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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024	LS\$187.7086/US\$1.00	LS\$189.0211/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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French Version Inside

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In House crisis:

ECOWAS to pick

where S/Court fails

ECOWAS Chairman Dr. Omar Alieu Touray

Boakai seeks legal

advice on House infighting

-Suspends Budget submission again

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Continental News

Putin offers African countries Russia's 'total support'

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov read out Vladimir Putin's speech to the gathering Russian President Vladimir

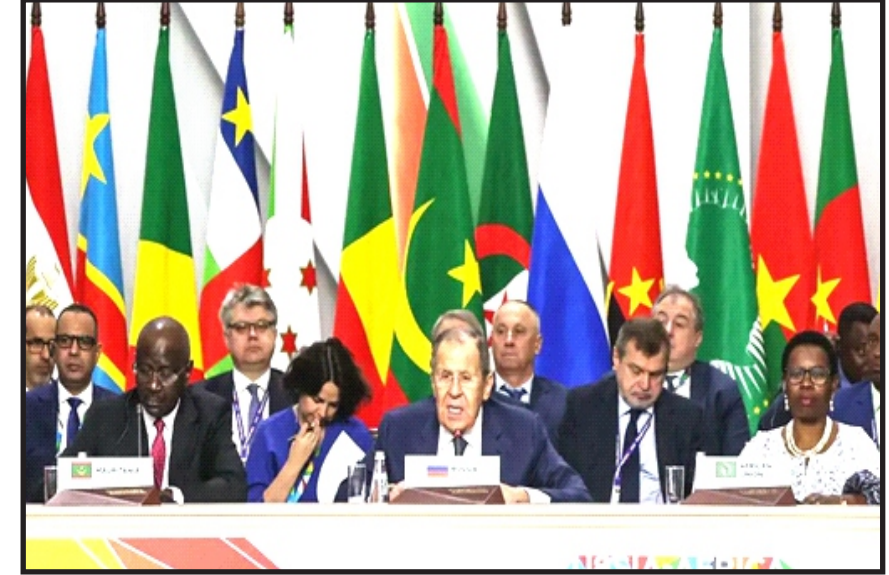
Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré said Russia was a more suitable international partner than the former colonial power, France. It is a view shared by several of

people. The two parties have agreed to step up the pace to ensure rapid results," he said on the second and final day of the conference of African foreign ministers.

Wagner mercenary fighters - now rebranded under the Africa Corps banner by Russia's defence ministry - were the preferred choice for the military leaders who ordered French and UN troops to leave.

Russia's help, often in exchange for access to raw materials, also comes with a promise that there will be no meddling in a country's internal affairs or lessons on how to run an election. However, Russia's military expeditions to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have helped protect the junta leaders there, but have failed to make much progress in the fight against Islamist militants. Nonetheless, the Kremlin is trumpeting about these new-found friends, with foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova saying the conference had dashed Western hopes for Russia's isolation. And Lavrov said Russia's relations with Africa were strengthening "more and more" with progress "on all axes". Putin's speech underlined this point.

France's former colonies - and was reiterated by Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop, who contrasted the Kremlin's "sincere" partnership to the "neo-colonial" relationship of Western powers. He said that as well as military co-operation, Mali was exploring other joint projects in the energy, telecommunications, technology and mining sectors. "Russian companies are working in all these areas with the Malian government and [private] partners in Mali to provide solutions to the challenges facing the Malian



Putin has offered what he called "total support" for Africa, including in the struggle against terrorism and extremism. The speech was read out at a summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to his African counterparts. Several African governments have cut ties with traditional Western allies and are looking to Moscow for help in tackling frequent attacks by jihadists. During the summit, Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister

Massive sex tape leak could be a ploy for power in central Africa

Baltasar Ebang Engonga was detained on suspicion of corruption before the videos were leaked. What the rest of the world sees as a sex tape scandal could in fact be the latest episode in the real-life drama over who will become Equatorial Guinea's next president. Over the past fortnight, dozens of videos - estimates range from 150 to more than 400 - have been leaked of a senior civil servant having sex in his office and elsewhere with different women. They have flooded social media, shocking and titillating people in the small central African country and beyond. Many of the women filmed were wives and relatives of people close to the centre of power. It appears some were aware they were being filmed having sex with Baltasar Ebang Mr Engonga, who is also known as

"Bello" because of his good looks. All this is hard to verify as Equatorial Guinea is a highly restricted society where a free press does not exist. But one theory is that the leaks were a way to discredit the man at the centre of the storm. Mr Engonga is a nephew of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema and one of those thought

to be hoping to replace him. Obiang is the world's longest-serving president having been in power since 1979. The 82-year-old has overseen an economic boom that has turned to bust as a result of the now-dwindling oil reserves. There is a small, extremely wealthy elite, but many of the 1.7 million people in the country live in poverty.



Ivory Coast: Parties begin preps for 2025 presidential election

By Africanews

Former Ivorian Prime Minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan was on Saturday named candidate for the Popular Ivorian Front (FPI) in the 2025 presidential election.

war crimes and crimes against humanity charges.

N'Guessan has sought the presidency in 2015 and 2020, each time losing to Alassane Ouattara, the incumbent.

He rejected the results and was



At a congress in Yamoussoukro, the Ivorian capital, N'Guessan was re-elected president of the FPI with 99.34% of the votes cast by some 4,500 voters.

The FPI is the party of former President Laurent Gbagbo. N'Guessan took over its leadership during Gbagbo's incarceration in the Hague on

briefly arrested on accusations of running a 'parallel government'.

Some of N'Guessan's key proposals include abolishing senate and the restoration of presidential term limits.

Ouattara who won re-election controversially has not said whether he will seek a fourth term. -African news

Mauritius heads to the polls in wake of wiretapping scandal

By Africanews with AP

The Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius will hold a national election Sunday, where Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth seeks to win a second term as leader of a nation often praised as one of Africa's success stories. Mauritius, which sits about 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) off Africa's east coast, is recognised as one of the continent's most stable democracies and has developed a successful economy underpinned by its finance, tourism and agricultural sectors since independence from Britain in 1968.

Jugnauth, 62, has been prime minister since 2017, when he succeeded his father. An alliance of parties led by his center-left Militant Socialist Movement won a majority of seats in Parliament to cement his leadership in 2019. Mauritius has a long history of parties joining in alliances to contest elections. The MSM has led the government since 2009.

Jugnauth's five-party People's Alliance will be challenged by opposition leader Navin Ramgoolam's Alliance for Change in this weekend's election. Mauritians will vote for 62 seats in Parliament, and the party or alliance with a majority forms the government and chooses the prime minister. Another eight lawmakers are nominated by the Electoral Supervisory Council. The World Bank has described Mauritius, a former colony of sugar plantations, as a "beacon of success for sub-Saharan Africa" and says it has achieved remarkable economic growth since independence. Mauritius was briefly rated a high-income country in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic set it back.



EDITORIAL

Liberia's dealing with ECOWAS

In less than six months the Economic Community of West Africa is back in Liberia for mediation amid current leadership crisis in the House of Representatives at the Capitol Building. Forty-three of the 73 members of the House are opting to oust Speaker Fonati J. Koffa, accusing him of conflict of interest and corruption, charges the Speaker has denied.

On the other hand, 30 lawmakers are standing with the Speaker though no side has been able to obtain a quorum to conduct business in the main chamber, holding the business of the Liberian people hostage.

About tree months ago ECOWAS was in the country following a bloody standoff between riot officers of the Liberia National Police and partisans and supporters of the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) of Ex-president George Weah.

Though the regional bloc denied that its visit then had nothing to do with the fracas that left both police officers and stone-throwing rioters wounded, it came just after former President George Manneh Weah officially complained to the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS for alleged witch-hunt of his former officials by the government of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. Mr. Weah also complained of the government denying usage of the VIP Lounge at the Roberts International Airport, which sent his supporters protesting.

