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#### CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY 23, OCTOBER 2024	L\$191.4792US\$1.00	L\$192.7864/US\$1.00

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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024



Investigate irregulariti

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# Continental News

#### Ghana's parliament suspended The Speaker said that after chaotic scenes

he Speaker of Ghana's has become the majority party. parliament has chamber over a row about interpreted the constitution. which party holds the parliamentary majority.

Last Friday, President Nana s u s p e n d e d Akufo-Addo's New Patriotic Party proceedings indefinitely (NPP) went to the Supreme Court proceedings indefinitely. following chaotic scenes in the to ask if the speaker had correctly

The judges asked the Speaker to suspend his declaration until Last week, it was they made a decision. It is not discovered that four MPs had clear when their judgement will switched allegiance and would come. Tuesday was the first run for different parties in the parliamentary sitting since the 7 December general Supreme Court's directive to the

without the NPP legislators present there were not enough MPs to make decisions, which is when he suspended

The suspension has significant implications as it means the government cannot get approval for important funding and laws, which could affect how the country is run over the coming year.

Ghana has a reputation for being one of the most stable democracies in Africa - but the outcomes of its parliamentary and presidential votes tend to be very close.

After general elections in 2020, both the NPP and the NDC each had 137 MPs - with the NPP becoming the majority party after gaining the support of a legislator who had stood as an independent candidate.

It was discovered that four MPs had switched allegiances only when the roll of candidates running for parliament was issued ahead of December's vote.

Many Ghanaians are worried about the impact of this political turmoil, especially on the economy.

The high cost of living is a key campaign issue for both parties and their presidential candidates, who are current Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia for the NPP and the NDC's John Mahama.BBC



election. Speaker Alban Bagbin Speaker - and MPs from both the

then declared that their seats NPP and NDC tried to occupy the were vacant, arguing that the seats reserved for the majority constitution does not allow party. Eventually, the NPP leader MPs to defect.In a finely in parliament, Alexander Afenyobalanced parliament, that Markin, instructed his MPs to walk decision - which is being out in order to avoid any challenged in court - means conflict. The NDC lawmakers then that the opposition National started singing party songs and <u>Democratic Congress (NDC) marching around the chamber.</u>

#### Russians feared dead after lane shot dow

Sudan has said it is investigating reports crew was shot down in Darfur, a key battle ground in the civil war between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The aircraft, identified as a Russian-made ilyushin Il-76, was on a mission to deliver equipment and medicine to the army-held city of el-Fasher, military sources told Sudanese media.

On Monday, the RSF said it had downed a Russian-made plane flown by the Egyptian military that it accused of bombing civilians - though it was identified as an Antonov.

Egypt denies accusations that it has been providing military support to Sudan's army during the 18-month conflict. The vicious struggle for power between the army and RSF began in April 2023, leading to what the UN has called one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.Some estimates suggest up to 150,000 people have been killed since the war began last

year, according to comments

ussia's embassy in made in May by US special envoy Russians - were killed in the for Sudan Tom Perriello.

that a cargo plane with Russian forced more than 10 million in the Malha area, near the people - about a fifth of the border with Chad, en route to population - from their the besieged city of el-Fasher. homes. Details about the crash This has not been and its mission are murky. The independently verified. Russian embassy in the capital, Khartoum, said it was co-still under army control in the ordinating with the Sudanese western Darfur region - and military-led government to has been under attack from gather more information about the RSF since April. The RSF the crash and those who were says it has the plane's black onboard. According to the Sudan box and seized documents Tribune news website, all related to the plane and its members of the crew - including mission. three Sudan nationals and two

crash.It quotes military The UN estimates it has also sources as saying it came down

El-Fasher is the only city



#### **Mozambique election results** being doctored - EU

lection observers motivated. working for the ■ European Union (EU) been doctored in Mozambique, as unrest in the country continues to grow.

Thousands of people joined opposition protests on Monday that were called by independent presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane. He blames security forces for gunning down his lawyer Elvino Dias and another political official called Paulo Guambe in the same car last Friday - but they deny any wrongdoing.Official results from the general election held announced by Friday.

Evidence has been found of "irregularities during counting and unjustified alteration of election results at polling station and district level", said

"This was a crime committed by the defence and security say some voting results have forces. There's no doubt about it. The special forces killed Elvino [Dias]," he has said.

Mondlane rallied people in cities across Mozambique to protest against the killings and against what he says is the theft of the election. On Monday, police used live rounds, tear gas, armoured vehicles and police dogs to push back protesters from the site in the capital city Maputo where Dias and Guambe were shot dead. Demonstrators also blocked roads with burning tyres and barricades.Footage shows Mondlane, and journalists running on 9 October are due to for cover after shots were fired in their direction. Across the cities of Maputo, Beira and Nampula, local media reported that there were multiple arrests and at least 16 people were wounded and taken to hospital. Shops and businesses



the EU observer mission in a statement on Tuesday.

transparent and credible manner, ensuring the traceability of polling station results". Vote-buying, inflated southern African nation.

commission's website for all to see, but last month the body cyber-attack. The website remains inactive. Fifty-yearthe backing of f opposition party Podemos, has already claimed victory and alleges

that the killing of his aides on

closed on Monday but began reopening their doors on It is now urging "the Tuesday. The funeral for Dias is set electoral bodies to conduct to take place on Wednesday. the tabulation process in a Mondlane has called for further protests on Thursday and Friday.

There is growing pressure on the Mozambican authorities to identify the killers and bring them voter rolls in strongholds of the to justice following strong governing Frelimo party and condemnation from former voter intimidation have all Mozambican President Armando been reported by the US-based Guebuza, the UN, the US and the International Republican EU.Celebrated Mozambican Institute, which also sent a author Mia Couto has called the multinational election killings a "crime against the observer mission to the nation". Mozambique has only ever been governed by one party -Mozambique's national Frelimo - which has ruled since results are meant to be independence from Portugal. The published on the electoral country is guaranteed a new president because President Filipe Nyusi is stepping down after said its website had suffered a serving the two-term limit. The Frelimo candidate is 47-year-old Daniel Chapo. His rivals in this old presidential hopeful election are Mondlane, Ossufo Venâncio Mondlane, who has Momade - the former rebel commander-turned-leader of the main opposition party Renamo and Lutero Simango from the Mozambique Democratic Friday night was politically Movement.BBC

By Richard Haass

#### **Bribery to remove** Speaker Koffa is a disgrace

It is a disgrace that some 48 members of the House of Representatives received US\$15,000 each to announce a coup against Speaker J. Fonati Koffa. All those behind the dishing out of huge cash to remove Speaker J. Fonati Koffa should be ashamed of themselves.

We can see that clearly, they have no genuine cause, and their plan is purely belly-driven for selfish motives other than the people's welfare. How does removing the Speaker provide basic services to the people or enhance development?

Chills erupted down the spines of Liberians when news broke at the Capitol on Thursday, 17 October, that a group of lawmakers totaling about 48 were receiving US\$15,000 each to sign a resolution for the removal of the Speaker. The total money is US\$720,000, or an equivalent LRD 136,800,000, in what former presidential candidate and renowned human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe described it as a criminal conspiracy.

If there were probable cause in the first place, we wonder why the cash inducement to execute what should be a legitimate action, especially when Speaker Koffa was out of the country. Now, we can see that the motive is more sinister than patriotic.

The coup plotters on Capitol Hill should be reminded that each time we carry out such an act as a nation, we undermine ourselves by helping to push our country backward and become a laughingstock in the subregion and the world at large, leaving our development partners wondering whether we Liberians are ready for business.

Cllr. Gongloe describes the act of lawmakers receiving US\$15,000 each in a conspiracy to remove the Speaker of the House of Representatives as unethical, unlawful, and criminal.

Our leaders, especially those in the legislature, have lowered themselves so low for money that they care very little about integrity and respectability except what goes into their personal pockets. They have no interest in prioritizing the interests of the people they represent.

There are reports that each member of the plot was allegedly induced with US\$25,000 but received an initial amount of US\$15,000 in a 'paid-to-play' deal. Those dishing such an amount of money clearly indicate that such funds did not come from their sweet. These are public funds being misapplied for selfish goals.

For once, it is important that lawmakers learn to keep the sanctity of the First Branch of Government as a custodian of public trust rather than being a rubber-stamp institution operating at the higher bidder's caprices.

We believe that lawmakers will serve the state better when they focus on enacting laws that improve the lives of citizens and future generations instead of embarking on a carb mentality of pulling one another down for selfish gains rather than the common good.

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## The New Gang of Four

EW YORK - The Gang of Four was the name given to four senior Chinese officials closely associated with some of the Cultural Revolution's most radical features. They lost out in the power struggle that followed Mao Zedong's death, after which they were arrested, convicted of various crimes, and imprisoned.

