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**BUYING SELLING** DATE WEDNESDAY 30, OCTOBER 2024 L\$191.2686/US\$1.00 L\$192.5774/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**

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024





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Leone





























# ontinenta

# Nigerian MP apologises after viral taxi slapping video who he was, repeatedly saying: "How dare you?"He continued: "I will best you up

I k w e c h e g h h a s angered the 44-year-old politician brother to you. I will slap the hell out of you. lie you down, went viral of him slapping and Nigeria was the driver's request verbally abusing a taxi driver that he come outside to collect



eminder of the necessity for restraint and self-control

who had come to deliver food the delivery. to his house.

"I sincerely apologise for my incident... As a public servant, I understand the weight of my role and how my words can impact others," said the me, sir." politician who was questioned The MP then phoned the snail by police over the incident on Sunday evening.Bolt driver Stephen Abuwatseya accepted a job to deliver some snails to Ikwechegh's home in the capital, Abuja, and began

driver of disrespecting him and went on to slap him in the the argument, asking if he knew

"So, you think I will give you my money with the way you have words and actions during this spoken to me?" he asked in the video recording.

Mr Abuwatseya responded: "I did a job for you, and you have to pay

seller to complain about the driver's behaviour: "How can this stupid idiot come to my house and tell me that I'm supposed to come and meet him in his car and pick up snail that I'm buying from recording their conversation you?"Can you imagine this rat? I after an argument started over can make this man to disappear in the whole of Nigeria and nothing The lawmaker had accused the would happen."He then turned back to the driver and continued

continued: "I will beat you up. igerian MP Alex clip. What appeared to have I will show you that I'm a big hell out of you, lie you down, and lock you in my generator house. How dare you?"

When Mr Abuwatseya later made it clear he was recording, the MP challenged him to call the police chief.

The recording stopped when it appears the MP grabbed at the phone. In a later clip the driver is seen bare-chested and alleges the politician tore his shirt off and had slapped him three times in total.

In a statement on Monday, the police said they were investigating the matter and urged people to refrain from using the inspector general of police's name "to intimidate others".

In his statement, released on Tuesday, Ikwechegh extended his "heartfelt apologies" to the police chief " recognising the unintended disparagement my remarks may have caused to his person, his office, and the entire institution".

He also apologised to the House of Representatives, which, according to local media, has since referred the matter to its ethics committee. "This incident has been a humbling reminder of the necessity for restraint and self-control, especially in challenging circumstances," the legislator said.

#### **Motsepe aims to continue** 'good progress' at Caf

atrice Motsepe has said he is looking to secure a second term as Confederation of African Football president in order to continue the "good progress" made since he took charge in

The South African walked into a crisis-hit organisation after his predecessor, Ahmad of Madagascar, became the first Caf president to be banned by Fifa for ethics abuses, including misappropriation of funds. Under the stewardship of

Motsepe, African football's governing body - whose presidential elections are scheduled for March 2025 appears to be moving into calmer financial waters after a turbulent period under the former regime."The key issue is for us to build on the legacy," said Motsepe, a mining Egypt's Hany Abo Rida and former Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o, a four-time African Footballer of the Year, could also make bids.

Senegalese federation president Augustin Senghor is seen by some as a possible future leader, but he has welcomed Motsepe's declaration - agreeing that his administration, of which Senghor is a vice-president, took charge when "Caf was in crisis". "He has managed to put Caf into a new era," Senghor told BBC Sport Africa.

"Africa Cups of Nations are more and more organised, we have profitability and people are giving more respect to Caf."We need stability and continuity to improve. When a leadership is working well, why change it?" Despite the backing he has

welcome challengers. "I am confident there are many, many presidents that could take

received, Motsepe said he would



#### es-for-cash suspects in Sout

hree people who are accused of making fake marriage documents to help foreign nationals become South African citizens have

been arrested, police say. When officers raided a building in Durban on Monday they seized application forms, copies of IDs and other evidence - which they said one of the suspects was caught trying to destroy. Police believe many of the IDs were stolen from local women without their knowledge, then used to create fraudulent marriage certificates and visas for foreigners."When they come, they come as a married man to a South African woman. When they are here, they will divorce that woman," regional police spokesman Col Robert Netshiunda told news site News24."By that time, they got citizenship, so they brought more people. "That's the scam they were [allegedly] running." It is not clear how many people were involved in the alleged

scheme or which countries the

alleged payees came

from.Police say they are analysing potential suspect.South Africa computers and hard drives from boasts the continent's biggest the scene for more evidence.

The alleged office is housed in an unassuming building on a suburban road. It was operating as a "clandestine home affairs and Asia. In recent years there office", Col Robert Netshiunda have been anti-immigration told national broadcaster SABC.

"They were facilitating marriages, targeted at immigrants. visas and other services that It became a campaign issue for Home Affairs would provide to May's general election, and the South Africans."The sophisticated Patriotic Alliance (PA) that is operation may have involved an now part of South Africa's insider at the government coalition government was department for Home Affairs, among political groups according to police, who say they accused of stoking have identified but not arrested a xenophobia.BBC

economy, attracting jobseekers and migrants from the wider region, as well as smaller numbers from Europe protests and waves of violence

Police say a syndicate stole the identities of unsuspecting women

numerous [football federation] football history in 2019. presidents and key stakeholders".

also the owner of South African to Lagardere. club Mamelodi Sundowns, told BBC Sport Africa.

there may not be the same degree of emphasis on that we've had to introduce.

governance, on ethics and the sort of fundamental changes "There's a lot of good, good progress that has been made, but there is still a lot of work to

be done."Motsepe is the first to

declare as a candidate, with

some reports suggesting that

magnate whose wealth is over from me right now, let alone estimated at \$3bn (£2.3bn) by in future," he said. Motsepe's team Forbes, external. Motsepe's say they started their tenure on decision to seek re-election the back foot financially, was announced on Friday, just inheriting a deficit of between hours after Caf's general \$40-50m (£30.8-38.5m). The assembly had taken place in administration was further the Ethiopian capital Addis burdened by having to pay a \$50m (£38.5m) settlement fee to French A press release, external stated media company Lagardere after that he had "finally" agreed to Ahmad's regime cancelled the stand "following requests from biggest broadcast deal in African

presidents, zonal union Last week, Caf announced its deficit had fallen to just under \$10m (£7.7m) in the 2022-23 "I was partly taken aback by the financial year - a period when the huge insistence about African football body paid the first continuity," the 62-year-old, of two \$25m (£19.25m) tranches

Even though the organisation's 2023-24 financial year, which runs "There was some concern that from July to June, included the second payment of \$25m, it is expected to further improve Caf's accounts.

> The Cairo-based organisation made a \$72m (£55.5m) profit from this year's Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) - a sum 18 times bigger than that generated by the previous edition in 2022.BBC

# EDITORIAL COM

#### Let discretion prevail at the Capitol

It's running into a month now since members of the House of Representatives broke into Anti-Speaker Fonati Koffa and Pro-Speaker Fonati Koffa groups, with the former opting for the removal of the Speaker. Styled as "majority bloc lawmakers", the rebel lawmakers among others, accused Speaker Koffa of engaging in conflict of interest. They expressed vote of no confidence in the Speaker.

But ever since they announced the coup while Speaker Koffa was out of Liberia, traveling with President Joseph Boakai to Rome, Italy, the rebels have failed to attain two-third majority or 49 of their colleagues from the 73-member House as quorum to vote Speaker Koffa out.

