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Liberia to reduce rice Iportation Di

-Says Minister of Agricu

Min. Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah

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Continental News

Slavery reparations not about transfer of cash, says Lammy

NOVEMBER 05

David Lammy has said the concept of reparations for former colonial nations affected by slavery "is not about the transfer of cash".

K Foreign Secretary forms of non-financial symbolic. reparatory justice too".

Lammy said the UK would instead look to develop relations with African nations through sharing skills and science.



In his first comments since 56 Commonwealth leaders signed a statement saying the time had come for a conversation about reparations, Lammy told the BBC that was not "the debate people are wanting to have".

The UK government previously ruled out paying reparations for slavery and Downing Street said its

What form could reparations for slavery take?

UK will not pay out over slavery, says ReevesDuring his first visit to Africa as foreign secretary, Lammy said reparations were not about money, "particularly at a time of a cost of living crisis".

Reparations are measures to make amends for past actions deemed wrong or unfair, and can range from the financial to

Caribbean nations have made a 10-point plan for reparatory justice in which they call for a full formal apology, education programmes, healthcare and direct monetary payments.

Speaking in Lagos, a Nigerian port city once central to the transatlantic slave trade, the foreign secretary said the period was "horrific and horrendous" and had left "scars"." I am the descendant of enslaved people, so I recognise that."

Lammy said it was right that an apology had been made "and commemorated the abolition of the slave trade" when Labour was last in power.

The UK has never formally apologised for its role in the slave trade, though in 2007 then-Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair said: "Well actually I have said it: We are sorry. And I say it again now."

The British government and the monarchy played a key role in the centuries-long slave trade from 1500, alongside other European nations.Britain also had a key role in ending the trade, through Parliament's passage of a law to abolish slavery in

Mozambique presidential runner-up escapes alleged assassination attempt

got 20% of the vote, but savs he was the real winnerMozambique opposition leader Venâncio Mondlane, the runner-up in last month's disputed presidential election, says he has escaped an assassination attempt in South Africa, where he sought refuge after challenging the results.

In a video posted to Facebook, Mondlane said he was in "mortal danger" after assassins had gone to his home to try to kill him.

Mondlane said he had to jump through the back door and run through a hair salon, while carrying his bags, accompanied by his wife and daughter.

He did not provide any evidence to back up his claim and the Mozambican authorities have not

enâncio Mondlane agency they didn't even know Mondlane was in the country and that the matter should have been reported to the police. The BBC reached out to South African police, but they didn't respond.

Fresh faces in Mozambique's poll as independence-era leaders bow out

Mondlane went into hiding before the results were announced, claiming his home had been surrounded by members of the security forces.

He has called on Mozambicans to hold nationwide demonstrations against the election results, which are being challenged in court by the Podemos party which backed Mondlane.

The protests have led to violent clashes with the police and several people have been killed, with dozens injured.

The internet and social media have also been restricted.

A general strike called by



Danai Nesta Kupemba in London & Jose Tembe in Maputo

commented.

Mondlane went into hiding about two weeks ago, after his aide and lawyer were to challenge the results.

Daniel Chapo, the candidate of the ruling party Frelimo, was officially declared the winner with over 71% of the vote, as opposed to Mondlane's 20%.

Mondlane didn't specify exactly where the alleged assassination attempt had taken place.

In the video, he said he had been staying in the affluent Sandton neighbourhood in Johannesburg.

"I was with my wife and my daughter, running from

one place to another," he

Mondlane has continued, despite the prime minister's call for people to return to work.

Three children were reportedly killed as they were preparing shot dead by police in different parts of the capital Maputo on Monday, while eight people were reportedly killed in the northern province of Nampula over the weekend.

Two different Frelimo offices were reportedly attacked in Nampula, prompting the police to respond with tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition, killing one person. The demonstrators then set fire to the house allegedly belonging to a police officer accused of killing a protester.

Mondlane has been rallying people to come together for a "final march" in Maputo, on Thursday.

It is due to be the end of a South Africa's foreign seven-day protest he called last ministry told the AFP news week.-BBC

Chad threatens to exit regional security force after deadly attack had's President borders Chad, Nigeria, Niger, force, intended to Mahamat Idriss Deby ◆ has issued a stark

warning that his country may withdraw from a regional security coalition, citing frustrations over its Chad region.

Deby's remarks came during a visit to the area on Sunday, where he expressed concerns about the Multinational Joint Task Force's (MNJTF) impact in tackling armed groups.

The announcement followed an attack in late October that claimed the lives of around 40 Chadian soldiers. The incident, reportedly carried out by suspected Boko Haram militants, highlights the ongoing security challenges facing the region.

The Lake Chad basin

and Cameroon, each streamline operations and contributing troops to the intelligence-sharing, has MNJTF, which was formed to counter insurgent activity across these national borders.

effectiveness in countering disappointment in the level of for its well-trained and insurgent threats in the Lake coordination within the force, resilient military would be a pointing to "a lack of joint considerable setback for the efforts against the common MNJTF, which has struggled enemy." He argued that the to unify its approach amid

instead "seemed to be in a slump."

The potential withdrawal Deby emphasized his of Chad a nation recognized



ceremony in N'djamena, Chad, Thursday, May 23, 2024.

said.

By Antara Haldar

EDITORIAL

Let discretion prevail at the Capitol

It's been a month 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 a 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 a two-thirds majority or 49 of their colleagues from the 73-member House as a 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 a lack of quorum. He has extended an 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 to legitimacy. However, he cannot pull a quorum to preside over the 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

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

It is even embarrassing to hear that rebel lawmakers allegedly received US\$15 000 each to oust Speaker Koffa, promising 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.

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 stated that it is behind the rebellion against one of its own.

The 55th Legislature cannot hold the entire country hostage, I 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 country's and its people's sake. Liberia is above any personal interest. The nation should not be held down for any egotistic agenda. Lest we should forget, every bill 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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Why Do Countries Prosper?

potboiler The Prize.

the University of Chicago. The three were inherently inefficient. recognized for their "studies of how governance, especially the commons."

Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson (or AJR, goal, they pursued it in a new way, by asking explanation for AJR's results. why societies that were once relatively rich are now relatively poor, and vice versa.

siphon wealth to a narrow elite.

other factors. For example, in their most codes from elsewhere). widely cited paper, "The Colonial Origins of New Zealand.

the tradition pioneered by the Nobel shows that there could be many. laureate economist Douglass North in his have long emphasized the importance of grant on law and cognition. the rule of law in underwriting growth.

AMBRIDGE - Each fall, a telephone By contrast, Ostrom's work on communitycall from Stockholm launches one or a led institutional solutions genuinely broke ullet few scholars to international fame new ground. She fundamentally altered our with the bestowal of the Nobel Memorial understanding of the role played by Prize in Economic Sciences - a process that "polycentric institutions" that go beyond Irving Wallace dramatized in his 1962 the dichotomies of market and state. Until she undertook her ground-breaking work (summarized in Governing the Commons: This year, the call went to three figures who The Evolution of Institutions for Collective are already well-known, the economists Action), it was widely assumed that common Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson of the property - including critical ecological Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and configurations like forests, water systems, the political scientist James A. Robinson of fisheries, and the global atmosphere - was

institutions are formed and affect Ostrom's extensive empirical investigations prosperity," and in an interesting twist, the into self-organized systems - from wateraward comes exactly 15 years after the management in California to irrigation in committee conferred it on Elinor Ostrom Nepal - demonstrated that this is not always for her own work on institutions, the case. And her lab experiments showed particularly "for her analysis of economic that people are more willing to enforce mutually agreed rules than previously thought.

as they are known) won the award primarily Most critically, Ostrom's work examined the for their research into the role of variables that correlate with, or create colonialism in determining the economic conditions for, cooperation to solve fate of nations. Prominent social-science collective-action problems, showing projects from Max Weber's The Protestant (contrary to Garett Hardin's classic work) Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism to Jared that the challenges associated with the Diamond's Gun, Germs, and Steel: The commons need not end in tragedy. By Fates of Human Societies have long sought demonstrating that the success of to explain the "great divergence" between institutions depends heavily on participants' Europe and its wealthy offshoots and the engagement with, and investments in, rest of the world. While AJR had the same them, she pointed toward an alternative