Fifty years later, a new Gang of Four has emerged: China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia. This grouping is not a formal alliance committed to defending one another. But it is an alignment driven by shared antipathy toward the existing US-led world order and features mutual exchanges of military, economic, and political support.

This Gang of Four seeks to prevent the spread of Western liberalism domestically, which they see (correctly) as a threat to their hold on power and to the authoritarian political systems they head. They also oppose US leadership abroad, including the norms the United States and its partners embrace, above all the prohibition on acquiring territory by the threat or use of force.

The gang's mutual support takes several forms. On the eve of the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, China signed an agreement with Russia declaring that their mutual friendship had "no limits," while Russia expressed support for China's position vis-à-vis Taiwan. Since then, China has echoed Russian talking points about the war in Ukraine, blaming NATO for it, and amplifying Russian misinformation.

In the economic realm, China has opposed warrelated sanctions against Russia, is the world's largest importer of Iranian oil, and has long subsidized North Korea. Militarily, Iran has provided missiles and drones to Russia, North Korea has provided artillery shells, and China seems to have provided dual-use technologies and industrial inputs with military applications that the US and its allies have tried to keep out of Russia's hands. Russia has reportedly reciprocated by assisting these countries in improving their nuclear, missile, or submarine programs, and by sharing intelligence about Western weapons systems gleaned from its war with Ukraine.

Unfortunately, no single or simple policy will suffice to counter this alignment. There is no diplomatic opportunity to exploit divisions between them, in contrast to the early 1970s, when the US leveraged Sino-Soviet tensions to draw China toward the West. Further complicating matters, China is fundamentally different from the other three. It is integrated into the global economy and a major trading partner for many countries in the Western economically or to use trade and investment to shape its behavior will have limited impact.

China also stands alone among the four in seeking not to overturn the existing international order so much as to bend it toward its foreign-policy goals. Iran, North Korea, and Russia are far less integrated into the global economy, though they have one another as a source of imports and markets, and Iran and Russia have other trade partners. India remains a major purchaser of Russian energy and arms. Dozens of so-called Global South countries have refused to condemn Russian aggression in Ukraine or support sanctions against Russia.

North Korea is the most isolated of the four, but its vulnerability to sanctions is limited by China's interest in preventing it from collapsing, fearing instability on its border and a united Korea tied to the West. Russia, given its reliance

on North Korean artillery, will also likely provide Kim Jong-un's regime with greater assistance.

To confront this challenge, the US, in coordination with South Korea, could explore relaxing sanctions in exchange for steps by North Korea to limit the scale of its nuclear and missile programs. Close ties between the US and South Korea should work to discourage North Korean aggression.

Russia, for its part, must not prevail over Ukraine. This requires maintaining long-term military support for Ukraine while extending security assurances and European Union membership, all of which would signal to Vladimir Putin that he is wrong to think that he can outlast the West. This would not bring peace, but it could set the stage for diplomacy that ends the fighting and preserves Ukraine's independence. Standing up for Ukraine also demonstrates to China that it should not expect a free hand with Taiwan.

In the case of Iran, the long-term priority must be to ensure - through diplomacy or the threat or use of military force - that it does not develop nuclear weapons. The immediate goals should be to rein in Tehran's support for its havoc-wreaking proxies across the Middle East (admittedly easier said than done) and to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from spiraling into a regional conflict (which Iran may not want, given its domestic challenges).

China presents the most complicated challenge of the four, owing to its strategic ambitions and willingness to use its economic heft and military might to achieve its objectives. Dialogue, deterrence, and, at times, reassurance will be required to influence Chinese behavior and leverage its interest in maintaining access to technology and markets.

The US and its partners need to assume this new alignment will persist and potentially deepen. That should not preclude diplomatic contacts, which are a tool, not a favor. Diplomacy reinforces the message that the US goal is policy change, not regime change, if only because regime change is beyond reach and could encourage even less restraint among the Gang of Four.

US and Western influence will also reflect US and Western strength. This implies the need to repair defense industrial bases across the US, Europe, and the Indo-Pacific, and to enhance and integrate military capabilities to account for the possibility of a multi-region conflict. Moreover, the West must create supply chains for critical goods that do not rely on these four countries.

The US also must modernize its nuclear arsenal security orbit. Efforts to isolate China in response to China's massive nuclear buildup (and North Korea's relentless one) and the possibility that the New START agreement with Russia will expire in 2026. At home, the US ought to reduce its soaring debt (now higher than its GDP) and prevent its political divisions from interfering with its international commitments.

> But the principal tool for countering the Gang of Four is an effective counter-alignment. Fortunately, it already exists in the web of alliances and partnerships in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. The challenge for the US is to provide the presence and predictability that such relationships require. For America's partners, the challenge is to contribute more toward common defense and to coordinate policy to meet shared challenges - including those posed by the Gang of Four.

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By Kenneth Rogoff

#### Rethinking Foreign Funding for Africa

AMBRIDGE - How long can the complacent West continue to ignore Africa's sovereign-debt crisis? As African countries grapple with unsustainable debt burdens, restructuring negotiations with Western governments and multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund have stalled. While forgiveness is essential, it is important to bear in mind that a significant share of Africa's foreign debt is held by private lenders and China, neither of which has shown much willingness to offer relief.

With nearly 400 million people living in extreme poverty, Africa's growing debtservicing burden has become a major obstacle to poverty reduction, as rising costs are compounded by wars, regional conflicts, climate disasters, and a sluggish global economy. The continent's population, currently at 1.5 billion, is projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050. It is unlikely that young Africans, who need only look at their smartphones to see that other countries can offer better opportunities, will quietly accept their circumstances for much longer.

Given this reality, it is naive to think that the West can remain indefinitely insulated from the fallout of Africa's violent conflicts and economic crises. Whether through rising immigration, terrorism, or proxy wars over the continent's vast natural resources, the consequences will inevitably spill over to the developed world.

So, what can be done? Ultimately, African countries must grow their way out of debt, as East Asia has done and as countries in South Asia - particularly India - are beginning to do. Just as Asian economies once followed Japan's economic model, Africa needs a few success stories to set an example for the rest of the continent.

But such a shift will take years. In the meantime, foreign-aid programs must be overhauled, focusing on grants rather than development loans. Africa's green transition alone requires at least \$100 billion annually, including the vital task of providing electricity to the 600 million Africans who still lack access. If the United States can spend \$1 trillion on green projects that will likely have only limited effectiveness, it should be able to direct a portion of that investment to Africa, where its impact could be far greater.

The aim must be to prevent African countries' debt from spiraling out of control. To this end, Western governments should also introduce legal reforms that bar enforcement of sovereign-debt contracts in developed-country courts. Forcing private lenders to rely on the legal systems of debtor countries would incentivize prospective sovereign borrowers to strengthen their legal and financial systems to gain lenders' trust. Countries with less-developed institutions would need more time, making grants essential to bridging the gap in the short term.

While this proposal may seem harsh, it reflects an uncomfortable reality: borrowing from private foreign lenders has often been a mixed blessing for developing countries, especially those in Latin America and Asia. This is partly because most developing-country governments, even when not corrupt, pursue short-sighted borrowing strategies, taking on debt that poses unnecessary risks to their populations.

Time and again, debt crises have derailed development efforts. In his 2002 book Globalization and Its Discontents, Nobel laureate economist Joseph E. Stiglitz attributes this pattern to the conduct of international financial institutions. But the real problem is a legal system that allows foreign lenders to wield disproportionate power by suing defaulting borrowers in New York and London. Far too often, the IMF is left to clean up the mess.

This is why, as early as 1990, Stanford economist Jeremy Bulow and I argued that debt disputes should move to borrower-country courts. While the IMF's proposal for a sovereign-debt bankruptcy mechanism could be seen as a step in the right direction, it faces resistance from lenders that rightly assume the Fund would be more sympathetic to borrowers than the New York courts would be. Some emerging-market governments also oppose this idea, fearing that it would limit their ability to secure foreign loans.

But that is exactly the point. Latin America's experience with foreign debt shows that recurring crises often outweigh the short-term benefits of borrowing. In recent years, most middle-income emerging markets have managed to mitigate default crises by adjudicating sovereign-debt disputes in their own courts, with Argentina being a notable exception.

African countries must adopt a similar approach and move toward local jurisdiction over debt contracts. Transitional financing should ideally come from outright grants, much like the Marshall Plan did for postwar Europe. But the shift from development loans to grants must be far-reaching, reshaping the World Bank's framework for funding projects into a grant-based system.