On the other hand, embattled Speaker Koffa, with just 30 supporters rallying behind him, including Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah has been unable to conduct business because of lack of quorum. He has extended olive branch to his colleagues on the other side to come and join him, where they will have an opportunity to put forth their grievances for redress, but this offer seems to have landed on deaf ears.

But both sides are digging in, maintaining their separate positions with neither side willing to give in, not even the Speaker, who is hanging on legitimacy though he cannot pull a quorum to preside over session.

Report from the Capitol Building says 42 Rebel lawmakers appeared for session on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, in the Joint Chamber in defiance of a prohibition by Supreme Court of Liberia Justice-In-Chamber His Honor, Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr., to halt all activities pending a conference with the entire House.

Amid the impasse, the business of the Liberian people is being held hostage, with neither side being able to obtain a quorum to hold session. No one knows how long this will drag on indefinitely while activities in the House is paralyzed.

It is even embarrassing to hear that rebel lawmakers allegedly received US\$15, 000 each to oust Speaker Koffa, with a promise to collect a balance of US\$10,000 each after the job is done. Who is financing the plot against the Speaker is the sixty-one million dollar question that lingers.

Both Speaker Koffa and his Deputy, Thomas Fallah, hail from the main opposition Congress for Democratic Change, likewise rebel lawmakers seeking his removal. The CDC has not publicly come out to say it is behind the rebellion against one of its own.

The 55th Legislature cannot hold the entire country hostage, especially amid news that the Executive branch of government is preparing to submit the draft national budget for 2025 to a divided House. Do Liberians deserve all of this? Absolutely not!

We call on both sides in this current fight to exercise discretion for the sake of the country and its people. Liberia is above any personal interest. The nation should not be held down for any egotistic agenda. Lest we should forget, every bill that is sent to the 55th Legislature derives from the House before it is forwarded to the Liberian Senate for concurrence. But with a divided House, this cannot happen.

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By Eric Posner

#### Why Many Workers Now Vote Republican

nowadays is the flight of "workers" -→ meaning non-professionals, usually blue-collar or clerical - from the Democratic Party. For many decades after the New Deal, the Democrats were the party that championed unions, workplace safety, and the minimum wage, and the Republicans were the champions of business.

Yet according to Gallup, the proportion of Republicans who identify as "working class" or "lower class" grew from 27% in 2002 to 46% today, while the share of working-class Democrats fell slightly (from 37% to 35%). Moreover, whereas 46% of white voters in union households supported the Democrats in 1968, that proportion had fallen to around 33% in 2020, a near-tie with Republicans. Since the 1990s, people in poorer, working-class locales have increasingly preferred Republicans to Democrats.

The usual explanation for this change is the rise of "neoliberalism": the pro-market ideology that prevailed in policy circles from the 1980s to the early 2000s. Neoliberals promoted deregulation and globalization through support for free trade, unrestricted capital flows, and maximal migration. Though Republicans pushed neoliberal policies harder than Democrats ever did, the Democrats eventually embraced them. Once the parties no longer differed much on economic policies, workers turned to Republicans who were more responsive to their religious and moral concerns, above all their hostility to immigration.

Some blame Democratic leaders for relying too much on economists. But the dismal science per se was not the problem. A more accurate diagnosis is that neoliberal policies reflected certain peculiar assumptions made by a cohort of especially influential economists, even as other observers, even within economics, always recognized the flaws in their approach.

For example, one neoliberal assumption holds that labor markets are nearly always competitive. This view had far-reaching political implications, because the costs of neoliberal policies like free trade are concentrated among workers in tradeexposed industries. Until recently, it was assumed that the costs for such workers should be minor. Unskilled workers would find new jobs at the same pay, and while more skilled workers might suffer some losses, they could put their skills to use in other industries or undergo training partly funded by the government.

Instead, recent research confirms what many non-economists would have called common sense: losing one's job is financially and psychologically devastating. Labor markets, unlike most product markets, are local. People do not just pull up roots and go searching for jobs elsewhere; and jobs are much more important to people than goods or services. A plant closure in a small community may destroy that community, not just its employees' livelihoods.

A related assumption is that policies should be adopted if they survive a cost-benefit test. But while cost-benefit analysis is an essential tool for policy evaluation, it provides poor guidance when used woodenly. Since the 1980s, policymakers at agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency have had to

HICAGO - A striking feature of US politics conduct a cost-benefit analysis whenever they issue regulations, and these calculations have almost always discounted the impact on jobs.

> For example, a well-intentioned regulation that reduces pollution considers the health benefits for citizens and the compliance costs of the polluters, but not the effects on workers who will lose jobs because of the policy change. This omission, too, was likely based on the false assumption that labor markets are invariably competitive, and that workers can always move from job to job at little cost.

> The same assumption also led Democrats to downgrade their support for unions. In the old days, unions were widely regarded as champions of the working class. To the neoliberal mind, that was impossible. If labor markets are competitive, then wage premiums obtained by unions could only push up consumer prices and reduce economic output. Today, the value of unions is being reconsidered. When employers have market power, unions may provide the best means for enhancing workers' well-being without sacrificing economic efficiency.

> Economics has been badly tarnished by its starring role in neoliberalism's ascent. The irony is that academic economics has never endorsed cost-benefit analysis, because there is no neutral or scientific basis to justify policies that benefit some people and harm others. The long search for a neutral criterion petered out in the 1970s when economists finally realized that criteria for evaluating policies rest on moral, rather than economic, premises. The peer-reviewed economics literature since then has rarely permitted normative arguments, as these would undermine the discipline's scientific ambitions.

> Nonetheless, economists typically (and often unthinkingly) rely on cost-benefit analysis when prescribing policies, and since the public and politicians do not distinguish between "academic" and "policy" debate, policy failures have diminished economists' credibility more broadly. These developments also have fed the public's skepticism of experts and technocrats of all stripes.

> To be sure, through much of the neoliberal period, many prominent economists recognized labor markets' rigidities and lack of competition. Yet only recently did they start to make headway against the assumption that labor markets are competitive. One suspects that the looming failures attributed to neoliberalism - rising inequality, the devastation of rural areas, political polarization, financial instability - finally provided a path for dissident views to reach policymakers.

> There is a painful irony for Democrats who never intended to abandon workers and believed that neoliberal policies would help them by reducing prices and increasing economic growth. Now, even though Republicans have done far less for workers, working-class voters increasingly assume that the Democratic Party doesn't care about them, that it has become the party of elites which is to say, just like the Republicans.

> Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author of How Antitrust Failed Workers (Oxford University Press, 2021).

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By Shania Scotland

ASHINGTON, DC - The rising cost of living in Africa has triggered a wave of protests in recent months, underscoring the disproportionately higher economic and social costs of inflation on a continent with persistent widespread poverty and heightened vulnerability to global volatility. The world, it seems, is now living through a tale of two inflations.

pressures have become less synchronous over time. While price growth has fallen sharply in advanced economies, it remains stubbornly high - and, in some cases, rising - in Africa. And even though inflation in many developed countries is trending

For example, the annualized inflation rate in Nigeria, one of Africa's largest economies, hit 34% - a 28-year high - in May, and is forecast to remain elevated in the second half of the year, largely owing to soaring food inflation, which accelerated to 40%. This stands to reduce household purchasing power and raise the risk of food insecurity even more, especially for Nigeria's growing rank of poverty-stricken and most vulnerable citizens. The country has the world's largest population living in poverty after India. Meanwhile, government reforms, including the sharp devaluation of the naira - which has lost 70% of its value against the dollar since June 2023 - to attract foreign investors, have only made matters worse for a country that relies heavily on

cities. They followed weeks of riots in Kenya against the government's finance bill, which proposed tax hikes on basic goods such as oil, bread, and sanitary pads, even as millions were already struggling to make ends meet. Dozens of demonstrators in both countries were killed during official attempts to quell the uprisings.

because they spend a greater portion of their budget on necessities. Consider that food costs account for 16% of consumer spending in advanced economies, but around 40% in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This difference in the composition of spending explains the more regressive nature of inflation in SSA, which is home to 60% of the world's extreme poor, and why inflation there carries a greater risk of political upheaval.