Despite the denial, the ECOWAS delegation did meet with President Boakai and former President Weah separately, while the country.

This time around, it is the ECOWAS Parliamentary Mediation Mission visiting Liberia. It is here to mediate between the factions in the House.

On November 8, 2024, the Economic Community of West African States sent a formal communication to embattled Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa, informing him and his colleagues about the presence of its Parliamentary Mediation Mission in the country. The mediation is scheduled to take place from November 11 to 15, 2024, aimed at addressing the ongoing political impasse within the 55th Legislature, specifically in the House of Representatives, that has stalled legislative works.

But how does Liberia, a member country, want to work with the regional bloc, when in one instance, the Government of Liberia arrogantly ignored ruling from the ECOWAS Court, and in another instance, it seeks intervention of the body in its political impasse.

The House of Representatives under the former 54th Legislature impeached Supreme Court of Liberia Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, and Ja'neh took a complaint before the Court and got ruling in his favor, calling for reparation. But the Government of Liberia is yet to respond accordingly.

In its ruling, the regional court ordered the Government of Liberia to award Justice Ja'neh a sum of US\$200,000, as reparation for moral prejudice suffered in violation of his right. But the government is yet to pay to this date.

Now it needs the intervention of the very body to resolve the crippling crisis in the House of Representatives that is stalling public hearing of the National Budget, leading President Boakai to beg the legislature for additional days in submitting the budget. It is important that we as a country, learn to treat international bodies that we are a part of with respect to sustain such relationship because we will always need them, as in the current case.

COMMENTARY

By Emmanuel Macron,
Mia Amor Mottley,
and William Ruto

The Case for Solidarity Levies

BAKU - From Bridgetown to Nairobi to Paris, no country is immune to the worsening effects of the climate crisis. With each passing year, we witness more climate-related destruction. In 2024, we have set a number of [new records](#): wildfires in Chile have destroyed more than 14,000 homes; extreme rainfall in Brazil has devastated 478 cities and left nearly two million people stranded in Bangladesh; and in July the world experienced its [hottest day ever](#).

Africa has contributed only 3% of historical greenhouse-gas emissions, yet it endures some of the most severe climate-related disasters. These now cost the continent [\\$15 billion](#) per year, with climate-induced droughts and floods in 2023 causing food insecurity for more than 40 million Africans.

Convinced that no country should have to choose between fighting the climate crisis and combating poverty, we have decided to contribute to an ambitious reform of the international financial architecture. The [Paris Pact for People and the Planet](#), the [Bridgetown Initiative](#), and the [Nairobi Declaration](#) each seek to provide one piece of the puzzle. Current international dynamics give us hope: many reform tracks have been opened up, and some have delivered results. That said, many more efforts are needed, and no options should be overlooked.

One key piece is still underused: “solidarity levies.” Such policies are necessary to ensure that everyone contributes their fair share to what should be a global effort. There are swaths of the economy which are largely under-taxed yet polluting the planet. This applies to maritime shipping, aviation, and, of course, the fossil-fuel industry, which enjoys low effective tax rates due to government subsidies (totaling an estimated [\\$7 trillion](#) in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund).

These levies can contribute by allocating a share of the revenues to developing countries. A global levy of 0.1% on stock and bond trades could raise up to [\\$418 billion](#) per year. A levy on shipping of \$100 per ton of carbon dioxide could raise [\\$80 billion](#) per year. A levy on fossil-fuel extraction of \$5 per ton of CO₂ could raise [\\$210 billion](#) per year. Even a partial redistribution through solidarity levies would guarantee a large source of predictable climate finance for these countries, thus complementing flows of official development assistance without amplifying existing debt burdens.

The benefits would be significant. Despite Africa's climate vulnerability, its vast potential to leverage renewable energy and critical minerals, and its role as a global carbon sink, the continent receives far less climate finance than [it needs](#). Solidarity levies could provide

the funding needed to drive green development in Africa and around the world, especially in vulnerable low- and middle-income countries and small states with little fiscal room for building resilience or climate action.

These levies already exist. More than [30 countries](#) currently implement a financial transaction tax, and at least 21 have a levy on airplane tickets. Moreover, even small-scale initiatives such as the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds demonstrate the feasibility of an international redistribution mechanism. To replicate and scale up these models requires further international cooperation to limit market distortions and preserve a level playing field.

To that end, we launched the [Global Solidarity Levies Task Force](#) last year at COP28. With 13 member countries already, the task force has been examining the potential of levies across shipping, aviation, fossil fuels, and financial transactions, as well as exploring options like levies on plastic or cryptocurrency. In early 2025, we will publicly launch a handful of concrete proposals with rigorous impact assessments. These will be scalable - raising at least \$100 billion per year - and accompanied by clear assessments of potential externalities.

As we head toward COP30 in Belém, Brazil, next year, political leadership will be essential to the initiative's success. COP29 this month will provide the right opportunity to discuss our options and get on track for success. Our plan is to hold a special event for heads of state and government to marshal further support for our solidarity-levies coalition. This is a crucial opportunity to ensure that the United Nations' [New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance](#) incorporates solidarity levies and unlocks climate-finance flows that are both ambitious and equitable.

When it comes to additional sources of finance, experts often allude to “innovative finance.” In the case of global solidarity levies, the only innovation required is ambitious leadership across a sufficient base of countries. Let the tenth anniversary of the Paris climate agreement next year be remembered as the moment when we came together as a global community to implement solidarity levies, providing the financial tools necessary to meet the great challenge of our time. Ahead of COP29, we call on all governments to join our coalition, and we welcome the support of civil society, business leaders, and multilateral institutions.

The authors co-chair the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force. Emmanuel Macron is President of France. Mia Amor Mottley is Prime Minister of Barbados. William Ruto is President of Kenya.

OP-ED

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.

The 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.

This ever-deepening division 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.

OPINION

by Ajay Mathur,
Fatih Birol

Unleashing Solar Power's Bright Future

PARIS - Solar power has been the star of the clean-energy transition, delivering major benefits for the climate, the cost of living, and energy security. With an average annual growth rate of almost 30% over the last decade, the market for solar power has undergone a rapid transformation. What was once a heavily subsidized renewable-energy technology is now a readily available mainstream solution - whether one needs to power skyscrapers in large cities or deliver electricity to small businesses in rural areas.

Solar has become an increasingly attractive option for electricity producers and consumers alike. In 2023, additions to the world's renewable power capacity grew by 50%, and most of that was solar PV. With supportive policies already in place in more than 130 countries, solar power looks set to continue playing its starring role for the rest of this decade. Compared with the previous five years, solar PV deployment through 2030 is expected to more than double in major economies such as the United States, China, the European Union, India, and Brazil.

Falling costs have been a key driver of this growth, with solar-panel prices declining by almost 50% in 2023. The combination of lower costs, scalable manufacturing, and quick installation means that solar PV is cheaper than new fossil-fuel power plants in most markets. Moreover, the benefits of solar can be amplified when paired with energy storage such as batteries or connected to larger, flexible systems via grids to deliver reliable power supplies.

Still, despite the unprecedented growth of solar power in recent years, the world needs to triple its renewable-energy capacity by 2030. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28) last year, all countries agreed that meeting this goal is necessary to keep the 1.5° Celsius target for global warming within reach. The task for policymakers is to provide regulatory certainty for the private sector; ramp up investments in solar and other renewables, electricity storage, and grid infrastructure; cut red tape and remove administrative barriers; and improve access to finance, particularly for projects in emerging and developing economies.

Fortunately, even high inflation and tightening supply chains have not prevented the cost of solar PV from falling dramatically. But since this trend is largely due to China's massive investments in solar-panel production, the international solar supply chain has become highly concentrated. As the growth of solar PV continues, manufacturing will need to become more diversified to ensure resilient supply chains. Initiatives such as the US Inflation Reduction Act, India's Production-Linked Incentive, and the EU's Net-Zero Industry Act will be crucial to building and revitalizing homegrown clean-energy industries.