Recall AJR's argument that countries where Western institutions were imposed, but In an influential 2002 paper, "Reversal of where Europeans also settled in large Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the numbers and thrived, later experienced the Making of the Modern World Income most rapid and robust growth. As I argue in a Distribution," AJR conclude that the key recent paper, the source of these societies' determinant of future growth is whether a success may not have been their inherent country has "inclusive institutions" that institutional superiority, but rather their allow economic gains to be shared broadly, inhabitants' relative psychological as opposed to "extractive institutions" that familiarity with those institutions. After all, the cognitive and contextual mismatch between institutions and their surrounding Whether a colonial power bequeathed environment has long been understood to inclusive or extractive institutions play a part in the difficulties surrounding depended on various environmental and "legal transplantation" (importing legal

Comparative Development," AJR argue In Wallace's novel, the protagonist, that the most effective predictor of future poignantly, wins the Nobel Prize in economic growth was how hospitable the Literature for a book called The Perfect terrain was for European settlers. The State. While we wait for that ideal colonizers invested in good institutions in institution to be devised, we remain regions where their own chances of survival stubbornly reliant on flawed people to prop were higher - namely, the New World up our institutions. Fortunately, Ostrom colonies of North America, Australia, and showed that this is possible. As we celebrate AJR's contributions, let us not forget Ostrom's. While Acemoglu and Johnson's AJR's scholarship is sophisticated and bestseller Why Nations Fail: The Origins of innovative, and I, for one, appreciate their Power, Prosperity, and Poverty illuminates focus on institutions. They have continued one path to prosperity, Ostrom's scholarship

magnum opus, Institutions, Institutional Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Change and Economic Performance. Their Empirical Legal Studies at the University of prescriptions, however, are not new. Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Conventional "law and economics" Harvard University and the principal theories and the Washington Consensus investigator on a European Research Council

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By Hippolyte Fofack

The Right Climate Finance for Developing Economies

ASHINGTON, DC - In 2011, the Busan Partnership agreement recommended a shift toward increased national ownership of the development agenda as part of the international drive for more effective development policies. The agreement was a welcome recognition that lower-income countries were more likely to improve resource allocation and achieve sustainable growth when they set their own development priorities. But more than a decade later, the prevailing top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to development interventions remains stubbornly intact. This is particularly true for climate finance, which tends to be largely earmarked for projects aimed at reducing greenhousegas (GHG) emissions, including in countries that have contributed the least to the climate crisis. For example, 58% of the \$83.3 billion in climate finance that the Global North delivered to developing countries in 2020 went toward such mitigation initiatives.

In fact, the most pressing challenge facing low-income countries is to bolster the capacity of governments and societies to endure and adapt to the adverse effects of global warming. But only 34% of climate-finance flows to low-income countries, totaling \$28.6 billion, went toward adaptation measures in 2020, and that fell to around 27% in 2021 and 2022 (totaling \$24.6 billion and \$32.4 billion, respectively). These sums fall far short of the estimated \$160-340 billion needed annually for climate-change adaptation in developing countries.

Moreover, nearly three-quarters of the climate finance provided to developing countries between 2016 and 2022 came in the form of loans, which could further exacerbate macroeconomic instability and debt vulnerabilities. Nearly 60% of these countries are already confronting or at high risk of debt distress, owing to the "original sin" of foreign borrowing together with growth-crushing interest rates that dramatically increase the fiscal incidence of external debt.

Global investors are drawn to climate-mitigation projects because they generate more immediate returns, compared to the longer-term payouts of investments in adaptation. But this skewed approach fails to account for the asymmetric nature of climate change: even though the Global North has historically caused the majority of GHG emissions, the Global South, where average annual temperatures in most countries have largely exceeded the upper threshold for life of 24° Celsius, has suffered the worst effects, and is especially vulnerable to further projected increases in average temperatures.

It is hard to imagine how the effects of climate change could be much worse for low-income countries. In 2022, flooding submerged one-third of Pakistan, killing 15,000 people, forcing more than nine million into poverty, and generating economic losses that amounted to 2.2%of GDP. And in 2023, East Africa - despite contributing only 0.1% of global GHG emissions experienced extreme droughts that decimated around \$7.4 billion worth of livestock, fueled an alarming hunger crisis, and exacerbated poverty. The Global North's failure to take responsibility for rising temperatures and consider vulnerable countries' specific needs risks further magnifying the climate emergency's already-high economic and social costs in these countries.

Crucially, making progress on adaptation does not depend entirely on successful mitigation measures - the relationship is not unidirectional. In fact, some adaptation initiatives, such as improved building insulation and energy-conservation measures that reduce the need to use coal-fired power plants, can turbocharge mitigation efforts. Unless we adapt our behavior and systems to moderate the devastating effects of GHG emissions, the social and economic costs of climate change will continue to rise, hitting the most vulnerable countries hardest.

More broadly, building sustainable and resilient infrastructure would mitigate countries vulnerability to adverse climate shocks and other related risks. Such infrastructure would not only reduce the direct fiscal impact of such shocks, as well as contingent liabilities that could pose a threat to macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, but could also enable energy-poor countries to leapfrog into a new era of clean power, accelerating the transition to net-zero emissions.

Increasing coordination between adaptation and mitigation efforts could make them more cost-effective and appealing to investors, thereby catalyzing more climate-adaptation financing in the Global South. At the same time, mobilizing more private capital for adaptation requires increasing the number of climate-resilient and investment-ready infrastructure projects at a sustainable pace and with appropriate levels of risk allocation among stakeholders.

A recent analysis conducted by J.P. Morgan of greenfield projects in emerging-market and developing economies estimated that there is around \$1.2 trillion worth of "investable" sustainable-infrastructure projects in the pipeline - representing roughly half of these economies' annual investment needs for such infrastructure. But many of these projects are in the very early stages of development and will not be shovel-ready for years to come. Clearly, the demand side of the adaptation-financing equation must be strengthened to direct more funding to low-income countries, in addition to rebalancing the international community's allocation of climate financing away from its excessive focus on mitigation.

Boosting adaptation financing in the Global South is not only the right thing to do for the planet. It is also smart economics. Preliminary estimates indicate that every dollar invested in adaptation could yield up to \$10 in net economic gains. Moreover, delaying or shortchanging investment in adaptation could raise overall costs and undermine global efforts to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and limit global warming to the Paris climate agreement's target of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The world cannot win the battle against climate change if it neglects an important front adaptation - on which it is incurring huge losses, especially in terms of human casualties. To avoid focusing exclusively on mitigation, wealthy countries must foster a more inclusive development partnership that narrows the adaptation-financing gap in the most climatevulnerable countries.

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By Andrés Constantin, Katherine Mayall

Self-Managed Abortion Saves Lives

■ ENEVA - The World Health Organization estimates that 29 million unsafe abortions take place globally each year, leading to roughly 40,000 preventable deaths. Many of these deaths are the result of dangerous procedures performed in regions where restrictive laws limit or prohibit access to safe, legal abortion care.

Of course, there is a simpler, proven alternative: self-termination of unwanted pregnancies using drugs like mifepristone and misoprostol, which the WHO recognizes as both safe and effective. But legal and policy barriers continue to limit women's access to these vital options, too. To reduce maternal mortality, governments worldwide must remove these barriers and make self-managed abortion accessible to all.

A recent analysis of abortion laws across 35 countries and four US states underscores the extent of the problem, finding that just 10% allow abortion without the involvement of health-care providers. Worse, nearly half of these jurisdictions require in-person visits or mandate that abortion pills be taken in a clinical setting, depriving individuals of the privacy and autonomy that selfmanaged abortion can provide.

These restrictions not only limit access to safe abortion but also push people toward the unsafe methods that policymakers often claim to oppose. In countries with restrictive abortion laws, individuals who cannot access safe options are more likely to resort to such methods. In fact, according to the WHO, 97% of unsafe abortions occur in developing countries, where abortion laws often are particularly strict. These legal barriers have profound publichealth implications, as pregnant women risk their lives simply because their governments deny them the right to make their own reproductive choices.