The lack of formal employment opportunities has also exacerbated Africa's cost-of-living crisis. To increases. But informal sector activities - a disguised form of unemployment and constraint on

Recent research assessing the distributional effects of the inflation cycle on households in the United States found a phenomenon known as "inflation inequality": prices have risen more quickly for those at the bottom of the income distribution than for those at the top. The spread of protests across Africa suggests that a similar dynamic is at work on the continent, where the disproportionately higher food prices caused by positive exchange-rate pass-throughs have

Government policies have also heightened the cost-of-living crisis. Instead of supporting vulnerable groups through targeted interventions, African governments have indiscriminately raised taxes and cut spending to meet external liabilities. Interest payments on sovereign debt now consume around one-third of Kenya's revenue and more than two-thirds of Nigeria's. In both countries, procyclical fiscal policy and austerity measures have had a knock-on effect on prices, stoking inflation and worsening the cost-of-living crisis.

But in response to the protests, governments are reversing some of their procyclical policies or implementing complementary measures to mitigate their impact. Kenyan President William Ruto dismissed his entire cabinet and withdrew the controversial finance bill, which was expected to raise \$2.7 billion in additional revenue to meet fiscal targets set by the International Monetary Fund. In Nigeria, the government has announced a 150-day suspension of import duties for certain

Nonetheless, more must be done to close the gap between actual and potential growth and expand opportunities for young people. Africa is the world's most natural-resource-rich continent, yet Africans face bleak futures in countries that lack sufficient engineers and political will to transform these resources, create enough well-paying jobs, and expand prosperity. Africa's excessive reliance on imports as an alternative to expanding aggregate output has sustained external imbalances and hollowed out the jobs market, causing more people to fall into

To meet the aspirations of young populations, African governments should rethink constraints on public spending and overcome the recurrent balance-of-payments crises that have long shaped

Increased investment in building a workforce that is fluent in emerging technologies is critical to spurring industrialization. This, in turn, would bolster Africa's manufacturing sector, which in other parts of the world has long served as a social escalator and growth accelerator, catalyzing convergence with high-income countries. The transformation of African economies will also drive the development of regional value chains, bolster intra-African trade (and thus mitigate the region's exposure to global volatility), and build large national buffers to wean the region off

Africa's policymakers must not only invest in human capital to move their countries up the value ladder in a global economy where technology has become a key driver of growth. They must also strive to equalize access to opportunities and achieve shared prosperity to strengthen the concept of the nation-state and enhance national security. To quote Samora Machel, the first president of Mozambique, "For the nation to live, the tribe must die." For too long, a tribal approach to governance has undermined national development, perpetuating intergenerational poverty and

## **Put a Price on Shipping Emissions**

OSEAU, DOMINICA - For most people, the idea of suddenly losing everything their home, their possessions, and even their family members and friends - is unthinkable. But, for island communities around the world, this idea is all too real. And as the effects of climate change - including more frequent and severe natural disasters and extreme weather events - intensify, the threat is becoming increasingly acute.

Seven years ago, my home, the small island country of Dominica, was struck by Hurricane Maria - a Category 5 hurricane, which caused catastrophic loss and damage from which we are still recovering. Two other island countries, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, fell victim to a similar tragedy this past summer, when Hurricane Beryl, a Category 4 storm, tore through the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

Hurricanes have long been a feature of life in the Caribbean. But Maria and Beryl were no ordinary hurricanes: Maria brought record-breaking rainfall, and Beryl was the earliest hurricane in history to reach Category 5 in the Atlantic Ocean. Scientists agree that climate change powered these disasters - and has made more storms like them far more likely.

It bears repeating that the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change especially small island developing states (SIDS), like Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada - are often those that have done the least to cause it. As a result, we have little power to mitigate it directly, such as by reducing our own (already low) emissions. But we can still contribute to overcoming the challenge. The key is to work together to compel big polluters to change their behavior.

There are few polluters bigger than the shipping industry. Not only is shipping responsible for around 3% of total global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions; it also pollutes our oceans with sewage, plastics, and oil and chemicals. Shipping thus causes serious harm to human health, especially for low-income port communities in developing countries, with pollutants from ships estimated to contribute to over 250,000 premature deaths annually.

To be sure, a functioning shipping industry remains essential both to the global economy and to life in SIDS. Ships move around 80% of all traded products worldwide; for Dominica, this includes virtually all vital goods, from food to tools to medical supplies. Shipping also facilitates the tourism that supports so many livelihoods on our island.

But, while shipping is essential, so is reducing the associated pollution. That is why the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea - the world's highest court for marine protection - issued an unprecedented advisory opinion in May stating that countries are legally obliged to cut emissions, including from shipping, in order to protect the ocean.

Putting a price on the industry's GHG emissions would go a long way toward advancing that objective. Requiring shipping companies to pay for every ton of emissions from their vessels would raise the cost of using fossil fuels, thereby accelerating the shift toward clean-energy sources.

According to a recent study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, such a levy would harm the global economy less than other approaches to decarbonizing shipping, such as a clean-fuel standard. And if the revenues generated are directed toward developing economies, the surcharge could reduce global inequality. Those revenues would be substantial: according to the World Bank, a levy of \$150 per ton would generate \$60-80 billion per year.

For countries like Dominica, such a policy would be a game-changer. It would reduce the pollution from ships that come to our shores, make our ports and supply chains more resilient to rising sea levels and extreme weather events, advance a just energy transition, and support progress on the Sustainable Development

An ideal opportunity to accelerate progress toward this goal is about to unfold in London. Between September 23 and October 4, the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its 175 member states will attempt to agree on a set of policies for reducing shipping emissions, including some form of emissions pricing, to be adopted in April 2025.

In the negotiations, SIDS must stand together to ensure that the levy is sufficiently high, and that the revenues will be distributed equitably. Already, a growing majority of countries want to see a levy mechanism adopted at the IMO, but others, including Brazil and China, continue to resist this opportunity.

Belize and Pacific island states are calling for a price of \$150 per ton, with the revenues going mostly to SIDS and least developed countries to finance investment in zero-emissions energy, ships and maritime infrastructure, and broader climate and resilience goals. More countries, in the Caribbean and beyond, must join them. When speaking in unison, our voices will matter.

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By Hippolyte Fofack

**Confronting Africa's Cost-of-Living Crisis** 

Initially, the current inflation cycle - a product of pandemic supply shocks and escalating geopolitical tensions - affected developed and developing countries alike. But inflationary

down to central banks' 2% target, it has hit double digits in nearly one-third of African countries (a ratio that is even higher when excluding CFA franc countries, where the euro peg has contributed to monetary stability).

imports of food and other essentials.

In August, protests against the resulting economic hardship spread across several large Nigerian

Food-price inflation affects low-income households more than their high-income counterparts

be sure, the wages of low-income workers with formal jobs are not keeping pace with price shared prosperity - account for roughly 85% of total employment on the continent, and these workers must also deal with income volatility and unexpected components of inflation, further tightening the squeeze on households.

dramatically increased the welfare costs of this inflation cycle.

foods to alleviate the pressure on struggling households.

destitution.

economic policy across the continent.

debilitating aid dependency.

exacerbating inflation inequality.