Solar will be essential to meet growing energy demands, not least in emerging and developing economies, where policymakers are seeking to help their citizens realize their economic aspirations while limiting greenhouse-gas emissions. For many countries, renewables like solar can also reduce reliance on energy imports, limit exposure to global supply disruptions, and improve energy security over the long term. But as technologies and consumer behavior evolve, the need for more sophisticated energy infrastructure will grow.

As matters stand, investments to expand grid infrastructure are not keeping pace with the growth of clean-energy technologies, and this is delaying the rollout of new projects, including for solar. New electricity networks often take 5-15 years to plan and complete, whereas new renewables projects take only 1-5 years. Making matters worse, investment in grids - which needs to reach more than \$600 billion per year by 2030 - is not flowing to the regions that need it most. Grid investments in many emerging and developing economies have been well below the levels needed to meet robust growth in electricity demand and to expand access.

This shortfall represents an opportunity that must not be squandered. Solar PV has enormous potential to provide electricity to the many millions of people who currently lack it, most of whom are in Africa. But access to finance is crucial. Many emerging and developing economies (with the exception of China) are missing out on the current wave of clean-energy investments because of the high costs of capital for new projects. The risk premium that investors demand to enter less-established markets is directly undermining solar power's competitiveness.

Removing this obstacle requires action from governments, multilateral development banks, and others to bring down the cost of capital in these markets. The situation is urgent. To limit global warming to 1.5° C, we must more than triple annual clean-energy investment in emerging and developing economies within the next decade.

Solar's growth shows what is possible. If policymakers can overcome the remaining technological, regulatory, and financial barriers, the COP28 goal of tripling renewable-energy capacity by 2030 will be well within reach - with solar leading the way. But if these barriers remain unaddressed, the energy transition will leave many countries behind, and it will fall far short of what the world needs.

NEW FUTURE

Seltue Karweaye

Can President Boakai ensure justice for war crimes in Liberia and pave the way for healing and accountability?

Despite Liberia currently enjoying a degree of peace, its path to recovery remains perilous. In 2009, Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission called on the presidency to create a War and Economic Crimes Court, a crucial step towards justice. Yet, successive leaders, including Nobel Peace Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, have neglected this vital directive, prioritizing convenience over accountability. Her successor, George Weah, chose to safeguard his power by protecting individuals suspected of war-era economic crimes, notably Senator Prince Johnson. In the wake of his defeat in the 2023 election, Joseph Boakai, Sirleaf's former vice president, now leads the nation.

President Boakai has sincerely explained to the Liberian people his commitment to leaving a meaningful legacy, with the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court at the forefront of his agenda. This court is not just a matter of justice; it is essential for Liberia's healing and future. In June 2024, President Joseph Boakai took an important step toward addressing war and economic crimes in Liberia by appointing Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi as the Executive Director of the Office of the War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC). This appointment was seen as a pivotal move for the country, which has faced significant challenges related to justice and accountability since its civil wars. However, just under a month later, the President revoked this appointment following public outcry. Dr. Robtel Neajai Pailey, a respected academic and the orator for Liberia's 177th Independence Day celebration, publicly criticized the appointment, describing it as dubious and expressing concerns about its legitimacy. Dr. Pailey's criticism echoed the sentiments of many activists and organizations who have called for a more transparent and consultative selection process, highlighting the necessity of involving the victim community in such critical decisions.


In recognition of these concerns and to improve the appointment process, the Ministry of Information announced the formation of a dedicated committee tasked with overseeing the selection of a new Executive Director for the WECC. This committee was chaired by the Justice Ministry and will comprise representatives from influential organizations such as the Liberia National Bar Association, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, and other prominent civil society groups. The committee is mandated to operate within a structured 21-day timeline, during which it assesses potential candidates and recommends three qualified individuals to the President for consideration. This initiative represents a significant shift toward a more inclusive and transparent governance framework, aimed at rebuilding trust among the diverse stakeholders in Liberia's justice landscape. The establishment of the WECC under Executive Order #131 was a critical step in creating essential structures for a Special War Crimes Court for Liberia and an Anti-Corruption Court. These courts are vital for addressing past grievances and fostering a culture of accountability, which is crucial for both national healing and sustainable development in the post-conflict environment of Liberia.

On November 5, 2024, President Joseph Boakai took a significant step in his administration by appointing Cllr. Jallah Barbu, who currently serves as the Dean of the prestigious Louis Arthur Grimes Law School, to the position of Director General of the Office of War and Economic Crimes Court. This important appointment followed a comprehensive vetting process that was carefully carried out by a committee made up of members from various Civil Society Organizations, the Liberia Council of Churches, and other relevant stakeholders that the President constituted to ensure a thorough evaluation.

Cllr. Jallah Barbu's appointment was celebrated widely, symbolizing a move towards accountability and justice in Liberia, particularly in addressing the issues of war crimes and economic misdeeds. The day after this appointment, President Boakai announced another key nomination: Lewis Brown for the position of Ambassador-Designate to represent Liberia at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. This nomination has sparked discussions about the implications of appointing individuals with ties to past conflicts in positions of international representation. Lewis Brown's background is notable; he is a former member of the now-disbanded National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), a rebel group that played a pivotal role in igniting and participating in the first Liberian civil war. The NPFL was responsible for a vast array of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including mass murder, rape, sexual slavery, conscription of child soldiers, torture, and political assassinations. Over 60,000 human rights violations committed by the NPFL were formally recorded by the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

During Charles Taylor's dictatorial rule from 1998 to 2001, Lewis Brown served as the National Security Adviser and as an Adviser on Political and Domestic Affairs. In 2002, he took on the role of Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. Additionally, Brown served as the Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism, and he was the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations in New York during the Sirleaf/Boakai administration. As Martin Luther King Jr. wisely stated, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." Let us strive for justice to build a better Liberia. I rest my pen.

AS I SEE IT



with By Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr., PhD.

A Call on the Government to Implement Article 10 of the Liberian Constitution

In Chapter II: General Principles of National Policy, the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia states in Article 10 that “the Republic shall ensure the publication and dissemination of this Constitution throughout the Republic and the teaching of its principles and provisions in all institutions of learning in Liberia”. Since its passage, the Government of the Republic of Liberia has failed to fulfil and fully implement this part of the Organic Law of the Land. Therefore, several Liberians including scholars or researchers do not seem to understand what the Constitution says or entails. Children that were born when the 1986 Constitution was formulated and ratified by the people through a referendum are now about 38 years old. Some people blame the war for this, but this writer disagrees because the war ended in 2003 with the election of Africa's first woman Head of State and Government, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2005.

The Liberian Constitution has not been fully disseminated by the Government, AS I see it. Those who possess printed or online copies of this Constitution either purchased it for themselves or got it through other means. The Constitution should be made a compulsory subject or course of study by the Liberian Government. This might help to remedy the knowledge or constitutional awareness gap. H.E Joseph Nyuma Boakia, President of the Republic of Liberia indicated that “there will be no business as usual” (Boakai, 2024). This agrees that there should be no bad business as usual. One old business that should not be a usual thing is the Government's failure to fully implement this Constitutional Article or National Policy-dissemination and teaching of the Constitution of the Republic in all institutions of learning. This Constitutional clause might be simple, but it is very essential for state building of the Nation-State and the bridge of existing knowledge gap.

Constitutional law is a body of law which defines the role, powers, and structure of different entities within a [state](#), namely, the [executive](#), the [parliament](#) or [legislature](#), and the [judiciary](#). It prescribes the basic rights of citizens and, in federal countries [such as the United States](#), Nigeria and [Canada](#), the relationship between the central government and state, provincial, or territorial governments. Not all [nation-states](#) have codified [constitutions](#), though all such states have a '[jus commune](#)', or law of the land, that may consist of a variety of imperative and consensual rules. These may include [customary law](#), [conventions](#), [statutory law](#), [judge-made law](#), or [international rules, or norms](#), etc. Constitutional law deals with the fundamental principles by which the government exercises its authority. In some instances, these principles grant specific powers to the government, such as the power to impose taxes and spend for the welfare of the population. Other times, constitutional principles act to place limits on what the government can do, such as prohibiting the arrest of an individual or a group without sufficient cause, etc.

