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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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## CDC slams Boakai on Russia ties



## USAID, GOL sign US\$114.4m grant agreement

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# Continental News

## Russia sends military instructors to Equatorial Guinea - reports

The presidents of Equatorial Guinea and Russia met in September. Russia has reportedly sent up to 200 troops to Equatorial Guinea to protect the presidency, as it continues to expand its presence in Africa.

Media reports say that the Russians are training elite

It said some were likely to be part of the Corps Africa, a paramilitary force previously known as Wagner before being renamed and officially coming under Russian military control.

[How Russia is trying to influence Africa](#)

There have been other reports of

charges and sanctions.

The Equatorial Guinean administration has faced criticism for its human rights record, including arbitrary killings and torture, according to a US government report.

The country has been trying to broker military deals as well as gas and mineral exploration agreements with Russia and Belarus. It has had similar deals with China in the past.

Both the Equatorial Guinea president and the vice-president have made several visits to Russia in the recent past.

In September, President Obiang thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin for sending instructors to strengthen Equatorial Guinea's defence, according to state news agency TASS.

On Wednesday, Tutu Alicante, a US-based human rights activist from Equatorial Guinea, told US state broadcaster VOA that the alleged military presence in the country could undermine US geopolitical interests.

He said that the Russia was "definitely flexing its military and economic muscles on the ground" through the physical presence of troops in the country.

The US has in the past had investments including in the country's energy sector but the interest has waned.

Some countries in West Africa that have had coups in recent years have moved away from traditional Western allies like France, accusing them of not doing enough to quash jihadist insurgencies, while seeking closer ties with Russia. -BBC



Equatorial Guinea president and Russia president

guards in the country's two main cities - the capital Malabo and Bata.

Reports of Russian troops deployed in the country first surfaced in August.

Russia, which has been seeking to gain more influence in Africa, has in recent years sent thousands of mercenaries to West and Central Africa to protect military regimes and help them fight insurgents.

The Reuters news agency quoted sources saying that between 100 and 200 Russians were estimated to have arrived in the past two months.

sightings of the mercenaries in both Malabo and Bata, also indicating that they were there to protect the president and his family.

The tiny country with a population of 1.7 million is led by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the world's longest-serving president who has been in power since 1979.

His son, Teodoro Obiang Mangue, who is known for his lavish lifestyle, is the country's vice-president.

He has been at the centre of scandals around the world, and has been the subject of criminal

## South Africa's soccer president Danny Jordaan arrested on fraud and theft charges

South African soccer chief Danny Jordaan, who helped bring the first-ever FIFA World Cup tournament to Africa, has been arrested on fraud and theft charges. Jordaan is accused of using about R1.3 million (\$72,372) of South African Football Association (SAFA) funds to hire a PR firm and a private security company for his personal benefit.

Jordaan is president of the association and led the country's World Cup bid committee which secured the rights to host one of the biggest sporting events in South Africa in 2010.

His arrest follows a raid by the country's Special Investigating Unit at the offices of SAFA in

March "where an assortment of electronic gadgets and files were seized for further investigation, thus leading to the arrest," police spokesperson Katlego Mogale said.

According to the police, Jordaan was arrested with one other

official and a businessman. They are expected to appear in the Palm Ridge Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

SAFA did not immediately respond to requests for comment. -Africanews with AP.



Danny Jordaan

## Egypt says its working to halt Israel's 'aggression' on Lebanon

Egypt's foreign minister Badr Abdelatty arrived in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, on Wednesday for talks with top officials.

He said Cairo was working to halt Israel's "brutal aggression" on Lebanon as soon as possible.

Israel launched a major ground and air offensive against the Lebanese group Hezbollah in late September.

This followed a year of cross-border fighting between the two sides, in parallel with Israel's offensive against the Palestinian militant group, Hamas, in Gaza.

"Egypt fully stands by Lebanon, and offers all possible forms of support to help the Lebanese people in this ordeal," he said.

Donald Trump won the US elections.

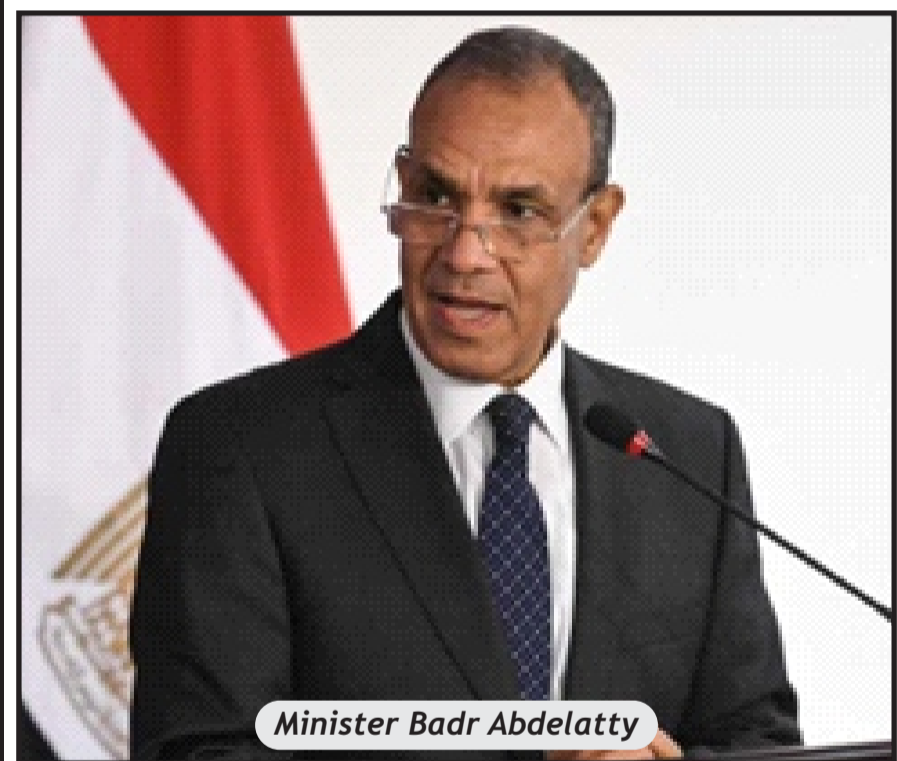
"We are looking forward to working with the new American administration and of course, there is a priority for a ceasefire without any conditions," he said.

However, he warned that the Israeli "aggression" should not continue "from now until 20 January when Trump is sworn in as president".

"This period should not be open for the Israeli side to continue its aggression," Abdelatty said.

He added that Egypt was engaged in contacts with international and regional parties in a bid to halt the fighting.

Lebanese health authorities say nearly 3,300 people have been killed, over 14,200 injured, and more than 1 million people displaced by the Israeli attacks.



Minister Badr Abdelatty

Abdelatty's meeting with officials including Prime Minister Najib Mikati and parliament speaker Nabih Berri, came a week after

Israel's new defence minister, Israel Katz, on Wednesday said there would be no easing-up in the war against Hezbollah. -Africanews

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# EDITORIAL

## Liberia's dealing with ECOWAS

In less than six months, the Economic Community of West Africa is back in Liberia for mediation amid the 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 three 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 about the government denying him using the VIP Lounge at the Roberts International Airport, which caused his supporters to protest.

Despite the denial, the ECOWAS delegation met with President Boakai and former President Weah separately while in the country. This time, the ECOWAS Parliamentary Mediation Mission is visiting Liberia 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, scheduled to take place from November 11 to 15, 2024, aims to address the ongoing political impasse within the 55th Legislature, specifically in the House of Representatives, that has stalled legislative work.

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

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

In its ruling, the regional court ordered the Government of Liberia to award Justice Ja'neh US\$200,000 as reparation for moral prejudice suffered in violation of his rights. However, the government has yet to pay.

Now it needs the intervention of the very body to resolve the crippling crisis in the House of Representatives that is stalling public hearings of the National Budget, leading President Boakai to beg the legislature for additional days to submit 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 relationships because we will always need them, as in the current case, especially a body to which we have sent two justices to serve. Yet, we have continued to ignore its decisions.

