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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY 25, OCTOBER 2024	L\$191.3830/US\$1.00	L\$192.6894/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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.



House Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

Koffa considers Supreme Court

P11

Senate sets up mediation committee

P11

-Seeks to address Koffa's removal saga



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Continental News

Nigeria drops charges against Binance cryptocurrency boss

Nigeria’s anti-corruption agency has dropped a money-laundering case against a top cryptocurrency executive to allow him to get medical treatment abroad.

The charges against Binance, including tax evasion offences that it denies, were part of a clampdown by the Nigerian authorities on cryptocurrency firms in general over fears they

the escape from custody of his colleague Nadeem Anjarwalla, a British-Kenyan dual national who was Binance’s Africa regional manager.

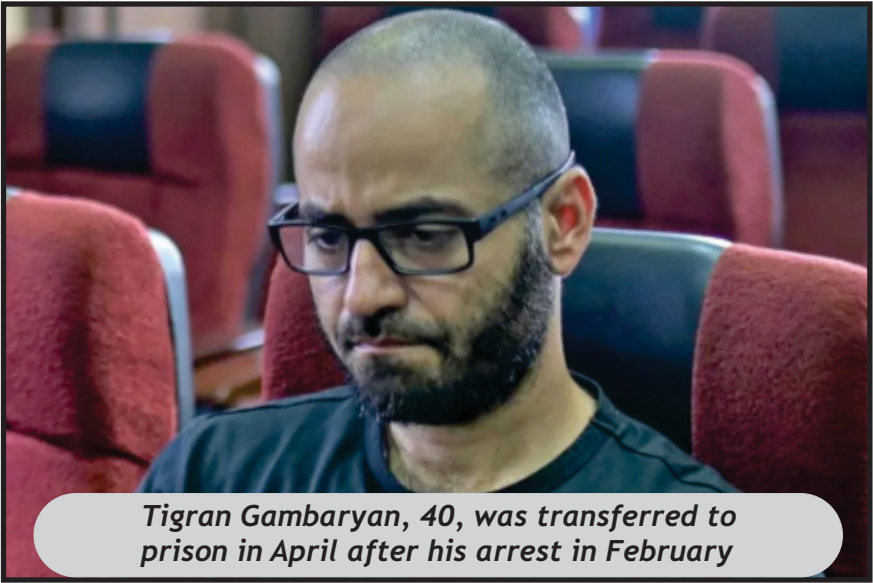
He was arrested alongside Mr Gambaryan in February but fled the country within weeks of the pair being put under house arrest - and is still wanted by the Nigerian authorities.

According to the Reuters news agency, Gambaryan’s trial was adjourned last Friday as he was not able to appear because of illness.The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) then announced in court in Abuja on Wednesday that it was dropping the case against him.

"We have withdrawn the money laundering charges against Tigran Gambaryan to allow him to get medical treatment outside the country," Reuters quotes EFCC lawyer Ekele Ihenacho as saying.

The tax evasion charges filed against Binance by the Federal Inland Revenue Service will still be pursued in court.

Binance has also fallen foul of US laws. Last November its founder Changpeng Zhao resigned and in April was sentenced to four months in prison for allowing criminals to launder money on his platform.BBC



Tigran Gambaryan, 40, was transferred to prison in April after his arrest in February

Tigran Gambaryan, a US citizen, was arrested on a business trip to Nigeria in February and later charged alongside his company Binance with laundering \$35.4m (£28m) - which they denied. The 40-year-old was in charge of financial crime compliance at Binance, the world’s largest crypto exchange that Nigeria blames for much of its recent economic turmoil. It accused the digital platform - where investors can buy, sell and trade cryptocurrencies - of fixing exchange rates and currency speculation leading to the free-fall of the local

were being used for money laundering and financing terrorism.Mr Gambaryan’s family has been calling for his release over concerns about his health, saying conditions at the Kuje Correctional Centre - a prison in the capital, Abuja where he had been held since April - were exacerbating a back problem.“The herniated disc in his back has worsened to the point where it might leave permanent damage and affect his ability to walk,” his wife Yuki said in August. The High Court judge has twice denied him bail, saying he was a potential flight risk.This followed

Commonwealth leaders to defy UK on slavery reparations

Commonwealth heads of government are preparing to defy the United Kingdom and agree plans to examine reparatory justice for the transatlantic slave trade, the BBC has learned. Downing Street insists the issue is not on the agenda for the summit of 56 Commonwealth countries, which begins in the Pacific island nation of Samoa on Friday.But diplomatic sources said officials were negotiating an agreement to conduct further research and begin a “meaningful conversation” about an issue which could potentially leave the UK owing billions of pounds in reparations.Frederick Mitchell, foreign minister of the Bahamas, told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme: “Once you broach the subject it may take a while for people to come around but come around they will.”Reparatory justice for slavery can come in many forms, including financial reparations, debt relief, an official apology, educational programmes,

building museums, economic support, and public health assistance. The current text of the draft summit communique - made known to the BBC - says: “Heads, noting calls for discussions on reparatory justice with regard to the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans and chattel enslavement... agreed that the time has come for a meaningful, truthful and respectful conversation towards forging a

common future based on equity.”It says the heads of government would play “an active role in bringing about such inclusive conversations addressing these harms” and that they agreed “to prioritise and facilitate further and additional research on the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans and chattel slavery that encourages and supports the conversations and informs a way forward”.BBC



Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said this week he wants to discuss current challenges with Commonwealth leaders

Mozambique's ruling party wins landslide in disputed poll

Mozambique’s ruling party, Frelimo, has won the country’s divisive, violence-marred election, extending its 49-year grip on power in the southern African nation, according to official results.

Daniel Chapo, Frelimo’s relatively unknown presidential candidate, seen as an agent of change, will replace Filipe Nyusi, who has served two terms.At 47, Chapo, who gained 71% of the vote, will be the first president born after independence in 1975. His closest challenger, Venancio Mondlane got 20%.Chapo said in his victory speech: “We remained silent all this time, for respecting the law. We are an organised party that prepares its victories.”Following the announcement of the result, there have been violent

by Renamo, said the “results are against electoral justice”.“These results do not represent the reality,” he said.

The electoral commission says 43% of the more than 17 million registered voters took part in the poll.