#### OPINION

by Agnes Kalibata, Cary Fowler

**NEW DAWN** 

#### Africa's Food Security Depends on Adaptive Crops

AIROBI - Africa's food systems are facing myriad challenges, from climate shocks and low productivity to supply-chain disruptions and soil degradation. In 2022, one in five Africans was undernourished, even though the continent's cultivated land could more than meet its food needs. But that would require effective management and, perhaps most importantly, planting adaptive crops such as millet, sorghum, teff, and fonio.

These underutilized crops have long been staples in African communities and offer nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits. Unfortunately, food companies and retailers often overlook them - which must change to have any hope of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Rapid urbanization and changing tastes have dampened demand for traditional crops in Africa, increasing reliance on the small number of staples that dominate global agriculture. Only 20 plant species provide more than 90% of the world's food requirements, with maize, rice, and wheat accounting for 60% of total caloric intake. But relying on a few staples is unsustainable, especially given rising temperatures. Without effective climate adaptation strategies, yields for such crops could decline by as much as 30% by 2050, in which case demand would outstrip supply and even more people would go hungry.

African governments must work with the agri-food industry and farmers to increase

demand for climate-resilient and nutrient-rich adaptive crops that would enable the continent to feed its growing population. There are more than 300 such "opportunity crops," a few of which are popular globally, including lentils, cassava, pumpkin, and sweet potato. But many more are known mainly by the communities that grow them. Interest in these crops has been growing. Efforts to commercialize fonio in West Africa have been relatively successful, and the ancient gluten-free grain is gaining international attention, with the global brand Knorr naming it as a "Future 50 Food" for a healthier planet. Teff, a cereal grain from the Horn of Africa, is also growing in popularity as a so-called superfood.

National policymakers and international partners have an important role to play in reducing Africa's overdependence on global staples such as maize and wheat. The Ghanaian government has used policies that promote cereal-flour blending to boost consumption of locally grown sweet potatoes. In Kenya, the International Potato Center has encouraged local women to make chapatis, a type of flatbread, with orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Making greater use of these crops has nutritional benefits and creates new investment opportunities, especially because consumers have shown a preference for these substitutions.

But to change eating habits and create new markets, policymakers must ensure that African farmers and communities reap the benefits of growing adaptive crops. That is not the case today: climate-resilient and nutrient-dense grains such as fonio are not as commercially viable as traditional staples. In Senegal, the labor-intensive process of removing fonio's tough hull results in just 10% of the crop reaching market, with the rest consumed by farmers and their families. Therefore, at present, there is little financial incentive to grow fonio. But this can change. Providing farmers with better equipment and processing methods could make the grain more competitive in wider markets.

The large-scale adoption of adaptive crops and their associated technologies requires market and policy incentives, research funding, and regulatory reform. The Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS), launched by the African Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the US Department of State, is a step in the right direction. VACS promotes global interventions, including land-use planning and fertilizer technologies for adaptive crops, and helps governments develop supportive policies and build agricultural capacity. It also educates farmers on how to grow adaptive crops successfully.

At this month's Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, African institutions demonstrated their willingness to lead this charge. The AU Commission, in particular, has made important progress with its Africa Common Position on Food Systems, which recognizes that expanding the continent's food basket will require intentional investment in traditional and indigenous crops. To make this a reality, the private sector in Africa and elsewhere must invest in research and development to scale up production of a new wave of food products made with adaptive crops that are attractive to consumers in Africa and elsewhere.

Policymakers, for their part, must promote the commercialization of opportunity crops by coordinating with pioneering companies, small- and medium-size enterprises, and nonstate actors to address constraints. That could mean leveraging policies like blending targets, providing incentives such as tax breaks and subsidies, and launching public-awareness campaigns. Governments could also use procurement to introduce adaptive crops into meals for schools, hospitals, and other public-sector catering.

Closer collaboration between governments, development partners, the private sector, and farming cooperatives can accelerate the uptake of adaptive crops. Such initiatives promise to help many African countries meet their goals of diversifying their agricultural practices, reducing their dependence on maize, wheat, and rice, and achieving growth that is good for people and the planet.

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# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

# What do you expect when you elect broke men and women to public office?

#### -The case of the Liberian Legislators

he Liberian electorates are amazing people. Each election year, they reshuffled broke men and women into public offices and yet expect them to act differently from the previous bunch.

They have turned politics, once a noble vehicle used to make rules and laws to manage human society properly, into a casino where broke men and women entered, dreaming of hitting the jackpot overnight.

These broke men and women see the National Legislature as an easy path to acquiring fast wealth. So, while there, they see bribery and corruption as opportunities to achieve their desired goals. Make no mistakes; these people are applauded in some quarters of Liberian society.

Believe it or not, every country gets the kind of leadership it deserves. When the electorates are not well informed and don't know what they want, they elect crooks and criminals who have no respect for the rule of law and think they can get away with impunity at any time.

In nearly all cases, they do get away with impunity. People walk away with crimes while the institutions established to prosecute them stare helplessly. This is why bribery and corruption at the National Legislature continue to soar.

Nevertheless, bribery remains a crime under Liberian law and is a corrupt practice that undermines democracy-something which has seen many officials here placed under sanctions and US travel bans.

For example, Chapter 12 of the Penal Code of Liberia established the following conduct as "offenses against Government Integrity": (1) bribery, which includes unlawfully rewarding public servants, unlawful compensation for assistance in government matters, trading in public office, and political endorsement.

Now, one would expect that the 47 elected members of the House of Representatives who allegedly violated this law on Thursday when they received advanced payments of US15,000 each in bribe money or as an inducement to sign a resolution for the removal of House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa would face immediate criminal investigation as being recommended by Human Rights Lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe.

However, because the institutions established to bring these alleged perpetrators to justice are weak, the prospect of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) launching an investigation, for example, remains remote.

This is why corruption continues to be endemic in Liberia. It is within both the public and private sectors of Liberian society.

Scandals and allegations, including—but not limited to—manipulation of contract bidding, looting of state coffers, and the misappropriation of development aid by government officials, have continued to cast a dark cloud on the country. Interestingly, these leaders have no idea how their spinless behaviors affect the lives of ordinary citizens in all aspects of life.

For instance, Liberia's 78% US visa denial rate can also be attributed to the country's endemic corruption, which affects growth and infrastructure development.

The lack of direct investment into the country can also be attributed to increasing bribery allegations at the first branch of government and at every level in the Liberian Government.

Lack of investments and high unemployment have ranked Liberia amongst the 10th poorest countries in the world despite its abundance of rich natural resources.

A few years from now, Liberians will once again go to the polls to elect a new set of leaders. There, they will once again choose popularity over competence and integrity.

So, what do you expect in return when you elect broke men and women to high-profile public offices? Or when you choose popularity over competence and integrity?

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# The Global Rule of Law Recession Continues, But Some Progress Emerges

uthoritarian trends expand, improvements made on criminal justice and corruption measures

WASHINGTON (Oct. 23, 2024) - For the seventh year in a row, the rule of law has declined globally, according to the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024, released on Wednesday, October 23.

This year, the rule of law again weakened in a majority of countries surveyed (57%). However, Index data also suggests the global rule of law recession is slowing and that progress is possible.

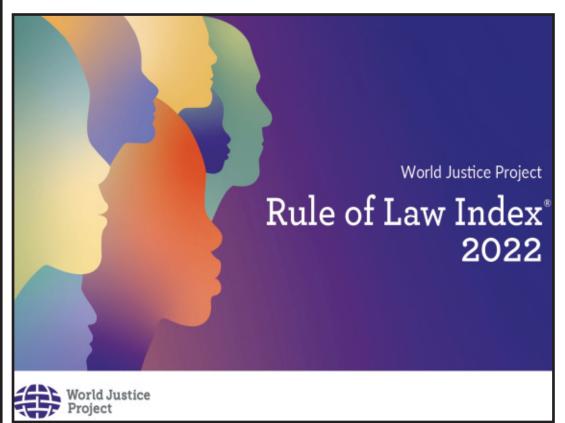
The proportion of countries where the rule of law is eroding has shrunk for the third year in a row, and some notable areas of improvement have emerged. For the first time in five years, more countries improved than declined on the Index factor measuring Absence of Corruption. This year, corruption declined in nearly three-

troubling. Between 2016 and 2024, people in 81% of countries have lost protections for their fundamental rights. Additionally, 77% of countries show a weakening in governmental checks and balances, including oversight by legislatures, courts, civil society, and the media.

Over 6 billion people now live in countries where rule of law is weaker than it was in 2016. "In every corner of the world, we continue to see leaders consolidating their authority," Neukom added. "This has grave implications for individual freedoms, government accountability, and people's ability to choose their leaders through free and fair elections."

Elections in 2024

Since the global rule of law recession began in 2016, the Index subfactor measuring lawful transition of power has declined in 72% of countries. In this global year of the election, this principle is being put to the test.



fifths (59%) of countries.