# COMMENTARY

By Mariana Mazzucato & 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 worlds 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.

Governments have a chance to demonstrate this level of ambition and make meaningful progress when COP16 negotiations resume. First, they must submit formal plans on how they will meet the Global Biodiversity Framework targets. Second, national biodiversity strategies and action plans that set priorities and direct financing streams must recognize the importance of green water.

Third, governments must do more to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, who are stewards of [one-quarter](#) of the planet's land and about 40% of the remaining natural lands worldwide. While COP16 delegates did agree that companies should compensate local and indigenous communities for the use of genetic information drawn from the biodiversity they help safeguard, the compensation thresholds should be more ambitious.

Tokenistic smokescreens are not evidence of a successful summit. We cannot afford to lose a decade of action on biodiversity. The world's access to freshwater depends on governments doing more right now.

*Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water and Co-Chair of the Group of Experts to the G20 Taskforce for a Global Mobilization Against Climate Change. Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Professor of Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam, is Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water.*

OP-ED

By Hippolyte Fofack

Misinformation Decided the US Election

**B**AKU - Our world is at a critical juncture. The devastating effects of global warming are increasingly evident, and the crisis is deepening. To mitigate it, we must urgently reduce global greenhouse-gas emissions. Failing to act now will only increase the human and economic toll.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, presents a unique opportunity for effective collective action. Amid heightened geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty, COP29 will serve as a test of the multilateral system on which humanity's ability to respond to this existential threat depends.

The groundwork for coordinated action was laid in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 with the creation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which established the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) to promote consensus-based solutions. The philosophy was simple: given that climate change is a global issue, addressing it requires a collaborative approach. The UNFCCC fosters cooperation between smaller countries and superpowers, enables civil-society organizations to engage directly with governments, and facilitates cross-border technology transfers. Perhaps most importantly, it provides a framework for collective action in which each country's efforts encourage others to step up their own.

While the 1997 Kyoto Protocol set binding emission-reduction targets for developed economies, it quickly became clear that more was needed. In response, developed countries pledged in 2009 to [mobilize \\$100 billion](#) annually by 2020 to support developing countries' climate policies.

The 2015 Paris climate agreement marked a turning point, setting the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels and ensuring that the increase stays well below 2° C. To monitor progress, the agreement established a system of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) through which each country outlines its emission-reduction plans. Periodic global audits assess whether countries are on track to fulfill their climate commitments. Regrettably, the [first global audit](#), released ahead of last year's COP28 in Dubai, showed that we are far from meeting these climate targets. It also offered a comprehensive roadmap, calling on all countries to commit to NDCs aligned with the 1.5° C goal and establishing clear steps and timelines - including transitioning away from fossil fuels - that could bring the Paris agreement's objectives within reach.

COP29 represents the next step for the multilateral approach, with leaders expected to agree on a significant boost to the \$100 billion climate finance target - the so-called [New Collective Quantified Goal](#) (NCQG). Moreover, each country must submit its updated NDCs by February 2025.

Transparency is essential to this process. If the Paris agreement's targets are the destination, and the NDCs are the roadmap, the NCQG provides the fuel needed to get there. Building trust in countries' commitment to bold climate action and willingness to provide the necessary financing is key.

As COP29 President, Azerbaijan is urging all countries to submit NDCs aligned with the 1.5° C target as soon as possible. We are also doing everything we can to secure a fair and ambitious new climate-finance goal that addresses developing countries' needs and matches the scale and urgency of the crisis.

Falling short would force us to confront tough questions: Are we willing to accept the failure of the Paris agreement? And what are the alternatives? One thing is clear: without a viable backup plan, we must do all we can to meet the 1.5° C goal. Sleepwalking into climate catastrophe is not an option.

To be sure, the multilateral system has its flaws. But it remains the best framework to tackle this daunting challenge. Over three decades, it has fostered lasting international cooperation, a shared understanding of the science, and a strong consensus concerning global climate goals.

The alternative to multilateralism is a fragmented response, with governments pursuing their own agendas without coordination or cooperation. This approach would mean slower progress, higher costs, and less equitable outcomes. Without a unifying goal, any sense of shared purpose would all but vanish.

Consider, for example, COP29's objective of finalizing negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris agreement, which aims to standardize carbon markets. By channeling resources toward the most effective mitigation projects, this framework could save [\\$250 billion](#) annually by 2030 - a substantial boost in an era of limited resources.

Given the alternatives, we have no choice but to make the current system work. The COP29 Presidency will leave no stone unturned to achieve an international consensus. With an agenda focused on advancing transformative climate action, Azerbaijan could help bridge geopolitical divisions. But our success hinges on countries' willingness to engage constructively and commit to the multilateral process.

The science is clear, the frameworks for coordinated action are in place, and the plan has been laid out. Now, we must find the political will to put these tools to use. COP29 is our chance to prove that multilateralism can work.

**Mukhtar Babayev, President-Designate of COP29, is Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.**

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OPINION

By Nadia Calviño

Climate Action Must Rise Above Politics

**B**AKU - This year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku is taking place against a tumultuous geopolitical backdrop. In addition to shifting strategic alliances, trade tensions, and violent conflict, the “year of elections” has ushered in a period of heated political rhetoric and led to changes of government.

But this must not distract us from the current state of the planet and the real economy. The effects and costs of climate change are increasing. Extreme weather events, from hurricanes in the Caribbean to catastrophic floods in Europe and droughts in the Amazon, are growing more frequent and intense, enhancing the risk of financial instability, especially in the world's most vulnerable and highly indebted countries.

At the same time, an energy revolution is already in full swing: the deployment of renewables is growing exponentially, and annual investment in clean power sources now far exceeds that in fossil fuels. Citizens and companies are also increasingly aware of the need to invest in climate-change adaptation. The European Investment Bank Group's most recent [climate survey](#) shows that 94% of Europeans and 88% of Americans support adaptation measures, while around half of respondents say that such measures should be a national priority.

Moreover, economic growth is quickly [decoupling](#) from carbon dioxide emissions, owing to breakthroughs and innovation in clean-energy generation and efficiency technologies that help combat climate change and boost competition. The European Union has been a [pioneer](#) in this area, cutting greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by more than one-third since 1990, over which time its economy grew by 68%. The International Energy Agency [forecasts](#) that renewables will meet nearly half of global electricity demand by 2030. Emissions from the EU, the United States, and most advanced economies are declining even as their economic output expands, while China's may [peak this year](#) - much earlier than expected.

After years of warnings and calls for action, there are finally signs that the green transition has shifted into high gear. The reason is simple: clean energy is [now cheaper and more efficient](#) than fossil fuels, largely owing to improved battery storage. As a result, the right thing to do for our planet is now also the smart thing to do for our economies. Every dollar invested in climate adaptation and resilience can save between [\\$5-7 in future disaster costs](#), not to mention lives and livelihoods.

Most businesses are well aware of these savings and have acted accordingly. Around 60% of the more than 12,000 firms across the EU and the US [surveyed](#) by the EIB Group are investing in the green transition, while 90% have taken measures to reduce GHG emissions. Reducing waste, lowering costs, and bolstering resilience make good business sense. It is this, more than international pressure, passionate rhetoric, and public commitments, that will encourage companies and investors to finance the decarbonization of the global economy.

At the EIB Group, we commit more than half of our annual lending - nearly €50 billion (\$53 billion) per year - to projects accelerating the green transition in Europe and beyond. Investing in climate resilience and adaption at home safeguards our infrastructure, agriculture, and livelihoods, and enables a robust, rapid recovery from disasters, such as the deadly floods that inundated entire towns in Central Europe in September and surged through my home country, Spain, in October.

But a successful transition is one that is both swift and just, ensuring that no one is left behind. Developing countries and low-income households are more vulnerable to the perils of global warming and the distributional impact of green-transition policies, as emerging technologies disrupt legacy industries and established business models. The EIB is therefore increasing its share of green investments outside the EU, supporting small island states at the front line of climate change, financing resilient infrastructure around the world, and fostering the global green-bond market.