Not all countries remain stuck in the past. Colombia, Ireland, and New Zealand have updated their laws and policies to better align with WHO recommendations, showing that it is possible to foster a legal environment that facilitates self-managed abortions. Likewise, jurisdictions like Mexico City and US states such as California and New York have embraced telemedicine, enabling individuals to make decisions about their reproductive health and gain access to abortion care safely and discreetly from the privacy of their homes, without unnecessary barriers and government interference.

To be sure, opposition to liberalizing access to abortion pills often stems from health and safety concerns. Without clinical supervision, critics argue, medical complications could arise, putting patients at risk. But a growing body of evidence shows that self-managed abortions, when provided with proper information and access to medication, are just as safe as clinic-based procedures. Moreover, restricting access to drugs like mifepristone does not eliminate the demand for abortion - it merely pushes people toward unsafe alternatives.

Nor is there empirical evidence to support the view that loosening restrictions on abortion pills could lead to misuse or overuse. Studies show that women who opt for self-managed abortions seek medical assistance when complications arise, and that adequate information can prevent adverse outcomes. Moreover, when people are not penalized for seeking help, they are far more likely to receive the care they need if something goes wrong.

The overwhelming weight of evidence counsels governments to trust people's reproductive-health choices. Decriminalizing self-managed abortion and lifting unnecessary restrictions, such as prescription- and medical-supervision requirements, are crucial first steps. More importantly, governments should expand access to telemedicine for self-managed abortions, especially in remote and underserved areas where clinics are scarce.

Of course, reforming abortion laws will not remove all obstacles to safe abortion care. In many areas, social stigma and misinformation will continue to fuel efforts to undermine reproductive rights. But legalizing and expanding access to self-managed abortion would significantly reduce the global toll of unsafe procedures and promote reproductive justice for all.

Governments that claim to care about maternal health can no longer afford to ignore reality. If policymakers are truly committed to reducing preventable deaths and defending women's bodily autonomy, they must establish legal frameworks that support and facilitate self-managed abortion. The price of inaction is far too high.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The US Presidential Election 2024: Who Will Win?

By: Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore Il

n November 5, 2024, Americans will go to the polls to elect a new president. The candidates are Kamala Harris of the Democratic Party and Donald Trump of the Republican Party. The polls suggest that the election is tied and that either candidate can win.

Kamala Harris is the current vice president. She previously served as a senator from California and attorney general for the state. In 2020, she and Joseph Biden won the election against Donald Trump. She became a Democratic presidential candidate in July after Biden withdrew from the race and endorsed her. If she wins, she will become American first female president and second Black US president.

Trump became president in 2017 after defeating Hilary Clinton in 2016. He became president without having a political experience. Before the presidency, he was a TV personality operating a reality show called "The Apprentice". This election is his third time running for president. If he wins, he will become the first American president to be reelected after being defeated.

Analysts have expressed opinions regarding the election. Some said that Trump would win while others picked Harris. Frank Luntz, the guru of polls, predicted Trump will win. Nat Silver, the founder of FiveThirtyEight (538), a leading pollster, viewed recently that Trump would win. David Woo, a media analyst, predicted Trump's victory and that the Republican Party would win the House and the Senate. The Daily Mail forecasted Trump defeating Harris.

However, American University Professor Allan Lichtman, considered the Nostradamus of US presidential elections, officially predicted Harris' winning. He correctly forecasted 9 out of 10 presidential elections since 1984. Thomas Miller, of the Northwestern data science program, forecasted that Harris would win. In 2020, he predicted Biden's victory. James Carville, a strategist famous in Bill Clinton's 1994 election, stated that Harris would be victorious.

As stated earlier, the race is close. Some polls say that Harris is leading while others show Trump is up. Are polls correct? Can the 2016 scenario occur when pollsters wrongly predicted Hillary Clinton winning? Can pollsters repeat the error in the 2020 election that Biden would defeat Trump massively but only to find out that the election was close?

POLLS AND POLLING

First, let us discuss polling. It is a method of knowing public opinions regarding a present, past, or future event. When I assisted in polling for the Washington Post in the 80s, we used the mainline telephone to get the data. We called likely voters mostly on the weekends. With the advent of the internet, pollsters get their information online and through mail surveys including phone calls. They analyzed the data, using different methodologies to meet desired goals. As one observer noted, polls are the results of the voters and the pollster. After the survey or interview, the pollster adjusts the data for the study.

About 80% of the polling data is conducted online and 20% by telephone. The wording of the survey question is important. A wrong phasing could lead to an inaccurate answer. For instance, a pollster would ask. "Who would you vote for if the presidential election were held today and the candidates were John Doe of the Democratic Party and Joe Blow of the Republican Party? This question is direct, stating the candidates. A wrong question could be. "If the presidential election were held today and the parties were the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, which party would you vote for?" This question leaves out the candidates and focuses on the parties. The voters would answer or ignore the question because it is not about the

In this election, it is said that pollsters interview only likely voters who have voted in the 2020 presidential election. The survey does not consider new voters. A poll is within the margin of error if a candidate leads less than

candidates but the parties.

4 or 5 percent, meaning the race is statistically tied. More than 5 points are considered outside the margin of error.

The poll sample size is also important. A smaller size is not representative of a bigger population area. The larger the size, the better is the survey. The Cooperative Election Study, a public research project by several universities and supervised by YouGov, recently polled 50,000 likely voters and found that Harris leads 57% to 47% with 3% undecided. This poll has the largest sample size ever in this election. The different percent is far outside the margin of error. Most of the other polls are not. One reason could have been the small sample size.

Polls have been wrong, as in 2016 and 2020 when they underestimated Trump's numbers. Though in the 2022 midterm, the polls did better, they wrongly indicated that the Republicans would sweep both houses. The Republican Party overtook the House, but the Democrats retained the Senate. Some analysts think the 2024 polls are underestimating Harris' numbers and strength, despite pollsters adjusting their polling methodologies after 2016 and 2020. Further, many analysts, including CNN, doubt the 2024 race will be as close as polls are suggesting. They say that considering other factors such as the increase of women votes, Harris could be overperforming contrary to the polls. In other words, the polls could be underestimating her, though she has led narrowly since becoming a candidate. The also may be underestimating Trump.

In addition to external polls, each party has an internal poll. While an internal poll tends to project a positive public



image of a party election, the pollster must frankly inform the candidate of the poll results. In the 1980 election, while President Jimmy Carter was in Air Force One to vote in Georgia, his pollster told him the president would lose. Carter was said to have cried upon hearing the news. The same happened in 1994 to President George Bush, Sr. Good and professional pollsters tell the truth.

There are over 20 pollsters for this election. Some are new. Some are good, not too good or bad. Many are partisan leaning, presenting polls favorable to their candidates. 538 names the ten best pollsters based on their track records, reliability, consistency, unbiased, and methodological transparency of their polls. They include the New York Times, Washington Post, CBS, YouGov, and Marist College.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Unlike other countries where the president is determined by the popular votes, in America, the presidential election is won by the Electoral College votes. States received electoral votes based on their population. For example, California, Texan, Florida, and New York with a large population have 58, 40, 30, and 28 electoral votes respectively. States with low population have smaller votes. The founding fathers used this system so that one state would not dominate the presidency. They copied this arrangement from the Roman Empire and adopted it during the 1787 Constitutional Convention. There are 538 electoral votes. A candidate must have at least 270 votes to win.

In the event the electoral votes are tied, the House of

Representatives, in a contingent election, will choose the president. The Senate will pick the vice president. Has this happened before? Yes. In the 1824 election, 200 years ago, none of the four presidential candidates; Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, and William Crawford, received the required electoral votes. The House chose Adams, though Jackson won the popular votes and had the highest electoral votes. Why? Adams, speaker of the House then, used his influence to win. Clay and other politicians supported him. After the inauguration, he appointed Clay secretary of state. But before 1824, the first tied election was the election of 1800 between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. The House elected Jefferson of the Democratic-Republican Party.

