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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.

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French Version Inside

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Former Pres. Weah

Pres. Trump

CDC

congratulates

Trump

-Suspends lawmakers

US AFRICOM Commander

Boakai and AFL Authorities

vows to address

AFL challenges

-Meets Boakai and AFL Authorities

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Continental News

Uproar in Ghana after president unveils his own statue

Ghana's outgoing President Nana Akufo-Addo is facing a backlash on social media after he unveiled a statue of

boasted that he has fulfilled 80% of his promises to Ghanaians.

He unveiled the monument, prominently placed in front of Sekondi's Effia-Nkwanta Regional

leaves office. But not everyone is critical, with some seeing it as an acknowledgement of Akufo-Addo's contributions to the development of the country. "He is very deserving of this exquisite monument. The greatest president I've ever had. You will be missed by Ghanaians," one person posted, adding that Akufo-Addo was the "founder of Ghana's free education system". During his tour, the 80-year-old president has singled out his policy to scrap fees for secondary schools as his "most significant legacy".

His visit has also fed into campaigning nationwide by the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP). Western Region, in the south-west, is one of 16 regions in the country.

The president urged people there to vote for his deputy, Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia, in next month's general election. He will be the NPP's candidate and Akufo-Addo said a vote for him would see the continuation of the party's policies and projects.

Bawumia's main challenger will be former President John Dramani Mahama, who is seeking a comeback under the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

The high cost of living is a key campaign issue in Ghana, Africa's leading producer of gold. BBC



The photos of the statue have gone viral in Ghana

himself during a tour of the country's Western Region.

The monument is intended to honour the development initiatives the president has overseen whilst in office, the region's minister Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah says.

But many Ghanaians have been mocking its installation - outside a hospital in the city of Sekondi - seeing it as "self glorification".

"The people of the Western Region deserve better than these self-serving displays," opposition MP Emmanuel Armah Kofi-Buah posted on X. Akufo-Addo, who will be standing down in January after two terms in power, has

Hospital, on Wednesday during his visit that has been dubbed a "thank-you tour".

At the ceremony, Darko-Mensah, who oversees the Western Region, highlighted several key projects initiated under the president.

But the statue has sparked a wave of criticism, with some Ghanaians questioning its importance when several key projects remain incomplete.

"It would be admirable if the president had allowed posterity to recognise and appreciate his work," an X user posted.

A section of the public is calling for the statue - photos of which have gone viral - to be pulled down after the president

Miss Rwanda given suspended sentence for drink-driving

A court in Rwanda has slapped a beauty queen with a three-month suspended sentence for drink-driving and driving without a licence.

Divine Muheto, who won the most recent Miss Rwanda pageant, was also fined 190,000 Rwandan francs (\$140; £109). Ms Muheto last month crashed her car into an electricity pylon and a palm tree while driving home from a bar in the capital Kigali, according to local site the New Times.

At the time, a statement said she had fled the scene, but the court acquitted her of this charge. She wasn't present at the court hearing, and neither was the prosecution that had sought two years in prison for her. After 18 days in police custody, the judge ordered her immediate release.

It is not clear if the prosecution will appeal against the judgment.

Ms Muheto, the daughter of

Assistant Commissioner of Police Francis Muheto, hasn't publicly reacted to the incident. But her lawyers say she has expressed remorse and asked forgiveness.

This is not the first time the 21-year-old has driven under the influence of alcohol, according to police in the East African country. She rose to fame in Rwanda after she won the national beauty contest in 2022.

The competition has not been

held since - it was suspended by the government after sexual misconduct allegations were made against the organisers.

Drink-driving carries a fine of 150,000 Rwandan francs (\$110; £85) and five days in police custody.

Thousands of people have been arrested for this crime in recent years as police have begun to enforce the law. BBC



Divine Muheto didn't appear in court for the sentencing

Trade, aid, security: What does Trump's win mean for Africa?

As it became clear that Donald Trump had landed the US presidency for the second time, leaders from across Africa began tweeting their congratulations.

"Zimbabwe stands ready to work with you", wrote Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, eyeing a diplomatic reset, while Nigeria's Bola Tinubu expressed hope that Trump's second term would bring "reciprocal economic and development partnerships between Africa and the United States".

But will Trump 2.0 be good for the continent? During his first stint in the White House critics accused him of dismissing Africa, having cut some funding, curbed immigration and reportedly referred to some of its nations as "shithole countries". However, he did also introduce schemes to increase investment in Africa - schemes that remain operational three years after

But there are concerns Trump might roll back on this investment and trade. The soon-to-be president has more of a protectionist, insular outlook than Biden - one of the slogans for his first term was "America First". The African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa), which has enabled eligible African countries to export some of their produce to the US without paying taxes since 2000, is a key source of concern. During his previous administration, Trump said the scheme would not be renewed when it expires in 2025.

And during his 2024 campaign he pledged to implement a universal 10% income tariff on all foreign-made goods. This would make imported goods more expensive, and so African exporters would be likely to sell less of their produce in the large US market.

Numerous commentators in South Africa - one of the largest exporters under the Agoa agreement - have predicted that cutting Agoa could have a significant impact on the economy.

However, US think-tank the Brookings Institution predicts that South Africa's GDP would shrink by



he left office.

But how might he approach Africa in this new climate? Joe Biden's outgoing administration "tried really hard to create an impression that Africa was a valued and important partner", W Gyude Moore, a fellow at the Center for Global Development and former Liberian minister, tells the BBC. Biden struggled to match this enthusiasm with substantial deals and partnerships, Mr Moore says, but that does not mean his Africa strategy was fruitless.

For instance, the US was praised for investing in the Lobito Corridor - a rail line stretching through Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia that will be used to transport critical raw materials. In 2023, the US said it had invested more than \$22bn since Biden came to power.

"just 0.06%". This is partly because many of the goods South Africa exports to the US - such as minerals and metal - do not actually benefit from Agoa, it said.

Although Trump was not keen on Agoa, he recognised that if the US was going to counter China's growing economic influence in Africa, it needed to maintain some level of partnership.

In 2018 the Trump administration unveiled Prosper Africa - an initiative that assists US companies wanting to invest in Africa - and the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), which funds development projects in Africa and around the world. Biden kept both running after he took over and the DFC says it has so far invested more than \$10bn (£8bn) in Africa.

Given that China is still a major force in Africa and that Trump introduced these policies himself, he is likely to think twice before slashing them. BBC

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 House.

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, 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.

COMMENTARY

By Olivier De Schutter,
Kate Pickett

Inequality Is Destroying Mental Health

BRUSSELS/YORK - According to an Ipsos poll conducted in 2018, 27% of global respondents said that mental health was one of the biggest health problems. When the poll was repeated this year, that figure had risen to 45%, with mental health overtaking cancer and obesity as the top concern.

They are right to worry. A 2023 study found that half the world's population will develop a mental-health disorder in their lifetime. But as of 2020, average government spending on mental health represented only 2.1% of health expenditures.

While policymakers should increase spending on mental health, prevention is better than treatment. Addressing the problem at its root could mean implementing programs aimed at reducing poverty, which, given the relentless strain of economic insecurity, is a major risk factor. But a recent United Nations report (which one of us prepared) found that relative poverty (how an individual fares against others) fuels mental illness more than absolute poverty (being unable to afford the essentials) does. This suggests that reducing income inequality would have a greater impact on mental-health outcomes.

he UN report comes six years after one of us co-authored *The Inner Level*. That book demonstrated that people living in more unequal countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, suffer more from chronic stress, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and addiction than those in more equal societies, including Norway, Finland, and Japan.