A majority of countries also improved on ensuring effective criminal justice. Overall, civil justice declines have slowed considerably since the height of the global pandemic, though problems delivering timely and independent civil justice have continued to spread.

Meanwhile, authoritarian trends have continued to set countries back on protecting human rights and democracy.

"After seven consecutive years of rule of law declines it can be easy to focus on the negative. But to do so would ignore accomplishments in anti-corruption and the hard work occurring to improve justice systems globally," WJP Co-founder and President William H. Neukom said. "The global community must redouble efforts to expand these rule of law gains in all areas."

Troubling authoritarian trends continue

Last year, there was some hope that global authoritarian trends had begun to slow. This year's Index, however, finds broader and deeper declines in two critical Index factors: Fundamental Rights and Constraints on Government Powers.

The long-term implications are

More than two dozen countries represented in the WJP Rule of Law Index have already held national elections in 2024. In the 11 countries among them with weaker rule of law (with a rule of law score under 0.5 out of 1), the ruling party retained power in every instance. Index data shows that these countries have less democratic oversight and weaker electoral systems. On the other hand, countries with higher rule of law scores that had elections have changed ruling party more often than not so far in 2024.

Some of the most improved countries in the 2024 Index saw new, democratically elected governments take office last year. Voters in Brazil and Poland opted for change in each country's most recent national elections. Both countries had experienced some of the largest rule of law declines since 2016 before changing course in the past year.

Rankings revealed

The WJP Rule of Law Index is the world's leading source of original, independent rule of law data. Its rigorous methodology draws on expert and household surveys to measure rule of law in 142 countries and

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### Rwanda and Liberia Sign Bilateral **Air Services Agreement**

Governments of Rwanda and

uala Lumpur, promote tourism, trade, and Malaysia - October economic cooperation, and 21 2024 21, 2024 - The strengthen bilateral relations.

Under the BASA, Rwanda Liberia have signed a Bilateral and Liberia will grant each Air Services Agreement (BASA) other the right to operate on the sidelines of the scheduled air services

Services Agreement will promote economic cooperation by facilitating trade and investment between the two countries. Tourism: The agreement will boost tourism by making it easier for people to travel between Rwanda and Liberia.

The signing of this agreement marks a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries and facilitating air connectivity between Liberia and Rwanda.

The BASA will provide a legal framework for the establishment and operation of direct air services between the two nations, promoting trade, tourism, and cultural exchange; it will enable airlines from both countries to operate scheduled air services between designated points in their respective territories, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the agreement.

This will offer travelers more convenient and affordable options for travel between the two countries.

The signing of the BASA is a testament to the commitment of both Liberia and Rwanda to fostering stronger economic and diplomatic ties. It is expected to contribute to the

CONT'D page 11



International Civil Aviation between their territories; this Organization Air Services will allow for more direct Negotiations Event flights, shorter travel times, (ICAN2024) in Kuala Lumpur, and increased connectivity for Malaysia.

Liberia Civil Aviation Authority studying in Rwanda and the (LCAA) is headed by Mr. Julius East African Region. D. Dennis, Jr., Director General, Audrey Zoe Johnson, includes provisions for: Director, Air Transport and Safety and security: Both Economic Regulations and countries will work together Patrick Okai, Special to ensure the highest Assistant/Public Relations standards of aviation safety Officer. The agreement aims and security. Economic to facilitate air transport cooperation: The Bilateral Air GIABA enjoys global recognition as FATF

he Director General of the

Inter-Governmental Action

Group against Money

87bis of the FATF Internal

Governance Principles

The appointment, which is for a

period of three Plenary cycles,

will afford the appointees time to

get acquainted with the

discussions of the Steering Group

in order to benefit from their

wealth of experience and advice

The DG GIABA was appointed

to the FATF President.

(FATF/PLEN(2019)82/REV4).

Guest Initiative.

passengers and cargo, most The delegation from the importantly, for students

The agreement also

Laundering in West Africa Harris Jr.

appoints DG to the FATF Steering Group

The President said the decision is Executive Secretary Clerc, in accordance with paragraph advice from the Secretariat's

positive steps taken across perspective on the challenges several areas under the able and opportunities we have as leadership of Mr. Edwin W. we embark on the new round of assessments".

(GIABA), Mr. Edwin W. Harris Jr., The statement added that For GIABA, this is a historic has been appointed as a "GIABA has no joint members moment and an important temporary member of the FATF with the FATF, and as such, I recognition of the hard work, Steering Group (FSG) under the value having a voice for the reforms, and repositioning of GIABA region in the FSG. this ECOWAS-specialised FATF President Elisa de Anda Director-General Harris will institution, which has resulted Madrazo disclosed this in a letter. bring, in addition to FATF in greater efficiency and



#### Our roads will in better condition

#### -Minister of Public Works

The Government of Liberia says major roads across the country will be accessible and pliable before next rainy season in 2025.

By Lewis S. Teh

onrovia, Liberia, Public Works announces here Minister Tarplah continues. season begins in 2025.

before the next raining season, problems in some communities. our roads will be in better condition than they are now."

22, 2024.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, as assessment or ESIA. you may be aware, the Ministry

But to address that, we will October 23, 2024 embark on a robust community Following heavy engagement with the people, where criticism about government's they themselves will suggest what failure to fulfil its hundred days' needs to be done to solve the deliverables, the Ministry of drainage system problem," Deputy

that major roads will be pliable She notes that citizens in some and accessible before next rainy communities prefer to pay money to disadvantaged youths to carry their Minister Roland L. Giddings garbage rather than waste assures, "I can say to you that as management institutions, we approach the dry season something she says it gives rise to

She reveals that as of yesterday, Tuesday, the ministry has hired the He made the pronouncement first consultant to do feasibility during a press conference at the studies. She says that before you Ministry on Lynch Street in carry out any project that affects Monrovia on Tuesday, October the public, you must know the environmental social impact

She underscores, "We are going of Public Works has signed up to to embark on drainage cleaning; the open government initiative, that's the major short-term and as such, this conference intervention that is needed now, but today reflects our commitment if it requires ESIA, then it will have to being open and to update the to wait until the feasibility studies public about our work because are conducted because we have to



hide here; we don't keep secrets and who it will displace." here."

assessment has been carried out construction works early next year. of the work has been done.

Jocelia J. Tarplah, in a of engagements with the Ministry. PowerPoint presentation, says expectations.

is working across several issues.

we face as a government.

there is absolutely nothing to know where the water will be going

Meanwhile, Assistant Minister for He calls on the media to bring Planning Abraham Bility heads the all information about road work government demolition exercise and across Liberia to their attention. says the Ministry has begun a robust According to him, andemolition to commence

over the hundred days, and road Bility explains that the project maintenance work started in affects occupants in the corridor, April and continued until the dry where two overhead bridges are to season, disclosing that over 70% be constructed. Still, residents and occupants had been informed Deputy Public Works Minister earlier of this exercise after a series

"So this is where we are; our the ministry has been robust in people are aware that the ministry is meeting the public's in full readiness, and we call on citizens, especially those in the He explains that the ministry alley, to cooperate with us."

The Government of Liberia, corridors, especially in rural and through assistance from the People's urban areas, to address drainage Republic of China, has embarked on exercises here to construct "The problem the people overhead bridges in the main route facing with drainages in various leading to Monrovia to ease traffic communities isn't the problem congestion. Editing by Jonathan **Browne** 

alongside the Head of Delegation of Sweden, Mrs. Emma Kershaw, who have all accepted the invitation of the FATF President and will join the FATF Steering Group meetings for three Plenary cycles until 30 June 2025. It should be noted that GIABA recently concluded an

Effectiveness Improvement Action Plan, following the

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Investigate irregularities in LTA bidding process

The company wants authorities at the Liberia due to alleged technical non-Telecommunication Authority to be investigated, citing irregularities at the LTA.

OCTOBER 23

onrovia, Liberia - Concession Commission Tuesday, October (PPCC) to conduct a thorough 23, 2024 - The SATZ investigation into the bidding Group of Companies has and contract award process, formally submitted a advocating for measures that



irregularities in the bidding Act of 2010. process for the Cybersecurity LTA/REOI/002/2024).

In similar vein, SATZ Group

complaint to the Liberia ensure accountability and Telecommunications Authority adherence to the Public

Framework Development, serious concerns regarding the compliance." Awareness, and Orientation fairness and transparency of process.

Accountability (CENTAL), and (RFP), it was unexpectedly transparency of the process. the Public Procurement and eliminated from the bidding

compliance with LTA's earlier response.

"We believe the decision to eliminate SATZ Group was made under questionable circumstances," the letter states. "Numerous inconsistencies in the evaluation and qualification stages raise serious concerns about the integrity of the procurement process."