In most nations, such as the Liberia, [United States](#), [India](#), Nigeria, [Singapore](#), etc., constitutional law is based on the text of a document ratified at the time the nation came into being. Other constitutions, notably [that of the United Kingdom](#), rely heavily on uncodified rules, as several legislative statutes and [constitutional conventions](#), etc. The 1847 Constitution was suspended by the Military Junta on April 12, 1980, when the Military overthrew the Government then led by former President William R. Tolbert, Jr. The Military later transformed itself into a civilian government and enacted the 1986 Constitution of the Republic.

As I SEE IT, there is a need for the Liberian National Legislature to allocate resources in the National Budget to print and disseminate the Liberian Constitution. Some Non-Governmental Organizations in Liberia could and should take an advantage of this national gap to raise funds for the education of Liberians on their Constitution. The National Legislature and the President as Head of State need to ensure that this Constitution is taught in all institutions of learning in the Republic of Liberia. This is paramount because so many literate Liberians who should be able to understand and interpret the Liberian Constitution are simply unable to do so. Some Leaders in Liberia do not also understand the Constitution. Such people are found in all branches of the Government, the academic community and anywhere else in the Country. This is a national problem and catastrophe that must be urgently addressed. At the primary and secondary school level, the Ministry of Education needs to introduce and enforce teaching of the Liberian Constitution. As part of this subject, Liberian Civics could be lumped in and taught. At higher education and technical schools' levels, there should be a national enforcement of the compulsory teaching of the Constitution of Liberia. AS I SEE IT, the Liberian Government needs to take an Affirmation Action to ensure that Article 10 of the Liberian Constitution is fully implemented and enforced.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he researched International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development. He also holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; and he holds other diplomas and certificates in professional fields from Italy, UK, Pakistan, China and Israel, Prof. Kaydor is equally an Adjunct Professor of Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. Dr. Kaydor is an evidence-based researcher, a blogger, a columnist, and a published author. One can reach him via (kaydorth@ul.edu.lr or thkaydor@gmail.com).

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NPA takes giant step to address health & Human safety

Over the weekend the NPA and several industrial and mining private port user companies signed the MoU on oil spill response preparedness.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, November 11, 2024: Liberia's National Port Authority (NPA) has taken a giant step to address the health and safety of port

spill response preparedness. The term of the MoU is an initial one year and may be modified by mutual consent. Based on the Act repealing and adopting Chapter Six of the Public Authority Law, the NPA is solely authorized to manage all

conference room of the NPA. It brought together dozens of private port users, including GVL, Srimex, Equatorial Palm Oil, AML, Bea Mountain, Western Cluster, Mira Gas, Society for the Conservation of Nature, APM Terminals, Conex, LPRC and the Ministry of Defense Cost Guard. All of these institutions separately signed the MoU.

The signing of the MoU seeks to establish a framework for sharing response, technical expertise, personnel, and equipment to enhance collective response capabilities to tackle incidental and operational spills. Furthermore, the MoU aims to formalize the cooperation between the parties and other stakeholders, including environmental organizations, to prepare for response. It also aims to mitigate the impact of the oil spills and noxious liquid substances within the port area. Giving his official remake, the National Port Authority Managing Director, Mr. Sekou A. M. Dukuly, provided the role of the NPA within the agreement. Mr. Dukuly extolled the parties for committing themselves to the MoU while describing it as a step to collectively address health safety and well-being. According to him, with the MoU signed, the NPA's responsibilities are to ensure



NPA officials with stakeholders

users and citizens across the country. The NPA over the weekend signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide the framework for a coordinated national oil spill effort. In conjunction with the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC), Liberia Martine Authority (LiMA), and several industrial and mining private port user companies, the NPA signed the MoU on oil

national port facilities across the country. On the other hand, the Private Sector represents and warrants that it is duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of Liberia and hereby expressly and irrevocably waives any immunity in any jurisdiction in respect of the MoU or matter arising hereunder, including any obligation or liability. The elaborate signing ceremony was held in the

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MCC sends 4 staff to India for training

The MCC staff are expected to go through several weeks of intensive training in various fields while in India.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, November 11, 2024: At least four employees of the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) have departed Liberia for an intensive short-term capacity-building training in India. The training, according to MCC, is a gesture from the Government of India through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Program of the Ministry of External Affairs of India. The training in India is intended to deepen the knowledge of the MCC employees by building their capacity to ensure efficiency and productivity at the Monrovia City Corporation. The beneficiaries of the training opportunities include Mr. Workteh Nyemie, Department of Finance; Mr.

Yusuf Konneh, Supervisor for Youth Affairs; Faith Joy Mah, Director, Public Waste Management; and Munir Abdullah Pabai, Revenue Analyst. Officials of the Monrovia City Corporation said the beneficiaries are expected to go through several weeks of intensive training in various fields relative to the function of their departments. Speaking at a program before their departure at the

weekend, Monrovia Mayor Mr. John-Charuk Siaffa said the MCC under his administration is focused on restructuring and reforming the Corporation through intensive capacity-building opportunities. Mayor Siaffa lauded the Government and People of India for the opportunity. He also admonished the employees to be passionate and take seriously the training.

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MCC boss Mr. John-Charuk Siaffa (2nd from l) flanked by beneficiaries

Liberia joins the world to celebrate pastors

Liberia celebrates second edition of International Pastors' Day here, in recognition of the works of pastors globally.

Monrovia, Liberia, November 11, 2024 - Hundreds of churches locally and internationally have observed the 2024 International Pastors' Day, a day set aside to recognize and honor Pastors for saving souls from going to hell and bringing them to the Lord Jesus.

The annual event is an initiative that seeks to create a culture of honor for pastors. The vision was birthed by the Liberian church and shared with the world.

Pastors are spiritual and, at the same time, public servants who believe and are convinced that celebrating servants of God with humility and appreciation boosts their work. International Pastors' Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of November annually. On this day, churches bless their shepherds with kind words, cash, and encouragement, making them feel loved and needed. It is a public record that in 2023, when the Day was officially

God Himself had designed that, as pastors do God's work, the people they lead must obey, submit, and honor them. But he thinks that not many pastors enjoy these courtesies and attention, lamenting that too many pastors are suffering and fatigued, with many facing out without help, support, or recognition. "It is obvious that people are steadily subscribing to this vision and are adjusting to stand with their pastors. The social media is currently flooded with photos of their pastors, as parishioners wish them "happy international pastors' day" with many other kind words," he says. Bishop Sam is optimistic that the message will go around, the IPD vision will extend wide, and the entire church world will one day buy into it. "Liberia is so blessed because she is the first to receive the call. Presently, Ghana, Nigeria, and the USA have begun to recognize this worthy day." This year, pastors gathered with their members in several communities. For example, in



Vision Bearer Bishop Sam Oroge

inaugurated at Harvest Intercontinental Cathedral in Congo Town, Liberia, with thousands of Christians in attendance and a host of top-ranking leaders of the Liberian church, it was heralded that this occasion would happen yearly. The Vision Bearer of International Pastor Day, Right Rev. Sam B. Oroge, Bishop of the Apostolic Grace Mission (Grace Churches Worldwide), passionately expresses that his motivation was God-inspired. He says pastors' lives matter a lot, both to God and to men. Bishop Oroge explains that there has not been a real balancing of pastoral care and the pastor's care. He narrates that the Lord Jesus wanted him to lead the church to understand that Pastors are God's shepherds, sent to represent God on earth, and

Brewerville, Montserrado County, parishioners of churches worshiped the Lord by presenting gifts to their pastors. Another group gathered in central Monrovia, Gardnerville, Sinkor, and other communities, while the majority of the pastors actually observed the Day in their respective churches in elaborate ways. The IPD movement in Sinkor, led by Pastor Benedict Kun, saw over 30 pastors certificated. Preaching at Fire Arena Ministries of Pastor Ruby Koomey in Brownsville, Pastor Bruce Samuel Tarpeh said, Pastors are leading and bleeding, yet they teach and preach, so they deserve to be honored and cared for. "Pastors go through a lot of things that they cannot say to people," Pastor Tarpeh notes. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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MCC sends 4 staff

Mayor Siaff revealed that scores of international capacity-building opportunities are in the pipeline for deserving employees of the MCC to benefit from. "The MCC under my watch will provide you with the tools

and capacity you need to drive the vision of making Monrovia better," he noted. On behalf of the departing staff, two of the beneficiaries spoke and lauded the Mayor for the opportunity to hone their skills at some of the best-performing universities in

India. They expressed excitement about the unprecedented opportunity and assured the Mayor of their commitment and unflinching support to promote the vision of transforming the MCC.