With income inequality at alarmingly high levels, and mental health currently a bigger concern than cancer, governments - especially in wealthy countries - evidently need a reminder that the prosperity of the few is not to the benefit of all. As the gap between rich and poor has widened, individuals increasingly value themselves and others in terms of material wealth, driving a mentally damaging race to the top.

between haves and have-nots fuels status anxiety about how one is seen or judged by others, releasing a barrage of stress hormones. People compete to prove their worth by buying more stuff, even if it means going into debt. All this erodes the social capital and weakens the supportive environments that help people cope with stress.

In this bleak landscape of inequity, performative consumption, and isolation, it is hardly surprising that people find themselves more prone to depression, anxiety, and other mental-health problems. And while those at the bottom of the social hierarchy suffer the most, they are not alone. The rich are also more likely to experience status anxiety, as well as worse outcomes on almost every other quality-of-life indicator, the more unequal a society is.

Over the past 40 years, high-income countries have achieved economic growth by privatizing public assets, giving tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy, chipping away at workers' rights, and implementing austerity measures. But these efforts to boost GDP have nearly always made life worse for the poor. Reaching a certain level of affluence has triggered spiraling inequality in many countries, canceling out the gains in well-being that economic growth is supposed to deliver and pushing the rungs of the social ladder farther apart.

Money can buy many things, but health is not one of them. If advanced economies are serious about tackling their frighteningly high rates of psychopathology, their governments must focus on reducing inequality, not chasing GDP growth that only makes the rich richer. Raising taxes on multinationals and the wealthy to fund universal social protection and improved public amenities would be a good place to start.

The world has become more open to conversations about mental health in recent years, but the same is not always true about taxing the rich. Given that it could be one of the most promising ways to address the growing mental-health crisis, policymakers must not shy away from the debate.



Lord, fear ley enemy within ooh.

Dear Father,
You know, ley people who can hurt you most, that ley people you consider your own friends and confidantes because they are people you share all your secrets with including your weaknesses.

You say whatin?
Yes, Father, and come to think of it you know when ley plenty noise started at our Traditional Council, ley troubled Paramount Chief knew da ley people them who behind him trouble come from him own backyard. But him tried to pet them, at some point even defending their loyalty publicly, while in secret him will cry on their names.

You mean in this village; people can still go da far?
Yes, Father, ley Paramount Chief wor trying to play maturity. Bor you see, it doesn't matter how long a person try to hide him character, da thing will one day show.

Ehn you heard what ley second Paramount Chief said, all that thing da pure “yawamsene”-Oga will say.
My son, what are you telling me, you want to say this Paramount Chief wahala from him own people?
Father, this noise we are hearing from ley Traditional Council so, ley play it coming from da him own backyard. Him own friend them and confidante. Ley people say, ley man da Uncle Sam man, da him naked all ley people them in ley Footballer Camp. In fact, da him make ley Footballer sef to be in trouble with Uncle Sam.
So, all da noise you hearing so, da thing wor well planned. Him own people sold him out, out for revenge.

My son, what kina big, big thing you talking here so!
Oh Father, you na hear about ley rat da can be bitting you and still be putting breeze there? Ooh, all da noise coming from da camp so, da so, so show. Ley people know what they doing yah.
Ehn you na hear ley people say, ley enemy of my enemy is my friend-aaha, da what happening to ley Paramount Chief so.
You don't mean it.

Aah be there ehn 2029 coming. Ley people say ley man da thorn in their bossman flesh for 2029 so, they need to break him wing before him start getting more powerful.

All da thing you hear about their chief them being in trouble-la, la. Da just to put up show. Ley people na wan ley man there.
Father, just look at ley paper weh ley chief them put their names on, even ley people ley Paramount Chief help during ley voting time in our village, their name them there too.

Bor my son, I though ley people say da ley Oldman behind da thing.
Father, nobody mom fool us in this village. Ley people say ley Paramount Chief too know. Him one wan be in everything. They say him undermined their big bossman. You na see while ley people from da camp plenty in this Paramount Chief moving bisnay.

So, what ley Paramount Chief will do na?
Father, ehn you know ley man da Kru man ehn, him say, him na moving from there, Him say when they wan move him, they mom come look him face, they mom na be hiding in another play.
And you know something Father, ley same people can be acting leh they for him ooh.

You joking!
Kpoo, you mom come see them doing all kina thing again. Father you mom fear ley enemy that can come from within oo. We waiting, one thing I know everything geh ending.

OP-ED

By Mariana Mazzucato and Johan Rockström

Global Freshwater Supplies in the Balance

LONDON - While the world’s attention has been on the US election, the rising number of extreme weather events - from disastrous flooding in Spain to southern Africa’s worst drought in a century - highlights the need to remain focused on climate change, biodiversity loss, and a changing water cycle.

These crises are related, and the symptoms are getting worse. When drought kills crops, millions of people suffer; and when water extremes (too much or too little) hit vulnerable societies, the resulting displacements, migration, and conflicts can affect everyone.

Yet no one is listening. The recent COP16 biodiversity summit in Cali, Colombia, received little international attention, and failed to produce a roadmap to ramp up funding for species protection. Instead, delegates merely celebrated their decision to charge private companies for the use of genetic biodiversity information, and to establish a new working group for indigenous peoples.

While important, these developments are marginal in relation to the task of halting biodiversity loss. Worse, they could serve as a smokescreen for global inaction, just as we have seen over the years in global climate negotiations, where long sessions on trade and “loss and damage” obscured the lack of action on phasing out fossil fuels. Although the Global Biodiversity Framework - adopted in Montreal in 2022 - established ambitious targets to protect 30% of the planet by 2030, 158 countries still have not submitted formal plans on how they will do their part.

This inaction cannot continue. Human activities are threatening the stability of the climate and the natural systems upon which human well-being depends. Food security, human health, and social stability are all on the line. The COP16 negotiations are supposed to continue “at a later date”; but the world cannot afford to let COP16 pass without significant progress toward protecting our planet’s biodiversity and ecosystems.

Without urgent, systemic, collective action, the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, and the water crisis will only intensify. Biodiversity and nature are central to maintaining stable climate patterns and the hydrological cycle. Wetlands and forests, which store huge amounts of carbon, rely on stable water cycles and thriving biodiversity to function effectively.

Similarly, terrestrial ecosystems currently absorb 25% of carbon dioxide emissions, helping to prevent atmospheric CO2 from rising beyond 420 parts per million. Yet extreme hydrological events - droughts and floods, combined with heat during the 2023 “super El Niño” cycle - eroded this massive carbon sink substantially. This was a serious warning sign. Unchecked biodiversity loss alone could cause us to exceed the Paris climate agreement’s target of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, with dire consequences for vulnerable communities worldwide.

In our final report for the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, we show how interconnected our world is not just through the blue water in our rivers and lakes, but also through “green water” in soil moisture. Moreover, we are all connected through “atmospheric rivers”: moisture transported from the soil, through plants and forests, to the atmosphere, where it flows between regions to provide essential rainfall.

Healthy vegetation is the backbone of this process, transpiring water into the atmosphere to generate clouds. Some countries benefit disproportionately from these atmospheric rivers, while others, like India and Brazil, are significant exporters of moisture. Almost half of global rainfall depends on neighboring land use, underscoring the importance of conserving healthy ecosystems worldwide.

The costs of inaction are enormous. A destabilized hydrological cycle implies far-reaching economic damage. Changing precipitation patterns, rising temperatures, reduced water storage, and declining access to clean water augur significant GDP losses. High-income countries face an average GDP contraction of 8% by 2050, and lower-income countries could suffer drops of up to 15%. At the same time, over half (55%) of the world’s food production is now in areas with dwindling freshwater supplies.

We can still turn the tide on the global water crisis, but only by protecting and restoring declining ecosystems. As the commission’s report notes, a good starting point is for governments to adopt a clear set of mission-driven policies to “[c]onserve and restore natural habitats critical to protect green water.” Mission-driven policies that recognize the interdependencies between water and biodiversity are needed to foster the all-of-government and economy-wide responses that planetary sustainability requires.