Multilateral development banks have taken the lead on this front, investing a record [\\$125 billion](#) in green projects in 2023, and doubling the amount of private-sector finance mobilized compared to 2022. In addition to exceeding our pledges, we are committed to working together to continue mobilizing climate finance in the coming years.

Global cooperation is the only way to drive planetary-scale transformation. The green transition is underway, partly thanks to our joint efforts. But we must stay the course, building on existing international fora and decision-making frameworks to find win-win solutions that reinforce the security, stability, and well-being of all countries.

**Nadia Calviño is President of the European Investment Bank.**

ARTICLEARTICLE

# The Cancer of Peer Dynamics: Analyzing the Barriers to Youth Growth in Liberia:

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

The youth of any nation represent its future; they are the architects of tomorrow.

However, for Liberia's youth, the journey toward social and economic development is fraught with challenges that hinder their progress. Among these obstacles are pernicious behaviors often rooted in peer interactions, peer envy, peer bad mouthing, peer lack of vision, and participatory corruption. These behaviors create a toxic environment that not only delays personal growth but also stifles cultural and national progress. Addressing these issues is not merely a matter of survival for Liberia's youth, but it is imperative if Liberia is to fully engage in the global community of nations.

This korero delves into the malignancy of these peer dynamics and posits that transformative change is essential for the empowerment and upliftment of young Liberians.

**Peer Envy: The Thief of Potential:**

Peer envy is often seen as a natural part of human existence, arising from the desire to compare oneself with others. In the context of Liberia, however, envy manifests as an insidious force that blights youth relationships and undermines individual potential. Liberian youth are frequently caught in a cycle of comparison, where the achievements of their peers are met with resentment rather than inspiration. This detrimental perspective not only diminishes a young person's self-worth but also stifles motivation. The implications of such envy are far-reaching. When young individuals focus on what others have rather than their own abilities and aspirations, they fail to pursue their own goals. The destructive nature of peer envy leads to a culture of mediocrity, where aspirations are stifled by jealousy. Young people must be encouraged to appreciate diversity in talent and achievement, creating a supportive environment that fosters collaboration over competition.

**Peer Bad Mouthing: The Erosion of Trust:**

Another barrier to youth growth in Liberia is the prevalence of peer bad mouthing. In a society where communication often exists within tight-knit circles, the negative impact of bad mouthing can be profound. This behavior leads to the erosion of trust within peer groups and diminishes the collaborative efforts needed for collective progress. Bad mouthing serves several harmful functions. It creates division, breeds hostility, and perpetuates a cycle of negativity that can engulf entire communities. As young people participate in gossip and slander, they divert their energy away from meaningful pursuits and instead contribute to a culture of conflict and mistrust. This behavior creates a chilling effect on open dialogue, making it difficult for individuals to share ideas and collaborate in efforts aimed at community improvement. To counteract these tendencies, youths must adopt a culture of constructive criticism and encouragement. Emphasizing positive reinforcement rather than disparagement fosters an atmosphere where creativity can flourish and innovation becomes a shared value.

**Peer Lack of Vision: A Collective Blindness:**

A prevalent challenge young people face in Liberia is the lack of vision among their peers. Without aspirational role models or a clear framework for success, many youths find themselves stagnant, unable to envision a future beyond their immediate environment. This lack of vision is often perpetuated by limited access to quality education and resources, compounded by societal narratives that reinforce hopelessness. When young people in Liberia lack a vision for their future, they become susceptible to cynicism and complacency. They internalize the belief that success is unattainable, which perpetuates a cycle of resignation and inactivity. To combat this pervasive issue, communities must foster a culture of mentorship and encouragement, providing young individuals with the tools and inspiration necessary to define their ambitions and work towards their goals. Institutions must take on a greater role in shaping opportunities for young people. Schools, universities, colleges, and community organizations can empower youths by organizing programs that highlight successful figures in various fields and facilitating workshops aimed at personal and professional development.

**Peer Participatory Corruption: Ethical Erosion:**

Participatory corruption among youth is yet another significant barrier to social and economic development in Liberia.

When young individuals engage in or condone corrupt practices, they not only compromise their own integrity but also contribute to a systemic malaise that hampers societal progress. Participatory corruption manifests through tacit approval of unethical behaviors, such as bribery or nepotism, and has the potential to perpetuate a cycle of corruption across generations. Corruption undermines faith in public institutions and hinders economic opportunities for young people. When success is perceived as obtainable only through unethical means, a culture of corruption thrives, leading to disillusionment among youths who strive for legitimacy. This ethical erosion prompts talented individuals to abandon their principles in pursuit of success, ultimately leading to societal decay. To rectify this situation, educational institutions, particularly the University of Liberia and community leaders, must actively engage youths in discussions around integrity and ethical behavior. Young people should be educated about the long-term ramifications of corrupt practices, including how such actions erode national identity and weaken social cohesion. Establishing a culture that prioritizes accountability over personal gain will create a fertile ground for moral development among Liberia's youth.

**Youth Participation in Human Rights Abuses: A Tragic Reality:**

Alarmingly, some young people in Liberia participate in human rights abuses, influenced by various factors, including poverty, lack of education, and social instability. These abuses, ranging from exploitation to violence, expose the most vulnerable segments of society and severely hinder community development. When youths become perpetrators of human rights violations, they not only contribute to societal harm but also violate their own potential as agents of change. The circumstances leading to such behavior often arise from desperation and the desire for survival in an environment that offers limited choices. Young individuals may feel compelled to engage in harmful actions as a means of ensuring their own safety or economic viability. It is a tragic irony that those expected to lead the future are drawn into destructive patterns that undermine their very existence. Addressing this alarming issue requires robust intervention programs that not only educate youths about human rights but also create viable economic alternatives to participation in violence and exploitation. Initiatives that promote peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and social entrepreneurship can empower young people to reject cycles of abuse.

**The Path Forward: Mobilizing for Change:**

The challenges faced by Liberian youths demand immediate attention. Transformational change is necessary if the nation's young population is to thrive socially and economically in a globalized world. Civil society, educational institutions, and governmental bodies must align their efforts to foster a culture that mitigates peer envy, bad mouthing, lack of vision, participatory corruption, and human rights abuses. Enacting policies that recognize and respond to the unique challenges faced by youths will empower this demographic to embrace their potential. Training and mentorship programs can encourage young individuals to cultivate their skills and overcome the barriers that hinder their growth. It is equally crucial to create environments where positive peer relationships can flourish, inspiring collaboration and healthy competition. Additionally, fostering an inclusive dialogue among youth about their rights and responsibilities is paramount. When young people feel valued and heard, they are more likely to engage in civic activities and advocate for their communities. Mobilizing youth to participate in governance and community-building efforts can harness their energy and creativity for positive change. Encouraging a robust civil society that holds both peers and leaders accountable will shift the culture toward one of integrity and progress. As young Liberians begin to embrace their roles as stewards of their society, they can disrupt the cycle of negative behaviors that have pervaded their experiences. Peer dynamics are powerful forces that shape the social and economic landscape for Liberian youth. Peer envy, bad mouthing, lack of vision, participatory corruption, and involvement in human rights abuses pose substantial challenges that must be addressed if young individuals are to thrive. However, through concerted efforts and communal responsibility, it is possible to foster a more supportive environment where empowerment and growth can take root. The awakening of Liberia's youth to their potential and their capacity to enact change is vital for the nation's future. It is time to cultivate a culture of integrity, vision, and inclusivity so that Liberia's young people can compete on the world stage with confidence, resilience, and hope.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### AFL and U.S. Government unveil New Tuberculosis Clinic at 14 Military Hospital

Monrovia, Liberia, November 14, 2024/The Armed Forces of Liberia, in partnership with the U.S. Government, unveiled a new tuberculosis (TB) clinic at 14 Military Hospital in Dauzon, Liberia, that will advance

opened the new TB clinic at a ceremony on November 12. "A strong military is about more than the capability to wage war," said Toner. "A strong military is also about delivering hope, healing, and professional care to those in need. With over

equipment.