County Development Agendas (CDAs) Validation Begins Monday across the Country

Monrovia, November 11, 2024 - The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) is set to conduct a series of validations for the County Development

Agendas (CDAs) simultaneously from November 11 to 16 in the capitals of all 15 counties. Participants will include legislative caucuses, county leaders, county councils, ministries and agencies, development

partners, organizations representing persons with disabilities, as well as civil society groups, and representatives of women and youth. These validations mark a key step in finalizing the National Development Plan and the County Development Agendas, following three months of consultations in all 73 districts. These consultations were facilitated by two local think tanks: Subah Belle and the African Development Management Associates. Earlier, on November 5 and 6, sector-specific validations for the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development were held at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town. With the National Development Plan set to be launched at the end of November, representatives from ministries, legislative caucuses, county leaders, county councils, ministries and agencies, development partners, organizations representing persons with disabilities, as well as civil society groups, and representatives of women and youth.



Agendas (CDAs) nationwide. According to a Ministry of Finance and Development Planning release, the validation events will take place

partners, organizations representing persons with disabilities, as well as civil society groups, and representatives of women and youth. These validations mark a

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NPA takes giant step to address

coordination, collaboration, and cooperation among the private sectors by facilitating training and preparedness exercises for the oil response. "With this MoU, the NPA will provide the necessary port facilities and infrastructure for oil spill response and ensure that all legal and regulator framework is in place to support incident response by providing a framework for the

management of oil spill poll fund," he concluded. Speaking on behalf of the Private Sector, LPRC Managing Director Mr. Amos Tweh committed the private sector to the agreement. He termed it as a game-changing approach to addressing health measures. "Within this MoU, the private sector responsibilities are to participate in oil spill response preparedness activities including training and

simulations and provide the necessary resources, expertise, and equipment to assist in oil response." "Also, we will collaborate with NPA and other relevant authorities during [the] oil spill incident and ensure compliance with environmental standards and safeguard the shorelines and maritime domain," Mr. Tweh concluded.

China explores increased cooperation with Liberia

Liberia and China explore more areas for collaboration to benefit both countries and their peoples.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah (contributor)

Monrovia, Liberia, November 11, 2024, China has taken a significant step to enhance its relationship with Liberia through a seminar organized by the Embassy of China here.

The forum under the theme, "Deepen Cooperation, Work Together for Development," underscores China's intent to foster closer ties with Liberia, focusing on mutual development and collaboration.

This move highlights China's growing interest in strengthening partnerships with African nations, particularly in sectors such as infrastructure, trade, health, education, and economic development.

The seminar is a platform to explore ways to increase cooperation, leveraging both

importance of working together for mutual development and shared prosperity, reaffirming China's commitment to supporting Liberia's growth through strategic partnerships.

Recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Liberian President Joseph Nyuma Boakai held a meeting in China, where both leaders agreed to elevate the level of China-Liberia cooperation. This high-level engagement underscored their commitment to deepening ties across various sectors, including trade, infrastructure, and development.

The two Presidents also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations further and explore new opportunities for collaboration that would benefit both nations. Their agreement marks a significant milestone in the growing partnership between



countries' strengths for shared progress.

The one-day event, held over the weekend at Golden Gate Hotel in Paynesville, attracted diverse attendees, including former and current government officials, distinguished guests, friends of China, and other key stakeholders from across the country.

The gathering provided an opportunity for networking and dialogue on enhancing bilateral relations between China and Liberia. Participants engaged in discussions aimed at identifying practical ways to deepen cooperation and work together for sustainable development.

Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Yin Chengwu, emphasized that the seminar represented an important step in fostering discussions on China-Liberia cooperation. He expressed gratitude for the presence of friends and stakeholders, noting that such engagements are crucial for strengthening ties and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

The Ambassador spoke about the

China and Liberia.

This year, cooperation between China and Liberia has entered a new chapter, marked by a renewed focus on fostering development and strengthening bilateral ties. Both countries are committed to expanding their partnership across multiple areas, including infrastructure, trade, and technology.

This shift signals a more robust collaboration with a shared vision for sustainable growth and mutual prosperity. The recent agreements and discussions between their leadership are seen as a clear indication of the growing importance of relationships in coming years.

He highlights China's continued support in critical sectors such as infrastructure development, health, agriculture, education, and security.

"We will continue to uphold the One-China policy and see China as a strategic partner of Liberia," Representative Gaye affirmed. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Français

Le CDC félicite Donald Trump et suspend des députés impliqués dans un complot contre le président de la Chambre

Le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), principal parti d'opposition au Liberia, a adressé ses félicitations au président élu des États-Unis, Donald Trump, suite à sa victoire lors des élections du 5 novembre.

témoigne de la robustesse de la démocratie américaine, qui incarne un profond respect pour la volonté du peuple », a déclaré le parti.

****Suspension de députés du CDC pour complot contre le président de la Chambre****
Par ailleurs, le CDC a annoncé la

rassembler les 49 voix nécessaires pour destituer M. Koffa, sans toutefois atteindre cet objectif. Le CDC a exprimé sa désapprobation face à l'implication de certains de ses membres dans ce projet, qualifié de contraire aux principes du parti.

« Cet acte enfreint la Partie II, Chapitre I, Règle 5 de la Constitution du CDC », précise le communiqué. En conséquence, le CDC a suspendu temporairement les députés concernés et les a convoqués devant le Comité national de discipline pour enquête, conformément à la Partie I, Article 15, Section 80, et à la Partie II, Chapitre I, Règles 17 et 18 de la Constitution du parti.

Les élus suspendus incluent notamment le vice-président de la Chambre, Thomas P. Fallah (District électoral n°1, comté de Lofa), ainsi que les députés Alexander Poure (comté de River Gee, District n°1), Isaac B. Choplay Wuo (comté de River Gee, District n°2), et d'autres représentants de divers comtés.

Accusations à l'encontre du président Boakai

Dans son communiqué, le CDC a également adressé de vives critiques au président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, l'accusant de

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M. Trump s'apprête ainsi à marquer l'histoire en revenant à la Maison-Blanche, après la concession de sa rivale, Kamala Harris. Dans un communiqué daté du 6 novembre, le Comité exécutif national du CDC a exprimé sa gratitude envers le peuple américain pour le déroulement réussi de ce scrutin. « La victoire de l'ancien président Trump

suspension de plusieurs de ses députés impliqués dans une tentative de destitution du président de la Chambre des représentants, Fonati Koffa. D'après le parti, l'engagement de M. Koffa en faveur de réformes et d'une plus grande transparence au sein de la Chambre a suscité l'opposition de certains de ses collègues.

Depuis plusieurs semaines, des députés du CDC œuvrent à

La Cour suprême refuse de suspendre la destitution de Koffa

Le président de la Chambre des représentants, Fonati Koffa, affirme qu'il ne démissionnera pas malgré ce qu'il qualifie de mépris du processus judiciaire de la part de ses collègues cherchant à le destituer.