The next election that came close to being tied was the election of 2000 between Al Gore and George W. Bush. Gore, a Democrat candidate who was vice president to Bill Clinton and leading in the election, received 266 electoral votes and Bush got 271. Gore requested a recount of ballots from Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Volusia counties, Florida. However, the Supreme Court stopped the recount and awarded Florida and the presidency to Bush. Some observers blamed the Gore campaign for failing to win Gore's home state of Tennessee. Had he, he would have won the election without Florida. SWING STATES

There are seven crucial states in this election for a candidate to reach 270 or more. They are Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, and Nevada. They are called swing states.

Swing states are states that swing their votes between parties. They are also called Battleground States and are divided into two. Rust Belt states and Sunbelt states. Rust Belt states include Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Historically, they have voted Democrat. In 2016, Trump won them against Hilary Clinton but lost them to Biden in 2020. Sunbelt states include North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Arizona, and Nevada. They have sunny weather. Except with Nevada, they tend to be Republicans, though Bill Clinton in 1992; Obama in 2008 and 2012 won Florida; Obama in 2008 won North Carolina; Bill Clinton in 1992 and Biden in 2020 won Georgia, and Bill Clinton in 1996 and Biden in 2020 won Arizona. Presently, according to the polls, the race in these states besides Florida is close.

However, the Rust Belt states, particularly Pennsylvania, are the most important jurisdictions that could determine the election. A candidate who wins them will have an easy path to the White House. Harris does not technically need to win Pennsylvania if she wins Wisconsin, Michigan, Georgia, North

Carolina, and Nevada. Trump must win Pennsylvania plus Georgia, North Carolina, Michigan, or Arizona for 271 or 272. Assuming other traditional states are in place, below are the minimum combination paths for each candidate to victory.

HARRIS

Pennsylvania and Arizona for 270 Georgia and Michigan for 271 North Carolina and Michigan for 271 Georgia and North Carolina for 272

TRUMP

Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, and Wisconsin for 271.
Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan, and Wisconsin for 274

Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan, and Arizona for 272. Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan, and Arizona for 272.

CNN's October 30 poll indicated that Harris leads 48% to 43% among likely voters in Michigan; 51% to 45% in Wisconsin. Both candidates are tied in Pennsylvania. However, other polls show different numbers, indicating either candidate is leading. All polls point to an even percent for both candidates in Pennsylvania, which has 19 electoral votes and is the prime jewel. Some counties in Pennsylvania are predominately Republican and others are Democratic. Republican counties include Butler, Armstrong, and Washington, which have a large number of rural White voters. Meanwhile, Democratic counties like Philadelphia and Allegheny have a very high number of urban voters of Blacks and Latinos.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Fears of jeopardizing investment opportunities

2024

-Governance Commission alarms

The ongoing leadership impasse in the House of Representatives is likely to jeopardize investment prospects in Liberia, cautions the Governance Commission, a government think-tank.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah (contributor) onrovia, Liberia,

November 5, 2024 -The Governance Commission voices serious concern here that the current political stalemate in the emphasizes the importance of facilitated negotiations as the most effective way to resolving legislative impasse. It believes that achieving stability in legislative operations is crucial for ensuring a favorable



House of Representatives could jeopardize investment opportunities and hinder national economic development.

The Commission urges all parties involved in the saga to engage in negotiation to resolve their differences and foster a more stable political environment conducive to economic growth.A statement from the Governance Commission the current challenges and

investment climate and promoting national economic progress. The Commission highlights the urgency of the situation, stating, "While constitutional and legal approaches are available, mediated negotiation offers the most effective, least this underscores their belief that dialogue and collaboration are essential for overcoming

ensuring legislative stability. The statement dated November 3, 2024, further emphasizes that "between two contradictory possibilities, there is always room for the excluded third." The Commission calls on both national and international stakeholders to support dialogue efforts, reinforcing its commitment to finding a balanced solution to the political crisis.

Given the national and international concerns regarding the situation in Liberia, the Commission further urged for cooperative action to prevent further socioeconomic setbacks. They emphasized the need for unity and collaboration to address the challenges facing the nation and to promote stability and growth. The Commission's warning comes amid escalating tensions in Liberia's House of Representatives, where a majority bloc of 43 representatives is attempting to remove Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa, who faces accusations of wrongdoing. Meanwhile, 30 representatives continue to support the embattled Speaker, highlighting the deep division within the legislature.

At the same time, citizens divisive solution", noting that from all walks of life are expected to peacefully assemble at the Capitol

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

GoL holds two-day training on Performance Management and Compliance System

In a bid to enhance performance and compliance in the public sector, the Government of Liberia is conducting workshop for officials across ministries, agencies and commissions.

By Kruah Thompson

onrovia, Liberia, November 5, 2024 -The Government of Liberia is holding a two-day across various Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MAC), to enhance performance management and compliance systems

(PMCS) within government. The PMCS which was signed recently by president Boakai, is a comprehensive framework designed to monitor and evaluate public sector performance across all institutions here. Its goal is to enhance accountability and service quality through measurable performance that aligned with the national development agenda. Additionally, it seeks to foster a results-driven, citizenfocused approach by

incorporating real-time

feedback to promote

transparency and create an efficient government dedicated to effectively serving the public.

Key components of the PMCS training for key officials include signing performance contracts with President Boakai, establishing a performance monitoring and evaluation system, engaging stakeholders, implementing a citizens' feedback mechanism,

and promoting data-driven decision-making.

The workshop, being held at the C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs brings together government officials, including directors of procurement, finance, and planning, monitoring, and evaluation, to establish clear targets that improve resource allocation, enhance operational efficiency, and

CONT'D ON PAGE 11



RAL and NED partner to enhance community policing and prison reform

Stakeholders here are partnering to improve community policing relations and prison reform.

By: Kruah Thompson

onrovia, Liberia, November 5, 2024 -Rescue Alternative Liberia (RAL), with funding from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), has officially launched a project aimed at improving community policing relations and advocating for prison reform through enhanced engagement and collaboration.

The event took place on November 1, 2024, at iCampus on Carey Street in Monrovia, attracting representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), community leadership, security institutions, and the Monrovia Central Prison administration. The project focuses on fostering dialogue between community members and security institutions in Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Sinoe Counties, aiming to maintain community policing and building trust between the police and the public. The Liberia National Police Chief for Internal Relations, who is also former police spokesman during the

noted.

While welcoming the initiative, he stressed that trust is a product of effective police-citizen relations, built through cooperation, transparency, and accountability. He pledged the police's commitment to maintaining open communication with citizens, actively listening to their concerns, and providing necessary resources, including education about their rights. "A community advisory board will be established to foster collaboration between citizens and law enforcement agencies." He added. Acting Superintendent of the Monrovia Central Prison, Joel Juah highlighted the importance of community policing in conjunction with the Liberia Prison Services' role in rehabilitation and reintegration. He advocated for a holistic approach that involves citizens in security efforts and supports offenders' reintegration into society, stating that this can contribute significantly to the nation's development.

"As Liberia prioritizes community policing, the comprehensive functions of the prison service will



the Monrovia Central Prison and Liberians," he added. Bureau of Corrections, Ministry of Justice, spoke on the significance of community policing. Representing Police Inspector General Col. Gregory Coleman at the event, the Chief for Internal Relations Sam Collins emphasized the importance of a strong relationship between citizens and law enforcement.

He stated that community policing should be viewed as a collaborative effort that utilizes problem-solving approaches to tackle pressing issues such as crime, social disorder, and property theft. "The essence of community policing lies in building trust between police officers and community members, allowing them to feel comfortable, engaging law

enforcement to report crimes

and share vital information," he

Sirleaf administration Sam be vital for long-term stability and Collins, Acting superintendent for enhancing the quality of life for all

Also the National Coordinator for Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Rescue Alternative Liberia, Sam M. Joel J.G Juah, Rescue Alternative Nimely, emphasized the need for National coordinator Sam M. improved relations between Nimely, alongside the Director of citizens and the police, citing the Human Rights Division at the challenges such as corruption, bribery, and overcrowding in the Monrovia Central Prison.

> He remarked that despite these issues, citizens still rely on the police, underscoring the necessity of a collaborative effort to maintain peace and security.