For example, a mission to “restore at least 30% of degraded forest and inland water ecosystems globally by 2030” would require sectors as diverse as agriculture, forestry, construction, and information and communication technologies (to name a few) to work together. A mission to restore forests is not just for the environment ministry, but also for the finance, agriculture, and science and technology ministries, among others.

ARTICLE

Anthony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

Modernizing American diplomacy
for a new era

Our modernization agenda strengthens and revitalizes American diplomacy for this new age in international affairs. (Official State Department photo by Chuck Kennedy)


I’m proud of everything we’ve done to implement our modernization agenda, but there’s more work to be done. The stronger the State Department is, the more effective our diplomacy is, and the more successful we’ll be at delivering for the American people.

Geopolitical competition is underway to shape a new era in international affairs. The world we face is more competitive. It’s more complex and more combustible than at any other point in my career. To meet this moment, our diplomacy and this department have to be fit for purpose, organized, resourced, and with the talent to lead on the most pressing issues of our time.

Three years ago, we launched a plan to strengthen and revitalize American diplomacy for this new age in international affairs. We’ve made a lot of progress since then, but there’s more work to be done. Here’s what we’ve accomplished so far. Reorganizing and Investing in the Department

First, we’ve reorganized the department and invested in our ability to lead on the issues that are increasingly animating our diplomacy. In the wake of COVID, President Biden made it clear that we needed to prioritize health diplomacy. So we created the Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy. This team works with our partners abroad to strengthen health systems, fight deadly diseases, and prevent future pandemics.

The challenges posed by the People’s Republic of China touch every aspect of our foreign policy and every region of the world. So we built what we call “China House” - an office that brings together experts from across the Department and other agencies under one roof. Here, they can better coordinate and manage this most complex and consequential relationship. We’ve also made the State Department a leader in our federal government for incorporating artificial intelligence into our work.



We recently rolled out AI tools, including our State Department chat bot. They saved our teams tens of thousands of hours, translating documents, fact-checking reports, tracking international news and social media posts. This created instantly accessible databases of diplomatic knowledge and practice.

Investing in Our Workforce

New structures and innovations will only deliver if they’re matched by investments in our workforce. In many ways, that’s really at the heart of everything we’ve been trying to do for the last three and a half years. We’re recruiting and retaining the best talent that America has to offer, building a more robust and equitable pipeline for the next generation of diplomats.

Secretary Blinken

We’re making job opportunities more inclusive. We launched a paid internship program for the first time in the history of the Department. It’s already brought on 1,700 interns, making entry-level roles more accessible for people from a broader range of socioeconomic backgrounds. We moved the Foreign Service application process online instead of requiring that many candidates pay to travel to D.C. for an interview.

One of my top priorities as Secretary has also been to make sure the Department capitalizes on one of our nation’s greatest strengths: our diversity. In 2021, I created the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. We’re making our embassies and ambassadors’ residences more accessible. We’ve expanded access to assistive technologies, from adaptive keyboards to magnification software, so that people with disabilities have the tools that they need to do their best work.

When our diplomats have the resources they need, the support they deserve, and the chance to contribute to their full potential, there’s nothing they can’t do. Our Revitalized Diplomacy Impacts the World Here are a few examples of how all of this is translated into the real world. When it comes to the People’s Republic of China, we’ve achieved a level of strategic convergence with allies and partners across and between the Atlantic and Pacific that was unimaginable just a few years ago.

At the same time, we’re strengthening energy security by helping our European Union partners reduce their dependence on Russian gas. In 2021, 45 percent of their natural gas imports came from Russia. Today, it’s down to less than 15 percent. These developments, and so many others, show the power and purpose of a revitalized American diplomacy.

ARTICLE

US, Europe begin scramble for
Africa’s satellite internet market

Europe joins US in the battle for under-served African customers in an already competitive internet market - with France eyeing up to 26 African markets, majority being francophone countries.

Conrad Onyango, bird story agency

A new scramble for Africa’s satellite market between the US and Europe is underway, as France targets to connect 26 African countries with high-speed space-powered internet.

Thales Alenia Space, one of Europe’s largest telecommunications, navigation and surveillance satellite makers, has entered into a memorandum of understanding with a Moroccan private equity firm, Panafsat, to develop a geostationary telecommunications satellite in Morocco.

As part of the MoU, the two companies said in a joint statement that Thales Alenia Space will develop ‘a very high-performance flexible satellite to accelerate Africa’s digital transformation- serving a combined population of over 550 million people.’

Panafsat Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Toumi described the project as the next critical stage in the digital transformation process and developing a digital economy in Morocco and across Africa.

“It will change the lives of millions of people eager to benefit from Internet access and all the essential services they need,” he said.

The MoU was signed during French President Emmanuel Macron’s state visit to Morocco at the end of October, in the presence of Nadia Fettah Alaoui, Moroccan minister of economy and finance, and Antoine Armand, French minister of economy, finance, and industry.

Most of the targeted African markets (23) will be French-speaking nations, with the remaining three being Anglo-phone.

“The project will make a significant contribution to bridging the digital divide in rural areas, as well as boosting economic growth and strengthening digital sovereignty across the African continent,” said Thales Alenia Space CEO Hervé Derrey.

The entry of Thales Alenia Space comes at a time when American spacecraft manufacturer SpaceX is recording significant milestones on the continent - including the recent sell-out of Starlink terminals in five out of 12 African countries, including Madagascar, a French-speaking nation.

Since it began making inroads into the continent more than a year ago, Starlink has faced numerous regulatory hurdles, especially in French-speaking countries like Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, and Senegal.

However, there appears to be some light in most francophone countries, with Starlink’s coverage map highlighting availability prospects in these markets by the end of 2024 and 2025.

Starlink projects it would go live in Mauritania, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon and Chad by the close of the year, with a 2025 start date for countries like Burkina Faso, Niger, Cameroon and DR Congo.

Starlink has been approved to operate in Mozambique, Eswatini, Botswana, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi, Benin, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia and Madagascar.

Thales Alenia Space’s entry into Africa is also considered part of its strategic plan to counter diminishing ‘traditional telecommunications satellite markets’ in Europe - from rising competition in the commercial customer space by global rivals like Elon Musk’s Starlink.

European aerospace group Thales, with a 67% stake in Thales Alenia Space, is reportedly exploring a merger of its satellite operations with another pan-European aerospace group, Airbus (also headquartered in France), that would make a market-dominating player to counter competition, according to the Financial Times and Reuters.

Research and Markets projects the global small satellite market to grow to US\$11.2 billion by 2029, from US\$5.2 billion in 2024, stimulated by increasing demand for commercial satellites boosting the launching of small satellites.

“They are widely accepted since they are affordable, have short developing periods and can serve various purposes such as telecommunication, earth observation, etc,” according to the Research and Markets report.

According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU’s) “Facts and Figures

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ngafuan stresses domestic resource mobilization as key to growth

Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister has identified increase domestic resource mobilization as key to growth.

Monrovia, November 8, 2024/ Liberia's Finance and Development Planning, Mr. Augustine K. Ngafuan says increasing

sectors will fortify the existing governance, fiscal, and capital market institutions; reduce aid dependency and provide more reliable and fiscal revenues as well as strengthen



Mr. Ngafuan with Chinese Ambassador YIN

domestic resource mobilization is key for growth and development across all sectors.

He disclosed this when the Chinese delegation met his senior management team during a courtesy visit at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning on Monday, November 4, 2024.

