economic amend Section 200 (a) of the Income Taxes Table. This conditions, ensuring that the Liberia Revenue Code to address proposed amendment is tax burden on low-income financial and economic reform critical for alleviating the across the country.

communication to Senate laborers, and skilled laborers, making these necessary President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee whose disposable incomes adjustments, we can foster a Karngar Lawrence, says the have been severely impacted more equitable tax system that amendments made to the by inflation and the supports our workforce and Personal Income Tax Table in devaluation of the Liberian promotes economic stability", 2009 and consolidated in 2011 dollar over the past six he explains. Editing by were intended to lessen the tax years", Senator Dopoh Jonathan Browne burden on low-income earners. However, reading the According to the

communication on the floor of communication, the 38th Day regular sitting, 1st the current tax session of the 55th Legislature, table, calculated Senate Secretary Nanborlor in Liberian Singbeh noted that, dollars, has not unfortunately, the significant kept pace with devaluation of the Liberian realities faced by dollar from 64.00 LRD in 2009 to the workforce, 192.00 LRD in 2024 has resulted especially given in low-income earners being Liberia's heavy pushed into higher tax brackets, reliance on contrary to the original intent of imports priced in

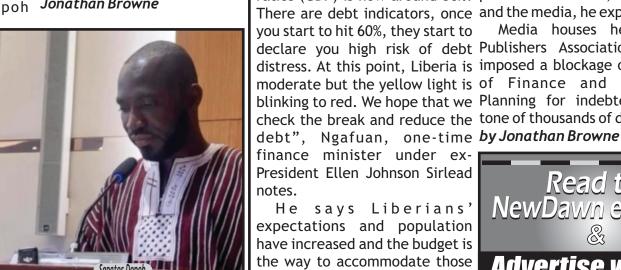
the legislation. "I am writing to submit Dollars, arguing

onrovia, Liberia, October by the Senate Plenary 18, 2024—River Gee regarding the Act to Amend increased tax burden faced by

proffers. United States

further exacerbated the financial challenges faced by legislation for consideration our citizens, leaving many struggling to make ends meet. "The proposed amendment County Senator Francis S. Section 200 of the Liberia seeks to recalibrate the Personal Income Tax Table to earners is consistent with the initial objectives of the 2009 Senator Dopoh, in his domestic workers, unskilled and 2011 amendments. By





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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

OCTOBER 18

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Banjak Frozen Food Reaches Settlement with MS Global Company on US\$140,234.50 claim

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, October 18, amicably resolved their long- US\$162,000. standing commercial dispute.

Commercial Court.

As part of the agreement, 2024/Banjak Frozen Banjak has already paid Food and MS Global US\$164,860 toward the Company, based in the remaining balance, reducing Kingdom of Bahrain, have the amount owed to

The dispute initially arose The settlement follows MS when MS Global denied

business relationship, with Banjak maintaining timely payments for all deliveries.

However, Banjak's staff have expressed concern over the spread of misinformation on social media by MS Global.

This negative publicity has damaged Banjak's reputation and caused significant financial



Global's acknowledgment of responsibility for the defective liability for twelve (12) 40-foot shipments, which included containers of defective frozen chicken upper backs, chicken supplied to Banjak. In carcasses, and fish. Banjak recognition, MS Global has consistently rejected claims a greed to deduct that it had refused to pay the US\$140,234.50 from the total full amount, arguing that claim of US\$467,103.50, payments were only paused leaving a balance of until MS Global acknowledged US\$326,860. Both parties the defects, which they have accepted these terms, now done. resulting in the case's

Banjak and MS Global have withdrawal from the shared a previously cordial

losses, with some international suppliers losing trust in the company.

"We stopped payment only because MS Global initially refused to admit the shipments were faulty," a Banjak staff member noted. "Their refusal to tell the truth and their public claims have hurt our reputation. Accepting such defective products would have led to a fall in sales and reduced revenue."

MICAT Deputy boss Tarkpah raps on Open Government Partnership

Starts from back page

permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

He explained that Liberia is ready to reoccupy the position it once served in 1961.

Under rule 83 of the rules of procedure, the nonpermanent members of the Security Council are elected by a two-thirds majority.

The Security Council has five

permanent members-China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US—and ten non-permanent members (Small powers) elected for two-year terms. Five of the non-permanent members are elected every

However, the country's launching a recent campaign at the UNGA for a

non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Hence, Mr. Tarkpah believes that demonstrating progress in good governance can bolster Liberia's standing in international circles.

"We want the president and civil society to recognize the importance of this instrument involvement in the OGP is for creating a responsive crucial, especially after governing system," he concluded, - Edited by Othello B. Garblah

Starts from page 11 at local health facilities.

It has also constructed a Solar Kitchen for the Bright Star Orphanage, and it is offering scholarships to deserving children through the APMT Liberia Scholarship Program.