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#### 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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By; Togba-Nah Tipoteh Gender Sensitivity Spokesperson Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) Board Executive Member Liberian Women Initiative (LW

## **How to build women**

rof. Dr. Thomas Piketty, world renowned economist from France, researched, wrote and published the Truth to the effect that there is growing income inequality within countries and between countries (Piketty, Capital and Ideology, Harvard University Press, 2022). This Truth has led to the expression of considerable concern as seen in the deliberations at the Sixth African Women Leadership Network (AWLN)The held in Margibi County, Liberia from October 27-29, 2024, remembering the experience in Beijing thirty years ago at the International Women Conference.

Most African countries are represented in AWLN as there are thirty six African countries with membership in AWLN. In terms of attempting to find ways to build women, most of the participants pointed out the example of Rwanda, indicating that Rwanda has over fifty per cent women in the Rwandan Parliament. Liberia has only eleven per cent in the House of Representatives and fifteen per cent in the House of Senate.



However AWLN members at the Retreat did not point out the fact that the solution to the income inequality or the prevailing poverty generation problem is not determined by the number of women in the Parliament or National Legislature. Look at the popular example of Rwanda. The fact that the President of Rwanda ordered the execution of two Rwandan opposition leaders and sent a Rwandan General disguised as an Envoy to assassinate a Rwandan opposition Leader who took refuge in South Africa. was overlooked by the

The powers that be called for integrity. However, due to the fact that poverty generation prevails indicates that the powers that be do not exercise the integrity that they talk about. The powers that be do not walk their talk. However, the people who love Africa Walk their Talk as seen in the enormity of elected representatives not being re-elected as they ran to be re-elected.

This non-re-election was made possible by the awareness raising that goes on through the efforts of the people who love Africa. These people exposed the corruption of the electoral system, thereby minimizing the cheating that goes on during elections. This cheating is minimized only through the transformation of the unfair prevailing electoral system into the fair enduring electoral system. It is only through this transformation that women with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable

ingredient for peace in Africa and in ither parts of the world.

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

OCTOBER 30

#### ERC to vet LEC proposed tariffs increase

The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) new proposed translating into 80% increase. tariffs for the next three years 2025-2027 is expected to undergo public scrutiny soon.

announced receipt of a rates for residential

onrovia, October 30, came into effect on January 1, 2024/The Liberia 2022, is set to expire on ■Electricity Regulatory December 31, 2024. In the new Commission (LERC) proposed tariffs, prepaid



proposal by the Liberia customers are expected to the Commission's approval.

by the Regulator".

current tariff regime which for three phase meters per

Electricity Corporation (LEC) witness an increase in 37% for new electricity tariffs for from US0.24 per kwh to 0.33/kwh.The rates for non-The proposal is for the tariff residential customers have period January 1, 2025, to not witness any significant December 31, 2027, and is changes, while postpaid said to be in accordance with customers would see an Section 8.1(2) of the 2015 increase by 0.37%.If the LEC Electricity Law of Liberia new proposed tariffs rate are which states that "a licensee approved by the LERC, that may not charge a customer would mean connection any other tariff other than charges for single phase jump from US20.00 to US82.00 Postpaid Residential This submission comes as the that is by 310%, while charges

customer would nearly double from US350.00 to US630.00 LERC, in response to the proposal, has requested LEC to

submit all supporting documents

used to derive its proposed tariff structure. The Commission states that

following the submission of supporting documents from LEC, it will acknowledge a complete application and issue a notice of pendency for the review and approval of LEC's proposed tariff in accordance with the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia as well as the Commission's 2021 Electricity Tariff Regulation, Multi Year Tariff Methodology and Cost Reflective Electricity Price Determination Model.

LERC explained that to ensure transparency and public involvement, the Commission will conduct a series of public hearings,

stakeholder engagements, and outreach initiatives. These forums will aim to solicit input from electricity customers. consumers, policymakers, civil society organizations, and other interested parties before finalizing the tariff decision.It can be recalled that in 2021, the Commission approved tariffs for five customer categories: Social Customers, that determined or approved meters per customers will Prepaid Residential Customers,

CONT'D page 11

## President Joseph Boakai has come under scrutiny for recently

**Boakai's diplomatic shake-up faces scrutiny** 

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

revoking appointments of Ambassadors-at-Large, Special Envoys, and Trade and Investment Representatives with immediate

policy.

The President's decision to act. reference for those positions.

October 28, 2024, a Liberian embarrassing some people publicly. of reference for appointees.

structured guidelines may lead to He continues that it is a good idea to in Liberia's diplomatic efforts, potentially compromising its international relations and strategic interests.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah (contributor) reference without clear guidance. onrovia, Liberia, October He spoke of a research he did 30, 2024 - A recent because of his interest in the matter diplomatic shake-up by and uncovered that the national President Joseph Nyuma Boakai security team did an internal has sparked serious scrutiny investigation and concluded abuses regarding the country's foreign and challenges which they told the President and he instructed them to

cancel multiple diplomatic According to him, there are some appointments raises critical appointees whose roles are concerns about the vetting questionable but there is debate that processes and clarity of terms of the President should rollout and focus on those with problems, rather Speaking to OK fm on Monday, than dismissing the entire group and

political analyst, Abdullah Now the second school of thought is if Kiatamba, said the abrupt action those involved were informed ahead raises questions about the vetting that the process will be cancelled, processes and lack of clear terms they would have gone ahead to accelerate whatever deal which According to him, the absence of would have caused more damages.

inefficiencies and misalignments bring everything back to status quo.

When queried why the national security team rendered their decision generally which could place dark cloud on people' reputation, he



## Officials to sign performance con The New National Performance Management and responsive to the needs of its

Compliance System seeks to strengthen public sector people and operates with a accountability.

a presidential directive on the governance and sustainable that all heads of government new National Performance development, will help institutions will enter into Management and Compliance public institutions align their performance contracts with System to strengthen Public objectives with Liberia's the Office of the engagement, emphasizing the matter. Sector Accountability.

The Executive Mansion has agenda. issued a press release dated 28 "Through the PMCS, we are and deliverables aligned with October 2024, describing it as a building a foundation for a national priorities. landmark move to promote government that is transparency, efficiency, and improved public service delivery.

President Boakai has directed all government institutions to adopt and implement the new National Performance Management and Compliance System (PMCS) immediately.

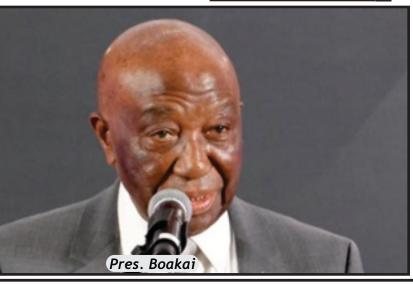
According to President Boakai, the initiative is designed to transform Liberia's public sector into a result-driven model that prioritizes accountability, responsiveness, and citizenfocused governance.

onrovia, October 30, The PMCS, introduced as part President Boakai in his 2024: President Joseph of President Boakai's directive. Nyuma Boakai has signed commitment to good The PMCS' key directives state

clear vision for Liberia's progress and prosperity," said

national development President.They must outline specific objectives, targets,

CONT'D page 11



appointments.