According to Minister Ngafuan, increasing domestic resources mobilization across all

the social contract between government and citizens. Doing this, Minister Ngafuan added, will reinforce citizens' oversight and supervision of the use of budgetary revenues. "The leadership of President Boakia is committed to increasing domestic resources across all sectors that will align with the National Development Agenda for inclusive growth and development."

He praised the Chinese

government through the delegation for supporting Liberia's health and education sectors. "Your support over the years has been a source of hope for Liberians across the health and education sectors" he noted. However, we are working with our development partners to target the two huge binding constraints to growth. "Energy and road are the two huge binding constraints need a robust turn for our country" Minister Ngafuan added. The government of Liberia is currently working and hoping to qualify for Compact Two, for which we have met the score of 14 out of 20.

"Our job is to continue showing progress to our people because they deserve better lives, and we are making some big moves towards that," he added.

Minister Ngafuan noted the new cost of hydro-energy construction on the St. Paul River will cost around 800 million United States dollars, of which they are trying to improve power generation by utilizing solar power. "We are going to make some reforms to the electricity facility across the country and try to strengthen accountable institutions like the General Auditing Commission, which has been rolling out many audit processes."

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Minister Piaah red-flags LACC

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission has come under criticism for speaking ahead of its ongoing corruption investigation.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, November 8, 2024 - The Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism, Jerolinmek Matthew Piaah, criticizes the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) for what he terms premature declaration of investigation into alleged bribery involving the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) and the Ministry of Transport.

The investigation, which implicates several members of the House of Representatives, has come under scrutiny for its timing and handling.

Minister Piaah expresses concern that the LACC's public disclosure of the investigation could harm the reputation of individuals involved before a thorough examination of the facts. His comments highlight a

need for more caution and professionalism in dealing with sensitive matters of national importance.

This development comes amid growing public interest and scrutiny over corruption issues in Liberia, where there have been calls for greater transparency and accountability in government operations.

Minister Piaah: "My issue was and which was a

representation of the Government of Liberia, you cannot be declaring that there will be an investigation into an accusation about bribery, instead of waiting to commence that investigation. You made a conclusion before commencing the investigation, by saying that you know where the money came from, that LWSC and the Ministry of Transport provided the money." He

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Minister Jerolinmek Matthew Piaah

Italian Navy Vessel Borsini call at Freeport of Monrovia

Monrovia, Liberia - November 8, 2024: An Italian Naval Patrol Vessel, "Comandante Borsini (P491)", over the weekend ducked at the Freeport of Monrovia as guest of the Liberian government aimed at strengthening Maritime security within the Gulf of Guinea.

Speaking at a ceremony held on board the Vessel, the commander of the Italian Naval Patrol Vessel "Comandante Borsini (P491)" The Captain Naval Vessel Ugo Giglio said he and his crew were honored by the presence of NPA Managing Director Hon. Sekou A.M. Dukuly and the Diploma corps as well as an array of government officials onboard the vessel at the Freeport of Monrovia.

Captain Giglio said the Italian Navy every year carries out two deployments in the Gulf of Guinea as an exercise in the area to reinforce Maritime Security which is called "the Obangame Express and the Grand African Nemo". Additionally, the initiative according to him is intended to strengthen and improve the level of

EU's commitment to fostering relationship with Liberia and West Africa and is a testament to the bonds of friendship, and cooperation that unite Liberia and the European Union.

Ambassador Deprez said, Maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea entails risks and threats ranging from piracy and armed robbery at sea to the consequences of illicit, unregulated and unreported fishing (ICC), including trafficking of drugs and arms, human trafficking at sea, criminality in ports which affect pollution and climate change on the Maritime environment and its users.

The EU Ambassador said the Naval operations, that are conducted by the EU under the common security and defense policy, implement coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP). This tool, according to the Ambassador, will enhance the coordination of existing member states Naval and air assets present in specific areas that are of interest to the EU around the world.

The EU's support to the Gulf of Guinea region in the field of Maritime Security remains focused on the operationalization of the



Group photo: Italian Patrol vessel make a brief stop in a bid to strengthen maritime security within the Gulf of Guinea

cooperation and interoperability with navies and coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea.

Captain Giglio, who emphasized the importance of this exercise, furthered that it supports the local population by securing direct delivery of medical equipment, medicines, toys, and other services to countries in the Gulf of Guinea. He also said that guaranteeing Maritime Security underscores actions aimed at protecting not only the National interest at sea but also ensures the deterrence and fight against terrorism and illegal activities such as illicit and human trafficking, pollution, destruction of underwater infrastructures, exploitation of Marine resources and especially in combating the phenomenon of piracy at sea.

For her part, European Union Ambassador to Liberia, Nona Deprez, described the arrival of the Italian Naval Vessel to Liberia as a milestone and the opening of a new chapter in the

Yaounde interregional Architecture, Ambassador Deprez stressed. According to Ambassador Deprez, since the launch of the Maritime Security Presence concept in 2021, it has increased the EU's capacity to act as a reliable partner and Maritime security provider in line with the EU's integrated approach.

Also speaking at the ceremony NPA Managing Director Hon. Sekou A. M. Dukuly lauded the initiatives of the Italian Naval and the EU aimed at providing Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea against pirates and on sea armed robbery, illicit drug and human trafficking, and pollution.

Hon. Dukuly said the National Port Authority, which is the gateway to the Liberian economy, needs immense support from the National Government that would affect the infrastructure development of all ports in Liberia. He praised the European Union for its aid in the region aimed at building the capacities of

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Minister Piah red-flags LACC

made the observation during an appearance on Spoon Talk on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

"If you are seeking to investigate, do it and bring the findings, which could include that you have discovered the source of the money," Piah asserted. "To even make that pronouncement before the investigation, I think it was a 'misstep.'" He criticizes the LACC for prematurely stating they knew the source of the funds, arguing that such a statement not only undermines the investigative process but also risks prematurely influencing public opinion and potentially politicizing the case.

He explains that such statements seem contradictory, as revealing the source of the funds in advance could give the impression that the investigation was already concluded, thus undermining the process and raising questions about the impartiality of the commission's actions.

Minister Piah emphasizes that those leading investigations should refrain from making public announcements during the process. He argues that the people of Liberia are more interested in the outcomes of investigations, rather than every step along the way.

The MICAT boss further expresses concern that premature disclosures could politicize the issue, divert attention from the objective, and could potentially undermine the credibility of the process. He urged the relevant

authorities to focus on delivering results rather than seeking media attention during the investigation. However, the center point of controversy is the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission's (LACC) October 21, 2024, statement, signed by Executive Chairperson Cllr. Alexandra Zoe.

The statement disclosed allegations involving the channeling of US\$750,000 through the accounts of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) and the Ministry of Transport.

This revelation has sparked public debate, with critics, including Minister Piah, arguing that such premature disclosure can lead to unnecessary political ramifications and damage reputations of those implicated before any formal conclusions are reached.

The LACC's handling of the case has raised questions about the timing and approach to such sensitive investigations. The alleged bribery scheme, which reportedly aims at influencing the removal of Speaker J. Fonati Koffa, represents a serious breach of Liberia's legislative processes. The allegations suggest an attempt to manipulate the country's political framework through financial inducements, undermining the integrity of the House of Representatives.

Such a scheme, if proven true, would not only be a violation of ethical standards but could also have significant implications for the functioning of Liberia's governance and public trust in its institutions.

In its statement, the LACC emphasizes its commitment to

investigating corruption, upholding transparency, and restoring public confidence in elected institutions.

The commission reiterates its responsibility to tackle corrupt practices head-on and ensure accountability in Liberia's governance. Despite the criticism of its public handling of the investigation, the LACC stresses that it would continue to pursue its mandate, with the ultimate goal of fostering a more transparent and just system for the Liberian people.