These initiatives reflect the APM Terminals' commitment to making a positive and lasting difference in the communities it serves.

APM Terminals is committed to the "Liberianization" of the workforce including the Marine Pilots, Tugboat Captains, and marine Engineers for operating the marine services.

investment has been in building capacity - in the people. 99% of the are Liberians.

"We reached an management of the NPA to provide comprehensive training of Liberians to take over key positions in marine services. Four Liberian pilots, three tugboat captains," APM Terminals said.

investment in container handling equipment such as

Its most profound mobile harbor cranes, reach stackers and empty handlers, APM Terminals is also investing heavily in modernizing the marine services workforce at APM Terminals assets for the Freeport of Monrovia.

This follows the recently signed agreement with the marine services agreement extension with the NPA.

The deployment of modern pilot boats will improve the berthing efficiency of incoming ships, reducing wait times and ensuring smooth operations.

APM Terminals has assured that it will invest in larger and more Besides significant modern tugboats to handle increasing vessel tonnage at the Freeport.

Light Academy School denies increasing tuition, graduation fees

The school proprietor Rev. Dr. Tailey Garley alleged that the student council did agree to pay extra fees, beyond what the Ministry of Education mandates schools to collect.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

2024: The Proprietor Tailey Garley, has denied reports administration's interference. that his institution has increased tuition and graduation fees.

negative propaganda against his charged such fees," he argued. institution while speaking to the NewDawn newspaper on not defy the Ministry of Education Wednesday, October 16, 2024. He stated that tuition for

Academy has not exceeded themselves, and not the US\$150.00. "Let me tell you that the Light

you will find here with modern Dr. Garley stated. facilities," he claimed.

school in Margibi County that the extra fees. meets up with our standard," Dr. Garley boasted.

tuition is below US\$150 for 12th cover, and transcript," he said.

The move seeks to significantly onrovia, October 18, ease economic hardship on parents. Addressing the alleged defiance

of the Light Academy of the MoE's regulation on Model Liberia School in graduation fees, Dr. Garley said the Schieffelin, along the decision came from the students Robertsfiled Highway, Rev. Dr. themselves without the "We have never charged \$150

USD to parents, and not a single He denounced alleged parent will tell you that our school "We [are] law-abiding and will

policy." He stated that the extra charge senior high students at Light was agreed upon by the student

administration. "Our clearance didn't mention Academy is the cheapest school such [an] amount, but \$100 USD,"

He claimed that the Student "And I'm not sure there's any Council Government agreed upon

"The \$100 USD you [[are] talking about comes with a condition and He added that despite the that the school has to give students facilities at the school, their their documents, diploma, diploma



graders, and elementary than US\$100.

Ministry of Education (MoE) intoned. regulation.

faith-based schools must not little over 75 students. exceed the US\$100 dollars for students.

"But the students themselves students are charged not more agreed to contribute \$50 USD to the Students Council Government, This paper's investigative which the Ministry of Education reports gathered that the school recognized and that was never in the was caught in defiance of the administration's purview," he

Recently the Light Academy The MoE says all private and Model Liberia School graduated a

After that occasion, there has benchmark as graduation fees been an allegation of exorbitant tuition being charged at the school.

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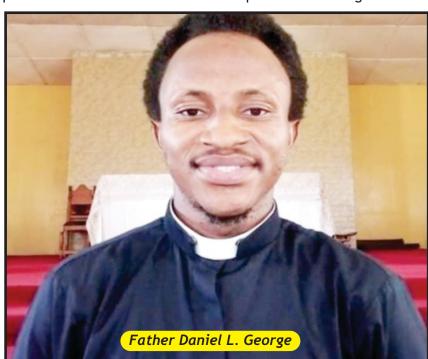
ran

Un prêtre catholique a été détenu à Monrovia pour son implication présumée dans un viol

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

prêtre d'accusation datée du 15 c a t h o l i q u e octobre 2024, l'accusé George 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 concernées coopèrent.

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.

« Les propriétaires de biens géométriques des ponts 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

Il avertit néanmoins les

Selon lui, les plans 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 l 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

juin 2024, l'accusé George est parents après s'être forcé à menacer", raconte-t-elle.

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 sexuelles avec lui, sa mère serait maison sauf l'accusé George et

"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

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 refusait d'avoir des relations avait personne d'autre dans la moi", explique-t-elle.

2024

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.

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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La LNP révoque et suspend des agents pour vol

a Police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a décidé de ■révoquer et de suspendre plusieurs agents, accusés d'avoir volé deux hommes d'affaires étrangers.

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 Levan Tu.

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

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.