The complaint details several irregularities, including unfair evaluations, proposal rejections, misrepresentation of CV submissions, a lack of notification regarding deficiencies, and an overall lack of transparency.

Mr. Aloysius S. Zayzay, Founder and CEO of SATZ Group, emphasized the need for fair procurement practices, stating, "We are committed to ensuring that public procurement processes in (LTA), highlighting significant Procurement and Concessions Liberia uphold the highest standards of fairness, The company expressed transparency, and legal

In a debriefing with the LTA project (IFB No. the LTA's recent evaluation Acting Chairperson and Procurement Team members on According to SATZ, despite October 22, 2024, SATZ Group has also written the Liberia meeting all the requirements requested the winning Anti-Corruption Commission outlined in the Request for company's name. This (LACC), the Center for Expression of Interest (REOI) information was denied, raising Transparency and and Request for Proposal further questions about the

# ECOWAS commits to joint fight against trafficking in person

The sub-regional body ECOWAS has announced its commitment to strengthen the fight against trafficking in person in the region.

National Focal Institutions Dimension of Anti-Human Against Trafficking in Persons Trafficking on behalf of the Plus (RNNI-TIP+), at its 16th Director, emphasized the Annual Review Meeting in significance of the Annual Monrovia, committed to Review Meeting as a vital tool strengthening collaboration, for tracking Member States' cooperation, and partnership in efforts in the fight against the fight against trafficking in human trafficking in the region. persons and other related He said that the meeting also

crimes in the region. things, strongly urged the foster collaboration amongst ECOWAS Commission to strengthen the institutional capacity of Member States regarding the relationship between TIP and related criminal offences and, therefore, advocated for increased capacity development across different structures within the framework of trafficking in persons and related criminal offences. The Director of

Humanitarian and Social

Affairs, Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe, in

onrovia, October 24, her Welcome Address delivered 2024/ The ECOWAS by Mr. Olatunde Olayemi, Regional Network of Program Officer, Social serves as a forum to identify The Group, among other gaps, share experiences and

focal institutions in fighting the menace of human trafficking activities.Other dignitaries who attended the Opening Ceremony included Deputy Minister Hon. Steve Kolubah, representing Liberia's Minister of Labour and Chair of the Trafficking in Persons Taskforce in Liberia; H.E. Josephine Nkrumah, ECOWAS Resident Representative in Liberia; Hajiya Hauwa Adamu, Director-General, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in

CONT'D page 11



#### **Senator Dillon wants Labor Minister cited**

-Over issuance of work permits to non-Liberians

The Liberian Senate is being asked to invite the Minister of Labor, Cllr. Cooper Kruah, to explain the reasons behind the issuance of work permits to non-Liberians.

By Lincoln G. Peters onrovia, Liberia, Minister Cllr. Cooper Krauh to for. explain ongoing concerns about Liberians.

communication to the Senate, which was read on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, during the session, alarms over what he describes as violations of existing and unskilled positions.

Chapter 7, Section 7.1 and Montserrado County Senator Chapter 45, Section 45.9, grants says. the Ministry of Labor authority to issue foreign work permits. exclusively for Liberians.

candidate.

Despite these measures, October 23, 2024, Senator Dillon voices concerns Montserrado County that the Ministry of Labor has Senator Abraham Darius Dillon continued to issue and renew has formally written the Liberian work permits for foreign Senate, seeking that August nationals, even for jobs Liberians body's endorsement to cite Labor are qualified for and available

He stresses that these actions issuance of work permits to non- are contrary to the intent of the Decent Work Act and contribute Senator Dillon, in his to rising unemployment in the country, particularly in the private sector.

"Year in and year out, the Senate's 39th day sitting, first Ministry of Labor has issued work permits to non-Liberians for jobs where Liberians are suitable and labor regulations that prioritize readily available. In his Liberian workers in both skilled communication, this undermines our efforts to address According to Dillon, the unemployment and improve local Decent Work Act, specifically employment rates," the

He urges his colleagues to take the issue seriously, stressing that However, under the Revised the Ministry of Labor's actions are Regulation No. 17 (2019), which detrimental to the country's outlines the legal framework for labor market. He also calls on the work permits, there are strict Senate to endorse his request to conditions that should limit the summon the Minister of Labor to employment of non-Africans in clarify the Ministry's practices the informal sector and ensure and take corrective measures that specific jobs remain that align with the Decent Work



The regulation also mandates employers to prove they cannot Labor announced on Monday, publishing job vacancies in at suspended. least two local newspapers and availability of a Liberian Jonathan Browne

Meanwhile, the Ministry of find a suitable Liberian for a job October 21, 2024, that the before applying for a foreigner's issuance of Work Permits to aliens work permit. This includes and foreigners would be

However, the communication on two radio stations for a month from Senator Darius Dillon has and obtaining a certificate from been sent to the Senate's the Ministry as proof of the non- Committee on Labor. Editing by

#### Starts from back page Commerce to holds SME conference

the informal sector.

six years.

Also attending the stakeholders flagship conference.

December is expected to be meeting were World Bank, UNDP, grace by President Joseph Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Boakai and stakeholders in the Liberia Business Association and the sector, including businesses in Liberia Business Registry among others.

The SMEs conference is an The Acting Commerce Minister annual event, organize by the praised President Boakai for Commerce Ministry, but has not demonstrating the political will in been held since 2016, due to the promoting and supporting SMEs, lack of political will for the past thereby giving the Commerce Ministry the green light to host the

# rai

# Le président Fonati Koffa dénonce un complot visant à le destituer

Fonati Koffa, a dénoncé des orchestrer sa destitution. accusations de corruption

e président de la du Congrès pour le Changement qu'il avait été informé, le 8 Chambre des Démocratique (CDC) avec des ∎représentants, candidats indépendants pour

OCTOBER 23

Selon M. Koffa, plusieurs financière impliquant députés dissidents, dont des



alliés de confiance au sein

certains de ses collègues membres de son propre parti, dans un complot visant à le auraient profité de son absence à destituer, remettant en l'étranger pour lancer un question l'intégrité des mouvement visant à le démettre instigateurs. Le président de de ses fonctions. « Ce qui m'a le Chambre des plus surpris, c'est la trahison de représentants, Cllr. Fonati certains de mes alliés de Koffa, a exprimé sa confiance au sein du CDC, qui ont stupéfaction face à la comploté avec des candidats collaboration de certains indépendants », a-t-il déclaré.

House Speaker J Fonati Koffa.

Le président Koffa a révélé

octobre 2024, d'une tentative menée par le député Samuel Kogar, ancien allié de confiance, pour recueillir des signatures en faveur de sa destitution. Il a toutefois souligné qu'il n'était | pas étonné de voir les meneurs venir du groupe qu'il avait battu en janvier dernier lors de l'élection à la présidence de la Chambre.

M. Koffa a ajouté que des allégations de corruption financière ternissent cette tentative, jetant le doute sur les motivations des initiateurs. Il a promis d'enquêter sur ces accusations. « Nous prendrons des mesures pour faire toute la lumière sur ces allégations de corruption », a-t-il affirmé.

Bien qu'il reconnaisse que certains de ses collègues puissent avoir des préoccupations légitimes, Koffa a rejeté 99,9 % des accusations comme étant infondées et purement politiques. « Je condamne fermement la méthode qu'ils ont choisie pour exprimer leurs préoccupations », a-t-il souligné.

Le président de la Chambre a députés avaient formé des « unités de soutien » chargées de forcer les portes et de pénétrer dans des salles pour tenir des séances illégales. « La

CONT'D page 9

# itorial

#### 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 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 i 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 également déclaré que certains | 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 j 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 guerelles 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.

# Le sénateur Moyee rejette toute implication dans la

destitution du président de la Chambre des représentants Le sénateur Prince K. et moyens s'était déroulé dans la présidence de la Commission

Moyee du comté de Bong a plus grande transparence. fermement nié son crainte d'audit.

catégoriquement rejeté les affirmé le sénateur Moyee. accusations circulant au sein de la 55e législature, selon lesquelles il soutiendrait la destitution du président de la Chambre des représentants, Jonathan Fonati Koffa, afin d'échapper à un audit parlementaire.