> "Starting today, we will be organizing community police forums in Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Sinoe" he said, adding that this forum will be aimed at addressing these issues directly with community members and police officers.Mr. Nimely also announced that in this forum both the police and the citizens will dialogue on their differences and find a common ground on how they can work together to maintain a community where trust in the police will be restored.

> > Meanwhile, during the event,

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Grass Roots Pastors recommends

name for UL President rass Roots Pastors Liberian educator based in the

Association of Liberia, a religious organization here, is appealing to President Joseph Boakai to ignore that will be submitted by the United States of America, Dr. John Wulu, is best suited to become the next President of the University of Liberia.

Addressing a press recommendation of names conference in Monrovia over the weekend, Reverend Doctor



Search Committee for the appointment of a new President for the University of Liberia, alleging that the current process is unfair. The Association's President, Reverend Dr. George Zorbah, says based on information they have gathered, a

Zorbah noted that report of the Search Committee is conflicting, because it has been infiltrated by politicians.

However, he failed to disclose names of politicians that he says have infiltrated the UL Search Committee, for which they want its reports to be set aside. According to the Grass Roots Pastors Association, President Boakai should bring in a neutral person, who has international contact to mobilize needed resources to run the university, including faculty and students exchange program to build human resource capacity of the institution.

The former Religious Advisor to late President Moses Blah continues that the University of Liberia is sitting on a time bomb, because politicians are contemplating using the UL as a source for unrest in the

Reverend Zorbah observes that the UL lacks people with innovation to generate funding from outside, as the institution is not supposed to depend on government 100 percent for support. According to him, Dr. Wulu, who is also a graduate of the UL, has the necessary qualification and international contact to bring to bear on the University, if he is appointed.

President Boakai recently appointed a search committee headed by Acting President Ar. Alhassan Conteh to vet names for the appointment of a new President of the University of Liberia. Editing by Jonathan

Starts from page 6

Fears of jeopardizing investment opportunities

Building today, Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. to urge the "majority bloc" of the House of Representatives to return to session under the leadership of Speaker Fonati Koffa, reflecting public demand for legislative stability and unity. Dubbed the "March on the Capitol" and led by Activist Vandalark R. Patricks, the assembly aims to pressure the 43 lawmakers seeking to remove the Speaker to follow legal procedures.

According to Article 49 of the Constitution, a 2/3 majority, or 49 members of the House of Representatives, is required for such a removal, highlighting the march's call for adherence to constitutional protocols.Organizers of the march clarify that they are not contesting the removal of Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa but are urging the 43 lawmakers to follow the Constitution of Liberia and the House's own rules. They emphasize that Liberians are concerned about allegations Editing by Jonathan Browne

brought against the Speaker, as outlined in the lawmakers' "Resolution."

Vandalark R. Patricks, the leader of the march, expressed a strong conviction that if the Speaker is removed in accordance with the Constitution and due process, it will reveal significant issues that could lead to serious reforms in the National Legislature. He emphasizes that such actions would ultimately serve the best interests of all Liberians.

Starts from page 6

GoL holds two-day training on Performance

encourage public servants to provide structured expectations for professional development within the government.

During the training, participants were introduced to the performance targetsetting template, which covers key objectives, expected outcomes, and milestones, along with a working session for them to apply the template.

Nathaniel T. Kwabo, Director General of the Cabinet, who played a key role in crafting the framework, stated during his remarks that the targets they set must not only align with their mandates, as entities but also with the national

development agenda.

functionality and integrity of the state in a way that impacts the livelihoods of citizens, which is why we are having this training," he emphasizes.He further notes that if everyone worked together effectively and their systems were wellcoordinated, they would not be facing some of the serious challenges currently plaguing their operations.

"This system is crucial to how you function, and the President takes this very seriously." He says and adds, "Just before his inauguration, I had a conversation with him in which he said, 'I want you to spearhead this initiative to ensure its performance.' My aim in presenting these ideas to the

President is to ensure that

"We need to ensure the key citizens benefit from the services they need."

> Additionally, Gerald Hanyor presented a PowerPoint overview of the PMCS, which included implementation of the PMCS, quality progress reports through software, and capacity building for monitoring and evaluation.

> "At the conclusion of the event, all government ministries, agencies, and commissions are expected to develop and submit Q4 performance documents and sign performance contracts with H.E. President Boakai on November 20, 2024, as well as implement and monitor all performance appraisals," he details, pointing to the diagram projected on the whiteboard.

Liberia to reduce rice importation by 45%

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

The Government of Liberia is optimistic that rice importation here will reduce by 45 percent by 2025 as local production increases.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, November 5, 2024—Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah says that, with the target the Government of the Ministry of Agriculture, Liberia will grow about 45% of the rice it consumes by 2025.

Speaking in an interview weekend in Bong Mines, Lower Bong County, he underscored a need for the country to go beyond importing rice, but this can only be done by Liberians growing the rice they eat.

Dr. Neutah is optimistic that Liberians can do it based on

we intend that by next year, if we invest based on the target we have set, by the end of next year, Liberians will be able to say, well, I can be able to do 45% by next year", the Minister projects.

The Ministry of Agriculture took Liberia has put in place through a giant step over the weekend to boost locally produced rice in lower Bong County and several other counties.

It seeks to strengthen food with journalists over the security and address huge importation of foreign rice into the Liberian market.

On Saturday, November 2, 2024, Minister Nuetah visited lower Bong County, particularly Bong Mines, and launched 100 acres of lowland rice harvest.

One of the Ministry's partners, what he has noticed across the Makona Agriculture and



One hectare is bigger than an acre, as a hectare contains of an acre.

He says the government is four thousand six hundred and hundred and fifteen acres of land. ninety-six hectares of land, which, if cultivated, could yield about 7,000 metric tons of rice.

that if this is converted, there should be around three thousand metric tons of locally produced rice on the Liberian market, but it will just be a drop in the bucket because Liberians consumed five hundred and sixteen thousand metric tons of rice.

"So, if we grow this year, four thousand metric tons from our government-supported and other smallholder farmers, who are growing rice as we know, that are not supported by government which they have being doing about 30% production and so, if we added ours there, maybe at the end of the year we might be growing

about 35% of what we eat. So,

Development Corporation (MADECO), led by a Liberian farmer, Mr. James T. Nyumah, sees 2.471054 acres or more than 0.4 the initiative as an incredible achievement.

MADECO has an average supporting rice production on capacity of approximately two

This bumper harvest significantly increases local rice production and strengthens the Accordingly, he points out nation's food security. It also demonstrates the Ministry's unwavering commitment to advancing agriculture in Liberia as part of the "Liberians Feed Yourselves" initiative.

Following the launch of the statistics from 2023 show that lowlands rice, Minister Nuetah visited Fuamah Multipurpose Corporative, which is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, to grow and produce local rice.

The Ministry of Agriculture established a large-scale lowland rice production site covering about 900 hectares but with an average capacity of 2,400 hectares.

Dr. Nuetah's visitation also concluded with a visit to other farms in Margibi County.

The visits were meant to

F'rançais

L'Institut Bancaire du Liberia et la Chambre de Commerce s'unissent pour renforcer la confiance des investisseurs

'Institut Bancaire du partenariat avec la Chambre de Commerce du Liberia, a récemment organisé une table ronde stratégique pour renforcer la confiance des investisseurs au Liberia. Cet événement, tenu le 31 octobre 2024 dans

Dans son discours d'ouverture, Liberia (BIL), en le professeur Richard S. Panton, directeur général de l'Institut Bancaire du Liberia, a souligné l'importance de réunir les acteurs clés pour collaborer sur les défis auxquels fait face le climat d'investissement. Il a décrit cette table ronde comme une opportunité essentielle pour

du Liberia (CBL), a également pris la parole pour souligner le rôle crucial de la coopération entre les parties prenantes dans la création d'un climat économique favorable aux investisseurs. Selon lui, la CBL est pleinement engagée à soutenir les initiatives visant à accroître la confiance des investisseurs et à stimuler la croissance économique. Il a précisé que les lois régissant le secteur financier avaient été modernisées pour garantir un environnement de confiance et de transparence, offrant ainsi une prévisibilité rassurante pour les investisseurs.