"Bribery and corruption in any form undermine public confidence in elected institutions and disrupt the rule of law," the LACC emphasized, underscoring the gravity of the allegations. The Commission highlights that such practices not only tarnish the reputation of government bodies but also threaten the integrity of Liberia's democratic processes. By focusing on these serious concerns, the LACC reaffirmed its determination to address corruption at all levels, stressing that such misconduct must be dealt with to protect the stability and trust of the nation.

The Commission reassures the public that it would work in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA), and other relevant institutions to gather facts and hold accountable any individual found to be involved.

The LACC notes that its investigative efforts would be thorough, collaborative, and focused on ensuring justice, with the aim of restoring public trust and reinforcing the rule of law in Liberia.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

NDMA receives more funding to fight disasters here

Liberia's National Disaster Management Agency receives financial support to respond to victims of disaster in the country.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, November 8, 2024 - The Liberia National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has received US\$20 million from the World Bank, along with an additional US\$1.5 million in cash assistance from the World Food Program to support both disaster response and immediate recovery initiatives for flood-affected victims in Liberia.

Following extreme rainfall and resulting flooding between June 28 and July 1, 2024, in Montserrado, Bong, and Grand Cape Mount Counties, the European Union allocated EUR 130,000 in emergency humanitarian funding to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the disaster.

The National Disaster

including Rivercess, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, and Montserrado.

NDMA Executive Director Ansu V. S. Dulleh, Sr., said the money was given to address specific needs of the counties severely impacted by floods. He told our reporter Tuesday, November 5, 2025 that the funds will be directed towards essential resources such as shelters, food, water, and medical support, aimed at enhancing disaster response infrastructure to provide relief for the affected counties.

"We will now be able to establish temporary shelters, restore damaged infrastructure, and educate the community on flood preparedness to ensure they do not only recover, but also become more resilient to future flood challenges." Without providing specific details on when and where the funds were disbursed, Mr.



Management Agency (NDMA) reported that the unprecedented rainfall resulted in two deaths and displaced nearly 50,000 people, severely damaging homes, schools, and hospitals in Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa counties. At the conclusion of their report, the NDMA called for international support, estimating a need for US\$10 million in emergency relief.

On July 16, 2024, the NDMA also projected that approximately 100,000 people remained at risk of flooding, storms, and coastal erosion, with heightened health risks expected. Of those affected, about 68% was women, children, and other vulnerable groups, including individuals with disabilities and single mothers, prompting the European Union to allocate EUR 130,000 in emergency humanitarian aid.

More recently, the NDMA received US\$20 million from the World Bank, along with an additional USD 1.5 million in cash assistance from the World Food Programme to address the specific needs of counties severely impacted by the floods,

Dulleh emphasized that the intervention is crucial for stabilizing local communities and equipping his team to respond quickly to emergencies.

He added that the funds will be used to compensate officials, helping to create a self-sustaining workforce that will be ready to respond to future emergencies.

He expressed gratitude to the World Food Program and the World Bank for their generous support, noting that it is not only a testament to their solidarity with Liberia but also underscores their commitment to establishing robust frameworks that support both disaster response and immediate recovery efforts. "As we speak, Liberia is committed to strengthening its preparedness through an early warning system initiative supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)."

According to him, this initiative aims to enhance the early warning system, ensuring that local communities receive timely alerts while increasing their knowledge and practices through a standardized framework that will enable a swift and effective response to disasters.

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Ngafuan stresses domestic resource

The Chinese delegations praised Ngafuan for his steadfast leadership role-play as finance and development Planning Minister. China is committed to working with you through whatever infrastructure development to foster growth and development.

According to Ambassador YIN Chengwu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, China will continue to support the Liberian

government efforts in realizing its development potential.

"We are willing to support any of your national development and infrastructure projects across Liberia" Amb. YIN explained. China and Liberia enjoy friendly relations. In recent years, the Chinese and Liberian people have stood together in the joint fight against Ebola and COVID-19 and engaged in sincere

cooperation in the cause of national development, adding new dimensions to bilateral relations

Liberia and China's cooperation has been growing since the resumption of bilateral cooperation in 2003 and the continuous peacebuilding in Liberia. In 2012, the Chinese government offered 95% of Liberia's exports to China with duty-free treatment.

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Français

Capitole : Bras de fer politique autour de la présidence de la Chambre

La crise politique s'intensifie au Capitole, où une manifestation de soutien au président de la Chambre des représentants, Fonati Koffa, a été annulée mardi après une confrontation avec des partisans de députés responsables : Mo Ali, directeur général de la Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) ; Sirleaf Tyler, ministre des Transports ; et Francis Nyumalin, ministre des Affaires intérieures. Ils devront se présenter devant les députés le 12 novembre prochain pour expliquer ces



opposés à Koffa. Cette nouvelle escalade intervient dans un contexte de graves accusations de corruption. Selon des allégations, un montant de 750 000 USD aurait été distribué par plusieurs agences gouvernementales pour financer une campagne visant à destituer Koffa. En réponse, le « Bloc majoritaire » de la Chambre a convoqué trois hauts soupçons de financement occulte. La Commission anti-corruption du Liberia (LACC) affirme que des fonds liés à cette affaire auraient transité par des comptes de la LWSC et du ministère des Transports. Le ministre des Affaires intérieures, Francis Nyumalin, est aussi attendu pour s'exprimer sur l'avancement de la mise en œuvre de la Loi sur le gouvernement local, un dossier crucial pour de nombreux

observateurs. Le député Johnson Williams, du district électoral n°3 de River Gee, a souligné l'importance de ces accusations, déclarant : « Il est crucial que la Chambre prenne cette affaire au sérieux et montre au public notre volonté de faire la lumière sur cette situation. » Le Bloc majoritaire a, en parallèle, mandaté son secrétariat de notifier officiellement le Sénat ainsi que les branches exécutive et judiciaire, en leur conseillant de suspendre toute coopération avec le président Koffa et ses alliés. Le représentant Jeremiah Soka, du comté de Grand Gedeh, a rappelé que le Bloc majoritaire représente la majorité des députés et qu'il devrait donc être privilégié dans les échanges avec le gouvernement. Pour démettre Koffa de ses fonctions, le Bloc majoritaire doit rassembler 49 voix, un seuil qu'il n'a pas encore atteint. De son côté, Koffa, à la tête du Bloc minoritaire, compte le soutien de 37 députés, suffisamment pour assurer la tenue des sessions parlementaires. Le Bloc majoritaire, cherchant à rallier davantage de soutien pour évincer Koffa, a exhorté les députés indécis

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Lancement du magazine chrétien américain Global Ekklesia au Libéria

Le magazine chrétien international Global Ekklesia, basé à Minneapolis, dans le Minnesota, a été officiellement lancé en Libérie lors d'une cérémonie tenue à la Fondation Joseph Nyuma Boakai, sur la route de Rehab à Paynesville. Depuis son lancement en ligne en octobre 2021, Global Ekklesia publie gratuitement des nouvelles chrétiennes de qualité, et étend désormais son influence en Afrique de l'Ouest. L'événement a attiré de nombreuses personnalités locales du monde des médias, dont des éditeurs et journalistes de presse écrite et audiovisuelle, des pasteurs, ainsi que des artistes musicaux nationaux. Parmi les invités figuraient également des étudiants, des diplômés, ainsi qu'une équipe de professionnels de

santé venus des États-Unis et de la Libérie. C. Winnie Saywah-Jimmy, rédactrice en chef du The Inquirer, et Jonathan Browne, rédacteur en chef du The New Dawn, étaient également présents. Dr. Lawrence Amos Zumo, neurologue basé aux États-Unis et

originaire de Libérie, a présidé la cérémonie de lancement, en compagnie de son épouse, Janet Gbeymah Zumo. Le couple, qui se rend régulièrement en Libérie pour des missions humanitaires et médicales, a salué le travail

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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 citoyens. 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.