The facility will enable TB testing for patients and follow on treatment in a safe, dedicated location. The clinic also highlights the broader collaboration between the United States and Liberia in preventative medicine to ensure Liberia is equipped to handle public health emergencies.

As a result, the tuberculosis clinic will be used to assist all Liberians throughout the country as a central treatment center.

The U.S. has provided substantial support to the 14 Military Hospital since the facility opened in September 2021, including skilled mentors, advanced training, and additional resources. AFL Maj. Albertha Clark, 14 Military Hospital commander, praised the U.S. government's ongoing support.

"The collaboration between the AFL and the U.S. government has been essential to advancing Liberia's public health needs," said MAJ Clark.

"The renovation of the TB clinic represents yet another milestone providing excellent medical services and protecting the people of Liberia."



The new clinic is expected to advance Liberia's fight against TB both within the military and civilian population.

Liberia's fight against TB in the military and civilian population.

The new clinic reaffirms the U.S. government's longstanding commitment to support Liberia's public health infrastructure. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Colonel Dana and U.S. Ambassador Mark C. Toner

\$300 million invested in the Liberian military since it was rebuilt in 2006, the U.S. remains a committed partner in the AFL's efforts to serve the citizens of Liberia as a 'Force for Good.'"

During the opening ceremony, AFL and U.S. military personnel toured the \$18,000 renovation and viewed the associated lab

### First Lady Boakai inspires graduates at AME University

The First Lady of Liberia, Mrs. Katumu Boakai, tells university graduates here that amidst existing mounting challenges, they should embrace current realities and uphold resilience to achieve their future goals.

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado, Liberia, November 14, 2024 - First Lady Mrs. Katumu Boakai, encourages members of the 24th Graduating Class of the African Methodist Episcopal University to remain steadfast in pursuit of higher education.

Mrs. Baokai stresses that amidst existing mounting challenges, graduates should embrace current realities and uphold resilience to achieve their future goals.

Speaking at the 24th commencement convocation of the University in Royesville Township, Montserrado County, Wednesday, the Liberian First Lady recounted many challenges encountered during her own early life, while encouraging the graduates to use their knowledge gained to positively contribute to

national growth and development.

Meanwhile, the University's President, Rev. Dr. Alvin E. Attah, emphasized his administration's continued commitment in striving for academic excellence, research, innovation and community engagement. He lauds the faculty and staffs for what he terms high level innovation, which according to him, has earned the University recognition at international levels.

In the quest for advancing

education through technology, Rev. Attah said introduction of online or E-learning system has eased students' burden on campus.

He urges the graduates to serve as ambassadors for AME University by contributing to national development, reminding them of best professional behavior, as they enter the larger society.

Morlia rallies his colleague graduates that regardless of the daunting challenges experienced, they must see those challenges as motivation and further work to mitigate future obstacles awaiting them in the world of life.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



### Solidarity Center trains Labor Inspectors, Commissioners & Hearing Officers

Inspector, commissioners and hearing officers in the labour sector of Liberia have benefited a two-day training on Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination in the workplace.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, November 14, 2024 - As part of efforts to build capacity and deepen knowledge and understanding of Labor Inspectors, Commissioners and Hearing officers on discrimination and gender-based violence, Solidarity Center ends intensive two-day training on GBV and discrimination for staff at the Ministry of Labor in Monrovia..

The objective of the training was to increase capacity of Labor Inspectors, Commissioners and Hearing Officers to adequately address discrimination and GBV in the world of work.

It was also intended to strengthen network amongst individual communities, and institutions to addressing discrimination.

Solidarity Center manages six offices across Africa and over 20 globally, connecting closely with the global labor movement

and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the largest labor organization in the United States.

A focal point of his remark was a need for improved labor management relations and adherence to local labor laws. He notes the transformative impact of ILO Convention 190, which he describes as a consequential milestone from past years.

According to him, Convention 190 extends beyond traditional workplace issues, framing them as essential human rights concerns that affect not only workers but entire communities.

Highlighting a shift in perspective, Johnson points that workplace issues, particularly gender, health and safety, must be viewed holistically, adding "What happens in the workplace is very important... but it is bigger than the workplace."

"You should really applaud yourselves for being one of the countries that have not only embraced it but created an



to promote workers' rights, says Regional Program Director, Mr. Christopher Johnson.

He made these comments, while speaking briefly at the discrimination and gender-based violence capacity building enhancement workshop that brought together labor inspectors, commissioners and hearing officers from all 15 counties of Liberia.

He emphasizes the significance of workers' rights and critical role of ILO Convention 190.

He expresses solidarity with participants, referring to them as "comrades" and "brothers and sisters."

Mr. Johnson, who has extensive experience in the labor movement, notes that Solidarity Center operates under the umbrella of the American Federation of Labor

environment where you ratify it to make it works."

Deborah K. Davis, Labor Inspector, pledges her commitment to combating marginalization of women, saying "Women and men should be given equal opportunities" in the workplace.

"The psychological impact of discrimination is significant and can hinder productivity," he cautions.

The workshop concluded with participants expressing gratitude to the Solidarity Center for enhancing their understanding of these critical issues.

The collective hope is that the knowledge gained will lead to real change in the workplace dynamics across the country. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Office of Ombudsman losses against WAEC Liberia

*WAEC Liberia has won a legal battle against the Office of the Ombudsman here over examination malpractices.*

By Lincoln G. Peters  
Monrovia, Liberia, November 14, 2024-  
The Office of the Ombudsman losses a legal battle against the West African Examination Council at the Monrovia city court

to the fact that the Office of the Ombudsman is seeking to investigate. But the Monrovia city court Stipendiary Magistrate in his ruling on Wednesday said, the head of WAEC Liberia Gbotoe is

The Judge then denied and set aside the petitioner's request for subpoena Duces Tecum issued against the respondent WACE, while the petitioner has taken an appeal and promised to make use of the status control before the reviewing court.

In an interview with the WACE boss Gbotoe, he vowed to ensure that law and order is the center of the country's testing body, stating that his office will not resist in fighting any act of corruption that might occur in the entity.

He explained during the conduct of the 2024 exam a staff and his accomplices that were involved in the alleged cheating were investigated, charged and sent to court by the Liberia national police.

Following such a decision, the office of the ombudsman wrote requesting that it's the appropriate authority to conduct such investigation, instead of WACE Liberia or the LNP.

Mr. Gbotoe continued that they informed Cllr. Karnga that WAEC is an international organization and incase of any complaint from the Government of Liberia, the authorities here should contact the WAEC international registry.

He added that they informed the head of the ombudsman that whatever document he requesting had already been sent to the court for prosecution of those involved. But the head of the ombudsman office, Cllr. Finley Karnga, said the judge ruled based on his lack of understanding of the code of conduct.

He argued that the authorities of WACE Liberia have some inner motive for preventing him from having access to the requested documents.

According to him, there was no investigation conducted in the matter, contrary to what the WACE authority informed the court of, stating that he would never stop in ensuring that the right things are done for the betterment of the rule of law in the country. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Commissioner Lighe Opens Fraud Examiners Confab

The Commissioner/CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr. has opened a 3-day Certified Fraud Examiners Conference in Monrovia with a call for all hands to get on deck to safeguard against fraud and corruption in public and private sectors. The conference is being held under the theme: "Together, Reducing Fraud Nationwide"

Speaking at the opening of the event on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at the Headquarters of LiMA, Cllr. Lighe said the fight against fraud is necessary to assist those in positions of trust to do what is right and avoid the abuse of the privileges they enjoy at the helm of authority.

"Fighting fraud is important for those of us who are leaders, for we do not know all and we cannot be everywhere. What we did when we took over LiMA is to set up a risk management section that would be the fight line of checking potential indications of fraud before the assigned internal auditors can review the documents in line with their statutory responsibility," the Commissioner said.

According to him, whenever his

Liberia, like everywhere else, identity theft, financial fraud, and other fraudulent activities can have devastating consequences - undermining trust, causing financial losses, and eroding the integrity of systems.