Jonathan Horton, représentant de l'ambassade des États-Unis, a salué cette initiative et exprimé l'espoir que ces échanges fructueux aboutiront à des résultats concrets pour soutenir l'Agenda ARREST, un programme de développement inclusif au Liberia. Il a mis en avant la nécessité d'une coopération renforcée pour bâtir un environnement propice aux investissements et à la prospérité économique.

Joel Okwuokei, représentant résident du Fonds Monétaire International (FMI) au Liberia, a rappelé l'engagement de longue date de l'institution auprès du pays, membre du FMI depuis

CONT'D ON PAGE 09



la salle de bal de l'hôtel de ville de Monrovia, a rassemblé des représentants du gouvernement, des chefs d'entreprise et des experts juridiques et financiers autour du thème : « Renforcer la confiance des investisseurs au Liberia : améliorer la protection juridique pour dynamiser l'environnement des affaires d'investissement. »

instaurer un environnement d'affaires plus sécurisé et accueillant. « Le respect strict des principes de l'État de droit et des pratiques financières rigoureuses est la clé de la confiance des investisseurs », a-t-il déclaré, en insistant sur la nécessité d'un cadre juridique stable et de réglementations financières

Fonsia Mohammed Donzo, et attirer les capitaux directeur de la régulation et de la supervision à la Banque Centrale

La NEC se mobilise déjà pour

La Commission Nationale des Élections (NEC) du Libéria amorce ses préparatifs en vue des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2029, avec pour objectif d'assurer un processus plus organisé, efficace et participatif. Cette initiative précoce œuvre de toutes les étapes clés du s'inscrit dans la continuité des élections de 2023, saluées tant au niveau national qu'international pour leur transparence et

crédibilité. Anthony Sengbe, Directeur Exécutif de la NEC, a exposé les priorités de cette phase préparatoire, notamment la révision périodique des limites électorales, un impératif pour tout système de représentation basé sur des circonscriptions uninominales. "La redélimitation des circonscriptions, conforme n o r m e s

constitutionnelles et

réglementaires, pourrait mener à une augmentation des centres d'inscription et des bureaux de vote, rapprochant ainsi le processus électoral des citoyens," a-t-il expliqué.

La NEC prévoit également un route et prévoit de consulter plan stratégique de six ans qui les parties prenantes servira de guide pour la mise en

cycle électoral. Ce plan inclura des réformes législatives visant à renforcer la crédibilité de l'ensemble du processus. Selon M. Sengbe, la NEC a déjà tracé une feuille de

CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Éditorial

La montée en flèche du taux de change est insupportable

Les Libériens assistent, impuissants, à une augmentation soudaine du taux de change entre le dollar américain et le dollar libérien. 1 USD est passé de 150 LRD à 168 voire 170 dollars libériens en seulement un mois.

La hausse soudaine du taux de change crée des augmentations correspondantes des prix des produits de base, en particulier la nourriture, le carburant et les frais de transport, imposant de sérieuses contraintes aux citoyens ordinaires.

L'opposant Tiawan Saye Gongloe, candidat à la prochaine présidentielle, a récemment dit que la hausse rapide du taux de change est attribuable à l'injection incontrôlée de dollars libériens sur le marché par les dignitaires du régime de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) pour séduire les électeurs pour la réélection du président George Manneh Weah.

« Ils mettent une grande masse de dollars libériens en circulation et gardent les dollars américains. Ils économisent les dollars américains parce qu'ils ne sont pas trop sûrs de gagner les élections », a-t-il expliqué.

Les membres du parti au pouvoir, aussi bien ceux qui ont un poste que ceux qui n'en ont pas actuellement, distribuent d'énormes quantités de dollars libériens aux citoyens de tout le pays pour renforcer leurs chances d'être élus et réélus. Cela a bien sûr de graves conséquences négatives pour le pays dont l'économie est fortement dépendante des importations.

Economiste et professeur de droit, Me Gongloe a averti que les Libériens ordinaires vont être poussés à l'extrême pauvreté et aux difficultés en raison de ce qui se passe dans le pays, où d'énormes quantités de dollars libériens est en quête des quelques dollars américains disponibles.

« Sur le plan économique, ce qui se passe actuellement est terrible pour le Libéria. D'ici les élections, la vie sera beaucoup plus difficile que les Libériens n'ont jamais imaginé », a-t-il prévenu.

Avant même le début officiel de la campagne, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir mène une série de projets politiques dans plusieurs comtés, dont Lofa et Nimba, pour adoucir le terrain et rallier le soutien des citovens.

Comme cela a été le cas lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2017 et de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale de 2020, lorsque les candidats du parti au pouvoir ont distribué des millions de dollars libériens aux communautés et aux électeurs, et ont inondé le marché, une répétition similaire est attendue, alors que les Libériens se rendront aux urnes le 10 octobre.

Nous ne pouvons que rejoindre Me Gongloe pour prévenir nos compatriotes libériens de se serrer la ceinture et de se préparer aux conséquences économiques négatives pendant et après les élections auxquelles ils devraient faire face en conséquence directe des dépenses électorales, bien que la loi électorale du Libéria ait un plafond sur le financement des campagnes.

rançais

L'Institut Bancaire du Liberia et la Chambre de Commerce

NOVEMBER 05

1962. Il a réitéré l'engagement gouvernement avait intégré durable.

représenté par J. Willington et dynamiser l'économie. Barchue, assistant au ministre moteur de développement. M. internationaux. Barchue a expliqué que le

du FMI à soutenir les réformes dans son plan de développement pour renforcer la confiance des national des réformes pour investisseurs, un levier renforcer le système judiciaire indispensable pour un et instaurer un mécanisme de développement économique remboursement rapide, mesures jugées essentielles Le gouvernement libérien, pour attirer les investissements

2024

Cet événement marque une de la Planification du étape importante dans les Développement au ministère efforts conjoints du Liberia pour des Finances, a également renforcer l'attractivité de son réaffirmé son soutien à la environnement d'affaires et croissance du secteur privé, encourager la participation des qu'il considère comme un investisseurs nationaux et

NEC se mobilise déjà pour

électorales afin de recueillir vote. "La création et le maintien cette réforme.

compétents, capables de faire techniques innovantes. face aux défis d'une important pour prévenir les financière à long terme. inscriptions multiples et assurer une base de données fiable.

la sécurité des opérations de CEDEAO (ECONEC).

leurs avis et leur soutien pour d'un registre électoral exact constituent l'une des tâches les La NEC vise également à plus complexes pour toute professionnaliser davantage la instance de gestion électorale," gestion des élections en formant a-t-il ajouté, insistant sur la une équipe de responsables nécessité de solutions

Afin de garantir une organisation de grande disponibilité de fonds adéquate envergure. Depuis les élections pour les élections de 2029, M. de 2005, le Libéria a Sengbe a souligné l'importance considérablement développé de créer un Fonds Électoral l'usage des processus dédié. Cette collecte de fonds électoraux comme instruments anticipée, déployée sur de gouvernance. Parmi les plusieurs années, permettrait avancées, l'adoption d'un d'atténuer la pression système d'inscription financière en période électorale biométrique représente un pas et de renforcer la planification

En lançant dès aujourd'hui ces réformes et L'intégration technologique investissements, M. Sengbe est aussi un axe stratégique pour ambitionne d'assurer une les prochaines élections. M. organisation fluide des élections Sengbe a annoncé l'introduction de 2029, en phase avec les de dispositifs de vérification standards internationaux et les biométrique des électeurs, objectifs du Réseau des visant à renforcer la précision et Commissions Électorales de la

Enquête sur l'Autorité des Télécommunications du Libéria : le processus d'appel d'offres sous examen



e processus d'appel d'offres de l'Autorité des plainte mais n'a pas encore précisé Télécommunications du Libéria (LTA) fait l'objet d'une le calendrier de son enquête. enquête approfondie après des accusations Cette affaire suscite une vive d'irrégularités déposées par le groupe SATZ, incitant plusieurs institutions anticorruption à intervenir.