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le lundi 21 octobre 2024 au Capitole, le sénateur Moyee a déclaré qu'il n'avait aucune raison de craindre un audit, soulignant que son passage à la Chambre des représentants en tant que vice-président et président de la Commission des voies

implication dans la de soutenir la destitution du démissionner en décembre tentative de destitution du président Koffa parce que je ne 2017 à la fin de son mandat. président de la Chambre des voudrais pas être audité pour la Moyee a également rappelé représentants, Jonathan période où j'ai occupé des que sous sa direction, l'ancien Fonati Koffa, assurant que fonctions de leadership à la ministre des Finances, Boimah cette initiative n'est en Chambre. Je tiens à nier Kamara, connu pour son aucun cas motivée par une catégoriquement ces allégations. intégrité, n'aurait jamais Mon service à la Chambre a été transféré de fonds non Le sénateur Prince K. marqué par une gestion budgétisés au Parlement. Moyee, représentant le transparente, et je n'ai aucun « Nous avons strictement comté de Bong, a lien avec cette affaire », a exécuté le budget adopté par

Il a précisé qu'il avait pris la départ de la commission et

des voies et moyens en « Certains députés m'accusent septembre 2016, avant de

la législature. Après mon



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# r'rançais

#### Starts from page 8 Le président Fonati Koffa dénonce

démocratie ne peut aller de pair soutenir sa destitution. Il a manière civilisée », a averti M. n'ont pas été approchés.

pour aborder ces incidents.

« Nous restons fermement Libériens », a-t-il conclu. attachés aux principes démocratiques qui garantissent reconnaissance à l'ancien l'expression des opinions dans président George M. Weah, aux un climat de respect et de dirigeants et membres du CDC, dialogue », a-t-il déclaré.

sa gratitude envers les députés organisations de la société qui ont signé une résolution pour civile, ainsi qu'aux sénateurs et exprimer leurs préoccupations, partenaires internationaux pour ainsi qu'à ceux qui ont leur soutien constant. reconsidéré leur décision de

avec la violence. Je les invite à également remercié ceux qui rejoindre la Chambre et à ont choisi de ne pas signer la exposer leurs préoccupations de résolution, et même ceux qui

Au départ, Koffa avait été De retour au pays après un informé que 47 députés déplacement international, soutenaient sa destitution. Ce Fonati Koffa a indiqué avoir été chiffre serait, selon ses informé par les services de informations, tombé à 37 sécurité de l'État et plusieurs dimanche soir. « Les collègues des événements divergences sont inévitables, survenus lors d'une mais elles ne doivent pas manifestation au Capitole le 17 paralyser notre mission de octobre 2024. Il a annoncé la servir le peuple. Réaffirmons tenue d'une réunion de la notre engagement envers le direction le lundi 21 octobre respect des procédures et notre devoir de servir avant tout les

M. Koffa a enfin exprimé sa à plusieurs ministres du Le président Koffa a exprimé gouvernement, aux

#### Starts from page 8 Le sénateur Moyee rejette toute

ajouté.

que vice-président, le budget réclamons », a-t-il affirmé. de son bureau n'a jamais Le sénateur Moyee a aucun audit.

« Je n'ai donc rien à cacher », a-t-il insisté. Il a également tout accord financier doit souligné que, depuis son émaner de la Chambre des élection au Sénat, après avoir représentants et que le Sénat quitté ses fonctions de vice-n'a jamais bloqué président, il n'a aucune raison l'approbation de tels d'appréhender un audit.

Toutefois, le sénateur Moyee est temps que toutes les changement démocratique passées en revue. Il a précisé pouvoir, le sénateur Moyee a bureau n'avait jamais dépassé cette initiative. 700 000 dollars, alors que sous la direction actuelle de la proches du président Koffa ont Chambre, dirigée par Jonathan soumis des preuves de Koffa, ce budget avait tentatives de corruption à la considérablement augmenté.

constate des excédents l'ouverture d'une enquête sur budgétaires atteignant 4 à 5 cette affaire. millions de dollars. Comment

mon élection au poste de vice- pourrais-je craindre un audit, président en 2018, j'ai géré mon sachant que je n'ai fait bureau avec un budget inférieur qu'exécuter ce qui m'était à un million de dollars », a-t-il alloué? Ceux qui redoutent cet audit doivent assumer la Le sénateur a précisé qu'au gestion de ces montants. C'est cours de ses trois années en tant justement ce que nous

dépassé un million de dollars également mentionné son américains. Il a notamment élection à la Commission des souligné qu'en 2020, ce budget voies, moyens, finances et s'élevait à 400 000 dollars. budget du Sénat, rappelant que Moyee a invité quiconque à le budget d'urgence de 43 vérifier ces chiffres sur le site millions de dollars, alloué pour du ministère des Finances, financer les premiers objectifs ajoutant qu'il ne craignait des 100 jours du président, avait été approuvé.

> Il a souligné que, selon la loi, instruments.

Concernant les allégations a exprimé son soutien à un audit d'implication dans la de la Chambre des destitution de Koffa, qui est représentants, déclarant qu'il membre de la Coalition pour le institutions publiques soient (CDC), l'ancien parti au que, durant son mandat dans évité de commenter les l'opposition, le budget de son motivations réelles derrière

Par ailleurs, des députés Commission anticorruption du « C'est aujourd'hui que l'on Liberia, demandant



## L'Europe et la polycrise

🔻 ENÈVE - Chaque période historique est définie par 🛮 de réflexion stratégique de l'Amérique, ses propres défis. Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, illustrée par le travail de recherche et de l'Europe a dû trouver un moyen de mettre fin aux développement sur les technologies crises récurrentes et relativement indépendantes liées aux émergentes de l'Agence des projets de cycles du marché, à la politique intérieure et à la recherche avancée de la défense (Darpa). concurrence des grandes puissances qui l'avaient déchirée pendant des décennies. Elle a relevé ce défi en construisant Le deuxième impératif consiste à mettre en des États-nations stables et des systèmes de protection place de nouveaux cadres solides couvrant sociale efficaces dans le contexte de cadres européens et trois éléments essentiels de la sécurité internationaux solides.

Depuis le début du siècle, l'Europe est confrontée à un nouveau défi : répondre à une polycrise extrêmement en Europe afin de stimuler la productivité et complexe, composée d'un large éventail de crises de soutenir l'innovation technologique dans interdépendantes. Nombre d'entre elles pourraient, à elles des secteurs critiques. Compte tenu de la seules, s'avérer catastrophiques, en raison de processus taille réduite de sa base d'investisseurs et de cumulatifs et d'autorenforcement, tels que les points de sa fragmentation structurelle, l'Europe devra bascule du changement climatique et l'effet boule de neige de la dette publique.

Aucune de ces crises, cependant, ne se déroule dans le vide. Au contraire, les crises interconnectées d'aujourd'hui s'aggravent et se renforcent mutuellement. Par exemple, une crise démographique déstabilise l'État-providence, sapant le bien-être économique, qui à son tour alimente les perturbations sociales et politiques. Un déclin significatif et durable de la cohésion sociale et politique peut contribuer à d'autres types de crises, comme la crise actuelle de la démocratie libérale, tout en entravant la capacité des États à répondre à d'autres menaces encore, comme le changement climatique.

L'incapacité générale à faire face efficacement à l'escalade De même, la nouvelle conception de la de la polycrise a contribué à créer un sentiment de catastrophe imminente dans le public européen, qui se sent de plus en plus impuissant. Mais les menaces existentielles auxquelles nous sommes confrontés, des conflits armés au changement climatique catastrophique, peuvent être surmontées, non pas en « reprenant le contrôle », comme le promettent les dirigeants politiques populistes, mais en apprenant à contrôler ce qui ne l'est pas encore.

Nos institutions politiques, financières et internationales ont tendance à être structurées pour la gestion des crises cycliques du passé, ce qui les rend mal adaptées pour répondre à la polycrise actuelle, qui exige à la fois robustesse et flexibilité. L'Europe est confrontée à un défi supplémentaire : ses institutions, qui dépendent du consensus, de la cohérence et du compromis, peinent à faire face à des intérêts étroits, complexes et diversifiés.

Toutefois, si l'Europe a bien besoin d'une transformation institutionnelle pour relever les défis existentiels d'aujourd'hui, elle est aussi particulièrement bien équipée pour y parvenir, grâce à l'expérience considérable qu'elle a acquise en traversant des crises et en conciliant solidarité et liberté. Pour cela, il lui faut développer une vision claire de l'avenir, approfondir la coopération dans les domainesclés et concevoir un nouveau cadre organisationnel.

Commençons par la vision. L'Europe a besoin d'une stratégie $\;\;$  de l'UE comprennent l'actualisation du modèle explicite pour faire face à la polycrise, qui synchronise les économique européen, le renforcement de la horizons temporels afin d'améliorer la gestion des crises à productivité et de la compétitivité, ainsi que court terme (ce qui est essentiel pour briser les mécanismes la gestion de la politique commerciale. Les de crise qui se renforcent d'eux-mêmes) et d'établir des États-nations, pour leur part, doivent objectifs communs à long terme (ce qui est essentiel pour encourager la solidarité et, avec les maintenir l'élan).

Des unités plus petites, plus autonomes et plus flexibles public-privé est également essentielle, afin de devraient être chargées de mettre en œuvre cette vision, en collaboration avec des acteurs indépendants - souvent issus de la société civile - spécialisés dans la recherche d'un consensus. l'élaboration de stratégies à long terme et le suivi de leur mise en œuvre et de leurs effets. Une culture de la décision et de la responsabilité est essentielle.