Français

Capitole : Bras de fer politique autour

à se joindre à eux, menaçant de sanctions en vertu de la Règle 21 de la Chambre si ces derniers continuent de soutenir Koffa lors des prochaines sessions. Par ailleurs, le Bloc majoritaire a ouvert une enquête sur six membres du Bloc Koffa, accusés d'avoir perturbé les travaux de la Chambre le 22 octobre dernier. Ces députés, dont Frank Saah Foko, Marvin Cole, Luther Collins, Edward Flomo, Abu Kamara et Zinnah Norman, ont été convoqués pour expliquer leur comportement devant une commission plénière. Alors que le bras de fer se poursuit au Capitole, cette crise laisse entrevoir de nouveaux rebondissements dans ce combat politique d'envergure, aux répercussions potentielles pour l'avenir de la Chambre des représentants.

Lancement du magazine chrétien

remarquable de James et Kekura Kamara, Fasuekoi, rédacteur en chef de Global Ekklesia, dans le domaine du journalisme de service public. Dr. Zumo, originaire de Lofa et Grand Bassa, a exprimé son admiration pour Fasuekoi, ancien correspondant de guerre et auteur du livre acclamé Loot, Rape & Murder: Liberian Civil War-A Journalist's Photo Diary. Ce livre, qui documente les horreurs de la guerre civile libérienne, est devenu une référence dans les procès pour crimes de guerre, y compris aux États-Unis.

Lors de son discours, Dr. Zumo a encouragé l'auditoire à persévérer face aux défis. "Ne jamais abandonner," a-t-il affirmé. "Lançons Global Ekklesia aujourd'hui pour que tous les Libériens puissent voir et suivre l'œuvre de Dieu."

Le magazine Global Ekklesia a été inspiré par une tragédie familiale survenue lors de la pandémie de COVID-19, et a vu le jour en octobre 2021 dans la petite ville de Howard Lake, dans le Minnesota. Ce média indépendant à but non lucratif se consacre à la diffusion de l'Évangile et utilise le journalisme pour annoncer la Bonne Nouvelle du retour du Christ.

Dr. Zumo, spécialiste en neurosciences et épilepsie, travaille dans un grand hôpital de Baltimore, Maryland, et a récemment été honoré lors de la célébration du troisième anniversaire de Global Ekklesia pour ses contributions exceptionnelles à la Libérie et à l'humanité. Aux côtés de Jackson George, directeur exécutif de la Fondation JNB,

Tensions à la NEC autour de 8 millions de dollars : La présidente et la vice-présidente en désaccord



La Commission électorale nationale du Liberia (NEC) fait face à un différend financier marqué par un litige sur l'utilisation de 8 millions de dollars restants d'un budget de 53 millions de dollars, alloué aux élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023. Ce conflit interne entre la présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne-Lassanah, et sa vice-présidente, Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, suscite des interrogations sur la gestion des finances de la commission et pourrait affecter la préparation des élections prévues pour 2029. À l'origine de cette controverse se trouve un désaccord sur la réaffectation de ces fonds. Mme Browne-Lassanah affirme que les 8 millions de dollars ont été déclarés au gouvernement en conformité avec la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques (PFM). Cette décision vise, selon elle, à assurer transparence et responsabilité dans l'administration des fonds publics. Cependant, Cllr. Reeves conteste cette approche, jugeant que ces fonds devraient être utilisés pour répondre aux besoins urgents au sein de la NEC. Mme Browne-Lassanah indique avoir consulté le ministre des Finances, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, afin de confirmer le transfert des fonds au gouvernement. Elle précise qu'un précédent ministre des Finances, Boimah Kamara, avait également validé cette démarche, et que la NEC ne peut engager aucune dépense supplémentaire sans autorisation ministérielle. Entre-temps, des dépenses de 2 millions de dollars ont été réalisées pour organiser des élections partielles dans les comtés de Nimba et

Grand Gedeh, ramenant le solde à 5 millions de dollars. Selon des sources proches du dossier, le ministre Ngafuan aurait informé la NEC que le délai pour utiliser ces 8 millions de dollars était expiré et que toute réaffectation future ne pourrait se faire qu'avec un solde réduit à environ 2 millions de dollars. Face à cette restriction, la NEC a soumis une demande de budget supplémentaire de 2 millions de dollars, incluant des allocations pour les primes de risque et les assurances du personnel. Mme Browne-Lassanah, visiblement frustrée, a déclaré lors d'une intervention sur OK FM lundi que son autorité en tant que présidente n'est pas pleinement reconnue par certains membres de la NEC, certains la voyant uniquement comme une porte-parole, ce qui, selon elle, contribue aux tensions internes. Cllr. Reeves a nié avoir discuté de cette déclaration des fonds restants avec Mme Browne-Lassanah. Elle a expliqué que ses différends avec la présidente sont d'abord liés à des questions de répartition des responsabilités au sein de la NEC, et non à des conflits personnels. Elle a également souligné son respect de la loi PFM, qui impose de restituer tout excédent de fonds au gouvernement. "Pourquoi m'opposerais-je au retour des 8 millions de dollars alors que la loi l'exige ?" a-t-elle ajouté, affirmant que sa formation juridique l'engage à respecter scrupuleusement les procédures légales. Cllr. Reeves a également critiqué ce qu'elle perçoit comme des décisions unilatérales de Mme Browne-Lassanah.

La LACC intensifie la lutte contre la corruption avec une formation dédiée

Face à la persistance de la corruption dans l'administration publique, la Commission anti-corruption du Liberia (LACC), avec l'appui du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) et le financement du Fonds pour la consolidation de la paix des Nations Unies, a lancé une formation de trois jours centrée sur la transparence et l'intégrité en gouvernance. Placée sous le thème « Renforcer la justice, la transparence et l'intégrité par la gouvernance collaborative », cette initiative réunit des représentants d'institutions de régulation et de l'appareil judiciaire afin de mieux les outiller pour lutter contre la corruption. Les participants approfondiront leur maîtrise des lois anti-corruption et des mécanismes de responsabilisation. La présidente de la LACC, Cllr. Alexandra K. Zoe, a réaffirmé l'engagement de la Commission à promouvoir l'intégrité au sein des institutions publiques : « Les institutions de régulation et le système judiciaire sont des



partenaires clés dans la lutte contre la corruption. Cette formation leur apporte des outils essentiels pour renforcer la transparence et la responsabilité. Ensemble, nous construisons un avenir où l'intégrité deviendra le socle de notre développement national. » Représentant le superintendant du comté de Bomi, M. Alphonso Sherman a salué les participants et réitéré l'engagement du gouvernement à faire de la transparence une priorité. « Le gouvernement prend au sérieux la gouvernance exemplaire. Nous encourageons le public à vérifier l'usage des fonds de développement afin de garantir une gestion rigoureuse et transparente. »

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The Liberian government: Understanding the Collaborative

Thoughts, Politics, and People is a column that should attract the participation of Liberians intellectuals and functional arms of Government. It is against the issues of national concerns that I sought permission to make a contribution and detail what Mr. Hne sought to provide. It is my conviction that others would follow suit. I believe that there is a lack of understanding on the part of most of our compatriots and citizenry about the collaborations that exist between the Executive and Legislative branches of government. This assertion is informed by the loose statements people often make when given their evaluations of the overall performances of the three branches of Government.