Parliamentary and provincial elections were held at the same time as the presidential vote.

Frelimo won 195 of the 250 seats in parliament. The opposition Podemos, which backed Mondlane for president, got 31 seats and Renamo secured 20 seats.Frelimo also won all the provincial elections.

President Nyusi followed the election results with a jubilant television address to the nation.

"With more than 70% of the votes, I don’t see any teacher failing a student,” he said.

The election had been seen as a turning-point for the resource-rich country which is wracked by economic problems, corruption,



Daniel Chapo will become the first Mozambican president born after independence in 1975

protests in several towns and a number of people have been killed. There is also heavy police presence in some areas.

The election has been marred by allegations of rigging and the killing of opposition supporters, prompting protests across the country.Zimbabwe’s President Mnangagwa, who has also been hit by allegations of election fraud over the years, prematurely congratulated Chapo on his “resounding victory”, even before the results were announced.

Ossufo Momade, the candidate of former rebel group Renamo, which was previously the main opposition party, came in third with 6%.Political analyst Tomas Viera Mario told the BBC that Renamo had lost its “historical position” because Momade, 68, had failed to attract young voters.The numbers announced surprised all voters, including some members and sympathisers of the ruling party, especially Frelimo’s landslide victory.The deputy chairperson of the electoral commission Fernando Mazanga, who was appointed

and poverty. Mondlane had called for a national strike on Thursday in protest at the alleged rigging.

He said that the protests would honour his lawyer and a party official who were shot dead last week in what he described as politically motivated killings.He claimed that he won the election despite preliminary polls showing that Chapo was well ahead.Mondlane now has until December to contest the results.

On Monday, he organised nationwide demonstrations, which were dispersed by police firing live rounds and tear gas.The election has also been criticised by EU election observers, who said some results may have been doctored.

They said there were “irregularities during counting and unjustified alteration of election results”.

Political analyst Adriano Nuvunga decried what he called a pattern of fraudulent elections in Mozambique.

The electoral commission has declined to comment on allegations of vote-rigging, according to Reuters.

EDITORIAL

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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
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COMMENTARY

The Biodiversity Crisis Is a Security Crisis

ADDIS ABABA - Our long-term prosperity and the well-being of future generations are in jeopardy, as biodiversity loss and the collapse of critical ecosystems not only threaten our environment, but also raise risks for the economy, public health, national security, and global stability. At the 2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference, currently taking place in Cali, Colombia, leaders must finally meet this crisis with the level of political commitment and funding that it warrants.

Biodiversity is often understood in terms of the variety of life on Earth - the number of species of plants, animals, and microorganisms. Its significance cannot be overstated. Biodiversity underpins the ecosystem services that sustain human life, such as water purification, flood control, and climate regulation. The rapid decline of species and ecosystems - one million plant and animal species are on the brink of extinction - thus amounts to an existential threat.

If left unaddressed, biodiversity loss will accelerate climate change and amplify its consequences, contributing to more natural disasters and market shocks. It will also leave our agricultural systems increasingly vulnerable to hazards - from pests and pathogens to extreme weather - and deplete the ocean of critical fish stocks. This will affect both the price and availability of food, causing scarcity in the Global South and compounding insecurity in already-fragile societies.

These trends will leave a growing number of people with little choice but to flee their homes in search of better living conditions. According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, natural disasters and other ecological threats could displace as many as 1.2 billion people by 2050. These “environmental refugees” could destabilize destination countries, strain international relations, and challenge security frameworks. As the planet’s total habitable area shrinks, and competition for resources grows, conflict will become all but inevitable.

Biodiversity loss also threatens public health, which is inextricably linked to the ecosystems that surround us. Many diseases - including emerging infectious diseases such as mpox - can be tied directly to changes in biodiversity.As the destruction of habitats forces wildlife into closer contact with human populations, the risk of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 rises.

To prevent such a future, all countries must recognize biodiversity loss as a security issue. This means integrating biodiversity considerations into defense and foreign policymaking. And it means financing the response - including investments in practices that protect ecosystems, and ambitious measures to address the root causes of biodiversity loss, such as habitat destruction and climate change - as robustly as they would for any other security crisis.

It is estimated that tackling the biodiversity crisis will require an additional \$700 billion per year by 2030. Fortunately, at the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), world leaders agreed to close this gap by phasing out or repurposing harmful subsidies worth \$500 billion and raising the remaining \$200 billion. Financing from developed economies to their developing counterparts is supposed to reach at least \$20 billion per year by 2025 and at least \$30 billion per year by 2030.

That might seem like a lot, but it is peanuts compared to the cost of inaction. According to projections by the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford, the shocks to the global economy caused by biodiversity loss and ecosystem damage could cost as much as \$5 trillion over just five years. The world’s biodiversity-financing needs are also dwarfed by its current defense spending, which totaled \$2.24 trillion in 2022. Since investing in nature amounts to one of the most cost-effective long-term defense strategies, it should be embraced by the world’s major defense spenders, beginning with the United States.

As with any good security strategy, finance must be paired with international cooperation. The consequences of biodiversity loss know no borders. Countries must work together to protect critical habitats, enforce environmental regulations, and promote sustainable development practices.

As such, multilateral groups, such as the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, should continue to take the lead in forging international agreements and action plans that establish biodiversity conservation as a cornerstone of global security. Policymakers must continue to focus on working to meet the biodiversity framework’s “30x30” target, by encouraging and facilitating government action to protect 30% of the planet’s land and ocean by 2030. Furthermore, members from the Global North should increase financial support for countries in the Global South to implement necessary designations, specifically by meeting their commitment to deliver at least \$20 billion of nature finance annually by 2025.

Finally, we must engage and inform the public. Education and awareness campaigns that explain the importance of protecting biodiversity can empower individuals and communities to advocate for policies that protect our natural resources, thereby helping to generate the necessary political will.

If an enemy state threatened the economy, public health, national security, and global stability, we would throw everything we had at it to defend ourselves. The biodiversity crisis is no different.

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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, 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.

OPINION

By Lars Frølund,
Fiona Murray

Can Europe Really Build Its Own DARPA?