He emphasized that as fraudsters become increasingly sophisticated, it is essential for individuals, organizations, and governments to adopt a multi-faceted approach to deter and prevent fraud by, for example, strengthening internal controls, implementing advanced technology, and encouraging a culture of transparency and accountability.

"Globally, fraud causes billions of dollars in damages to countless companies, governments, and individuals each year. Fraud can dramatically affect the quality of life of its victims. The major fraud schemes include asset misappropriation, financial statement fraud, identity fraud, and corruption," he added.

In most cases, according to Atty. Chenoway, financial statement frauds involve a company's executive management understating annual earnings to avoid or evade taxes or overstating earnings to attract new investors or creditors. Hence, he stressed that



here. The head of the Ombudsman, Cllr Finley Kangar, on October 22, filed before the court a petition to subpoena Duces Tecum against the Head of WAEC Liberia.

The request came from a case involving alleged leakages of the 2024 12 graders mathematics exam.

In his subpoena, Cllr Kangar prays the court to have WAEC Liberia bring forth all and any documents relating to reported leakage of the mathematics exam, and names of staff involved, among others.

He also requested the court to have the institution bring before the court a document of the amount paid for re-running of the 2024 mathematics exam.

Following the Ombudsman request, WAEC Liberia through its lawyers filed a four-count return, calling on the petitioner to contact the registrar of the council at the international office.

WAEC Liberia also notes that the entire subpoena from Cllr. Finley Kanger is self-serving, its Head of Office Dale Gbotoe, will not produce any evidence against himself due

not an employee of the Government of Liberia, as per the code of conduct.

The Magistrate quotes Section 12.2 of the code of conduct, which states "The office of the ombudsman shall receive and investigate all complaints, in respect to the adherence to the code of conduct. In this case, where there is a determination of guilt and violation of the code of conduct by private and public and government employees, such violation shall be submitted by the Ombudsman to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or other relevant agencies of government. The Ombudsman office shall be responsible for collaborating with the three branches of government and civil society organizations to develop regulations for the code of conduct."

Judge Barco adds that the respondent is an international staff, employed by the registrar of the West African Examination Council, as he enjoys diplomatic immunity from the local laws of the member country insofar as it relates to the code of conduct for which the authority of the office of the ombudsman does not extend.



auditors express grave concerns about a particular transaction or process, he does not sign or approve such a deal.

He added that checks and balances are good for the proper functioning of any system and that he was at the conference to support the work of the Certified Fraud Examiners. "This conference and the work you do to fight fraud are laudable ventures that must be supported by every well-meaning Liberian", he stressed.

For his part, the President of the Liberia Chapter of the Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE), Atty. Augustine G. Chenoway said as Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs), they are aware that this pervasive problem affects individuals, businesses, and governments worldwide. In

regulatory bodies need to critically review companies' annual financial statements to avoid relevant stakeholders being deprived of needed resources. Considering the aforementioned, we have organized this training/conference under the "Theme: Together, Reducing Fraud Nationwide".

"I, therefore, encourage you to fully participate in these discussions and share your experiences with your professional colleagues.

Permit me to kindly remind you about this year's International Fraud Awareness Week. The Fraud Awareness Week will commence on November 17th and run till the 23rd. Thus, I herewith, admonish you to please create some level of awareness in your workplaces or communities," he maintained.

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# Français

## Le Liberia accuse des acteurs guinéens de recruter d'anciens combattants libériens pour des activités subversives

Le gouvernement libérien a dénoncé le recrutement d'anciens combattants libériens pour des activités de déstabilisation en Guinée voisine, s'appuyant sur des renseignements provenant des autorités guinéennes et de l'Organisation internationale de police criminelle (INTERPOL).

de presse à Monrovia, le mardi 12 novembre, que les recruteurs ciblent spécifiquement d'anciens combattants libériens pour des actions qu'il a qualifiées de "subversives en Guinée." Toutefois, il n'a pas précisé les lieux où ces recrutements auraient lieu. Grâce à la collaboration avec INTERPOL, les autorités libériennes ont procédé à l'arrestation de deux

été remis aux autorités guinéennes pour une enquête approfondie.

"Nous connaissons trop bien les horreurs de la guerre, et nous sommes résolus à ne pas revenir en arrière," a affirmé le ministre Piah. "Nous continuerons à renforcer notre démocratie et à promouvoir la paix dans notre sous-région."

Le ministre Piah a réitéré l'engagement du Liberia à préserver l'État de droit, à protéger les vies et les biens, et à maintenir des relations diplomatiques solides avec la Guinée. Il a souligné la détermination de son gouvernement à empêcher toute tentative d'utiliser le territoire libérien pour des actions visant à déstabiliser un pays voisin : "Pas un seul centimètre du territoire libérien ne sera utilisé pour des activités subversives contre une autre nation."

Le ministre a également précisé que l'enquête sur cette affaire se poursuivra en toute transparence et dans le respect de l'intérêt national. Enfin, il a exhorté les Libériens et les résidents à se conformer aux lois du pays, rappelant que "vivre ici, c'est respecter la loi."



Le ministre de l'Information du Liberia, Jerolinmek Piah, a déclaré lors d'une conférence

ressortissants guinéens, identifiés comme Abraham Sheriff, soupçonné de financer ces opérations, et Zayzay Fassou Touray. Les deux hommes ont

## L'exécutif s'implique dans le conflit à la Chambre des représentants

Malgré l'appel du président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa, demandant au président Joseph N. Boakai de ne pas autoriser les membres de son gouvernement à comparaître devant le bloc majoritaire dissident, trois hauts responsables de l'exécutif ont répondu, mardi, à la convocation de ce groupe de députés qui milite pour la destitution de M. Koffa. Les officiels convoqués par le bloc majoritaire étaient Francis Sakila Nyumalin, ministre des Affaires intérieures; Sirleaf Tyler, ministre des Transports; et Mo Ali, directeur général de la Société des Eaux de Monrovia (LWSC).

Le ministre Nyumalin a été invité à fournir un rapport sur la mise en œuvre de la Loi de 2018 sur la gouvernance locale, ainsi qu'à expliquer pourquoi les centres de services de comté à travers le pays restent inopérants pour de nombreux citoyens. Mo Ali et Sirleaf Tyler ont quant à eux été convoqués pour répondre aux allégations de corruption récemment soulevées par la Commission anti-corruption du Liberia (LACC) et

impliquant leurs ministères. Lors de son intervention devant le bloc majoritaire, le ministre Nyumalin a souligné que sa comparution était justifiée par le principe de séparation des pouvoirs, expliquant que le législatif dispose d'un droit de contrôle sur les deux autres branches du gouvernement. « Lorsque 43 membres de la Chambre me convoquent, il est de mon devoir de répondre », a déclaré M. Nyumalin, précisant que la décentralisation reste une priorité de l'administration Boakai, visant à rapprocher les services publics des citoyens. Le directeur de la LWSC, Mo Ali, a fermement rejeté les accusations de corruption, qualifiant les affirmations de la LACC de « fausses et trompeuses ». Il a expliqué que la LWSC opère selon des normes financières strictes et

qu'aucun fonds ne peut être retiré sans une justification documentée.

Sirleaf Tyler, le ministre des Transports, a appuyé ces propos et a encouragé la LACC à conduire une enquête approfondie pour rétablir les faits.

La session a toutefois été marquée par des tensions lorsque des partisans de M. Koffa ont tenté de perturber les débats en se rendant dans les Chambres conjointes. Repoussés par la sécurité, cet affrontement a dégénéré lorsqu'une décharge de gaz poivrée, attribuée au représentant Marvin Cole, a provoqué des quintes de toux parmi les députés et journalistes présents, laissant la salle en proie à la confusion.



## Éditorial

### Les réserves mondiales d'eau douce en équilibre Par Mariana Mazzucato et Johan Rockström

LONDRES - Alors que l'attention du monde entier est tournée vers les élections américaines, le nombre croissant d'événements météorologiques extrêmes - des inondations catastrophiques en Espagne à la pire sécheresse que l'Afrique australe ait connue en un siècle - souligne la nécessité de rester concentré sur le changement climatique, la perte de biodiversité et l'évolution du cycle de l'eau.