EATURE

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

After a long

wait for women

and girls to get

health

technologies,

scientific R&D

pipeline gives

hope

2HIVR4P 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 3month (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

year compared to 1-month ring," said Nuttal. Nuttal emphasized that the 3months 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

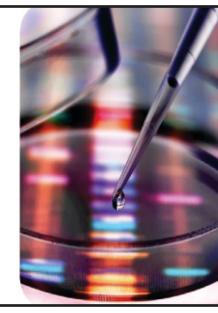
the first multipurpose prevention technology to go to the market since male and female condoms, and add to the contraceptive and HIV prevention toolbox. Longacting biodegradable hydrogel injectable system Dr Melissa Peet, a scientist at CONRAD (a nonprofit research organisation affiliated with Eastern 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.



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At least about 47 rebel lawmakers are said to have lawmakers and journalists to received US15k each in advance bribe payment against US25k promised in bribe money to remove House Speaker Fonati Koffa in what has been described as a plot removal on Capitol

By Bridgett Milton

onrovia, October 18, 2024: Several rebel

lawmakers from opposing sides nearly engaging in fistfights.

The uproar started while awmakers here Koffa is still out of the country. have received bribe money It all started when the amounting to over US 1.1 Chairman on Rules, Orders, and million to oust House Speaker Administration,



Fonati Koffa, who is currently out of the country.

allegedly received the bribe money include Rep. Samson Q. Wiah, Rep. Alexander Poure, Rep. Johnson J.N. Williams, B. C. Wou, Rep. Samuel N. Browne, and Rep. Bintu Massalay.

Others are Rep. Emmanuel Yarh, Rep. Mohammed Dosi, Rep. Nyahn G. Flomo, Rep. Sam P. Jallah, and Rep. Anthony F. Williams, just to name a few.

Bribery is a crime under Liberian law and is a corrupt practice that undermines democracy-something which place sanctions and US travel bans. Fingers have been Branch of Government for trying to undermine Speak

at the House of Representatives on Thursday, October 17, 2024, as lawmakers who had received the bribe money stormed the Capitol, meeting resistance journalists were also locked up from other lawmakers opposed to their plot.

This led to heated exchanges among lawmakers,

Representative J. Marvin Cole, locked the doors to the The rebel lawmakers who chambers of the House of Representatives, preventing Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah from entering.

Rep. Cole commenced Rep. Nejker E. Gaye, Rep. Isaac conducting the session for the day while Fallah could not make his way into the chambers.

> Rep. Cole insisted that Deputy Speaker Fallah would not preside over the session, accusing the latter of allegedly being a criminal.

> Cole also alleged that Fallah had spoiled the safety and integrity of his colleagues.

It prompted a tense standoff has seen many officials here between both lawmakers, leading Rep. Cole to threaten that Fallah would not like his pointed at the Executive action if he made any attempt to enter the Chambers.

Tension increased as the Koffa at the House, a claim the anti-Koffa group of lawmakers Executive Branch has rejected. who had received bribe money The attempt to remove gathered in the joint chambers Speaker Koffa erupted in chaos to conduct a session and read their resolution listing their charges against the House Speaker for which they want him removed.

> Some lawmakers and in the joint chambers, causing some anti-Koffa lawmakers to break down a door there.

A fight broke out between creating pandemonium on the anti-Koffa and pro-Koffa Capitol grounds, with some supporters, prompting

run for their safety.

Later, the anti-Koffa group gathered on the grounds of the Capitol to read their severalcount resolution.

According to the anti-Koffa group, article 49 of the Liberian Constitution and Rule 9.1 of the Rules and Procedures of the House of Representatives call for the removal of the Speaker. Deputy Speaker, and other officers so elected for cause.

The provisions call for the removal by a resolution of twothirds majority of the members of the House.

The group claimed that it

had found causes for the removal of Cllr Koffa as Speaker of the House of Representatives, based on Article 49 of the Liberian Constitution and Rule 9.1 of the Rules and Procedures of the House of Representatives. Nimba County District #2

Representative Nya Flomo accused Speaker Koffa of being significantly conflicted with interest.

He alleged that this is impeding the smooth functions of various committees. The Nimba lawmaker accused Koffa of being the lead consultant and lawyer for several government agencies, Concessions, and other private companies in the country.

"The Speaker singlehandedly selected Liberia's Representatives to the ECOWAS Parliament and lied under oath that he conducted an election," Rep. Flomo alleged.

According to him, on February 7, 2024, without the conduct of an election, the Speaker submitted a list of Liberia's Members of the House of Representatives to the 6th Legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament to Dr. Sidie Mohammed, the Right Honorable Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament.