Investment Representatives with different role. Liberian diplomatic sector.

agenda through diplomacy. He notes that the government did

not give anything, so officials

create their own terms of

"There were no specific explains that because of the nature guidelines or clear dos and don'ts of the situation and statement from regarding the positions," he says. appointees could contradict the He notes the lack of direction official foreign policy position of the could lead to confusion and country, he trusts the decision of the hinder effective diplomatic security team that investigated the

need for a more structured The Liberian political analyst then framework in future focuses his concern on the next steps leading to the vetting process to be Recently, President Boakai as fast as possible to make sure that revoked all appointments of those who are doing well continue to Ambassadors-at-Large, Special work and those who fail to meet Envoys, and Trade and minimum scrutiny, are asked to take

immediate effect in an effort to The Liberian government has taken address challenges within the some measures to address significant issues in its foreign policy, But Kiatamba explains that the particularly regarding unauthorized President typically sets the actions or mismanagement. overarching foreign policy Withdrawing diplomatic and service direction, while the Foreign passports is seen as a step toward Ministry, led by the Minister of regaining control and ensuring that Foreign Affairs, implements that those representing the country adhere to its official policies and standards.

CONT'D page 11

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS

#### MORE HEADLINE NEWS Their conditions are deplorable & unfortunate **Deputy Speaker to consult**

-Sen. Snowe laments illegal migration to Europe

Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe frowns at the high rate of Africans migrating to Europe.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh Peace Security and Europe. African Peer Review "Africans are living in

boats, and often dying during he ECOWAS Chair on transit to seek refuge in

Mechanism is pained by the deplorable conditions; many illegal migration of Africans to are working in farms, some



Africans risk survival, crossing terrible situation, and we the Mediterranean Sea, riding must discourage it," he said.

sleeping in streets and being According to him, millions of treated as slaves. This is a

unfortunate while urging a need for more awareness to discourage illegal immigrants from Africa from getting on boats to Europe.

"This is troubling that our African brothers leave overnight on boats to Europe, and some die on sea. Million of lives are being lost daily due to the high risks, and we as ECOWAS are monitoring the situation with risk analysis being taken into

Liberian delegation to the ECOWAS Parliament, disclosed plans by the regional body to reach out to heads of state to from using the Mediterranean Sea as a means of traveling to Europe. Editing by Jonathan

#### lawyer on Koffa's removal He described the situation as The rebel lawmakers continue to convene in the William R. Tolbert

Joint Chambers despite the Supreme Court's order for all proceedings aimed at unseating Speaker Koffa to be halted.

By Bridgett Milton

onrovia, October 30, Speaker Thomas Fallah has written the majority bloc of the House of Representatives consults his lawyer on whether he should attend a session with consideration", Senator Snowe the rebel lawmakers. Fallah Snowe, who is also head of the he is consulting his legal team sessions. Fallah has been seeing in chambers with the bloc prioritize the creation of job backing Speaker Koffa's opportunities and better living leadership as the Speaker of the conditions, which will House, though it lacks a quorum functions.

legislative business but falls short of 7.

today in order to allow me some time to consult with my legal team 2024: Deputy House regarding the matter at hand," said

Koffa said he seeks to make an informed decision that will not begging for time while he contravene the Liberian Constitution and other relevant statutes. Following the reading of the letter during the Majority Bloc's wrote the majority bloc saying session, Nimba County District #6 Representative Dorwohn Gleekia following calls from the bloc requested the plenary to demanding him to attend its acknowledge Fallah's communication.

But he urged him to attend a session by Thursday, suggesting potential consequences for non-compliance. Gleekia argued that Fallah's eventually discourage Africans to proceed with legislative presence was vital to the Majority Bloc's goal of enforcing the House's The majority bloc which has rules and procedures. Despite a some 40 lawmakers, has refused recent Supreme Court stay order on to recognize Speaker Koffa's all proceedings aimed at unseating leadership. Koffa needs 37 Speaker Koffa, the Majority Bloc lawmakers to conduct has continued to convene in the William R. Tolbert Joint Chambers. It can be recalled that a stay order

This development arises as the was issued following a petition House faces escalating tensions from Speaker Koffa leadership, over efforts to unseat Speaker challenging the Majority Bloc's

## **Barcolleh Health Center** transforms to full hospital

Barcolleh Health Center in Kakata, Margibi County center new status would serve upgrades to full hospital status to boost the health sector here.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

C.H. Rennie, Phebe, John F. to modernize our facility Kennedy Medical hospitals and with all the little we have Tuberculosis testing and other hard- to- reach areas, earned being a health treatment, HIV and Aids, Barcolleh Health Center in professional", Madam cesarean section, treat Kakata, Margibi County is being Barcolleh says. upgraded to a full hospital She notes that facility will gastrointestinal, among

Monday afternoon when a team surrounding areas in saving a full hospital and we have of journalists toured the medical lives, as part of commitment doctors to cater to the health facility, Proprietor Dorothy Q. to improving the health needs of our people, and avoid Barcolleh, said the propose 36- sector. bedrooms hospital will ease According to her, the health medication", she adds. pressure on C.H. Rennie and Phebe hospitals, including other health facilities, while improving community health services.

She describes services as affordable locals, despite the upgraded with modern equipment.

Built in 1999, the local health facility has served residents of Margibi and adjacent counties, providing medications and First

Madam Barcolleh, a health professional and former Margibi District#3 Representative candidate, discloses that the refurbished facility, which contains over hundred beds, surgical wall, maternity wall, Male and Female outstations, will officially be dedicated next week.

argibi, Liberia, October even besides that we had lives of dwellers. 30, 2024 - In an effort to assisted in many referral She also reveals that as part

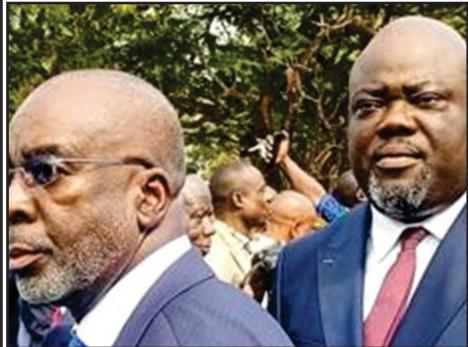
not only cater to Margibians. Speaking to The NEW DAWN on but will help residents of

as a point to reflect on the dreams of her late father, who "Initially, we had clinic, and wanted to positively impact

lease patients' referral to cases, but now we are trying of the transition process, the health center will now offer Cardiovascular treatment and others.

> "We are now transitioning into patients going distances for Editing by Jonathan Browne





the Supreme Court.

and October 24.

chambers of the Legislature.

unresolved grievances.

"I write to crave the indulgence of my colleagues in the Joint Chamber to excuse my absence

Koffa. The political crisis on actions. The court's intervention Capitol Hill has moved Speaker temporarily halts any moves by the Koffa to seek the intervention of bloc until a scheduled conference on November 4, 2024, before In his letter to Acting Chief Clerk Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay.

James Toubie, Deputy Speaker Montserrado County District #4 Fallah acknowledged two Representative Michael Thomas communications from the raised a motion during the session, Majority Bloc, dated October 22 stating that the bloc acknowledges the Supreme Court's stay order but In those letters, Fallah maintains that their sessions will acknowledged that he had been proceed until the conference urged to participate in the date. Thomas cited Article 3 of the majority bloc's ongoing Liberian Constitution, which proceedings in the joint designates Liberia as a "sovereign state with three branches of The bloc seeks to remove government that are separate but Speaker Koffa through a vote of coordinated," reinforcing the no confidence, citing bloc's stance on the autonomy of the Legislature.