Le juge en chambre de la Cour suprême du Liberia, Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay, a rejeté la demande de mandat introduite par le président de la Chambre des représentants, le conseiller Fonati Koffa, visant à empêcher un groupe de députés dissidents de procéder à sa destitution.

Koffa avait sollicité un mandat de prohibition pour contrer les initiatives du bloc majoritaire autoproclamé, lequel tente de le démettre de ses fonctions. Toutefois, le juge Gbeisay a estimé qu'il n'y avait pas lieu d'intervenir, refusant d'empêcher ses collègues de

tenir des sessions séparées en dehors de la procédure législative habituelle.

« Par directive de Son Honneur Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr., juge associé en chambre, nous vous informons que la demande de mandat a été rejetée », a précisé la Cour suprême dans un

communiqué. « Par ailleurs, l'ordre de suspension en vigueur depuis le 25 octobre 2024 est ici levé. »

En réaction à cette décision, le président Koffa a déclaré prendre acte du jugement rendu par la Cour suprême,

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Éditorial

Pour des contributions de solidarité mondiale

Par Emmanuel Macron, Mia Amor Mottley et William Ruto

BAKOU - De Bridgetown jusqu'à Nairobi en passant par Paris, aucun pays n'échappe aux effets de plus en plus graves de la crise climatique. D'année en année, nous assistons à toujours plus de destructions liées au climat. L'année 2024 a été marquée par un triste ensemble de [nouveaux records](#) : les incendies au Chili ont ravagé plus de 14 000 habitations, les pluies extrêmes ont dévasté 478 villes au Brésil, et plongé dans la détresse près de deux millions de personnes au Bangladesh, tandis que le monde a connu au mois de juillet sa [journée la plus chaude](#) jamais enregistrée.

Alors qu'elle n'a contribué qu'à hauteur de 3 % aux émissions historiques de gaz à effet de serre, l'Afrique subit certaines des plus terribles catastrophes d'origine climatique. Ces événements extrêmes coûtent désormais au continent [15milliards\\$](#) chaque année, les sécheresses et les inondations liées au climat ayant provoqué en 2023 une insécurité alimentaire pour plus de 40 millions d'Africains.

Convaincus qu'aucun pays ne devrait avoir à choisir entre lutter contre la crise climatique et combattre la pauvreté, nous avons décidé de contribuer à une réforme ambitieuse de l'architecture financière internationale. Le [Pacte de Paris pour les peuples et la planète](#), l'[Initiative de Bridgetown](#) et la [Déclaration de Nairobi](#) visent chacun à fournir une pièce du puzzle. L'actuelle dynamique internationale nous donne de l'espoir : de nombreuses pistes de réforme ont été ouvertes, dont certaines produisent des résultats. De nombreux efforts supplémentaires demeurent toutefois nécessaires, et aucune option ne doit être négligée.

Un outil clé demeure aujourd'hui insuffisamment exploité : les « contributions de solidarité ». Les politiques de ce type sont nécessaires pour faire en sorte que chacun apporte sa juste contribution à ce qui doit être un effort mondial. Certains pans de l'économie restent largement sous-imposés alors même qu'ils polluent la planète. C'est le cas du transport maritime, de l'aviation, et bien entendu de l'industrie des combustibles fossiles, qui bénéficie de faibles taux d'imposition effectifs en raison de subventions publiques (dont le total s'élevait à environ [7000milliards\\$](#) en 2022, selon le Fonds monétaire international).

Ces contributions pourraient se révéler précieuses en allouant une part des recettes aux pays en voie de développement. Un prélèvement mondial de 0,1 % sur les transactions d'actions et d'obligations pourrait rapporter chaque année jusqu'à [418milliards\\$](#). Un prélèvement de 100 \$ par tonne de dioxyde de carbone issu du transport maritime pourrait rapporter [80milliards\\$](#) par an. Un prélèvement de 5 \$ par tonne de CO₂ émanant de l'extraction de combustibles fossiles pourrait rapporter tous les ans [210milliards\\$](#). Une redistribution même partielle au travers de contributions de solidarité garantirait une importante source de financements climatiques prévisibles pour ces pays, complétant ainsi les flux d'aide publique au développement sans alourdir les dettes existantes.

Les bienfaits de cette démarche seraient considérables. Malgré la vulnérabilité climatique de l'Afrique, malgré son immense potentiel dans l'exploitation des énergies renouvelables et des minéraux critiques, ainsi que son rôle de puits de carbone mondial, le continent reçoit beaucoup moins de financements climatiques que ce dont il a [besoin](#). Les contributions de solidarité pourraient apporter les fonds nécessaires pour stimuler un développement écologique en Afrique et à travers le monde, en particulier dans les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire ainsi que les petits États vulnérables disposant d'une marge budgétaire insuffisante pour bâtir la résilience ou agir pour le climat.

Les auteurs sont coprésidents du Groupe de travail sur les contributions de solidarité mondiale.

Emmanuel Macron est président de la République française. Mia Amor Mottley est Première ministre de la Barbade. William Ruto est président de la République du Kenya.

Français

Le CDC félicite Donald Trump et suspend

poursuivre des ambitions politiques contraires à l'intérêt de la nation, mettant en danger la stabilité de la démocratie. Selon le CDC, le président chercherait à instaurer un régime à parti unique en empiétant sur les prérogatives du pouvoir législatif et en ignorant les décisions judiciaires. Le parti a également mis en lumière des difficultés économiques, soulignant les retards de paiement des Forces armées du Liberia (AFL) et d'autres fonctionnaires, qu'il impute à une mauvaise gestion de l'exécutif. Par ailleurs, le CDC dénonce des dépenses hors budget importantes et des cas de corruption dans des institutions publiques comme la Commission des réfugiés, bien que le gouvernement ait suspendu certains responsables présumés coupables de ces abus. En dénonçant la tentative de destitution de M. Koffa, le CDC a estimé que le gouvernement dilapide les ressources de l'État dans cette démarche controversée. « Le président Boakai et son gouvernement de l'Unité nationale semblent se noyer dans leurs propres erreurs de gestion et cherchent à détourner l'attention avec des manœuvres politiques risquées », a-t-il ajouté. Le CDC a également déploré ce qu'il considère comme un harcèlement politique de ses membres et une ingérence injustifiée dans le processus de destitution. Commémoration de la Journée des Martyrs dans la sérénité Enfin, le CDC a informé ses partisans que la Journée des Martyrs, célébrée le 7 novembre 2024, se déroulera dans le district n°15 du comté de Montserrado. La cérémonie se tiendra dans une atmosphère de recueillement, et le parti invite tous ses membres et sympathisants à s'y rassembler en signe d'unité et de mémoire.

La Cour suprême refuse de

affirmant qu'il respecte la décision du juge Gbeisay, tout en rappelant que d'autres recours juridiques demeurent envisageables. « Je me positionne dans le respect de la loi et resterai ferme dans ma détermination à garantir qu'aucun groupe de députés ne subvertisse la Constitution du Liberia ni les règles de la Chambre », a déclaré Koffa, précisant son intention de poursuivre les démarches juridiques dans les jours à venir afin de faire valoir ses droits. « Je ne céderai pas face à ce que je considère comme un mépris flagrant du processus judiciaire », a conclu le président Koffa.