La vision à long terme devrait refléter l'ambition générationnelle. L'Inde a établi une feuille de route pour devenir une économie développée d'ici 2047, un siècle après son indépendance. La Chine prévoit de parvenir à un « rajeunissement national » d'ici 2049, année du centenaire de la République populaire. L'Europe devrait ancrer sa propre stratégie en 2045, 100 ans après avoir pris un nouveau départ après les horreurs de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

En élaborant cette nouvelle vision, l'Europe devrait s'inspirer des forces des autres, par exemple de la capacité

européenne : les finances, la défense et le bien-être social. La nouvelle architecture financière devra accroître les investissements améliorer l'efficacité de l'allocation des capitaux et de la mobilisation de l'épargne. L'achèvement de l'union des marchés des capitaux devrait être la tâche principale de la nouvelle Commission européenne.

En ce qui concerne la défense, la guerre en Ukraine a montré que l'architecture actuelle de l'Europe était fragile et lente. Un nouveau cadre est absolument nécessaire. Il doit être capable de gérer les achats à l'échelle du continent, de soutenir l'interopérabilité entre les forces de sécurité et de donner à l'Europe un avantage technologique.

protection sociale doit être cohérente, fiscalement viable et répondre aux besoins des sociétés modernes. Au cours des dernières décennies, l'Europe a laissé se creuser les dettes et les déficits de financement dans toute une série de domaines - notamment la santé, le logement, l'éducation et l'énergie en raison de l'absence de consensus sur ce que devrait être l'État-providence moderne. Étant donné que la sauvegarde du mode de vie européen est essentielle à la solidarité sociale à long terme, cette situation ne peut plus

Le troisième impératif clé pour l'Europe face à la polycrise est de concevoir un nouveau modèle d'organisation, basé sur la flexibilité, l'adaptabilité et la subsidiarité. Les problèmes doivent être abordés au niveau où ils se posent. Les défis mondiaux - tels que le changement climatique, la prolifération nucléaire, l'intelligence artificielle et la stabilité financière - exigent une coopération et une réglementation internationales plus structurées.

Les défis qui devraient être traités au niveau communautés locales, gérer la mise en œuvre concrète des politiques. La coopération tirer parti de l'expérience, du savoir-faire et de la capacité institutionnelle des entreprises en matière d'adaptation, de gestion des risques et de réponse aux crises. Le nouveau modèle d'organisation devrait ressembler davantage à un filet qu'à une chaîne, car la force d'un filet est la somme de ses nœuds, tandis qu'une chaîne n'est aussi solide que son maillon le plus faible.

L'Europe ne peut pas se permettre d'attendre le prochain choc pour agir. Si nous voulons surmonter la polycrise, nous avons besoin aujourd'hui d'une réflexion stratégique, d'un leadership collectif et d'une pensée originale, guidés par l'ambition commune de « refonder l'Europe » d'ici à 2045.

WEDNESDAY

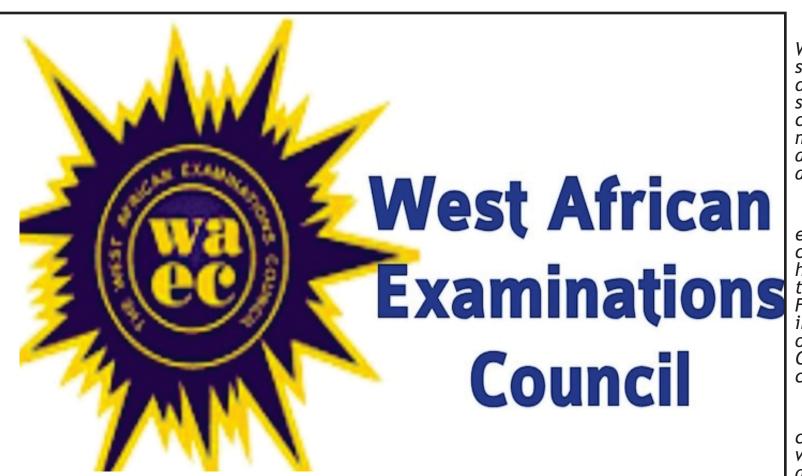
# FEATURE ARTICLE **Using WASSCE Results to Promote Accountability in Education in Liberia**

ducation (MOE) has the power to certify, license, and accredit teachers, school administrators, and support staff. However, it does not provide details on how often schools need to renew their licenses. The Act also gives the Ministry the authority to monitor and ensure quality education in all schools (both public and private). It mandates the MOE to:

- Conduct inspections to evaluate schools based on established national standards.
- Monitor teacher performance and ensure they are qualified and meet teaching standards.
- Evaluate students' performance in relation to curriculum objectives, using various assessment methods, including national exams such as the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

My research of publicly available information over the past two decades revealed that school closures in Liberia have primarily been attributed to unsafe conditions, lack of proper registration, or poor infrastructure. Notably, there were NO documented cases of schools being shut down solely due to poor performance. This suggests that academic performance has not solutions.

- 3. Motivation for Schools- School rankings can incentivize both public and private schools to improve their teaching methods, curriculum coverage, and student support systems. Knowing they will be ranked against others encourages schools to compete in providing quality education, lifting overall standards.
- 4. Transparency for Parents and Students- Ranking schools publicly based on their WASSCE results gives parents and students more information when selecting a school. They can choose schools with proven academic performance, ensuring that students attend institutions where they are more likely to succeed academically. It empowers parents to hold schools accountable.
- 5. Promoting a Culture of Excellence-School rankings could foster a culture of academic excellence. Schools will strive to be ranked among the best, leading to greater efforts in academic planning, teacher effectiveness, and student performance. It could also inspire best practice sharing among institutions, where lower-performing schools learn from higher-ranked ones.



been a primary factor in school closure decisions in Liberia during this period

While there are challenges associated with the WASSCE (more on that below), I am convinced that ranking schools in Liberia based on their performance on the exam could bring significant benefits to the country's education system:

- 1. Improved Accountability- Using WASSCE results to rank schools would promote greater accountability among school administrators, teachers, and students. This system would identify consistently underperforming schools, motivating them to implement necessary reforms. Conversely, high-performing schools would set benchmarks for others to emulate.
- 2. Informed Policy Decisions- Data from WASSCE rankings could help the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders make evidence-based policy decisions. The government could allocate resources and implement interventions for underperforming schools while incentivizing high-achieving ones. This approach would also highlight specific areas of educational weakness—be it teacher quality, school infrastructure, or curriculum issues—enabling targeted

I am not suggesting that the WASSCE is a perfect measure of students' performance. However, it does provide a means to measure a school's academic temperature and can be augmented using additional measures such as student attendance, school infrastructure, and student satisfaction surveys.

For the ranking of schools to be effective, the WASSCE must be credible. Over the last 5 years, there have been instances of cheating on the exam (as reported in the Frontpage Africa newspaper). For instance, in 2022, Dale Gbotoe, head of the West African Examination Council (WAEC) Liberia, raised concerns about school

administrators facilitating exam cheating. Despite being entrusted with exam supervision, these administrators were caught engaging in malpractice, particularly in Montserrado County, which reported

the highest number of incidents. Furthermore, in 2023, students at multiple schools were found with photocopied exam materials during the WASSCE. This situation suggests that the Government of Liberia should take one of two actions: implement stricter accountability measures for WAEC authorities in their supervision of exam administration or initiate leadership changes within the WAEC to address the ongoing issues of exam malpractice.

#### About the Author

Chris Tokpah is the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Delaware County Community College in PA. He holds a Ph.D. in Program Evaluation and Measurement, an MBA (with an emphasis in Management Information Systems), and a B.Sc. in Mathematics. He is an Adjunct Professor of Research Methods and Statistics (Ph.D. program) at Delaware Valley University and an independent consultant. He has participated in, or supervised baseline studies and evaluations sponsored by the World Bank, IDA, Geneva Global, USAID, and AfDB. His email address is ctokpah@kent.edu.

### Split deepens at Capitol Bui

23

House Speaker J. Fonita Koffa is resolved to ensure a instructed the Chief Clerk, united body for the conduct of official business despite an ongoing attempt by a group of disenchanted lawmakers to have him ousted.

OCTOBER

By Bridgett Milton onrovia, Liberia, October 23, 2024—The House of Representatives plenary, presided over by Speaker J. Fonita Koffa, has voted to compel all members who were

Representatives.

require a two-thirds majority or 49 lawmakers to constitute a quorum for business.

County Electoral District#7 Representative Musa Bility quoted Article 33 of the 1986



Thursday, 24 October.