## r'ranç

La Cour suprême accorde un répit au président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa

30

OCTOBER

ans une décision Selon des sources proches des parallèles, bloquant les l cruciale, le juge en députés dissidents, ces sessions officielles et j chambre de la Cour derniers prévoient de défier empêchant l'Assemblée



intervient au cœur d'une cette lutte de pouvoir. crise qui paralyse le Ces dernières semaines, une plusieurs semaines.

Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., a informations indiquent même ordonné la suspension des que leur initiative bénéficie démarches engagées par du soutien discret du vicedes députés visant à président Jeremiah Koung, du destituer le président de sénateur Emmanuel Nuquay, la Chambre des ainsi que du vice-président de représentants, J. Fonati la Chambre, Thomas Fallah, Koffa. Cette mesure pris dans la tourmente de

fonctionnement de majorité de députés hostiles à l'Assemblée depuis la direction de Koffa a organisé des réunions

pour siéger. Ce groupe dissident, fort de plus de 40 | membres, paralyse de fait les travaux législatifs. réponse, le président Koffa a saisi la justice pour contraindre ses opposants à assister aux sessions et à reconnaître son autorité.

Le juge Gbeisay a ordonné le

CONT'D page 9

oraux, plus courts, et un

## **Partners In Health Liberia : dix ans de** progrès au service de la santé publique

Sirleaf.

offrir des soins essentiels résilient. aux populations des régions isolées du sud-est du Liberia. Lors de la célébration de son dixième anniversaire au siège d'Oldest Congo Town, l'organisation a réaffirmé son soutien au gouvernement libérien et à ses partenaires dans leurs efforts pour renforcer et reconstruire un secteur de la santé plus

robuste et inclusif. Le directeur exécutif de PIH Liberia, Dr Maxo Luma, a qualifié ce parcours de « moment historique ». « Nous avons entamé notre

L'organisation contexte de crise sanitaire 2017, PIH a joué un rôle internationale Partners In aiguë, avec la compréhension central dans l'élaboration Health (PIH) Liberia a que les décès liés à Ebola du Paquet national de marqué une décennie étaient en partie dus à un services de santé essentiels, d'engagement au Liberia, système de santé déjà une initiative clé vers l célébrant une série de gravement affaibli », a-t-il l'atteinte de la couverture réalisations depuis son déclaré. Après la déclaration du sanitaire universelle. PIH a arrivée en 2014 en pleine Liberia comme pays exempt également soutenu le crise d'Ebola, sur d'Ebola par l'Organisation Programme national de lutte invitation de l'ancienne mondiale de la santé (OMS) en contre la tuberculose, en présidente Ellen Johnson 2016, PIH a pris l'engagement l'aidant à actualiser et de rester aux côtés du financer ses stratégies Basée dans le comté de gouvernement pour rebâtir un nationales, introduisant des Maryland, PIH s'emploie à système de santé stable et traitements entièrement

Le Dr Luma a rappelé que depuis



# 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 j 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 p 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 p biens et des services.

Cependant, le Liberia doit s'assurer de ne pas manquer 25 octobre dernier que le cette opportunité cruciale. Comme l'a souligné Chris greffier de la Cour suprême Appiah, directeur intérimaire des Transports à la CEDEAO, le gouvernement libérien n'a pas encore envoyé i 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 l 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 guerelles internes et se concentrer sur l'essentiel : l'avancement du l projet de pont, un intérêt commun pour les deux nations.

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

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

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# r'rançais

Starts from page 8 La Cour suprême accorde un répit au

informe Samuel G. Kogar, observateurs estiment que formelle de ces actions.

« Sur ordre de Son Honneur La lutte contre la corruption Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., juge reste un défi de taille au associé en chambre, vous êtes Libéria, où les progrès convoqués à une conférence demeurent limités. Depuis le lundi 4 novembre 2024, à 10 des décennies, l'Assemblée h, pour une audience sur nationale s'est soustraite aux l'affaire susmentionnée », a audits, et toute tentative communiqué la Cour visant à renverser cette suprême.

Dans l'attente de cette détermination politique et un audience, la Cour a suspendu solide soutien juridique. toute autre procédure ou Alors que les deux camps se action dans ce dossier.

Pendant que Koffa intensifie confrontation décisive mardi ses démarches judiciaires prochain, les regards se pour préserver son poste, ses tournent vers la Cour partisans redoublent de suprême. Sa décision pourrait soutien, dénoncant des contraindre les députés tentatives de saper sa gestion. dissidents à reprendre leurs Le bloc dissident, quant à lui, sièges, ouvrant la voie à une accuse Koffa de mauvaise issue pour mettre fin à cette gestion et de pratiques impasse législative. douteuses. Toutefois, des

leader du bloc majoritaire son appel récent à un audit dissident, de cesser toutes les pour instaurer davantage de activités du groupe. Cette transparence au sein de la injonction fait suite à une Chambre des représentants requête déposée par Koffa pourrait expliquer pour obtenir une interdiction l'opposition croissante de certains de ses collègues.

tradition exige une

préparent à une

Partners In Health Liberia : dix ans de Starts from page 8 soutien social pour assurer célébration témoigne d'un

améliorée des patients. infirmières et sages-femmes communautés. » programmes de formation communautaire en soins infirmiers et en obstétrique, contribuant ainsi à élever les standards de la formation dans un contexte de

Wilfred Zeon, directeur exécutif adjoint chargé des systèmes et de l'administration de PIH Liberia, a déclaré que ces dix années symbolisent une étape marquante : « Il est difficile de croire que nous en sommes déjà à dix ans. Cette

ressources limitées.

une prise en charge parcours exceptionnel accompli en collaboration PIH a aussi collaboré avec le étroite avec le Conseil libérien des gouvernement et les

pour moderniser les Il a également félicité les employés honorés lors de la cérémonie, les encourageant à maintenir leur dévouement envers l'organisation et le pays.

> En marquant ses dix ans d'impact, PIH Liberia réaffirme son rôle de partenaire essentiel dans l'amélioration de la santé publique au Liberia, contribuant à réduire les disparités dans les régions sous-desservies et à construire un système de santé plus solide et durable.

#### Gongloe appelle Boakai à abolir les frais de remise de diplômes

Dans une lettre adressée au Président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, l'avocat et défenseur des droits de l'homme Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe a demandé l'abolition dans les écoles libériennes. allégerait le poids financier qui pèse sur les familles et favoriserait l'accès à l'éducation.

Cllr. Gongloe, candidat aux élections présidentielles de 2023, qualifie ces frais d'« excessifs et injustifiés ». Dans sa lettre du 24 octobre 2024, il implore le Président de considérer l'élimination de ces coûts, qu'il estime nécessaires pour réduire le fardeau

financier des familles et encourager l'inscription des élèves.

« Monsieur le Président, je sollicite respectueusement des frais de remise de diplômes votre attention sur l'urgence de supprimer les frais de remise de Selon lui, cette mesure diplômes dans toutes les institutions éducatives libériennes », a-t-il écrit, précisant que cette mesure devrait s'appliquer aux écoles publiques et privées, de la maternelle aux universités.

Gongloe estime que ces frais imposent une pression disproportionnée sur les familles libériennes. Selon ses rencontres quotidiennes avec les citoyens, le coût de ces cérémonies transforme.