Owing to this lack of understanding also, our people in most instances tend to exclusively give all the credits to the President alone for successes made by the Government of the day, thus leaving out the role played by the Legislature in the achievement of the successes made by Government. Whether crediting the President exclusively for all the good works of the Government is done out of ignorance or for the sole purpose of blackmailing the lawmakers, the fact remains that many of our compatriots and constituents just do not understand the inner workings of the collaborations that characterized the works of the Executive and Legislative branches of Government. It therefore behooves us as Legislators to put in place the necessary framework to educate the public about our scope of work as provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

By this means, our people would gradually come to understand and know that both the Legislative and Executive branches of Government have distinct roles to play in the processes of governance and, that until there is coordination between these two key branches of Government, the development of the Country becomes elusive.

The intent of this article is, therefore, to provide some basic insights for our people to know and understand the processes of coordination between the Legislature and the Executive, and how such coordination has accounted for the on-going development of this country.

By the operation of the 1986 constitution of the Republic of Liberia, there are three distinct, but coordinate branches of Government that make up what is referred to as the “Government of Liberia” Of the three branches of Government, the Legislature, which is considered the first branch and the Executive, the Second branch must closely work in Coordination with each other to fully constitute the Government of the Republic of Liberia. By this Constitution, we mean, all of the laws that brought into existence ministries, agencies, commissions, and all Courts of record were made possible as a result of the process of coordination between the Legislative and Executive branches of Government. The Constitution of Liberia vests the Executive authority of the State in a President who is also considered Head of State and Commander in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The Armed Forces of Liberia include the Military and all paramilitary organizations created by an Act of the Legislature and the President of the Republic of Liberia. The same Constitution under Article 29 vests the Legislative authority in a Legislature comprising of two distinct Houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives each of which must agree and pass on all legislations and major policy decisions before becoming binding laws on the people of Liberia.

In the spirit of coordination, the Constitution requires that for all laws agreed and passed upon by the Legislature to become binding on the Liberian people, same must be signed by the President and printed into handbills for circulation, so that everyone will know what the laws say about a specific subject matter. The intent of the above-mentioned illustration is to explain to our people in simple terms that the lawmakers and the President are duty-bound to work together for the enhancement of development in our country. Since the purpose of this Article is to deal with this collaborative process between the Executive and Legislative branches of Government and the extent to which such collaboration has impacted the development drive of the country, let us examine the process of collaboration within the context as to how the debts of

Liberia were waived.

Liberia has been indebted to other nations and International financial lending institutions over a period of time in the Sum of US\$3.8 billion United States Dollars. This debt was monies that accumulated over a period of time with interest. The 3.8 billion was credited by successive political leaderships in the names of building good road network, health care delivery system, better educational facilities, and so forth. The loan short landed in the pockets of selected group of people at the helm of power while the vast majority on whose behalf the monies were credited continued to live in abject poverty. Looking at the size and population of Liberia within the context of how the 3.8 billion was used, one would realize that the monies were never used for the intended purposes. It is worth mentioning that these loans were obtained at a time when the mining sector of Liberia was in its vibrancy. Resources such as Iron ores, diamonds, and gold were much needed for substantial portion of the country’s revenue potential.

As if squandering 3.8 billion dollars at the detriment of our people was not enough, revenues generated from iron ore, rubber, gold, and diamond were also grossly mismanaged. Due to the long years of denial of our people couple with the perpetration of other social vices against them, disenchantment and disillusionment set in and later germinated into the 14 years of civil crisis this country had to go through. After 14 years of self-destruction, major international actors under the auspices of the International Contact Group on Liberia intervened to bring to an end our nightmare. As a means of re-uniting the Country under centralized political



leadership, disarmament, demobilization, resettlement, and elections were held out of which this Government came into being.

Since coming into being, the preoccupation of the Government and International actors have been to put in place systems backed by laws to ensure that this country does not revert to its ugly past anymore. In order to put the country on course, major reform measures were proposed by Liberia’s development partners. These reform proposals required the Government of Liberia to repeal and/or pass new laws that are sensitive to the development goals and objectives of Liberia.

The Passage of these new laws as a way of making Liberia debt free and credit worthy could not have been made possible without the collaboration of the Legislative and Executive branches of Government. The first benchmark Legislation was the passage of the Forest Management Act and the Community Rights Law which led to the lifting of the ban on all forest products. The intent of the Forest Management Act and the Community rights law is to ensure that the communities in which the forest concessionaire operates get just social services benefits; something that was not done in the past. Following the passage of these laws, portion of Liberia’s debt was waived and grants were given to the Government to underwrite the cost of some of its development programs. Another benchmark legislation passed by the Legislature for debt waiver is the passage of a law that created the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). The rationale for the creation of this Commission is to ensure that contracts that the Liberia Government desires to award to companies and contractors are bided for and awarded on the basis of merit.

In the past, political leaders awarded contracts on the basis of

friendship and not on the basis of the ability of the contractor or company to perform. As a result of this, many contracts were compromised at the detriment of a country that stood in need of rapid developments. The PPCC therefore requires a competitive bidding process in which due diligence is done on all bidders, so that the ability to perform can clearly be determined. These capabilities take into account technical know-how, financial capability and the willingness of bidders to substantially contribute to the implementation of the project (s), in keeping with corporate responsibility.

Another crucial piece of legislation was the Security Sector Reform Act passed by the Legislature and approved by the President of Liberia for the entire security sector of this country to undergo reform. The intent of this law is to create a security force sensitive to the civic responsibilities of the Liberian people and to ensure the creation of a security force that will be free of regime influences. During the course of our civil crisis, the security forces were divided along fractional lines, thereby, making them to hold loyalty to only their commanders and those that control them from the political point-of-view. These forces committed wanton atrocities and other forms of abuses against the citizens; thereby, making public confidence to erode in them. As a result of the passage of the Security Sector Reform Act, the army and Police forces are today being re-organized and restructured to reflect the changing times and changing realities.

Following this, a portion of Liberia’s debt was waived and additional grants given to underwrite the cost of the reconstruction of roads and other meaningful projects. The intent of these grants is to help the Government of Liberia to carryout development, since the Government was not yet credit worthy. Another Crucial benchmark legislation for debt waiver was an Act passed by the Legislature to create the Independent Human Rights commission which was created and charged with the responsibility to implement the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the view to making recommendations to the legislature for abuses committed during the course of the war to either be punished or forgiven.

It is worth noting that for every step taken to meet up with these reforms requirements as proposed and agreed upon by and between the Government of Liberia and development partners, portion of our debt was always waived and additional grants given for development. Benchmark legislation for the HIPAC Completion processes was the passage of the Investment Incentive Code Act by the Legislature and approved by the President. The object of this Act is to grant investors tax holidays and create a business-friendly atmosphere to attract more investors into the economy of Liberia.

Liberia is blessed with abundant of resources, so it cannot be developed only by the giving of grants through the international community, but through the creation of a viable, conducive investment atmosphere; thus, making full use of these naturally endowed resources. Benchmark legislation was the passage into law by the legislature the Public Financial Management Act, an Act that calls for clear-cut financial policies and practices, so that when Liberia becomes credit worthy these will serve as guides that will not allow us to revert to things that led the country into plunder. Following the passage of this Act, Liberia debt was waived and declared credit worthy. These illustrations are made to pin-point at how the Legislature and the Executive on the one hand have interacted with our development partners in waiving the 3.8 billion dollars debt.

Without the collaboration and interactions between the legislature and the Executive, the legal processes leading to the waiver of Liberia’s debt would not have been realizable. Furthermore, the impressive levels of achievements would not have been possible. For one to therefore credit the President alone for all the good works and refer to the Legislature as not doing anything further exposes, in no uncertain terms, the limitation of the vast majority of our people in the governance process. The GAC must also be credited for carrying out audits that were purely intended to expose lapses and wastes in five of our Ministries and agencies which were also basic requirements for the waiver of our debts. These ministries and agencies include, but not limited to Lands and Mines, Finance, Education, Health, and the National Investment Commission.