COPENHAGEN/BOSTON - Europe’s waning competitiveness is once again in the spotlight. Addressing this long-standing problem will require, among other things, increased investment in the European economy’s capacity for innovation. To achieve that, recentreports by former Italian prime ministers Mario Draghi and Enrico Letta, and an April speech by French President Emmanuel Macron, have called for a European version of the United States’ Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Most recently, an independent expert group, led by Manuel Heitor, echoed this appeal in the interim evaluation of the European Union’s “Horizon Europe” initiative.

The idea is hardly new. Macron first raised the issue in 2017, and economists have proposed DARPA clones to spur an industrial revival in Germany and accelerate the green transition. In fact, several such institutions already exist in the region, including the European Innovation Council (EIC), Germany’s Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation (SPRIN-D), and the United Kingdom’s Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA). But all have so far failed to realize the full potential of a European DARPA.

The EU’s innovation agenda is even more urgent now: Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has underscored the need to strengthen the bloc’s defense industrial base, and the global artificial-intelligence race has highlighted the importance of dominating in advanced civilian technology. Moreover, these two areas are increasingly interconnected, as was the case for many of DARPA’s biggest achievements, from GPS to Siri (Apple’s digital personal assistant) and drones.

Recreating DARPA’s success in the EU requires understanding how it really works. Established in response to the Soviet Union’s launch of the Sputnik satellite in 1957, DARPA gives its staff the freedom to pursue long-shot ideas. Perhaps most importantly, DARPA has employed a revolutionary research-investment model, which differs from current European practices.

For starters, DARPA takes a targeted approach to addressing specific problems related to US defense and security. In its 2021 congressional overview, for example, the agency emphasized its strategic focus on defending the country, deterring adversaries, and advancing foundational research to solve security challenges. By contrast, ARIA currently works in seven “opportunity spaces,” from precision neurotechnologies to mathematics for safe AI. And while SPRIN-D focuses on fewer issues - circular biomanufacturing, long-duration energy storage, and carbon-to-value applications - none is related to defense.

DARPA’s achievements can also be attributed to its program managers, who have a high degree of decision-making autonomy. After identifying a need or challenge within the overall defense mission, managers define a “technological white space” and select projects that could fill it. While the UK’s ARIA has been able to replicate this approach, European funding agencies continue to rely on an institutionalized peer-review system and selection processes that are long and cumbersome. This slows the pace of innovation and excludes some of the most inventive ideas, causing the EU agencies to lag behind their US peer.

In addition to its narrower defense scope, DARPA has a much larger budget - more than \$4 billion per year. By contrast, the EIC awarded a total of €159 million (\$173 million) to 43 new projects across five broad challenges in 2023. SPRIN-D has taken a more targeted approach, allocating between €500,000 and €3 million to a smaller number of initiatives. Likewise, ARIA’s grants range from £400,000 (\$523,500) to £10 million, but its total funding - less than £1 billion over multiple years - is too limited to have an appreciable impact on its many research areas.

Another important ingredient of DARPA project managers’ success in making audacious and large-scale bets is that they have fewer preconceived notions about which researchers should receive funding and how they should spend it. In 2020, more than 60% of DARPA support went to industry, while less than 20% went to universities and colleges. But most public innovation programs in Europe focus on academia, and political priorities often influence how funds are earmarked.

Moreover, after initial allocations, DARPA project managers use milestones to redistribute funding to well-performing projects and end those that have failed to meet expectations - an approach that makes the most efficient use of available resources and has become the agency’s hallmark. European funders, on the other hand, allocate money with as little organizational overhead as possible and never pull financing from a project that is not achieving its goals.

The case for a European DARPA remains as strong as ever. But to copy the agency’s success in advancing technological innovation, EU policymakers should focus on bolstering collective security - including defense, which is underfunded on the continent. Although SPRIN-D, ARIA, and the EIC have made some improvements to research funding by giving freedom and control to their partners, they have not gone far enough, both in terms of resource allocation and post-award management. The EU can and should develop its own version of DARPA, but only after it understands the pillars on which the agency stands.

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Toward a Fifth World Order

EDINBURGH - The Bretton Woods institutions - the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - are now 80 years old. But they are as under-resourced and poorly supported by national governments as at any time in their history. Their predicament is perhaps the clearest sign that economic and financial multilateralism is fragmenting along with the global economy. Worse, this fragmentation comes at a time of rising international tensions, financial fragility, sputtering growth, rising poverty, and mounting reconstruction bills in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, and elsewhere.

Both institutions are led by individuals who grasp the urgent need for reform to meet today’s challenges. Yet they lack sufficient support from their political masters: the largest share-holding countries whose votes are crucial for reform. To overcome the longstanding international coordination problems that have undermined reform efforts, we need a revamped G20 to take the lead. With its current chair, Brazil, it is well-placed to make significant progress.

The Costs of Under-Investment

Financial firepower is of course only one measure of the effectiveness of our multinational institutions, but it is an important one given the world we live in. The resources available to the IMF represent less than 1% (specifically 0.85%) of the global economy. Yet, as the lender of last resort and a financial safety net for the world, it is expected to deal with the problems of 191 member countries, as well as joining the global response to “non-traditional” and “new” issues such as climate change, gender disparities, and inequality.

Such under-funding contradicts the intentions of the IMF’s founders, led by the United Kingdom and the United States. At its creation, the Fund could draw on resources equal to roughly 3% of global GDP to help address a mere 44 countries’ monetary and balance-of-payments problems. Since then, IMF membership has grown fourfold, yet its resources have declined by more than two-thirds relative to GDP. This erosion is reflected in the Fund’s waning global heft and loss of capacity to solve tricky country cases.

Consider the following examples. Four decades ago, in the seminal restructuring of Mexico’s debt, the IMF promised one-third of what Mexico needed, on the expectation that commercial creditors would contribute the remainder. That financial capability then allowed it to press the private sector to accept a solution that traded off some of the creditors’ contractual claims on Mexico for an improved outlook for financial viability.

By contrast, after Zambia defaulted in 2020, the IMF provided it with less than 10% of its financing needs. Despite such support, Zambia has struggled through four years of negotiations with creditors to finalize restructuring agreements. While part of the challenge reflects the changing composition of both private and public creditors, much of it also stems from the diminished effectiveness of the Fund’s “carrot and stick” approach.