Ngafuan souligne l'importance de la mobilisation des ressources nationales pour la croissance économique

Augustine K. Ngafuan, le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, a souligné que l'augmentation de la mobilisation des ressources nationales est essentielle pour favoriser la croissance et le développement durable dans tous les secteurs du pays. Cette déclaration a été faite lors de la visite de courtoisie d'une délégation chinoise, reçue le 4 novembre 2024 par l'équipe dirigeante du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement. Le ministre Ngafuan a expliqué que l'élargissement de la base des ressources nationales permettrait non seulement de renforcer les institutions de gouvernance et les systèmes fiscaux, mais aussi de diversifier les marchés financiers. Cette approche permettrait de réduire la dépendance à l'aide extérieure, d'assurer des revenus fiscaux plus stables et de renforcer le contrat social entre

Selon lui, cela renforcerait également la surveillance citoyenne sur l'utilisation des fonds publics. « Le leadership du président Boakai s'engage à accroître les ressources internes dans tous les secteurs, conformément à l'Agenda national de développement, dans le but de favoriser une croissance inclusive », a déclaré M. Ngafuan. Le ministre a exprimé sa gratitude envers la Chine pour son soutien continu aux secteurs de la santé et de l'éducation du Liberia. « Votre aide constante a été une source d'espoir pour les Libériens, en particulier dans ces secteurs essentiels », a-t-il ajouté. Cependant, M. Ngafuan a également abordé les défis majeurs auxquels le pays fait face, notamment les questions d'énergie et d'infrastructures routières, qu'il considère comme des freins significatifs à la

Le commandant de l'AFRICOM des États-Unis réaffirme son soutien aux Forces armées du Libéria



Mercredi, le général Michael E. Langley, commandant de l'Africa Command (AFRICOM) des États-Unis, a tenu une conférence de presse à l'ambassade américaine près de Monrovia, lors de sa première visite officielle au Libéria. En visite au Libéria, le général Michael E. Langley, commandant de l'AFRICOM, a réaffirmé son engagement à aider les Forces armées du Libéria (AFL) à relever les défis sécuritaires auxquels elles font face. Le général Langley a précisé que l'AFRICOM collabore avec des partenaires dans plus de 53 pays en Afrique, soulignant le rôle de son commandement dans la promotion de la stabilité et de la sécurité sur le continent. L'AFRICOM, l'un des sept commandements géographiques interarmées des États-Unis, supervise l'ensemble des opérations militaires américaines en Afrique, en visant à protéger et à promouvoir les intérêts stratégiques des États-Unis. « C'est un honneur d'être ici au Libéria pour ma première visite officielle, de pouvoir échanger des idées, de discuter des défis et d'explorer des opportunités. C'est la mission essentielle de mon voyage », a déclaré le général Langley lors de la rencontre avec les médias, le 6 novembre. Le général Langley a également été interrogé sur la stratégie

américaine face à l'influence croissante de la Russie en Afrique. Il a reconnu que cette présence constitue un défi pour les alliés des États-Unis. « Nous voyons cela comme un défi, notamment dans la région du Sahel, en Afrique centrale et jusqu'en Libye, où les activités de déstabilisation sont exacerbées par la désinformation », a-t-il précisé. Le général a souligné que cette manipulation de l'information contribue à l'instabilité dans certaines régions. « Au Libéria, un cadre démocratique solide sert de rempart contre ces influences. Tant que cette gouvernance est consolidée, la société civile libérienne n'aura pas à redouter ces menaces. Mais dans le Sahel, des pays sont encore en phase d'apprentissage », a-t-il observé. Il a également indiqué que le mois prochain, les États-Unis publieront une analyse géographique des défis sécuritaires dans la région. L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Mark C. Toner, a rappelé pour sa part que l'AFRICOM joue un rôle crucial dans la défense des intérêts de sécurité nationale des États-Unis en Afrique. Il a précisé que l'engagement soutenu de l'AFRICOM auprès de ses partenaires africains permet d'atteindre des objectifs de sécurité communs.



rigoureux », a-t-il ajouté. La délégation chinoise a salué le leadership de M. Ngafuan en tant que ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement. L'ambassadeur de la République populaire de Chine, YIN Chengwu, a réaffirmé l'engagement de son pays à soutenir les initiatives du gouvernement libérien pour atteindre ses objectifs de développement. « La Chine reste prête à soutenir tous les projets de développement national et d'infrastructure à travers le Liberia », a déclaré l'ambassadeur YIN. Les relations entre la Chine et le Liberia se sont renforcées depuis la reprise de leur coopération bilatérale en 2003, notamment dans la lutte commune contre les épidémies d'Ebola et de COVID-19. En 2012, la Chine a accordé à 95 % des exportations libériennes un traitement préférentiel sans droits de douane.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The Need for Responsible Governance in Liberia

-Harnessing Abundant Resources for Social and Economic Development

By: Austin S Fallah -A True Son of the Planet Earth Soil

Liberia, a nation with rich natural resources, stands at a pivotal crossroads. With abundant minerals, timber, and agricultural potential, the country is laden with opportunities that could elevate the quality of life for its citizens. It is often said that the future of a nation is determined by its youth, and Liberia is no exception.

The Liberian youths are brimming with talent and potential, ready to forge a brighter future if given the necessary opportunities and support. However, the pervasive issue of corruption among those in positions of power has impeded the progress of the people elected to uplift the nation.

This discourse argues that by harnessing Liberia's resources responsibly through accountable governance, ensuring that every Liberian youth has access to education, and implementing effective public policies for the common good, Liberia can rise from the shadows of poverty into a prosperous future.

The Richness of Liberia's Resources: A Tool for Economic Development:

Liberia has many natural resources in every corner of the nation, including iron ore, rubber, gold, diamonds, and other minerals.

The richness of these resources presents an unprecedented opportunity for economic development.

For instance, the iron ore industry has the potential to create thousands of jobs and generate significant revenue for the government and local communities, as was done in the 1960s to the late 1990s.

Also, as Liberians continue to see with the Western Cluster, there is a lack of defined policy guidelines to hold that company accountable.

The rubber plantations that were a backbone of Liberia's economy in the past can be revived, boosting exports and creating sustainable livelihoods for farmers.

Moreover, the fertile land of Liberia can support a diverse agricultural sector.

With the proper investments and training, local farmers can cultivate crops for consumption and export, contributing to food security and economic stability.

The potential for agro-industrial development is immense.

If supported by policies designed to help farmers access markets and resources, Liberia could achieve self-sufficiency in food production and become a key player in regional trade.

However, these opportunities remain largely untapped due to systemic corruption that has infiltrated various levels of government.

Corruption diverts resources away from the public and into the hands of a select few, creating an environment where inequity thrives, and bold aspirations for economic transformation are continuously thwarted.

Therefore, tackling corruption is essential for harnessing Liberia's resources to promote social and economic development.

Empowering the Youth: A Nation's Greatest Asset:

Liberia is home to a youthful population; approximately 46% is under 15, with many more in their teenage years.

With such a significant proportion of the

population being young, the potential for innovation and progress is enormous if the necessary investments are made in education and skill development.

Suitable investments in comprehensive educational systems can generate skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and leaders who will propel Liberia toward a brighter future.

Every Liberian youth must have access to quality education, which should be free from the constraints of corruption and misallocation of resources.

By investing in schools, vocational training centers, universities in all counties, and technology, the government can equip the youth with the skills they need to thrive in a competitive global economy.

Furthermore, when young people are educated, they become more engaged in civic activities, fostering a sense of responsibility toward their communities and nation.

One critical area is incorporating practical skills training in the education curriculum.

This training can empower young people and give them the tools to effectively contribute to Liberia's



economy.

By focusing on entrepreneurship and innovation, the youth can spearhead initiatives that harness local resources and drive sustainable growth.

Innovations in agriculture, technology, and even arts can flourish, provided that the environment encourages creativity and risks.

The Call for Responsible Governance:

It is abundantly clear that for Liberia to utilize its abundant resources fully, there must be a fundamental shift in governance.

Those elected and appointed to government positions must prioritize the people's welfare over personal gain, demonstrating transparency, accountability, and integrity in their actions.

The government must craft and implement public policies that benefit every Liberian, fostering an environment conducive to social and economic development.

Anti-corruption measures must be strengthened, and more severe consequences should exist for those who engage in corrupt practices.

Civil society organizations, the media, and international partners must hold government leaders accountable, ensuring they fulfill their obligations.

With an empowered citizenry that demands transparency and honesty, the government can be pressured to operate with the people's interests at heart.

Furthermore, creating an emblematic

environment, as called for by many Liberians, goes beyond mere governmental reforms.