CDC congratulates Trump

Mr. Trump is set to make a historic return to the White House after his rival Kamala Harris conceded defeat following the November 5 elections.

Monrovia, November 8, 2024: Liberia's main opposition party, Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), has congratulated U.S. President-Elect Donald Trump on his historic win.

Mr. Trump is set to make a historic return to the White House after his rival Kamala Harris conceded defeat following the November 5 elections. In a statement dated November 6, 2024, the CDC

National Executive Committee appreciated all Americans for the successful conduct of the 2024.

"Former President Trump's win is a testament to the strength of American Democracy, which shows exceptional respect for the will of the people," the party said.

In another development, has announced the suspension of some of its lawmakers who have been involved in the plot to

suspended those lawmakers allegedly being used.

Further, the party has requested the suspended lawmakers to avail themselves of the National Disciplinary Committee (Grievance and Ethics Committee) for investigation.

It detailed that the request is in keeping with Part I, Article 15, Section 80 and Part II, Chapter I, Rules 17 & 18 of the party's constitution. The suspended lawmakers are Deputy House Speaker Thomas P. Fallah of Lofa County Electoral District #1, Alexander Poure of River Gee County Electoral District #1, and Isaac B. Choloplay Wuo of River Gee County Electoral District #2.

Others are Johnson S. N. Williams of River Gee County

Electoral District #3; Julie F. Wiah of Lofa County Electoral District #2; and Momo Siafa Kpoto of Lofa County Electoral District #3. Ivar K. Jones, District #2, Margibi County; Emmanuel Yarl, District #4, Margibi

that the Executive Branch is allegedly interfering and dominating the Legislature and disrespecting the decisions of the Liberian Judiciary.

"Mr. Boakai is unbothered amid the Government's failure to pay the AFL and other government workers," the CDC noted. It also claimed massive off-budget spending and rampant corruption at several government institutions, including the LRRRC, among others.

While the CDC made these claims, it also failed to mention that the Executive has suspended officials accused of corruption at the LRRRC.

Instead, it noted that the government has chosen to waste State resources by sponsoring the removal of Speaker Koffa, a plot led by CDC lawmakers. "It is evident that Mr. Boakai and his Unity Party Government are crumbling under the weight of their government and are seeking escape through possible instability that may result from his dangerous political manoeuvring," the



remove Hous Speaker Fonati Koffa.

Cllr. Koffa's quest to institute change and some level of transparency in the House of Representatives has turned some of his colleagues against him. For several weeks CDC lawmakers have been leading the Speaker's removal plot, but they are yet to acquire the needed 49 lawmakers to oust Speaker Koffa.

Their party claimed to be surprised that some of its partisans who are lawmakers will allow themselves to be used in this process. "This act of the partisans violates Part II, Chapter I, Rule 5 of the CDC Constitution," the CDC statement noted. "Hence, the Party will create no space for such deviant partisans." The CDC has, therefore, temporarily

County; Clarence Gahr, District #5, Margibi County; and P. Mike Jurry, District #1, Maryland County have also been suspended. The suspension list also includes Samson Q. Wiah of District #2, Sinoe County. While suspending its lawmakers, the CDC and the National Executive Committee urged President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to desist from alleged selfish political desires.

The opposition party accused President Boakai of allegedly trying to destabilize the democracy of the State, though it provided no evidence. The CDC asserted that President Boakai is dangerously attempting to impose a one-party-dominant state and undermine checks and balances in the Government.

The opposition continued

CDC said.

It cited alleged continuous political harassment of the CDC and the unlawful removal of the Speaker.

Meanwhile, the CDC said it remains committed to upholding the peace and stability of the State.

At the same time, cautioned President Boakai to desist from instituting political manipulations that have the potential to undermine the hard-earned peace.

In furtherance, the CDC informed all its partisans and supporters that its Martyrs Day, November 7, 2024, will celebrate in District #15, Montserrado County. "This year's celebration will be held in a quiet ceremony in the said district; we encourage all partisans to assemble."

US AFRICOM Commander vows to address AFL challenges

On Wednesday, the AFRICOM commander held a press stakeout with a team of journalists at the United States Embassy near Monrovia.

By Lewis S. Teh
Monrovia, November 8, 2024: The Sixth Commander of the US Africa Command of the United States Marines Corps, General

General Langley disclosed that disinformation and misinformation exacerbate instability.

"You have a representative governance of democracy. As long



Michael E. Langley, has vowed to address challenges and opportunities confronting the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

During his first official visit to the country, Gen. Langley said the AFRICOM's approach is on the African continent with United States' partners. It extends out to over 53 different countries.

The US Africa Command is one of the seven joint service geographic combatant commands that is responsible for all US military operations and activities to protect and advance US national interest in Africa. "And I'm honored to actually be able to be here in Liberia, my first visit, and being able to communicate and share ideas and address challenges, but also address opportunities. And that's pretty much the purpose of my trip here," Gen. Langley said on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

On Wednesday, the AFRICOM commander met with a team of journalists at the United States Embassy in a press stakeout.

The U.S. General was quizzed about security measures put in place to maintain the trust of US allies, especially with Russia's dominance across the region.

In response, the AFRICOM commander admitted that the U.S. sees Russia's dominance as a challenge.

"And we see that as a challenge. Yes, it has been a challenge across the Sahel," he stated.

"It's been a challenge in Central Africa and all the way up to Libya. Destabilizing type activities, mainly brought about by misinformation and disinformation," he explained further.

as that is strengthened and institutionalized, I don't see it as a challenge to civil society in this country. I can't say that across the Sahel. They're learning," Gen. Langley said.

Next month, Gen. Langley said the United States will be laying out those challenges geographically.

For his part, United States Ambassador accredited to Liberia Mark C. Toner said the AFRICOM advances vital U.S. national security interests throughout Africa.

He detailed that AFRICOM does this through focus and sustained engagement with partners on the African continent and in support of shared security objectives.

Accordingly, the U.S. Ambassador said General Langley's presence in Liberia is a testament to the strong military partnership the U.S. shares with Liberia.

He added that it's also a testament to the U.S. government's commitment to reinforcing its shared security interests and to reinforcing relationships with key partners.

The U.S. envoy disclosed that the general has had constructive meetings today and that he'll talk in greater detail with President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, the Minister of Defense, and a range of defense and military leaders here.

"These meetings were a valuable opportunity to reinforce our strong military partnership and to gain perspective on a variety of regional security issues."

During his visit, General Langley met with President Boakai, the Minister of Defense, and the Army Chief of Staff.



S/Court declines to halt Koffa's removal

Speaker Koffa says he will not resign in the face of a callous disregard for the legal process by his colleagues who are seeking his removal.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, November 8, 2024: Liberia's Supreme Court Chamber Justice Yarmie Quiqui

bloc seeking his removal. However, the Chamber Justice declined to issue a writ of prohibition against his colleagues seeking to

has declined to issue the writ prayed for," the Court said. "Meanwhile, the stay order of October 25, 2024 is hereby lifted. Kind regards."

Following the Chamber Justice's decision, embattled House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa said he takes cognizance of the ruling from the Supreme Court of Liberia.

According to speaker Koffa, he respects the decision of Justice Gbeisay but noted that such does not exhaust his legal options. "I'm standing on the side of the law and will remain on course to ensure that no group of members will subvert the Constitution of Liberia and the house rules."

Koffa said he intends to take further legal actions in the coming days to assert his rights before the law.

"I will not resign in the face of such callous disregard to the legal process," Speaker Koffa said.



House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa

Gbeisay has declined to issue a writ to prohibit rebel lawmakers from removing House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa.

Koffa had prayed for the writ of prohibition against the self-styled majority

constrain them from holding separate sessions.

"RESPONDENTS By directive of His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr., Associate Justice presiding in Chambers, you are hereby informed that the Justice

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