Les allégations du groupe SATZ concernent notamment le projet de développement d'un cadre de cybersécurité, de sensibilisation et de formation, référencé sous IFB No. LTA/REOI/002/2024. Le groupe affirme avoir respecté toutes les exigences de la demande d'expression d'intérêt (REOI) et de la demande de proposition (RFP), mais s'être vu disqualifié de manière inattendue pour des motifs de « non-conformité technique » invoqués par la LTA. Des sources internes indiquent d'autres entreprises locales. que la direction actuelle de la LTA aurait tenté de contourner le Ce dossier, suivi de près par les processus d'appel d'offres en demandant une « non-objection » acteurs économiques et la société pour l'embauche d'un consultant qui n'a pas participé au civile, constitue un test crucial processus initial. Ce consultant serait chargé de tâches pour l'intégrité des procédures de reprenant les termes de référence initialement prévus pour transparence et de lutte contre la l'appel d'offres. Face à ces événements, le groupe SATZ a corruption au Libéria.

appelé la Commission anticorruption du Libéria (LACC), le Centre pour la Transparence et la Responsabilité (CENTAL) et la Commission des Marchés Publics et des Concessions (PPCC) à examiner minutieusement les procédures de passation de marché de la LTA. SATZ insiste sur le respect des normes de transparence et des dispositions de la Loi sur les marchés publics et les concessions de 2010.Les institutions anticorruption concernées ont confirmé la réception de la plainte. Le CENTAL a annoncé l'ouverture d'une enquête, tandis que la LACC a déjà entamé ses investigations et prévoit de publier prochainement ses conclusions. La PPCC a accusé réception de la

inquiétude au sein de la population libérienne, qui exhorte les autorités à faire toute la lumière sur les pratiques de la LTA. Selon plusieurs observateurs, les irrégularités présumées dans ce processus de passation de marché pourraient nuire non seulement au groupe SATZ, mais également à

La Prison centrale de Monrovia sollicite un statut autonome

e surintendant par intérim de la Prison centrale de Monrovia ■(MCP), Joel Justin Juah, a appelé les groupes de défense à inciter le Sénat libérien à accorder au Bureau des prisons et de la réhabilitation (BCR) un statut d'agence autonome.

Cette demande a été formulée lors du lancement d'un projet conjoint entre Rescue Alternative Liberia et le Fonds national pour la démocratie (NED). L'objectif de cette quête d'autonomie pour le BCR est d'améliorer les relations de police de proximité et de promouvoir des réformes dans le système pénitentiaire.

Le BCR constitue un élément clé du système de justice pénale libérien. qui comprend trois sous-divisions administratives : le BCR, le Bureau de la probation et le Conseil des libérations conditionnelles, tous placés sous l'autorité du ministère de la Justice.En avril 2022, le PNUD au Liberia, à travers le Programme conjoint pour l'état de droit, a soutenu une révision et validation de deux jours de la Loi sur le service des

corrections au Liberia dans le comté



de Grand Bassa. Ce projet de loi vise à établir le BCR comme une entité semi-autonome, connue sous le nom de Service national de correction et de réhabilitation, lui permettant de générer ses propres financements.

Une fois adoptée par le Sénat, cette loi élèverait le BCR à un statut comparable à celui d'autres agences au sein du ministère de la Justice, telles que la Police nationale libérienne (LNP). Cependant, bien que la loi ait été finalisée et validée par le ministère de la Justice et ses partenaires, elle n'a pas encore été promulguée.

Lors du lancement, M. Juah a souligné que le texte est actuellement examiné par le Sénat.



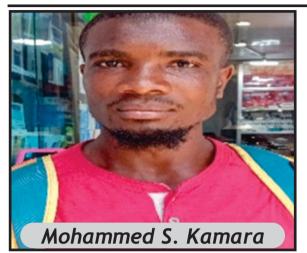


LIBERIANS

TOPIC: Bribery to remove Speaker Koffa

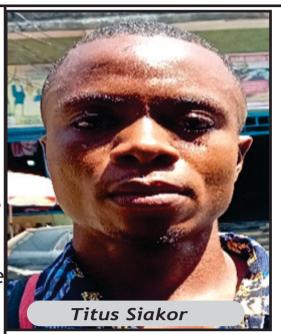
By Naneka Hoffman

Plot at the Capitol Building last week Thursday, 17 October by a group of rebel lawmakers to remove Speaker J. Fonati Koffa has generated deba across the country with many Liberians appear to be unanimous against the act, as you may read in this random sampling below.



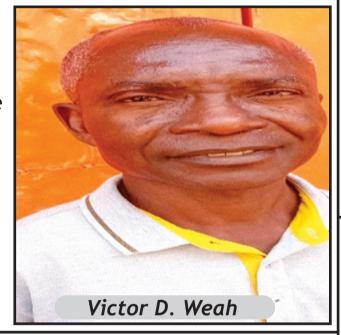
"For me personally, I don't want to conclude on an alleged of issue to hold it as a fact, conbecause it's still yet not been reproduced and we haven't are seen a single lawmaker to

come up yet to say they have received US\$15,000 each for the removal of Speaker Koffa. But if it is established, for me Liberia's democracy is going to cripple because we can't havė an economy where majority of the people who voted this leader are using huge amount of cash to seek the remove of an elected Speaker. The business of the House Representatives controlled by these representatives and they representing Liberian people.



"I think that is a wrong idea, even if there is a cause to remove the Speaker, I don't think it should be done through bribery; that along too is against the law. You can't move somebody that is ruling lawfully by using illegal means to remove them. I don't think this is in the interest of the Liberian people."

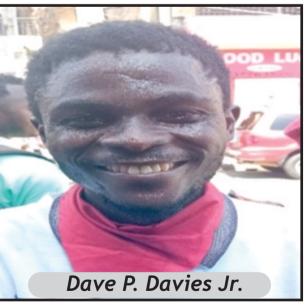
"If it is true that US\$15,000 was dished out for the removal of Speaker Koffa, I think there's a serious crime because bribery is a crime under our law, so for that aspect along it needs investigation. And who those, are involved, need to answer s o m e questions."



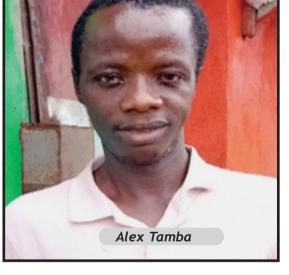
"I think the lawmakers were wronged to take allegedly US\$15, 000 each to remove Speaker Koffa from his position. Let's remember that this Speaker we are talking about was voted [elected] to this position, so you can't just remove him like that. Let us follow the law of this country and forget about putting personal feeling in duty."



FREEDO



"It's very much sad; this kind of economy where we are not prioritizing the people's interest but lawmakers in the House are receiving US\$15,000 each. There are so many problems to solve then taking US\$15,000 to remove Speaker Koffa."



US\$15,000 to remove Speaker Koffa, I think they are wasting their time, because this Speaker was voted for; he was not just selected for that position, so if they want to remove Speaker Koffa, let them go through the right process."





Rebel lawmakers fighting to remove embattled Speaker Speaker is presiding over the Koffa have bowed to the Supreme Court's order to revert to due process.

By Lincoln G. Peters

onrovia, Liberia, November 5, 2024 Majority bloc lawmakers in the House of Representatives have bowed to the bloc last week after pressure from his colleagues fighting to oust the Speaker.

During the conference with the Chamber Justice, Grand Cape County former senator



decision ordering them to follow the law if they want to remove Speaker Johnathan Koffa.

On Monday, November 4, 2024, during a conference with both parties at the Temple of Justice Chamber, Justice Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay instructed the lawmakers to return to the main chamber of the House and conduct their affairs within the bounds of law and due process.

Over the last few weeks, legislative sessions at the House of Representatives have been disrupted by the majority bloc of Representatives opposing Speaker Koffa's leadership.

The opposing lawmakers have succeeded mainly in crippling legislative functions through their conduct of separate meetings, while those backing Koffa's leadership lack a quorum to proceed.

However, on Monday, the opposing lawmakers were told to follow the due process of law in their attempt to remove Speaker Koffa.