The House decided on members assemble to perform their duties on behalf and compel the attendance of of the Liberian people amid an absent members. Whenever the Speaker.

Fonita Koffa could not have a officer of the House of quorum with 30 lawmakers Representatives shall present in the regular preside." chamber of the House of

Starts from page 6

absent from Tuesday's session Constitution of Liberia, which to attend the next session on states: "A simple majority of each House shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Tuesday to ensure that business, but a lower number may adjourn from day to day ongoing attempt to remove the House of Representatives and the Senate shall meet in On Tuesday, Speaker J. joint session, the presiding

Accordingly, Plenary has

**Rwanda and Liberia Sign Bil** 

Madam Mildred Sayon, to take necessary actions to ensure that absent members are compelled to join their The rules of the House colleagues in the upcoming session on Thursday.

Speaker Koffa and Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah Making the motion, Nimba attended the sitting with minority members.

> On the other hand, in the Joint Chambers of the 55th Legislature, the bloc supporting Speaker Koffa's removal also held a separate session presided over by Rep. Clarence Gahr of Margibi County District #5 and Co, presided over by Rep. Sekou Kanneh of District #2.

> The majority bloc also filed a motion to summon Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah to appear before the body in their session in the joint chambers on Thursday for his refusal to join rebel lawmakers.

> According to a roll call by the anti-Koffa bloc, 43 lawmakers were present in the Joint Chamber, while 30 sat under Speaker Koffa.

> With the entrenched position taken by both parties in the Speaker's removal, especially with Speaker Koffa insisting that resignation is not an option, many await the outcome of this entire saga.-

#### Starts from page 7 **ECOWAS commits to joint fight**

Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria as the presentations by Member States on current Chair of the Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State; and Dr. Mojisola Sodeinde, Head of Region, 2028 Plan of Action, as well as their International Centre for Migration 2025 Priorities, which showed Policy Development (ICMPD) West progress in the combat of TIP+ Africa.

combating human trafficking through strategic initiatives like awareness campaigns, enhanced international partnerships. fight alone. Our collective efforts, shared knowledge, and unity of safeguarding the future of our children, families, and communities," he emphasized. Echoing these sentiments, H.E. Josephine Nkrumah highlighted the need for a holistic approach. "Trafficking in persons demands a whole-of-society approach with urged all the participants to work together, amplify awareness efforts at all levels, and leverage their efforts impactful.

Dr. Mojisola Sodeinde reinforced the importance of collective action, noting, "as we reminded of the power of unity. immense, but the progress we've made is a source of hope."

The 3-day meeting featured Prevention Policy.

the implementation of the 2023 TIP Priorities and ECOWAS TIP 2018despite many challenges. Some Mr. Steve Kolubah highlighted recommendations proffered Liberia's relentless efforts in include the need for Member States to strengthen cross-border referral mechanisms and protocols to ensure effective referrals. victim protection, and enhanced awareness-raising efforts regarding the ECOWAS Free "However, no country can win this Movement Protocol, and strengthening the capacity of the National Task Forces (NTF) and purpose are critical to National Focal Points (NFP) in implementing National Action Plans. The meeting urged the ECOWAS Commission to organize an inter-ministerial meeting on TIP+ to strengthen coordination and collaboration on regional efforts in addressing TIP+, also requested the ECOWAS Commission in renewed urgency," she said. She collaboration with partners like the ICMPD, to facilitate targeted experience-sharing sessions on emerging or critical topics, such as innovative approaches to make child trafficking in the context of armed conflicts; and produce technical guidance for Member States. It validated in principle (subject to the agreed-upon gather here in Monrovia, we are revisions) the Model National Task Force Guidelines and the Regional The challenges we face are TIP and Related Criminal Offences Strategy, formerly known as the Regional Crimes Against the Person



#### JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST The Judiciary Branch of Government has received a budgetary allotment for fiscal year

2024 and intends to apply it toward the construction, furnishing and equipping of the 4th Judicial Circuit Court Complex, Harper City, Maryland County.

LOT #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
Lot-1	Construction, Furnishing and equipping of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Judicia Circuit Court Complex	1 unit

The Judiciary Branch now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction, furnishing and equipping of the 4th Judicial Circuit Court Complex.

- 1. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA).
- 2. All interested and qualified bidders may obtain a set of bidding document comprising of the Bill of Quantity (BOQ) along with the drawing from the Procurement Unit, Room # 505, Temple of Justice, for a nonrefundable fee of US\$250.00, beginning October 7, 2024 from 10AM to 3:00PM, Monday-Friday
- 3.Requirements for qualification include:
- Valid Business Registration Certificate
- Valid Tax Clearance
- Certificate from the Ministry of Public Works Article of Incorporation
- Past performance record (construction projects undertaken) Technical and financial capacity, equipment and key personnel
- Vendor Registry Certificate from PPCC
- Bid security should be two percent(2%) of the bid price in the form of Bank

4.Bids must be delivered to the procurement Unit; 5th floor room #: 501, Temple of Justice, on October 28, 2024 at the hour of 1 PM. Electronic bids will not be accepted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on October 28, 2024 at the hour of 1 PM, in the Resource Center on the 3rd Floor of the Temple of Justice building.

- 5. Site visitation is on October 15, 2024.
- 6.Pre-bid meeting will be held on October 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Resource Center on the 3rd floor of the Temple of Justice building
- 7. The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.



#### the Director General of the collaboration, which

growth and development of Liberia Civil Aviation indeed will provide both countries by promoting Authority, Mr. Julius alternatives for our tourism, trade, and Dennis, jr. remarked "We are very excited and investment. At the signing ceremony, elated about this studying in Rwanda

traveling public, especially students and the East African

Editing by

Jonathan Browne

### Starts from page 6 GIABA enjoys global recognition as FATE

effectiveness in its overall Director-General, operations. We must recall that management, staff, and GIABA did not only exit the stakeholders welcome this improvement plan but development and commit continues to thrive, deliver to making a valuable quality Mutual Evaluation in a impact on the Steering timely manner, and is poised for Group. more excellent delivery in the The 1st meeting of the FATF upcoming Third Round of Steering Group with GIABA

Mutual Evaluation. The on the seat is holding in

Paris ahead of the FATF October Plenary.

The FSG is an advisory body chaired by the President of the FATF.-Dispatch

#### Starts from page 5

### The Global Rule of Law Recession

the world's population. Each country's score is an (5). The top five ranked improved their rule average of eight factors: countries remain of law score most Constraints on Government unchanged from 2023. The from 2023 to 2024 Powers, Absence of bottom ranked countries are Poland, Corruption, Open Government, are Venezuela (142), Vietnam, and Sri Fundamental Rights, Order and Cambodia (141), Lanka. Security, Regulatory Afghanistan (140), Haiti

and Criminal Justice. The top-ranked country in biggest rule of law declines World Justice the 2024 WJP Rule of Law Index in the past year are Project (WJP) Rule is Denmark, followed by Myanmar, El Salvador, and of Law Index at:

jurisdictions, covering 95% of Norway (2), Finland (3), Nicaragua, while Sweden (4), and Germany the countries that

Enforcement, Civil Justice, (139), and Myanmar (138). rankings and The countries with the findings of the 2024

Explore the full http://www.worldi



# eree to holds SME conference

medium business enterprises.

2024/At a stakeholder businesses.

onrovia, October 23, promote and support Liberian stakeholders meeting.

Madam Nimley said the sector first week in December is demonstrating the political is an important driver of the expected to be grace by will to promote and support



not be forgotten.

Minister further reiterated informal sector. pending conference.

The conference on SMEs is a past six years. flagship undertaking by the The World Bank, UNDP, Liberia Ministry of Commerce to

The acting Commerce including businesses in the pending conference.

Acting commerce minister Scholarstica Nimley has Chamber of Commerce, Liberia announced plans to host a conference on small and Business Association, and the Liberia Business Registry, among others, attended the

The Acting Commerce Minister meeting on Monday, The conference slated for the praised President Boakai for Liberian Economy and should President Joseph Boakai and SMEs, thereby giving the Commerce Ministry the green light to host the flagship conference.

> Acting commerce minister Scholarstica Nimley has announced plans for the hosting of a conference on small and medium business enterprises.

At a stakeholder meeting Monday, Madam Nimley named the sector as an important driver of the Liberian Economy and should not be forgotten.

The acting Commerce Minister further reiterated the need to strengthen SMEs, thus calling on public, private and donor stakeholders in the sector, organizations to support the

The conference on SME is a the need to strengthen SMEs, The SMEs conference is an flagship undertaking by the thus calling on public, annual event organized by the Ministry of Commerce to private, and donor Commerce Ministry. It has not promote and support Liberian organizations to support the been held since 2016 due to the own business. The conference lack of political will for the slated for the first week in

► CONT'D page 7