## Débloquer l'apprentissage par l'IA

EW YORK - L'intelligence artificielle a captivé l'imagination des chefs d'entreprise désireux de mettre en œuvre de nouvelles solutions technologiques dans leur secteur. Mais l'IA pourrait également être appliquée à des problèmes plus vastes et plus complexes, notamment dans le domaine de l'éducation. Cette vision est en passe de devenir une réalité, la technologie contribuant déjà à améliorer l'apprentissage des élèves, à créer de nouvelles voies vers des carrières gratifiantes et à aligner l'éducation d'aujourd'hui sur les emplois de demain.

Selon un rapport récent, près de la moitié des enseignants et des administrateurs scolaires interrogés aux États-Unis qui utilisent actuellement l'IA dans leur travail sont optimistes quant à son potentiel. Mais le manque de formation entrave l'adoption généralisée de l'IA.

Heureusement, il est relativement simple de surmonter cet obstacle. Pour commencer, les chefs d'entreprise et les décideurs politiques devraient collaborer pour offrir aux enseignants une formation gratuite sur les principes fondamentaux de l'IA et ses applications pratiques.

Un module de formation des formateurs peut être mis en place par le biais d'un apprentissage en ligne gratuit ou peu coûteux et adapté à des niveaux d'enseignement spécifiques ou à des programmes d'études locaux. Cette approche permet aux éducateurs de prendre confiance en la nouvelle technologie et de commencer à expérimenter des applications pratiques dans leurs classes.

En outre, les enseignants formés à l'IA sont mieux armés pour aider les élèves qui souhaitent en savoir plus sur ce secteur. Une enquête d'IBM montre que de nombreux apprenants souhaitent occuper des emplois technologiques bien rémunérés, mais pensent qu'ils ne sont pas qualifiés parce qu'ils n'ont pas les diplômes nécessaires. D'autres disent qu'ils ne savent tout simplement pas par où commencer. C'est là que l'IA générative entre en jeu :

elle peut recommander des cours qui correspondent aux niveaux et aux intérêts des apprenants, et offrir un retour d'information en temps réel au fur et à mesure qu'ils avancent dans la matière. Les solutions alimentées par l'IA peuvent même mettre les étudiants en contact avec des mentors qui peuvent les conseiller sur l'enseignement supérieur et la progression de leur carrière. Il en résulte une expérience éducative plus personnalisée et plus immédiate que l'apprentissage en ligne d'hier.

L'un des principaux obstacles à la réduction du déficit de compétences en matière d'IA est le rythme effréné de l'innovation, qui a entraîné une demande d'expertise non satisfaite considérable. Selon le Forum économique mondial, la moitié de la main-d'œuvre mondiale a besoin de se perfectionner ou de se recycler, mais le marché de la formation n'est pas à même de répondre à ce besoin.

Il est encourageant de constater que de nouvelles offres sont déployées dans l'ensemble de l'écosystème de l'IA, qu'il s'agisse de cours sur l'éthique et l'ingénierie rapide ou de ressources expérimentales créatives pour les étudiants. Étant donné que la durée de vie des compétences techniques continue de se réduire, les jeunes étudiants et les apprenants permanents doivent être encouragés à investir dans la formation à l'IA.

Dans le même temps, l'IA entraîne des changements radicaux dans les industries et les marchés, et la vaste portée de cette transformation exige une réponse tout aussi globale - les efforts individuels ne suffiront pas. La première étape pour aider les apprenants à trouver leur voie vers les emplois de demain est de s'assurer que ces postes existent. Les dirigeants d'entreprise et les décideurs politiques doivent travailler ensemble pour créer des emplois qui offrent un travail de plus grande valeur aux candidats qualifiés, qui, à leur tour, seront mieux à même de subvenir aux besoins de leur famille.

Tout aussi importantes sont les collaborations multisectorielles telles que l'Al Alliance, qui vise à encourager l'ouverture sur ces systèmes et à accélérer le partage des connaissances, et le Al-Enabled Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Workforce Consortium, qui oriente les travailleurs vers des programmes de formation pertinents. Cette action collective permet de tirer parti de l'engouement pour l'IA afin d'élaborer des cadres communs et de développer une approche axée sur les compétences, capable d'identifier et d'éduquer les leaders technologiques de demain.

Le travail ne fait que commencer. Les leaders de l'industrie et les décideurs politiques doivent continuer à développer une approche commune de l'éducation et de la création d'emplois à l'ère de l'IA et encourager une formation plus répandue aux principes fondamentaux de la technologie. En tant que Chief Impact Officer d'IBM, je me demanderai comment mon organisation peut s'assurer que les étudiants, les enseignants, les employés et les demandeurs d'emploi bénéficient de ces avancées.

Bien que nous ayons fait un pas dans cette direction avec IBM SkillsBuild, façonner les industries et les emplois du futur nécessite une foule de fonctions et de programmes alimentés par l'IA qui peuvent fournir aux apprenants des expériences éducatives personnalisées tout au long de leur vie.

Justina Nixon-Saintil est vice-présidente et directrice de l'impact chez IBM.

# FEATURE ARTICLE

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

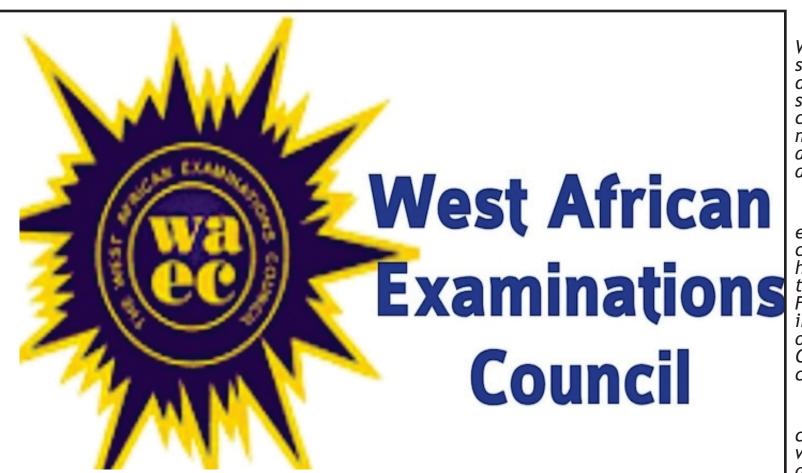
ducation (MOE) has the power to certify, license, and accredit teachers, school administrators, and support staff. However, it does not provide details on how often schools need to renew their licenses. The Act also gives the Ministry the authority to monitor and ensure quality education in all schools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

WEDNESDAY

- 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.

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For the past weeks, Capitol Hill has been engulfed in political turmoil as a group of lawmakers from the House of Representatives stall legislative sessions in a bid to oust Speaker Koffa.

onrovia, October 30, this? Because I'm a leader and 2024: Former Liberian because I care for the good of President Ellen the country," she Johnson-Sirleaf has noted. "Silence makes us all admonished lawmakers here culpable in wrongdoings. Wish

the African continent," said Mrs. Sirleaf. "As we embark on another regime of promised political change, the stakes are high. We must respond because the world is changing."Mrs. Sirleaf disclosed that bilateral and multilateral relationships are repositioning and demands for national self-reliance will



amidst weeks of political crisis continued. speaking out because "Silence cleavage," she said. and not noise. It is time that still too much of it today. our judiciary get on with Yet, with resilience, she noted settling cases and dispense that Liberia has overcome engulfed by executive to speak," the country former president noted.

Hill has been engulfed in survived two rigorous military countries that will political turmoil as a group of rules, two decades of be left behind, lawmakers from the House of devastating wars, and a even when Representatives stall horrific disease, Ebola. "But compared with our legislative sessions in a bid to just think of the noteworthy closest neighbor, oust Speaker Koffa.