A Dangerous World
This is no small challenge for an institution that also plays critical surveillance and technical assistance roles, serving as the anchor of the international financial safety net (alongside more narrowly focused bilateral swap lines and ad hoc regional pooling arrangements). As we detailed in *Permacrisis* (co-authored with Michael Spence and Reid Lidow), there are reasons to worry that the kind of shocks we have been experiencing (from COVID-19 to the Ukraine and Gaza wars) will become even more frequent and violent in the years ahead, not least because of the climate challenge. The disturbing inadequacy of today’s safety nets, especially for the most vulnerable countries and segments of society, is proving to be an additional source of fragility and instability.

Despite these rising challenges, the IMF’s resources remain below historical levels, and the most recent quota review failed to produce a net increase in its lending capacity. In fact, between March 2020 and March 2023, the IMF committed \$191 billion (and disbursed less than \$75 billion) of its trillion-dollar resource base.

The Fund’s surveillance role also faces major challenges. Framed as a crisis-prevention tool for both individual countries and the overall system, IMF surveillance has, over decades, failed to predict and correctly frame economic shocks. Admittedly, national policymakers have failed, too. Some failures are understandable, as in the case of the pandemic. But others, including the supply-chain disruptions and subsequent surge in inflation, could have been foreseen and subjected to better analysis. Such slippages support the case for new investments in a more effective system of surveillance.

The World Bank is even less adequately resourced for the additional climate responsibilities it has been given. In a report commissioned by the Indian G20 presidency last year, co-chairs Lawrence H. Summers and N.K. Singh argued that multilateral development banks (MDBs) need to triple their lending by 2030, when it should be around \$400 billion annually. Yet allocations to lower- and middle-income countries in 2023 were equivalent to just 0.07% of global GDP. The \$73 billion earmarked

for the World Bank in the 2023 fiscal year represented the smallest commitment to development in the institution’s existence.

The Great Unraveling

What ails the IMF and the World Bank is not limited to these two institutions. We are witnessing a broader and increasingly worrisome breakdown in multilateralism - and this at a time when the world’s common problems can be solved only through coordination and common action.

Today’s MDBs, which include the regional development banks, provide loans equivalent to just 0.5% of developing countries’ gross national income, down from a peak of 0.7% in the 1990s. Equally, the World Trade Organization struggles with an overly legalistic judge-based rulebook that was imposed on it at the height of neoliberalism in the 1990s. Its effectiveness has always hinged on negotiation, conciliation, and arbitration, but these approaches have taken a back seat to geopolitical rivalries and unilateralism in recent decades.

Then there is the World Health Organization. Though the WHO’s current replenishment target is \$11 billion, only \$4 billion has been guaranteed, and its annual budget is no larger than that of medium-size US hospitals. By denying the WHO the resources it needs, while at the same time asking it to cover new health concerns, including well-being as a whole, we are depriving ourselves of the benefits of a global institution that finds it difficult to finance even its most basic tasks.

Finally, the creation of the G20 was a welcome response to the realization that the G7 no longer represented the face of global economic influence and power. By bringing together countries that account for around 80% of world GDP, the G20 had the best chance of helping us prevent or manage systemic crises like the one in 2008-10.

Yet despite its obvious potential, the G20 has operated without a structure to ensure continuity and effectiveness. And because its members include Russia and China, the US still prefers to work through the G7, which Jake Sullivan, the current national security adviser, sees as “the steering committee of the free world,” even though G7 countries now represent only 43% of world GDP.

The Multilateral Way or the Highway

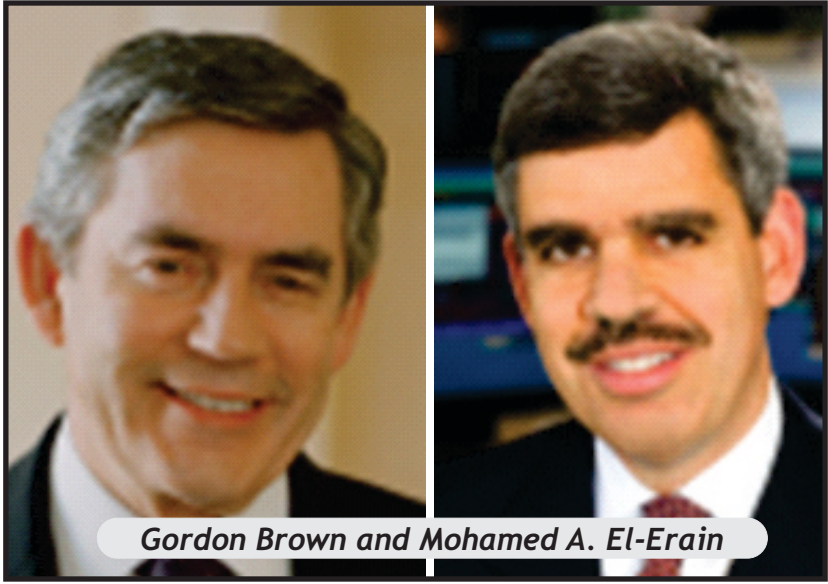
A sweeping approach to reforming the world’s multilateral institutions - often presented under the banner of “Bretton Woods 2.0” - is unlikely to get off the ground. But incremental progress is possible. Initiative by initiative, it could develop into a critical mass that would be welfare-enhancing for many, if not most, countries and people.

The WTO, for example, should focus on leveraging the undeniable skills of its current director-general, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, to solve trade disputes through conciliation, arbitration, and negotiation. That would mark a move away from its overly legalistic, and now broken, judge-based appeal system.

Similarly, the IMF, led by an equally charismatic managing director, can enhance its contributions to crisis prevention and resolution by leaning into its role as a global early-warning system. That also means responding to any future crisis with more financial firepower and by mobilizing lending capacity to enhance resilience against economic shocks, to negotiate a much-improved sovereign-debt restructuring mechanism, and thus to create a more comprehensive global financial safety net with limited conditionality in situations of large exogenous shocks.

While high-income countries have borrowing capacity and reserves to weather most shocks, some emerging markets do not, and low-income countries are even more exposed, given their limited reserves and high vulnerability to losing access to financial markets. Faced with the threat of sovereign defaults and a lost decade of development, too many indebted countries have sought alternative ways to avoid what they view as overly harsh conditions imposed by multilateral lenders. But to avoid defaulting, many governments have reallocated their health and education spending. Tragically, 3.3 billion people now live in countries that spend more on interest payments than on these two basic services.