Ces crises sont liées et les symptômes s'aggravent. Lorsque la sécheresse tue les récoltes, des millions de personnes en souffrent. Lorsque des extrêmes hydriques (trop ou pas assez d'eau) frappent des sociétés vulnérables, les déplacements, les migrations et les conflits qui en résultent peuvent affecter tout le monde.

Pourtant, personne n'est à l'écoute. Le récent sommet de la COP16 sur la biodiversité, qui s'est tenu à Cali, en Colombie, a reçu peu d'attention de la part de la communauté internationale. Il n'a pas permis d'établir une feuille de route visant à accroître le financement de la protection des espèces. Au lieu de cela, les délégués se sont contentés de célébrer leur décision de faire payer les entreprises privées pour l'utilisation des informations génétiques sur la biodiversité et de créer un nouveau groupe de travail pour les populations autochtones.

Bien qu'importants, ces développements sont marginaux par rapport à la tâche d'enrayer la perte de biodiversité. Pire encore, ils pourraient servir d'écran de fumée à l'inaction mondiale, tout comme nous l'avons vu au fil des ans dans les négociations mondiales sur le climat, où de longues sessions sur le commerce et les « pertes et dommages » ont masqué l'absence d'action sur l'élimination progressive des combustibles fossiles. Bien que le cadre mondial pour la biodiversité, adopté à Montréal en 2022, ait fixé des objectifs ambitieux visant à protéger 30 % de la planète d'ici à 2030, 158 pays [n'ont toujours pas présenté](#) de plans officiels sur la manière dont ils entendent s'acquitter de leur part du travail.

Cette inaction ne peut plus durer. Les activités humaines menacent la stabilité du climat et des systèmes naturels dont dépend le bien-être de l'humanité. La sécurité alimentaire, la santé humaine et la stabilité sociale sont en jeu. Les négociations de la COP16 sont censées se poursuivre « [à une date ultérieure](#) » ; mais le monde ne peut pas se permettre de laisser passer la COP16 sans progrès significatifs dans la protection de la biodiversité et des écosystèmes de notre planète.

Sans une [action collective urgente et systémique](#), les effets du changement climatique, de la perte de biodiversité et de la crise de l'eau ne feront que s'intensifier. La biodiversité et la nature sont essentielles au maintien de modèles climatiques stables et du cycle hydrologique. Les zones humides et les forêts, qui stockent d'énormes quantités de carbone, dépendent de cycles hydrologiques stables et d'une biodiversité florissante pour fonctionner efficacement.

De même, les écosystèmes terrestres absorbent actuellement [25 %](#) des émissions de dioxyde de carbone, ce qui contribue à empêcher l'augmentation du CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphérique au-delà de 420 parties par million. Pourtant, des événements hydrologiques extrêmes - sécheresses et inondations, combinés à la chaleur du cycle « super El Niño » de 2023 - ont considérablement érodé ce puits de carbone massif. Il s'agit là d'un sérieux signal d'alarme. La perte de biodiversité non maîtrisée pourrait à elle seule nous faire dépasser l'objectif de l'accord de Paris sur le climat de limiter le réchauffement climatique à 1,5° Celsius, avec des conséquences désastreuses pour les communautés vulnérables du monde entier.

*Mariana Mazzucato, directrice fondatrice de l'UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, est coprésidente de la Commission mondiale sur l'économie de l'eau et coprésidente du groupe d'experts de la task-force du G20 pour une mobilisation mondiale contre le changement climatique. Johan Rockström, directeur du Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research et professeur de sciences du système terrestre à l'université de Potsdam, est coprésident de la Commission mondiale sur l'économie de l'eau.*

# Français

## Le Dr. Kpoto annonce des réformes ambitieuses pour le secteur de la santé au Liberia

La ministre de la Santé, Dr. Louise Mapleh Kpoto, a réaffirmé son engagement à réformer le secteur de la santé du Liberia, en mettant l'accent sur les services de santé communautaire, le renforcement des ressources humaines et l'accès universel aux soins essentiels. Lors d'un événement consacré à la santé communautaire à Monrovia, elle a appelé à une mobilisation urgente de tous les acteurs locaux pour relever les défis sanitaires persistants dans le pays.

« Il est impératif d'impliquer directement les communautés et de promouvoir une véritable équité en santé pour surmonter les problèmes de santé publique qui affectent notre nation », a déclaré la ministre devant des partenaires et des représentants

elle, détiennent des solutions adaptées aux spécificités locales et aux obstacles à l'accès aux soins de qualité.

Bien que des progrès aient été réalisés, Dr. Kpoto a rappelé que le Liberia continue de faire face à des taux de mortalité maternelle élevés et à d'autres défis sanitaires urgents. Elle a précisé que ces enjeux demeurent au cœur de ses priorités et nécessitent une action soutenue.

Pour relever ces défis, le Ministère collabore activement avec des partenaires, dont l'Agence de la Fonction Publique (CSA) et le Ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement (MFDP), afin de formaliser les rôles des superviseurs des services de santé communautaires (CHSS) et d'améliorer les conditions de



communautaires. Elle a souligné que cette nouvelle approche vise à remplacer les visites ministérielles traditionnelles, limitées aux chefs-lieux des comtés, par une présence plus directe au sein des communautés.

Au cours de sa tournée dans plusieurs régions du pays, Dr. Kpoto a choisi de rencontrer directement les responsables communautaires et les agents de santé. « J'ai voulu constater par moi-même l'état des services de santé, comprendre les défis auxquels sont confrontées les populations et identifier les domaines nécessitant des améliorations », a-t-elle expliqué. Cette démarche lui a permis de recueillir des idées novatrices de la part des travailleurs de santé, qu'elle a qualifiés de « premiers intervenants » face aux difficultés d'accès aux soins dans les zones rurales.

Au cours de sa visite dans le sud-est du pays, la ministre a inspecté plus de cinquante centres de santé, rencontrant les leaders locaux pour explorer des solutions collaboratives. Elle a mis en avant l'importance de renforcer les voix des leaders communautaires, qui, selon

travail des agents de santé bénévoles.

« En tant que militante de longue date, je suis pleinement consciente de l'importance de garantir le bien-être des travailleurs de santé. La revalorisation de leurs salaires et un soutien accru aux agents bénévoles sont des priorités pour le prochain cycle budgétaire », a ajouté Dr. Kpoto.

Dans ce cadre, le Ministère prévoit d'étendre la formation, le mentorat et les perspectives de carrière des agents de santé, afin d'assurer une couverture sanitaire de qualité sur l'ensemble du territoire.

En conclusion, Dr. Kpoto a souligné que la transformation du secteur de la santé du Liberia repose sur un engagement collectif. « Nous ne sommes pas ici uniquement pour discuter de politiques, mais pour apporter des changements concrets dans la vie des Libériens », a-t-elle conclu.

Son engagement est de mener une réforme inclusive et durable, guidée par les préoccupations des communautés et visant à créer un système de santé résilient et accessible à tous les Libériens.

## Le vice-président Koung à Bakou pour la COP29 : Le Liberia appelle à une action mondiale contre le changement climatique



Le vice-président du Liberia, Jeremiah Kpan Koung, est arrivé à Bakou pour diriger la délégation libérienne à la 29e Conférence des Parties (COP29) de la Convention-cadre des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC), où il représente le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

La COP29, qui se déroule du 11 au 22 novembre, est un moment déterminant pour le Liberia et les autres nations vulnérables face aux conséquences croissantes du réchauffement climatique. Le Liberia, déjà confronté à des catastrophes climatiques dévastatrices telles que des inondations ayant frappé les régions de Margibi, Grand Bassa et Montserrado, appelle à une réponse internationale plus rapide et plus efficace.

Lors de son intervention les 12 et 13 novembre, le vice-président Koung mettra en lumière la situation du Liberia, un pays à faible empreinte carbone mais lourdement affecté par les changements climatiques. Il insistera sur la nécessité d'un soutien renforcé des pays développés, en particulier en matière d'adaptation, de financement climatique et de mécanismes de compensation des pertes et dommages.