Meanwhile, the anti-Koffa group has issued a vote of no confidence in Speaker Koffa as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The resolution's reading by the majority block outside the chambers does not fully satisfy the formal removal of the Speaker. According to the procedure, the entire process must occur during an official session, where the resolution is read. The resolution must be included on the session agenda. It should be read within the session, and a vote should be taken to determine the removal of the speaker. To be continued. Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Amb. Toner visits APM Terminals

The top US Envoy has praised APM Terminals' efforts to support Liberia's trade infrastructure and contribute to the country's development.

onrovia, October 18, 2024: The new U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Mark Toner, has paid a visit to APM Terminals Liberia, marking his first visit to the Freeport of Monrovia since his appointment.

Ambassador Toner was accompanied by embassy officials Michael Aguilera (Management Counselor), Jonathan Hilton (Economic Officer), and Andrew Pigler (Economic Officer).

During the visit, the U.S. delegation was hosted by APM Terminals Liberia's Managing Director, Clay Crain, and was joined by Sekou Dukuly, Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA).

The visit included a comprehensive tour of the terminal facilities and provided the Ambassador and his team with an opportunity to gain firsthand

(twenty-foot equivalent unit).

APM Terminals has invested over \$170 million in infrastructure upgrades, operational equipment, and workforce training, creating direct and indirect employment opportunities that have significantly boosted the local economy.

The successful dredging of the Freeport of Monrovia in 2022, implemented through a partnership between APM Terminals and the National Port Authority of Liberia marked a significant milestone in the development of Liberia's maritime infrastructure.

To support the further increase of capacity at the Freeport of Monrovia for additional volume growth, APM Terminals Liberia made a further investment of US\$15 million for the procurement of two state-of-the-art Liebherr



insights into APM Terminals' operations.

It also gave them insights into APM Terminals' contributions to modernization efforts at the Freeport of Monrovia.

Liberia's trade infrastructure and contribute to the country's development. "The Freeport of Monrovia is the lifeblood of at its state-of-the-art facilities,

said Amb. Toner. "I was impressed with APM welcome their contribution to Liberia's economic growth," he remarked. APM Terminals Liberia operates a state-of-the-art multipurpose port at the Freeport of Monrovia under a 25-year concession agreement with the Government of Liberia. Since commencing operations in 2011, the company has played a critical role in enhancing Liberia's economic development by handling a variety of cargo, including containers, general cargo, project cargo, and break

bulk, with an annual capacity of approximately 200,000 TEU

600 model mobile harbor cranes for use in loading and unloading cargo from ships calling the Freeport.

The deployment of the mobile Liberia's economy and the ongoing harbor cranes together with the dredging of the Freeport of Monrovia has paved the way for Ambassador Toner praised APM larger gearless vessels to call the Terminals' efforts to support Freeport of Monrovia, leading to increased Port productivity and reduced port stay with a significant impact on cost for port users.

APM Terminals Liberia also Liberia's economy, and APM provides essential Marine Services Terminals provides critical support at the Freeport of Monrovia, including pilotage, towage, mooring, and unmooring.

These services are crucial for Terminals' operations and the safe and efficient navigation of vessels within the port and play a key role in supporting maritime operations and trade activities.

> APM Terminals Liberia believes that the well-being of individuals impacted by its operations is critical to the institution's success.

> "We have made it a priority to enhance the quality of life for local communities through various Corporate Social Initiatives (CSI)."

> Over the years, APM Terminals has focused on several impactful projects, including the donation of essential supplies to new mothers

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MICAT Deputy boss Tarkpah raps on Open Government Partnership

Liberia Plans to Rejuvenate Open Government Partnership Brazil, Philippines, Indonesia, Initiative to aid its campaign for a non-permanent seat at and Norway. the UNSC.

By: Kruah Thompson commitment signed by since Liberia joined the onrovia, October 18, governments to promote program, all the commitments 2024/ The head of the openness, enhance summited to the OPG have Liberian Secretariat of transparency, empower and never reached the desk of a Open Governmentencourage citizen sitting president. Partnership -(OGP), Deputy participation, combat He says his goal as the new



Tarkpah has announced plans governance.

the OGP initiative here.

Administration, Mr. Johnny S. technologies to improve

to advance and rejuvenate Liberia joined the initiative in 2011, the same year it was Minister. Tarkpat believes the established on the sidelines of initiatives, it can convince move will aid Liberia's the UN General Assembly by international partners to campaign for the UN Security eight other countries, support its bid for a non-Council non-permanent seat. including the United States, The OGP initiative is a United Kingdom, Mexico,

In an exclusive interview, Mr. Tarkpah told our reporter that

head of the Secretariat is to bring new energy to the process and enable the country to fulfill its part of the commitment before December this year.

To achieve this feat, Mr. Tarkpah aims to gather input from civil society leaders and local communities to form part of a new national action plan that will be presented to President Joseph Boakai and his Cabinet.

He says this will give the plan more political weight. "We want the president to support this document to enhance its Information Minister for corruption, and utilize new political weight fully," he

Mr. Tarkpah believes that if Liberia lives up to its commitment to the OGP

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