It includes fostering a culture of national pride and responsibility.

Programs that encourage civic engagement, promote local culture, and celebrate national achievements can unify the populace and bolster a sense of community.

When citizens participate in nation-building beyond voting through volunteerism, advocacy, and public discourse, Liberia can cultivate an environment where every citizen feels invested in the country's future.

Protecting Rights and Ensuring Equity:

Alongside responsible governance, protecting the rights of all Liberians, particularly the marginalized, is imperative in the quest for equitable development.

Every citizen deserves access to fundamental human rights, including education, health care, and a fair chance to thrive.

The government must ensure these rights are enshrined in public policies and accessible regardless of socio-economic status.

For the youth, this means mitigating barriers to education, such as high tuition fees, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to technology, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Special attention must be given to girls and young women, who often face additional obstacles to education and empowerment.

Initiatives that promote gender equality in education will benefit individuals and unlock the potential of half of the population, leading to more significant overall progress.

Rural areas, often neglected in national policies, should also receive targeted investments and support.

The urban-rural divide should not equate to unequal opportunities, but instead, rural communities should be empowered through infrastructure development, market access, and support for local enterprises.

By ensuring that every region of Liberia can contribute to and benefit from the nation's wealth of resources, the government will lay the groundwork for holistic growth.

Liberia stands on the precipice of potential.

Its rich resources could forge a path to prosperity.

However, this can only be achieved through responsible governance, accountability, and a commitment to empowering the youth who are the torchbearers of change.

The current leadership must prioritize public policies that serve the common good, address corruption, invest in education, protect individual rights, and foster an inclusive environment where every Liberian can thrive.

Liberia's abundant resources should be a blessing and a catalyst for transformation, propelling the nation from poverty to prosperity.

As a capable and talented young man, I wholeheartedly believe that Liberians can achieve astounding feats that will uplift their communities and country if given the right opportunities.

Liberians must reclaim their future and work collaboratively towards a brighter, more equitable nation.

It is time for action, accountability, and a renewed commitment to the ideals guiding the nation toward its full potential.

The future of Liberia depends on the choices Liberians make today. Liberians should choose wisely for every citizen, especially the youth.

In House crisis: ECOWAS to pick

The ECOWAS Parliamentary Mediators want to gather the root causes of the impasse at the House of Representatives and propose concrete recommendations with the view of maintaining political stability and cohesion among the members.

Monrovia, November 11, 2024: The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament says its mediators are due to undertake a mediation mission in Monrovia to resolve a political crisis that has stalled legislative functions for over a month. The ECOWAS Parliament has announced that it is dispatching a mediation delegation to Monrovia following a longstanding political stand-off between embattled House Speaker Fonati Koffa and 43 rebel lawmakers. The rebel lawmakers are seeking Koffa's removal after he announced plans to institute some levels of transparency including an audit of the House of Representatives. While the rebel lawmakers fail to obtain the required 49 members to oust Speaker

Koffa, they have succeeded in stalling legislative functions by holding separate meetings away from the Chambers on session days. The Speaker and his bloc of 30 lawmakers continue to adjourn each session day due to the lack of 37 Representatives needed to conduct legislative business. The conflict among the members of the House of Representatives has forced President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to suspend the submission of the draft National Budget for the second time as he seeks expert advice on the crisis. The Legislature has, over the decades, shielded itself from transparency efforts, and efforts to change the notorious tradition need political and legal backing. Liberia's Supreme Court has urged the lawmakers to settle the political crisis politically. In a communication dated 8 November 2024, the ECOWAS Parliament said it is based on

the fragility in the House of Representatives that the regional bloc seeks an immediate parliamentary resolution to the crisis. "It is in this regard that the ECOWAS Parliament wishes to undertake a parliamentary mediation mission to Monrovia from 11 ... November 2024," a communication addressed to House Speaker Fonati Koffa said. The objectives of the five-member mediation mission include gathering the root causes of this impasse at the Liberian House of Representatives and its implications on the stability of the member state. The objectives include engaging with stakeholders to find a peaceful resolution of this impasse. Additionally, the objectives include the proposition of concrete recommendations to the ECOWAS Authority, the Liberian Authorities, and all stakeholders with the view of maintaining political stability and cohesion among the members.

Boakai seeks legal advice on House infighting

President Boakai has informed the Clerk of the House of Representatives that he is seeking expert advice on the Supreme Court's decision after it declined to stop lawmakers from removing House Speaker Fonati Koffa.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, November 11, 2024: Liberia's President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has suspended the submission of the draft National Budget for the Fiscal Year (FY-2025) for the

appearing for hearings in the Joint Chambers of the House, rather than before the Speaker. "In his letter, the Honorable Speaker requested that the President instruct his officials not to appear before the majority



second of this year. This time, Mr. Boakai has informed the Clerk of the House of Representatives that the suspension of the budget is due to a recent court decision in the ongoing attempts by lawmakers to remove embattled House Speaker, Cllr. Jonathan F. Koffa. In his communication dated November 8, 2024, to Madam Mildred Siryon, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, President Boakai acknowledged the court issues involving the Speaker and the majority bloc. The communication, which is in the possession of the New Dawn Newspaper, further indicated that in the intervening period, the President has been made aware that a Petition for a Writ of Prohibition was filed before the Supreme Court of Liberia by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It noted that the Speaker had requested the intervention of the high court in the resolution of an impasse at the House of Representatives. Subsequently, the communication added that the President received a communication from the Speaker indicating that the majority members in the House of Representatives had requested certain officials from the Executive Branch to begin

members, stating that doing so would "undermine the rule of law and set a dangerous precedent for our governance." "The Executive Branch also takes due note of the fact that the Justice in Chambers on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, declined to issue the Writ of Prohibition as prayed for by the Speaker," the communication narrated. President Boakai further explained that he regards the evolving situation with the utmost urgency and is unwavering about upholding the sanctity of the 'three separate but coordinated branches' of government. In light of the prevailing circumstances, President Boakai said he is actively seeking extensive expert advice to ensure a thorough understanding of the Supreme Court's ruling and its implications. "The President, therefore, wants me to inform you that the draft National Budget for FY 2025 will not be presented on the date as previously requested, pending the conclusion of the various consultations," the communication stated. "It is the President's prayer that the honorable members of the House of Representatives will, in the interest of Liberians, resolve the quagmire in the shortest possible time," the communication said.



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By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Monrovia, Liberia, November 11, 2024 - A Liberian-owned mobile transfer business, Kanacash, rebrands here with a new feature aimed at

remittance feature that has included Liberia to provide quality service to the public. According to him, the vision came about in 2021 amid anger and difficulties he faced while

Mr. Biah continues, “We wanted Liberians to learn how to move money around; besides, we are here to solve the financial problems that are causing the country trouble.”

He says the new remittance feature will make smooth cross-border money transfers much easier, with reasonable service charges that will be affordable to customers in 95 countries and beyond.

He says the Kanacash App is a guaranteed and safe way to keep and travel with money worldwide while carrying out financial transactions without any stress.

Business officer Josiah Prince Toe discloses that Kanacash has expanded with its new feature to 95 other countries and is currently exploring the United States corridors.

He names the countries that transacted with Liberia as Ethiopia, Morocco, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo, Turkey, Ghana, Rwanda, the Philippines, and Singapore, among others.



reducing difficulties in daily financial transactions and easing money transfers from person to person, including commodities across the world.

Global Chief Executive Officer Spencer Biah says Kanacash has a new

sending money to his mother in Liberia. He is now here to address those needs while expanding globally.

“Kanacash, as you see it, was born out of anger; I was sending money to my mom, and the sending was difficult, so I decided to establish Kanacash

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to transact and win.

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A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a newspaper with the headline 'New Dawn', a calendar titled 'New Dawn CALENDAR', a magazine with the headline 'JSS\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections', and a brochure titled 'New Dawn BROCHURE'. The publications are arranged in a fan-like pattern, showcasing different design styles and content types.