The Bretton Woods institutions also need to support developing countries’ urgent climate-mitigation and adaptation needs. Failure to do so would not only jeopardize tens of millions of people’s well-being; it also would have negative cross-border spillovers, including through migration pressures. Both organizations have taken some steps to meet developing countries’ (excluding China) need for \$1 trillion of annual external funding by 2030. For example, the World Bank has arranged for “catastrophe bonds” to assist countries devastated by the increasing number of natural disasters, and the IMF has introduced a Resilience and Sustainability Trust as a lending window that is resourced through voluntary reallocations of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs, the IMF’s reserve asset). But these interventions are not enough.



Gordon Brown and Mohamed A. El-Erian

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Flood ravages Buutuo

-Locals' destitution worsens

Scores of residents of Buutuo, Nimba County have been devastated by floods, destroying crops and affecting movement of goods and services.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County
Nimba, Liberia, October 25, 2024 - Buutuo, Nimba County District#5, is in another war, this time around



with nature, as floods sweep villages and towns, destroying crops and exacerbating hunger. The floods, derived from heavy downpour in recent weeks, have devastated huge population of farmers and preventing access to health facilities, schools, and food, among others. The hunger has affected school-going children, including parents alongside with their cocoa and rice farms.

County correspondent, who visited Buu YAO District, observed that citizens are living in appalling conditions. Most residents of the district are involved in agricultural activities but their crops have been affected as a result of the flood, leaving crops buried underwater for over two months and rotten. Prior to the incident, citizens of the district had largely relied on neighboring Ivory

but floods have cut them off, with no way to enter Ivory Coast to buy food and other essential needs.

Several young people in the area are now involved in criminal activities to feed themselves and their families.

Over ten motorbikes have been stolen, while citizens seek support from government and international partners.

Various roads leading to District# 5 have been cut off, thereby preventing normal activities including movement of goods and services.

Buutuo Town, is historically launch-pad of the December 25, 1989 rebel invasion into Liberia, under the command of now jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor, against the government of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe. Since the end of the civil war in 2003, the town is yet to see development, as residents languish in poverty and its huge youthful population refusing to go to school. Instead, they have turned to substance abuse.

The district is birthplace of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, who is completing 27 years in the Liberian Senate. It is represented by Representative Samuel G. Kogar, who is spending his third term in office. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Ngafuan invites ECOWAS Bank to Liberia

Liberia is calling in ECOWAS and other developmental partners for more transformative projects that will align with its development roadmap, the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development.

Monrovia, Liberia, October 25, 2025 - Finance and Development Planning Minister, Augustine Ngafuan, invites the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and other development partners to Liberia for more transformative projects that will align with the country's national development plan, the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) Minister Ngafuan says Liberia is committed to do more transformative projects that will align with the AAID.

He made the request on the sidelines of the 2024 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund during a meeting held with the President of ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), Dr. George Agyekum Donkor.

Ngafuan assures that as Minister of Finance and Development Planning, he will play a frontier role in restoring confidence of all development partners to Liberia. He notes that when confidence is restored, all development



Min. Augustine Ngafuan

envelope is small but I am doing some constructive fight to spend wisely and spend credibly.

So, in the context of going forward, we will engage all of our development partners to build more trust, confidence and commitment to drive

development across the country."

He thanks the EBID President and officials for the level of commitment and work done in Liberia, saying "Let me thank you and your team for all you have done in Liberia."

He notes that the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development is doing good work across the region, but it needs to do more to increase Liberia's quotas in all

international organizations.

In response, the President of the ECOWAS Bank, Dr. George Agyekum Donkor, lauds Minister Ngafuan for the effort and commitment to strengthening relationship and called for a

Dr. Tolbert Nyenswah on evidence-based research

A former Liberian health authority, Dr. Tolbert G. Nyenswah, underscores a need for evidence-based research in the health sector here overall health outcomes.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, October 25, 2025 - The former Incident Manager of Liberia's Ebola response, stresses and urgent need for a strong research community in Liberia, noting that evidence-based research is essential for tackling significant challenges facing Liberia's health sector and improving overall health outcomes.

Dr. Tolbert G. Nyenswah notes that many of the country's pressing challenges in science and technology stem from a lack of research capacity. He emphasizes a need for substantial number of Ph.D. qualified professionals to investigate and address these issues, particularly high maternal and neonatal mortality rates,

structured approach to health challenges, which led to the establishment of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) to strengthen research and response capabilities in the country.

The former Assistant Minister praised the University of Liberia's administration, calling the launch of its Doctoral Programs a significant milestone for Liberia, the subregion, and the global academic community. He reiterated the importance of these programs in fostering advanced research and developing local expertise to address critical challenges.

In response to inquiries about the timing of the launch, Dr. Nyenswah said the initiative is less about specific timelines and more about



adding that addressing these critical problems through dedicated research is vital for improving health outcomes in the country.

During a press engagement on October 23, following his keynote address at the launch of the University of Liberia's Doctoral Programs, Dr. Nyenswah discussed the devastating impact of the Ebola outbreak, recalling how international scientists collaborated with local researchers to develop effective solutions, underscoring the importance of building local research capacity to address future health crises.

Dr. Nyenswah: "When COVID-19 stopped, I was in the United States, and one of the key strategies we developed was contact tracing, which was adopted by all U.S. states. We need to invest in our own capacity so that when we are gone, the younger generation can take over and effectively manage the system."

He continues that during the Ebola outbreak, Liberia faced a significant lack of institutions dedicated to public health research, including fields like epidemiology, biostatistics, and capacity building, adding that this gap highlighted the need for a

seizing the moment to create a better future. He highlighted the importance of leveraging current opportunities to enhance education and research in Liberia.

After 160 years of existence, the University of Liberia's commitment to producing critical thinkers is commendable. Dr. Nyenswah remarked, "Now is the time to encourage Ph.D. holders and those with terminal degrees to return and support the nation's leading university", noting that nearly seventy-five Ph.D.s and researchers have been mobilized to aid in training the new generation of scholars.