L'une des priorités de la délégation libérienne sera de plaider pour la création d'un Fonds pour les pertes et les dommages, un

mécanisme essentiel pour aider les pays les plus touchés par les effets du changement climatique. Le Liberia cherche également à obtenir un soutien accru pour réduire l'impact économique et humain des catastrophes climatiques, qui continuent de perturber les communautés, endommager les infrastructures et déplacer des milliers de personnes. En outre, le vice-président Koung soulignera l'importance pour les pays développés de respecter leurs engagements pris sous l'Accord de Paris. Il défendra l'adoption d'un nouvel objectif collectif sur le financement climatique, afin d'aider le Liberia et d'autres pays en développement à renforcer leur résilience et à favoriser une croissance durable face aux défis climatiques.

La COP29, organisée à Bakou, en Azerbaïdjan, un pays clé au carrefour de l'Europe de l'Est et de l'Asie de l'Ouest et grand producteur de pétrole et de gaz, souligne l'urgence de concilier transition énergétique et préservation de l'environnement.

La conférence rassemble des dirigeants mondiaux, des décideurs politiques et des représentants de la société civile pour faire le point sur les avancées et prendre des décisions essentielles en vue d'atteindre les objectifs climatiques fixés par l'Accord de Paris.

## La CEDEAO promet une médiation impartiale

Une délégation de haut niveau de la CEDEAO est arrivée au Liberia pour aider à résoudre la crise de leadership qui secoue la Chambre des représentants depuis près d'un mois.

Une délégation de médiation de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) a affirmé, dès son arrivée à Monrovia, être venue sans aucun favoritisme pour contribuer à la résolution de la crise politique qui divise actuellement les parlementaires libériens.

Cette mission de la CEDEAO vise à apaiser un conflit persistant entre le président de la Chambre des représentants, Fonati Koffa, et un groupe de 43 députés cherchant à le destituer.

Les médiateurs parlementaires de la CEDEAO ont rencontré la direction du Sénat libérien lors d'une réunion consultative, assurant qu'ils mèneraient leur intervention de manière strictement impartiale, dans le but de ramener la stabilité à la Chambre des représentants.

Mardi 12 novembre 2024, la délégation de six membres de la CEDEAO a conclu une première série de consultations avec les responsables

du Sénat libérien, marquant le début de leurs efforts pour résoudre cette crise qui paralyse la Chambre des représentants depuis plusieurs semaines.

Au cours de cette rencontre, la cheffe de la délégation et présidente du Parlement de la CEDEAO, Memounatu Ibrahima, s'est exprimée par l'intermédiaire d'un interprète pour souligner en français l'importance du dialogue dans ce processus de médiation.

Mme Ibrahima a adressé la plus vive gratitude du Parlement de la CEDEAO au Sénat libérien pour l'accueil et l'hospitalité réservés à la délégation depuis son arrivée au Liberia. Elle a précisé que leur présence répondait à un mandat du Parlement et de la Commission de la CEDEAO, les appelant à intervenir dans cette situation de blocage institutionnel.

Elle a remercié les dirigeants du Sénat pour leur ouverture à cet échange, indiquant qu'ils souhaitaient d'abord écouter et comprendre les préoccupations du Sénat afin de faciliter la médiation entre les parties impliquées.

"Nous avons été mandatés pour venir au Liberia et mieux comprendre la situation actuelle à la Chambre des représentants," a-t-elle expliqué.

"Notre mission est de faciliter un dialogue constructif entre les deux parties pour parvenir à une résolution pacifique."

Mme Ibrahima a comparé la CEDEAO à une famille, ajoutant que "lorsqu'un de ses membres est en difficulté, c'est tout le corps qui en ressent les effets."

Mme Karnga-Lawrence a souligné l'importance de ce type de dialogue pour le maintien de la paix et la stabilité à l'approche des prochaines élections.

"Ces efforts sont appréciables. Notre législature bicamérale comprend le Sénat et la Chambre des représentants, chacun ayant ses propres règles," a-t-elle précisé.

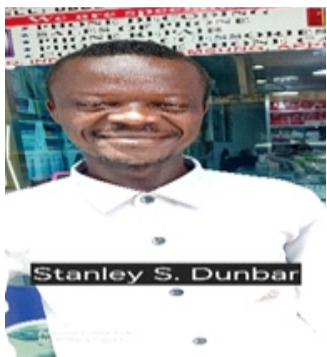
LIBERIANS

DEBATE

# Topic: The dismissal of LDEA Director AB Kromah and others

Many Liberians are pondering why President Joseph Nyuma Boakai suspended, investigated and dismissed AB Kromah and others without making public outcome of investigation into circumstances that led to their suspension and eventual dismissal. Read their comments as compiled below.

By Naneka A. Hoffman



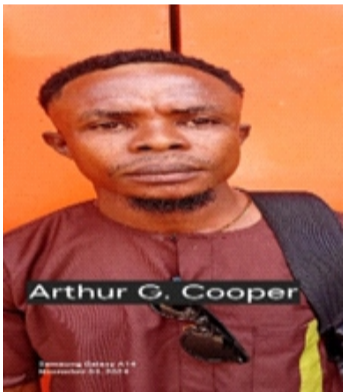
“The appointment of a new Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) Director Anthony Suoh, is welcoming. I

think President Joseph N. Boakai is proceeding rightly, while other people say President Boakai isn't proceeding rightly. The issue about AB Kromah's suspension was investigated. AB Kromah's suspension we all heard it in the public and I know what we heard was that AB Kromah displayed misconduct and as the leader serving an entity, we expected him to know better.”



“Yes, in my own opinion I believe in the wisdom of the President is good. First of all, AB Kromah was suspended base on misconduct in the office, causing problem and

leading LDEA officers to go against their bosses; so I John B. Mulbah say, it was bad for AB Kromah and others to cause confusion in the place there. The investigation was concluded based on fact-finding, and it's only left for the President to bring it to the public. But the President was right in his wisdom to appoint a new LDEA Director; that is what makes him the President. When AB Kromah was appointed by the President, and the President has the right to appoint and dismiss.”



“I think that President Boakai is a wise man; this isn't politics. President Boakai did his own calculation between the lines more especially, why no one can question President Boakai, because according to the 1986 Constitution, the President has all the right, as head of the

state. He has the right to appoint based on the Constitution and he used his own description. When President Boakai was appointing AB Kromah, he didn't inform the Liberian people. So, if AB Kromah goes against the will of the President, I don't think that the president has any explanation to the Liberian people, even though it's the fundamental right for all Liberians to know what is unfolding in the country. I believe when it comes to appointment, the President has his right and is protected under the 1986 Constitution.”



“AB Kromah and the rest of the people work at the will of the President. The President has right and administrative reason; he knows why he didn't come out to the public and give the reason why these guys were suspended or dismissed, so that's left

with the President in his own purview. Appointing another new LDEA Director as you dismissed people or suspend them, if you come back and dismissed them, you need somebody to replace them. My prayer is that the new LDEA Director, should be able to move around and see how best to arrest those drugs dealers, because drugs are killing our children. It's not about who's there or who hadn't; it's about the heart toward our country, the one that will work in the interest of the Liberian people to save our children from dying early before their time from drugs.”



“Firstly, when President Boakai came to power he appointed people to various ministries, thinking that AB Kromah and other that he appointed could actually fight drugs and at that time drugs was one of the major issues in the past regime, so when he came to power, he appointed AB Kromah as Director of the LDEA and others. But firstly, AB Kromah and others were having internal conflict, but it wasn't the issue of AB Kromah and others did not do the LDEA work. There

was crisis; we thought President Boakai was going to solve that problem among them, but President Boakai in his own tongue listened to us the masses and took a standing action by dismissing AB Kromah and others. The question we are asking President Boakai is why he dismissed AB Kromah and others without giving information to the public on what was the cause for their dismissed? The President slipped by not coming out with the investigation results before appointing a new LDEA Director General, so from my own research I did in the past month, the name AB Kromah, drugs dealers are scary of that name, so for President Boakai to take AB Kromah from that job without carrying on investigation, I think he slipped.”