In their response, the lawmakers noted they would begin the due process as recommended by the Supreme Court Justice in Chambers today, Tuesday, November 5.

According to the majority bloc, their legal proceeding is in line with Supreme Court Chamber Justice Yarmie Q. Gbeisay's mandate to the House. They added that they have already drafted a communication to conduct a session today to be presided over by Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah.

Rep. Fallah crossed over

to the Supreme Court Cllr. H. Varney Sherman provided legal representation for the majority bloc while sanctioning ex-Solicitor General of Liberia Cllr. Syrenius Cephas and former Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh represented Speaker

> However, both parties concede that due process for the Speaker's removal has not yet been initiated, as he was not granted such opportunity.

> Meanwhile, speaking in an interview with reporters at the Temple of Justice, Bong County District #7 Representative and frontliner for the majority bloc Foday Fahnbulleh said today, Tuesday, November 5, 2024, they will initiate due process for the removal of the Speaker in the joint chamber of the Legislature.

> Recapitulating the Chamber Justice's mandate, he said Justice Gbeisay told them to engage in due process. He added that they had presented an official compliance communication to the deputy chief clerk, which has been forwarded to the Justice-in-chamber to initiate the process.

> "Now, we are going to session on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, where the Deputy Speaker will preside, where the complaint will be read, and we will begin the process of due process. We will be in the joint chamber. The law provides that where a quorum is, is there where traction business is? However, as I speak to you, the Deputy

session, and we will remove speaker Koffa," he noted.

Representative Fahnbulleh said that Speaker Koffa's prohibition against them was not because of their absence from session but rather because of their plot to remove him. Therefore, the Chamber Justice told them that their actions were legal and did not place any stay order on them going to session but on proceeding to remove the speaker.

"There is no law that provides that you are restricted to a given chamber. The law says that there should be a session with a quorum of not less than 37, and that session should have a presiding officer and should be held in Monrovia, where the senate is. We will proceed with the activities and it will be presided by the Deputy Speaker", he explained.

"We can't say anything to the press now until the judge comes out with the finding. I have no jurisdiction to speak on any matter that is in court. We will be in session tomorrow." He continues.

Montserrado County District #4 Representative Marcus Thomas says that matters before the court, especially before the justice in the chamber, can't be discussed outside of court. However, he notes that Speaker Koffa has used Article 26 of the Constitution to seek legal redress because he felt his rights were violated.

Atty. Thomas indicates that, having listened to both parties today, if the Justicein-Chamber issues the alternative writ, it means that they will have an opportunity to respond and go into full argument.

"What you saw that was being served on the majority members of the House as a writ of prohibition for the conference is not the original writ. It's a whole process. If someone goes to the court to seek remedies, the judge will cite the parties to a conference before issuing the alternative writ. In this case, he is praying for the writ of prohibition. So, whether or not the justice presiding in the chamber will issue that writ, that will be the alternative writ. However, in the absence of the writ, it means that we will continue our proceeding," he added. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Starts from page 7 Liberia to reduce rice importation by 45%

secure food future and track more food. the progress and future of those initiatives in the county.

interventions at the Fumah farm in Bong County, he said if they have 25kg bags, it will amount to nine hundred thousand bags, and if processed, recovery will be around about 60%. Therefore, it is expected that by the end of the current production circle, the least could be around four hundred and fifty thousand 25kg bags.

According to the Minister, Fumah is the first mechanized farm in Bong County, but there is one in Nimba County with two hundred hectares under cultivation. In comparison, Lofa has two hundred hectares, harvested next year, adding them to do more.

agriculture is supported Browne

inspire farmers to expand through budgetary allocation, production, encourage every Liberia will be able to create jobs Liberian to contribute to a for smallholder farmers and grow

We have identified five thousand hatchers in Nimba Commenting on County, two thousand additional hatchers in Bong County, and four thousand hectares in Lofa County. We have to invest in those areas and make them a place. That is where we have been asking our lawmakers to support us. In fact, at the beginning of September, we wrote to all the lawmakers, asking them to support agriculture development, and also shared with them the National Agriculture Plan that we've done. And all of them have it." Dr.

Nuetah explains. He optimistically reveals that locally-produced rice will be in the market, adding that the government has promised the Liberian people that by January and all are expected to be next year, Liberian-grown rice will be put on sale here, and five that there is still potential for brands have been identified that will be processed and taken to He stresses that if market. Editing by Jonathan

Starts from back page Our nation is on time bomb

awareness, vigilant here. engagements, and combat Goshua has commanded the involvement. Liberia Drugs Enforcement officers who are engaged in the fight against illegal substances.He indicated that they are at risk in tackling drug

efforts, Goshua pleaded for an increase in the officers' salaries to the agency.

Further, Rep. Goshua stated that the United Nations Population Fund has reported that about 20% of Liberia's population is on drugs.

country at further risk. For his part, Paynesville City Mayor Robert S. Bestman, II, urged students to stun drug abuse.

sensitization campaigns to limit among young people. the rapid increase of drugs

According to Mayor Bestman, efforts on narcotic the combat of drugs needs a more substances. Meanwhile, Rep. vigorous approach with everyone's

He also stressed the Agency's (LDEA's) frontline importance of a more collaborative approach to tackling substance abuse. Also speaking, LDEA Chief of Prevention and Awareness, Special Agent Grace Mulbah, emphasized the alarming Recognizing the LDEA's rate of drugs among the young population.

She pleaded for more and for more budgetary support investment in awareness to prevent the rapid spread of the substance. Madam Mulbah, at the same time, pleaded for more budgetary allocation to the LDEA. Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) Youth Focus- Person, He indicated that it puts the Lawrence Dayougar said the initiative is intended to prevent drug abuse in schools. He added that it is intended to enhance measures to tackle the rapid He called for more spread of narcotic substances

Starts from page 6

participants expressed a common sentiment that they had lost trust in the police, noting that law enforcement officers operate above the law with little accountability. Many disagreed with the security officers, who during the occasion, claimed that while problems exist within the police, no one has ever been imprisoned without the court's knowledge. They cited instances where those in authority trial.

the Acting Superintendent spoke

about the procedures for

shouted from across the room as

imprisonment. "Many times, they take people to jail for free without even going to court!" The female participant noted. On the other hand, Acting Superintendent Juah, who came in defense of the police, encouraged participants to utilize the professional division of the Liberia National Police to report such incidents, if they arise.

In response to the heated discussion, Mr. Nimely intervened, noting that a more formal dialogue allegedly used law enforcement would be organized in the coming to imprison individuals without days, emphasizing that this event was merely the launch of the "La lie!" One participant initiative. Editing by Jonathan



Our nation is on time bomb

Goshua's assertion came

despite President Joseph

Nyuma Boakai declaring

drugs a National Public

Health Emergency at the

affected by drugs. Ren. Goshua says

The Grand Bassa County Representative believes that the widespread narcotic drug abuse among young Liberians is a war on [the] future of the country if not handled now.

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh November 5, 2024: ■The House of Representatives Committee Chairman on Drugs, Rep.

risk if there is no vigilant onrovia, approach to tackle the rapid

start of the new administration this spread of narcotic substances year. There have been some here. "There's practically no efforts to counter the home in Liberia that is not increase of narcotic being affected by drugs," Rep. substances in Liberia, but more young people continue to access narcotics, joining a fast-growing population of drug addicts and disadvantaged folks. At the recent anti-drug awareness campaign in Grand Bassa, the organizers crafted the theme: "Books, Not Drugs," for students.

> The Grand Bassa County Electoral District #5 Representative, Mr. Goshua, described the narcotic drug situation in the country as worrisome.

"This is a situation that targets young people and Liberia is on "a ticking time bomb," said Goshua.

"There's a war on [the] future, if not handled now, we [are] at our risk," Rep. Goshua added.

He called for more

CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Thomas Goshua, has warned that Liberia is on a "ticking time bomb" in light of among the youth.

population of the nation is at

Goshua said recently during an anti-drug campaign here.He suggested that no home, be it widespread substance abuse a Representative's or a, Minister's home, that is not According to Rep. affected. According to Goshua, Goshua, the youthful one way or the other, your child or children, are being