Dr. Nyenswah urged the Liberian government to take ownership of the program and provide strong support to ensure its sustainability. He explained that the first Ebola vaccine was developed in Liberia through collaboration among various institutions and researchers, highlighting the importance of partnership in achieving significant health goals.

Liberia was severely impacted by the Ebola outbreak, largely due to its fragile health system, which had been further weakened by years of civil war. Before the epidemic, the country had only 50

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CENTAL urges lawmakers to rise above negativity

CENTAL says it recognizes the right and power of Representatives to remove the Speaker and other elected leaders, but it frowns against reports of alleged bribery.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, October 25, 2024: The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) has urged members of the House of Representatives to rise above negativity and adopt a positive attitude for the growth of the country. CENTAL Executive Director Anderson Miamen made the call on Thursday, October 24, 2024, when he addressed reporters in Sinkor, a suburb of Monrovia. Mr. Miamen’s call followed reports of alleged bribery to remove House Speaker Fonati Koffa by some aggrieved members of the House of Representatives. CENTAL said news about some lawmakers receiving huge amounts of state money to remove their colleague as a Speaker of the House is troubling and does not augur well for the country. "The Legislature must rise above negativities and adopt a

upright position to play such very important roles. The plot to remove Speaker Koffa shocked many Liberians as the crisis intensified early last week. The anti-Koffa lawmakers said there were 47 members, but that number now stands at 43. Koffa has 30 lawmakers supporting his leadership, but they lack a quorum to conduct legislative business. The CENTAL boss said his group recognizes the right and power of Representatives to remove the Speaker and other elected leaders. "We are deeply troubled by new and sustained allegations of bribery characterizing the process," said Mr. Miamen. In a petition read to the media, "majority lawmakers" seeking the removal of Speaker Koffa accused him of bad leadership, corruption, and other misdeeds, including conflict of interest. The House Speaker stands accused of providing legal consultancy to several public and private institutions, claims he has since rebuffed.



more positive attitude and Quite recently in a video widely reputation if it must be taken circulated on social media, seriously and regarded by Gbarpolu County District #2 citizens and partners as a key Representative Luther Collins was and reliable pillar of the seen displaying cash amounting to country’s democracy and 15,000 USD allegedly governance process," Mr. received from his colleague, Miamen said. Representative James N. Kolleh of Bong County District #2. The Gbarpolu lawmaker alleged responsibility to set high that the money was provided on standards and provide behalf of the group of leadership and direction for the representatives seeking the country. Speaker’s removal. But he said the wave of According to him, the total bribe allegations of bribery to unseat involved is 25,000 USD, with an Speaker Koffa does not help to upfront payment of 15,000 USD. place lawmakers in a morally

Human Rights Platform campaigns against death penalty

Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia launches project to abolish death penalty in the country.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, October 25, 2025 Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia with funding from the British Embassy has officially

a matter of principle”, he added.He said the British Government welcomes the fact that the global trend towards the abolition of capital punishment continues in all parts of the world.

to the international covenant on civil and political rights, aiming to abolish the death penalty. He explains that under this protocol, Liberia was required to impose a moratorium on executions and amend its laws to eliminate the death penalty.

“Through consultation and engagement with stakeholders, the project aims to increase public support for the abolition of the death penalty and identify a pathway for Liberia’s ratification and domestication of the protocol.” He says the long-term real world difference will be no further prisoners sentenced to death penalty, and greater public support for non-violent punishment of crimes. Ambassador Bradley detests that responding to a crime no matter how heinous by committing another crime should never be a solution and any miscarriage of justice leading to the imposition of the death penalty is irreversible and irreparable.

For his part, the chairman of the board of directors of the platform, Reverend Francis Kollie, reveals that there is growing consensus for universal abolition of death penalty and torture, noting that this is the right time for Liberia to join the rest of the world for the abolishment of these two cruel anti-human rights acts. Reverend Kollie discloses that 12 persons, who are currently detained at various prisons across the country, are on death roll.He wants the Liberian government and CSOs to use collective approach to eradicate inhumane treatment and return victims who were

According to him, three quarters of states’ abolitionists are either in law or in practice. However, he warned against complacency in the collective efforts to abolish the death penalty.

“Last year, recorded global executions soared to their highest number in almost a decade”, the British Envoy disclosed. He believes that the death penalty undermines human dignity, as it neither makes communities safer nor serves as a deterrence to crime. Instead, he says it exacerbates cycles of violence and is often used for repression.

Ambassador Breadley recalls that in 2005, Liberia acceded to the second optional protocol

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AB Kromah dines with drug-addicted youths

During the tour, which coincided with Col. Kromah’s birthday, he dined with drug-affected youths in celebration and promised to stand by the government in finding solution to their plight. At the same time Kromah appeals to government to increase budgetary allotment for the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency to enable the Agency effectively fight drug trafficking in the country.

Responding, a female member of the group, identified as Princess David, lauded the suspended LDEA Boss for the concern he continues to show for drugs-affected youths roaming the streets of Monrovia. Madam David says while others have turned their backs on them, Kromah is always showing them love and providing them food and other items despite the stigma they

carry as drug addicts. The victim noted that she and her colleagues are tired of physical abuse they encounter on a daily basis, and called on the government of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to provide needed funding for their rehabilitation. The tour took Kromah and his team to over fifty hideouts around the city for drug-addicted youths. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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more collaborative partnership. He says the Bank is committed to re-engaging with Liberia to raise funding for development programs here.

Ngafuan invites ECOWAS Bank to Liberia

“It is important that we re-engage with Liberia and start to settle up standing issues to drive Liberia’s growth”, he said; adding “We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a more robust

partnership to invest in Liberia.”Dr. Donkor says the EBID is ready to reach Liberia and work with the country’s development agenda for mutual cooperation. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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français

Boakai rêve de faire du Liberia un centre de recherche

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a exprimé son ambition de transformer le Liberia en un centre de recherche en Afrique de l'Ouest, à l'occasion du lancement des

diplômés hautement qualifiés, capables de contribuer au développement national et de rivaliser sur la scène mondiale. Il a également insisté sur l'importance de ces doctorats pour le progrès scientifique et

l'Université du Liberia.