“The President has done the right thing; the issue surrounding AB Kromah is a security matter; if you follow the process from the court, a sound and illegal person will

definitely know the reason why AB Kromah was dismissed; it isn't rocket science. For as a criminal justice practitioner, I will give you physical evidence why I think the President couldn't put the results out or why I think he was dismissed, but the process from the court, all those that follow it will know exactly why AB Kromah was dismissed; the President was right to appoint a new Director for the entity.”

Judge T. Ciapha Carey of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Margibi County denounces violence as a recourse to problem.

By Ramsey N Singbeh Jr

Margibi, Liberia, November 14, 2024 - The Judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Margibi County denounces violence amongst Liberians and urges them to rather adhere to the rule of

communities. "In a world where conflict and disagreement are inevitable, it is crucial to emphasize the importance of adherence to the rule of law", he reemphasizes. He notes that a culture



law to keep the country peaceful. Speaking during the official opening of the November term of court Judge T. Ciapha Carey now serving his reassignment in the county says use of physical force must be legally justified. He warns against violence as a method to resolving disputes, emphasizing that the rule of law is important for accountability and justice for everyone. At the same time he calls for peaceful resolution of conflict via respectful and open dialogues amongst parties and of tolerance and empathy is helpful in dismantling the roots of violence in any society. Before declaring the court officially opened for legal business, Judge Carey laments challenges facing the judiciary and calls on his colleagues to maintain integrity. He also encourages prosecutors and public defenders to regularly visit detention centers and advocate for the rights of defendants in making sure that pre-trial detainees are treated fairly and by legal standards. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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# Avoid taking sides

heritage responsibility." The absentee 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 absentee 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. Amid the ongoing crisis at the House, Koffa's bloc is unhappy that some officials from the Internal Affairs, Water and Sewer and Transport Ministry have appeared before the absentee lawmakers. 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.

## CDC slams Boakai on Russia ties

*The Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has described the Boakai regime's recent move to cement diplomatic ties with Russia as counterproductive for the country, at least as it relates to US-Liberia relations.*

Monrovia, November 13, 2024/ The opposition CDC Secretary General Jefferson Kojee said opening diplomatic doors to Russia would be detrimental to Liberia's future and hurt its relationship with the United States.

claims that President Boakai collaborated with Russia to fund his campaign during the 2023 presidential election. "We want to remind the Liberian people that this party revealed how Mr. Boakai was actively doing business with the Russians, but he and his 'risky

and the Liberian people.

"Mr. Boakai cannot gamble with an entire nation," Kojee emphasized. He argued that the CDC and the Liberian people will not allow President Boakai to treat the country as his personal property.

He called on citizens and national stakeholders, including political leaders, the media, civil society, and human rights organizations, to oppose any international alliance threatening Liberia's stability, particularly the emerging Russia-Liberia relationship.

"We cannot sit idly by and watch our country descend into chaos as Mr. Boakai attempts to insult the United States diplomatically," he said. Kojee clarified that the CDC has no personal issue with Russia but is deeply concerned about Liberia's approach to its diplomatic engagements.

He urged the Boakai-Koung administration to be forthright about its foreign policy stance, suggesting that if the government truly believes Russia can serve Liberia better than the United States, it should openly embrace that choice instead of playing a "double game" with the nation's future, peace, stability, and foreign policy amid the tense relationship between the two superpowers.

Kojee said the alarming proportion of people disappearing from police custody is worrisome, and the CDC is entreating the international community to call President Boakai and his officials to book. "Many people have gone missing, and some died under mysterious circumstances without any reprimand for the perpetrators. He added that even though the former Justice Minister does not share the same political ideology with the CDC, he is supporting the call for the Police under the control of "social media celebrity" Gregory Coleman to produce the missing man alive.



He feared that the Liberia-Russia relations could undermine the peace and security of the country. Russia, in its effort to expand its diplomatic footprint across Africa, has announced plans to open an embassy near Monrovia to strengthen ties between the two. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov made this announcement at the first Russia-Africa Partnership Forum. However, addressing a news conference in Monrovia on Tuesday, CDC Secretary General Jefferson Tamba Kojee said the news about advanced plans by the Unity Party administration to establish a relationship with Russia to the extent that an embassy would be opened near Monrovia is troubling. He described it as a spate in the face of the United States. Mr. Kojee asserted that the Unity Party government's engagement with Russia validates CDC officials' earlier

## USAID, GOL sign US\$114.4m grant agreement

*The signing of the US\$114.4m agreement is a significant move aimed at bolstering the development drive of Liberia.*

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, November 14, 2024: The Government of Liberia and the United States government have signed a US\$114,488,125.00 grant agreement.

The U.S. Government was

partnerships as Liberia navigates significant developmental obstacles. "The Government of the United States, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has proven to be a steadfast and reliable partner," said Ngafuan. As Liberia's largest bilateral partner,



represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at the signing on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in Monrovia. The ceremony witnessed the signing of two agreements for Amendments 14 and 15 to the Development Objective Grant Agreement (DAOG). The signing was an addition to the DAOG of 2020, a significant move aimed at bolstering the development drive of Liberia. The Amendments, according to both countries, will see an additional US\$114,488,125.00 to the DAOG of 2020. Remarking at the signing ceremony, Liberia's Finance Minister Augustine K. Ngafuan said the signing marks another step in the historic bilateral relationship between Liberia and the United States. Minister Ngafuan highlighted their commitment to addressing pressing development challenges. Minister Augustine expressed optimism about future collaborative efforts. He reaffirmed the necessity of such

the U.S. has played a crucial role in various aspects of national development. In May 2020, Liberia and the U.S. signed a Development Objective Grant totaling \$640 million over five years. It focused on health, education, governance, and economic prosperity.

"Together, we are laying the groundwork for a brighter future—one that fosters hope, opportunity, and growth in Liberia," he said.

This agreement stands as a testament to the strong ties between the United States and Liberia, marking a new chapter in their enduring partnership.

The signing ceremony was attended by USAID Mission Director Jim Wright; and Deputy Justice Minister for Codification Cllr. Cora N. Konuwa.

Others attending were Deputy and Assistant Ministers of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Officials of the US Embassy near Monrovia.



USAID DATA, EVALUATION, LEARNING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ACTIVITY)

**Subject:** Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 72066922F00004-2024-6, **The Liberia Media Sector Assessment Survey**  
**Re:** United States Agency for International Development—Liberia (USAID/Liberia) Data, Evaluation, Learning and Technical Assistance (DELTA) (implemented by International Business Initiatives, d/b/a IBI)

Dear Interested Party,

IBI, on behalf of USAID/Liberia's DELTA ("Project"), is seeking proposals from eligible organizations to provide services further outlined in SECTION B of this RFP.

IBI (<https://www.ibi-usa.com/>) is a woman-owned small business consulting and training firm dedicated to providing insightful analysis and practical, timely solutions to challenges facing governments and companies. We partner with top quality local organizations to ensure that our clients achieve their goals.

IBI anticipates the award of one (1), one-month duration Firm Fixed Price subcontract under this RFP. The total anticipated ceiling is USD 15,000. This ceiling is provided for estimation purposes only—this does not imply that Offerors should strive to meet the maximum. Offerors must propose costs that are realistic and reasonable for the described scope of work of this solicitation. The estimated start date for the resulting subcontract is November 29, 2024. IBI reserves the right to award more or fewer awards than anticipated, or to make no award.

Interested offerors are encouraged to visit the Executive Mansion website for detailed RFP and submit proposals to [Procurements@liberia-delta.org](mailto:procurements@liberia-delta.org)

Any questions concerning this RFP must be submitted via email to the DELTA procurement team at [procurements@liberia-delta.org](mailto:procurements@liberia-delta.org) by 5pm GMT on November 14, 2024.  
**Closing Date for Questions:** November 15, 2024, at 5pm GMT

**Closing Date for Submission Proposal:** November 21, 2024, at 5pm GMT



## ***-House tells Executive Branch***

"The leadership of the House

The House noted that "Liberia is our shared



As a coordinating branch of the government, the House

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