Koffa's leadership. He needs 37 sovereignty," she explained. sessions continuously.

While calling on the Executive fought to bring the first major attitudes. to speak, Mrs. Sirleaf suggested the need to speak with the power of exemplary woman to head the United thanked God as she behaviour. "Some will ask, why Nations General Assembly, this message now? It's because Angie Brooks Randall. And I time for us, time for Liberia, is was elected democratically,

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to make laws, and not noise, me a happy 86th birthday," she be the requirement of the

engineered by rebel According to former President lawmakers seeking to Sirleaf, her birthday message dethrone House Speaker is not about her, but it is about Fonati Koffa.In observance of Liberia."It is about the her 86th birth anniversary on country. Liberia is at a Tuesday, October 29, 2024, crossroads. Liberia's story, Mrs. Sirleaf said she was historically, is one of

makes us all culpable in She added that it is about the former President wrongdoings.""It is time for failure to assimilate, of our Legislature to make laws political chicanery, and there's moving rapidly to

justice without being these setbacks, and in the recurring bad compromised. It is time for the worst of hard times, the habits, are being prevailed. Moreover, Mrs. face it. Liberia is For the past weeks, Capitol Sirleaf noted, Liberia has one of those parts of our history. The which no longer The rebel lawmakers need 49 support we have provided for follows our limit," members to oust Koffa, but the liberation efforts of other Mrs. Sirleaf they are about 40, while 30 African countries. It has been warned. others continue to back Cllr. fundamental to Africa's She indicated that representatives to conduct The former president detailed reflection, to legislative sessions, but the that women have played a work, to stop lack of this number has crucial role, citing Chief stealing, for compelled his bloc to suspend Suakoko as an example, a honesty, and to strong woman chief who change minds and

investment to Liberia. "We had the first African life, Mrs. Sirleaf running out. Why am I doing the first woman president on

countries are responding to this call with reimagined structures potential goals," she noted.

According to

it is time for

clocked 86.

"We are proud that Africa is seen as the continent of the future, and several African

and systems to achieve their

people.

Sirleaf, several are claim the future, but yet others, h a s left behind. "Let's

For the blessings of

The Directive calls for Integration with Government Planning. This requires that the PMCS be embedded into the planning and operational processes of each public guidance and support across all institution, ensuring that their activities are coherent with both their statutory mandates and Liberia's development objectives.

It further calls for regular performance reviews. Through this directive, ongoing reviews will monitor progress, address challenges, and implement necessary adjustments to ensure that goals are met efficiently.

The Presidential Directive further calls for oversight by the

Starts from page 6 Officials to sign performance contract Cabinet Secretariat. Through this, the Cabinet Secretariat, led by Director-General Nathaniel T. Kwabo, will oversee the PMCS implementation, providing

> government institutions. The Cabinet Secretariat will issue further instructions and provide support mechanisms to facilitate the effective rollout of the PMCS. The Presidential directive underscores the Administration's commitment to a public sector that exemplifies integrity, service, and accountability. The PMCS marks a new era of public service in Liberia-one dedicated to meeting and exceeding the

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#### LERC to vet LEC proposed

expectations of Liberians.

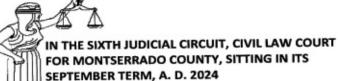
Customers, Prepaid Nonresidential Customers, Postpaid Commercial Customers, and Medium Voltage Customers. These tariffs took effect on January 1, 2022, and are scheduled to end on December 31, 2024. Currently, LEC's services encompass Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, and Margibi Counties.

Additionally, the Commission said it is currently reviewing a tariff application from Jungle Energy Power (JEP), a company that operates the Bong and Nimba

Counties distribution areas. The new tariffs, pending approval, are set to take effect from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027.

LERC remains committed to protecting the rights of electricity consumers and ensuring that licensed operators provide quality service. "We encourage all stakeholders to participate in the upcoming engagement activities to voice their opinions and recommendations," the Board of Commissioners concluded.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ) MONTSERRADO COUNTY)



BEFORE HER HONOUR: GOLDA A. BONAH ELLIOTT......ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN RE: Life Saving of Jesus Christ International by and thru its Pastor, Edwin F. Korpu of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia.....PETITIONER VERSUS

Mr. Aloysius Jackson, Feddennis K. Nagbe and Joan Wesseh, all of the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....RESPONDENTS

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS TO RECOVER POSSESSION OF REAL PROPERTY

#### NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA: TO: THE SHERIFF FOR MONTSERRADO COUNTY OR HIS /HER DEPUTY, GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO CITE THE ABOVE-NAMED PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSELS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. COUNTY, R.L., ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024, AT THE HOUR OF 9:00A.M, FOR TRIAL. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT REQUIRED.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO MAKE YOUR OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED THIS NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT AS ON THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THE MANNER AND FORM OF ITS SERVICE AND FILE SAME IN MY OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DATE.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT, THIS 29TH DAY OF OCTOBER,

COURT'S SEAL:

JOAN WESSEH / CELL#:

RESPONDENT FOR HER

A. D. 2024

RANDOLPÁ B. SNEH ASSISTANT CLERK OF COURT\CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONT/CO., R. L.

TOUN-YA LEGAL CONSULTANCY & ARBITRATION CHAMBERS, CLLR. ALOYSIUS TOE / CELL#: Best man 5. Boxto, (COUNSEL FOR PETITIONER	LLC O	Ser 29, 204 77-36-38-
MR. ALOYSIUS JACKSON / CELL#:RESPONDENT FOR HIM		±100

FEDDENNIS K. NAGBE / CELL#: \_ RESPONDENT FOR HIM

George Manneh Weah regarding diplomatic passports that linked former passport director Andrew Weplue, highlight significant concerns about misuse of authority and corruption. Such incidents can undermine trust in the government

and raise questions about the integrity

of the diplomatic process.

administration of former President

The sanctions against the Addressing these issues is crucial for restoring confidence in Liberia's foreign relations and governance.

Boakai's diplomatic shake-up faces scrutiny

Kiatamba notes, "With all that is happening, I think the Government was right to cancel those diplomatic appointments. I agreed with them hundred percent." Editing by Jonathan



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024

# Commerce raises concerns over damaged rice report

#### -Launches investigation

Reports of damaged rice being dumped on the Liberian measures in keeping law," the market has raised eyebrows at the top of the Ministry of ministry said in its statement. Commerce.

onrovia, October 30, 2024/Authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has noted

claims, particularly as they and suppliers. The Ministry protection and safety. further stated that its

Acting Commerce Minister Ms. Nimley

with utmost concern over inspection teams are "Together, we can maintain a recent reports suggesting the presence of damaged rice involving some importers. The ministry in a statement we assure the public that all to consumer safety and will said it recognize the urgency of this matter and has

launched a full investigation "Anyone found to be goods," the statement through our Inspectorate responsible for distributing concluded. Division to examine these expired or contaminated

appropriate punitive Meanwhile, the MoCI said it is committed to enforcing the relate to certain importers highest standards of consumer

"Protecting the health and welfare of the Liberian people is our foremost priority, and we are taking strong measures to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of our inspection and oversight regime. We are dedicated to holding importers, wholesalers, and retailers accountable, ensuring that only safe, high-quality products reach our citizens," it added. The Commerce authorities further called on citizens to join in this effort by reporting any expired or suspicious products found in the market to our offices or through designated hotlines. conducting rigorous checks safer, healthier market for all to identify and remove any Liberians. The Ministry is compromised products, and unwavering in its commitment findings will be promptly continue to work tirelessly to and transparently shared. safeguard the quality of