Le président Boakai a précisé que ces engagements permettront au Liberia de répondre aux défis économiques actuels, grâce à des initiatives de recherche alignées sur l'agenda ARREST pour un développement inclusif. Il a également souligné la collaboration nécessaire avec le secteur privé et les institutions internationales pour garantir un financement adéquat et une reconnaissance académique de ces programmes. « Mon gouvernement veillera à ce que les ressources nécessaires soient allouées via le budget national », a-t-il affirmé.

Le lancement de ces programmes doctoraux a été célébré par un symposium à l'Université du Liberia sur le thème : « Renforcer la recherche et l'innovation pour transformer l'enseignement supérieur au Liberia ». Cet événement marque une étape clé dans le développement de la recherche avancée et l'enrichissement de l'offre académique dans le pays. Les programmes de doctorat, qui débiteront en 2025, couvriront des domaines tels que l'administration éducative et les sciences, avec des doctorats en curriculum et instruction, en

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Les enfants libériens face à un avenir incertain

Les infrastructures scolaires rurales toujours en état de délabrement, 21 ans après la guerre civile

Alors que des responsables libériens s'offrent des véhicules de luxe et perçoivent des salaires élevés, l'accès à une éducation de qualité pour les enfants libériens, en particulier ceux vivant dans les zones rurales, reste un rêve lointain.Des images préoccupantes circulent montrant des bâtiments scolaires en piteux état dans les comtés ruraux. Pendant ce temps, chaque parlementaire reçoit 45 000 dollars pour l'achat de véhicules de luxe, en plus d'un salaire mensuel de 15 000 dollars. Pourtant, ces mêmes élus semblent ignorer la situation alarmante de leurs systèmes éducatifs locaux.Un récent déplacement à Sawken, dans le district n°1 du comté de Grand Kru, a révélé l'état déplorable de la seule école primaire du canton. Le bâtiment, en ruines, n'offre

pas les conditions nécessaires à l'apprentissage des élèves ou à l'enseignement. Le contenu des cours, tout comme l'infrastructure, est loin d'être adapté.

Le révérend Joseph S. Attiogbe Sr, directeur de l'école, a exprimé son inquiétude face à cette situation. Selon lui, la frustration est palpable non seulement chez les enseignants, mais aussi chez les parents, qui espèrent offrir à leurs enfants un minimum d'éducation. "Certains enfants ne

fréquentent plus l'école, malgré la poursuite des activités académiques, à cause de la dégradation avancée des infrastructures", a-t-il confié à *New Dawn*.

Le révérend Attiogbe a précisé avoir sollicité à plusieurs reprises l'aide des notables locaux et des membres du gouvernement originaires de la région, sans succès. La section maternelle de l'école est

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Éditorial

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 matière de connectivité routière, ce projet représente une véritable bouffée d'oxygène. Il promet de dynamiser les 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'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 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 le réaliser.

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

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

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

FEATURE

ARTICLE

Using WASSCE Results to Promote Accountability in Education in Liberia

Education (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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.



West African Examinations Council

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:

- 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.
- 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

Koffa considers Supreme Court

There are suggestions in the public that Speaker Koffa's quest to ensure change at the House by calling for its audit to promote transparency is in part responsible for the majority of his colleagues turning against him.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, October 25, 2024: Embattled House Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa has vowed to go to the Supreme Court of Liberia after failing to meet a quorum for the third consecutive sitting at the House of Representatives. The bloc of Representatives backing Speaker Koffa to

This plot to oust Speaker Koffa began while he was out of the country, and lawmakers from his party, the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), are among the plotters. Due to his inability to proceed, Cllr. Koffa has turned to the Supreme Court for intervention, requesting a writ

lawmakers insist that they are not afraid of the court because the court has nothing in their matter.

During the rebel lawmakers' session on Thursday, October 24, 2024, Bong County Electoral District 2 Representative James Kolleh raised a motion calling for the seats of Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah and Chief Clerk Mildred Sayon to be declared vacant.

Kolleh demanded that these vacancies be declared if Fallah and Sayon do not attend the anti-Koffa legislative session during the next sitting on Tuesday, October 29, 2024. "If the ... Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah and Chief Clerk Mildred Sayon fail to attend and preside over our Tuesday session, I move that their seats be declared vacant," said Kolleh.

The political crisis at the Capitol has brought legislative work to a standstill, with both camps locked in a battle for control of the House of Representatives. Koffa's supporters continue to rally for the Speaker's survival, while the majority bloc accuses him of mismanagement and corruption. Notwithstanding, there are suggestions in the public that Speaker Koffa's quest to ensure change at the House by calling for its audit to promote transparency is in part responsible for the majority of his colleagues turning against him.

Efforts to fight corruption in Liberia continue to meet resistance, and little is achieved.

But over the decades the Legislature has shielded itself from audits. Any effort to break this notorious tradition requires not only legal backing but also political will.

As both sides prepare for a crucial showdown on Tuesday, all eyes are on the Supreme Court to see if it will intervene to compel the absent lawmakers to return and resolve the standoff.

Senate sets up mediation committee

The Liberian Senate says resolving the political crisis at the House of Representatives is in the interest of peace.

Monrovia, October 25, 2024: The Liberian Senate has set up a mediation committee to mediate between the two rival groups at the House of Representatives.

The Liberian Senate issued a Press Release Thursday, saying it feels that the resolution of the matter between the aggrieved members of the House of Representatives and House speaker Fonati Koffa's bloc is in the interest of peace. The release said the Senate seeks to ensure a stable Legislature for democratic governance.

The committee was constituted on Thursday, October 24, 2024, by the Liberian Senate in a consultative meeting.

Over 40 of the lawmakers at the House of Representatives have been conducting separate sessions in their quest to oust Speaker Koffa, while Representatives who are loyal to him attend sessions under his gable but lack a quorum. As of

representatives to conduct legislative business.

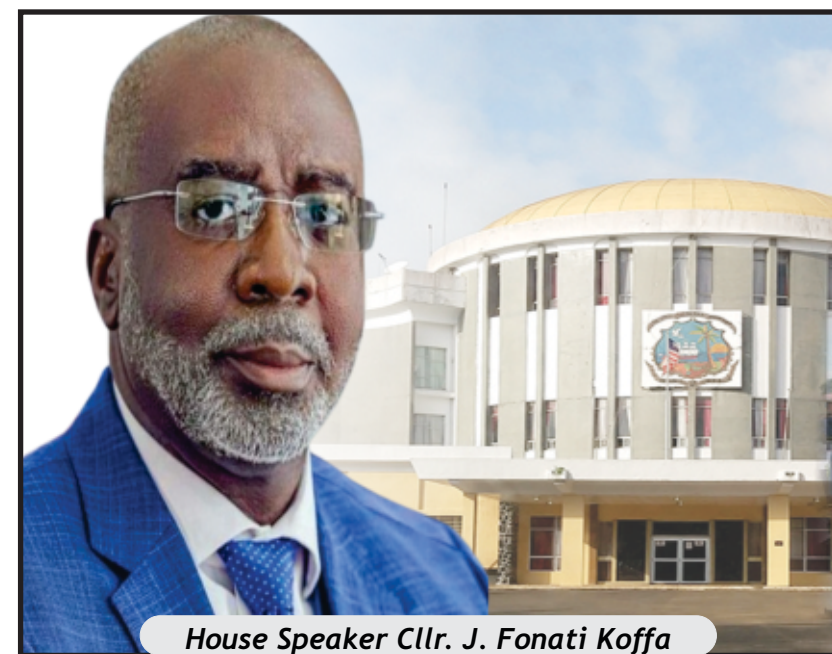
For the past three sittings in roll, Speaker Koffa has adjourned the session due to the lack of quorum regarding conducting the Liberian people's business.

This plot to oust Speaker Koffa began while he was out of the country, and lawmakers from his party, the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), are among the plotters.

Due to his inability to proceed, Cllr. Koffa has turned to the Supreme Court for intervention, requesting a writ of mandamus to compel the attendance of the 43 rebel lawmakers.

Those appointed to the meditation committee are Grand Bassa County Senator Gbehzohngar Findley as Chairman and River Cess County Senator Wellington Gevon Smith as Co-chairman.

Other appointees are Grand Gedeh County Senator, Thomas Yaya Nimely, Maryland County



House Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

remain in the top legislative post fell short of meeting quorum on Thursday. He vowed to seek refuge at the Supreme Court of Liberia relying on Article 33 of the Liberian Constitution.

Most lawmakers at the House of Representatives have been conducting separate sessions in their quest to oust Speaker Koffa, while Representatives who are loyal to him attend sessions under his gable but lack a quorum.

As of Thursday, 24 October, 30 Representatives were backing Koffa as the Speaker of the House. He needs 37 representatives to conduct legislative business.

For the past three sittings in roll, Speaker Koffa has adjourned the session due to the lack of quorum regarding conducting the Liberian people's business.

of mandamus to compel the attendance of the 43 rebel lawmakers.

The anti-Koffa bloc has refused to participate in legislative sessions presided over by Cllr. Koffa, nor does it recognize his leadership.

However, the Speaker's camp is seeking judicial intervention to break the ongoing political deadlock.

Under Article 33 of the Liberian Constitution, a simple majority of the House must be present for an official business to be conducted. The pro-Koffa bloc believes that the absent members are in violation of this constitutional requirement, and it hopes that the court will intervene to restore order in the Legislature.

At the same, the anti-Koffa bloc has said it is not going to back down. The rebel



Thursday, 24 October, 30 Senator, Gbleh-bo Brown, and Representatives were backing Grand Cape Mount County Koffa as the Speaker of the House. He needs 37

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Starts from page 7

Human Rights Platform campaigns

allegedly tortured in the past. "Torture and death penalty should be totally unacceptable under the laws of Liberia and our country's judicial system should frown at these inhumane practices just like any other civilized countries around the world", he underscores. Reverend Kollie notes that past effort to combat torture and death penalty sent an indication that Liberia is strengthening human rights and justice for all Liberians and other nationals

from diverse backgrounds to promote dignity, accountability and a country free of torture.

However, he explains that globally human rights are considered as key cornerstones for a peaceful world to ensure timely redress and change, inclusion of different human rights groups in strengthening human rights advocacy and solidarity. He says the significance of the human rights campaign

to enhance promotion of fair and inclusive society cannot be overemphasized in ensuring that the right to life is upheld.

The ceremony held at a local hotel in Monrovia, was graced by representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, the French Embassy, the European Union, ECOWAS, civil society organizations, among many others. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Dr. Tolbert Nyenswah on

doctors for a population of 4.3 million, lacking the capacity to effectively respond to such a crisis. The Ministry of Health, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, spearheaded the response, mobilizing human and material resources to successfully end the outbreak in 2015.

By the end of the outbreak, Liberia recorded a total of 4,810 deaths out of 10,678 confirmed Ebola cases. This tragic toll underscored the severe impact of the epidemic on the nation. Similarly, on March 16, 2020, the government announced the outbreak of the coronavirus, which lasted for four years. During this period, Liberia recorded 8,090 confirmed cases and a total of 294 deaths. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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AB Kromah dines with drug-addicted youths

Suspended LDEA Boss, Col. Abraham Kromah celebrates his birthday here, with drugs-addicted youth, appealing to parents to love and encourage their children, rather than engaging in confrontation with them.

Monrovia, Liberia, October 25, 2024 - The suspended director of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency reiterates his commitment to championing the cause to end drug addiction in the country and return victims to normal lives. Col. Abraham Kromah blames the prevalence of drugs in the

escape the Police, Kromah also appealed to parents to get closer to their drug-affected children with words of encouragement, instead of engaging in confrontation with them. He urges the estimated one thousand drug-affected youths living in the decommissioned



country to work of drug traffickers and calls on the public to join the fight to ending the practice nationwide. He stressed the need for the international community and humanitarian groups operating in the country to help the Government of Liberia in making the country a drug-free society. Col. Kromah appeals to the public to end discrimination against victims and explore a better way of dealing with addicts for the benefit of society. He says confrontation with drug-addicted youths will undermine efforts in curtailing the practice among the youths, who otherwise will be exposed to wider drugs consumption.

Speaking Wednesday when he toured Center Street Cemetery in Monrovia where hundreds of drug addicts have sought refuge to

cemetery, to abandon use of narcotic substances and prepare themselves for better future through vocational training and other disciplines. He observes that continuous use of drugs is having negative effect on their mental and physical health, adding that it is about time victims see reasons to abandon the habit.

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